



# **Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin Documentation**

***Release 8.1.3.1***

**Luca Congedo**

**27 mar 2024**



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Sviluppato da Luca Congedo ([ing.congedoluca@gmail.com](mailto:ing.congedoluca@gmail.com)), il **Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin (SCP)** è un plugin open source gratuito per **QGIS** che permette di effettuare la classificazione semi-automatica (conosciuta anche come classificazione supervisionata) di immagini telerilevate. Fornisce vari strumenti per il download di immagini gratuite, il preprocessing, il postprocessing ed il calcolo raster.

L'**obiettivo generale** di *SCP* è fornire una serie di strumenti interconnessi per il processing dei raster al fine di creare un flusso di lavoro automatico e facilitare la classificazione della copertura del suolo, che potrebbe essere realizzata anche da persone per cui la principale attività non sia il telerilevamento.

*SCP* sfrutta il processing parallelo degli strumenti forniti da **Remotior Sensus**, un pacchetto Python che permette il processing di immagini telerilevate e dati GIS.

Questo **manuale utente** offre informazioni relative all'*Installazione del plugin* (Pag. 3) di *SCP* e all'*The Interface of SCP* (Pag. 29), con informazioni dettagliate sulle varie funzioni. Inoltre, *Brief Introduction to Remote Sensing* (Pag. 123) illustra i concetti base e le definizioni che sono richieste per l'utilizzo di *SCP*.

Per ulteriori informazioni e tutorial visita il sito ufficiale



From GIS to Remote Sensing

### Come citare

Congedo, Luca, (2021). Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin: A Python tool for the download and processing of remote sensing images in QGIS. Journal of Open Source Software, 6(64), 3172, <https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.03172>

### Breve storia:

La prima versione del *SCP* è stata sviluppata da Luca Congedo nel 2012 per il «ACC Dar Project» al fine di creare uno strumento per la classificazione della copertura del suolo in modo economico e automatico; le versioni successive di *SCP* sono state sviluppate come impegno personale nel campo del telerilevamento e della filosofia open source. La versione 6 di *SCP* è stata sviluppata nell'ambito del Dottorato di Ricerca di Luca Congedo in Paesaggio e Ambiente alla Sapienza Università di Roma. La versione 7 e la versione di 8 *SCP* sono state sviluppate come impegno personale nel campo del telerilevamento e della filosofia open source.

### Licenza

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Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin is free software: you can redistribute it and/or modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as published by the Free Software Foundation, version 3 of the License. Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin is distributed in the hope that it will be useful, but WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY; without even the implied warranty of MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. See the GNU General Public License for more details. You should have received a copy of the GNU General Public License along with Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin. If not, see <http://www.gnu.org/licenses/>.

### Traduttori:

Italiano: Author name

## Installazione del plugin

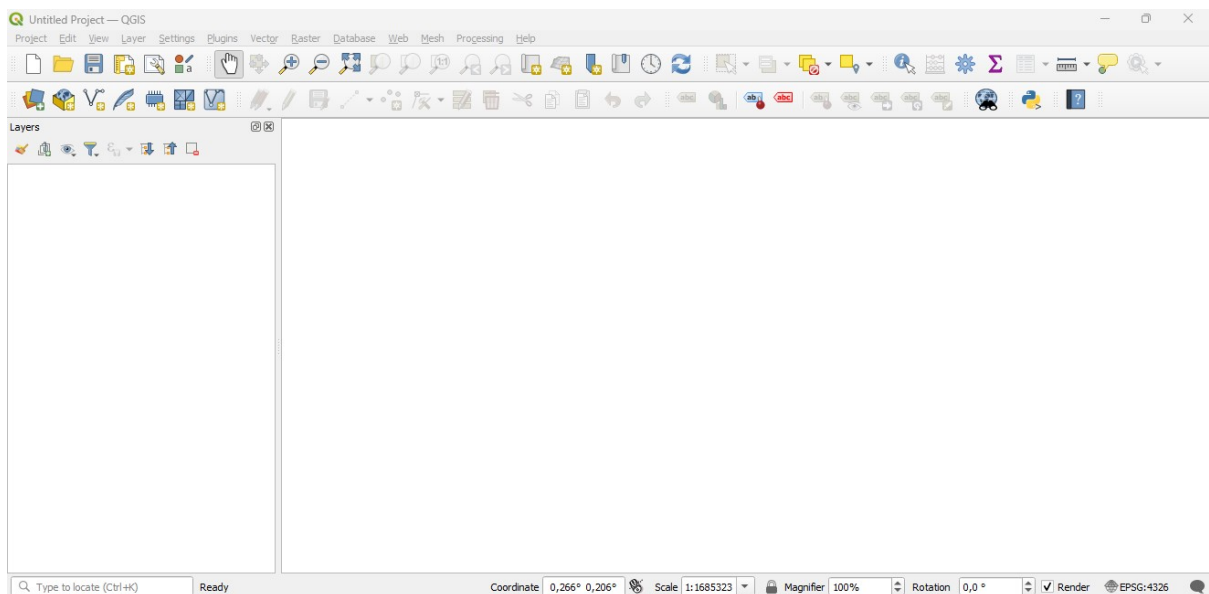
Il Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin richiede l'installazione di [GDAL](#), [OGR](#), [NumPy](#), [SciPy](#) e [Matplotlib](#). Questo capitolo descrive l'installazione del Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin per i Sistemi Operativi supportati.

## 2.1 Installation in Windows 64 bit

### 2.1.1 QGIS download and installation

- Download the latest QGIS version 64 bit from [here](#) ;
- Execute the QGIS installer with administrative rights, accepting the default configuration.

Now, QGIS is installed.

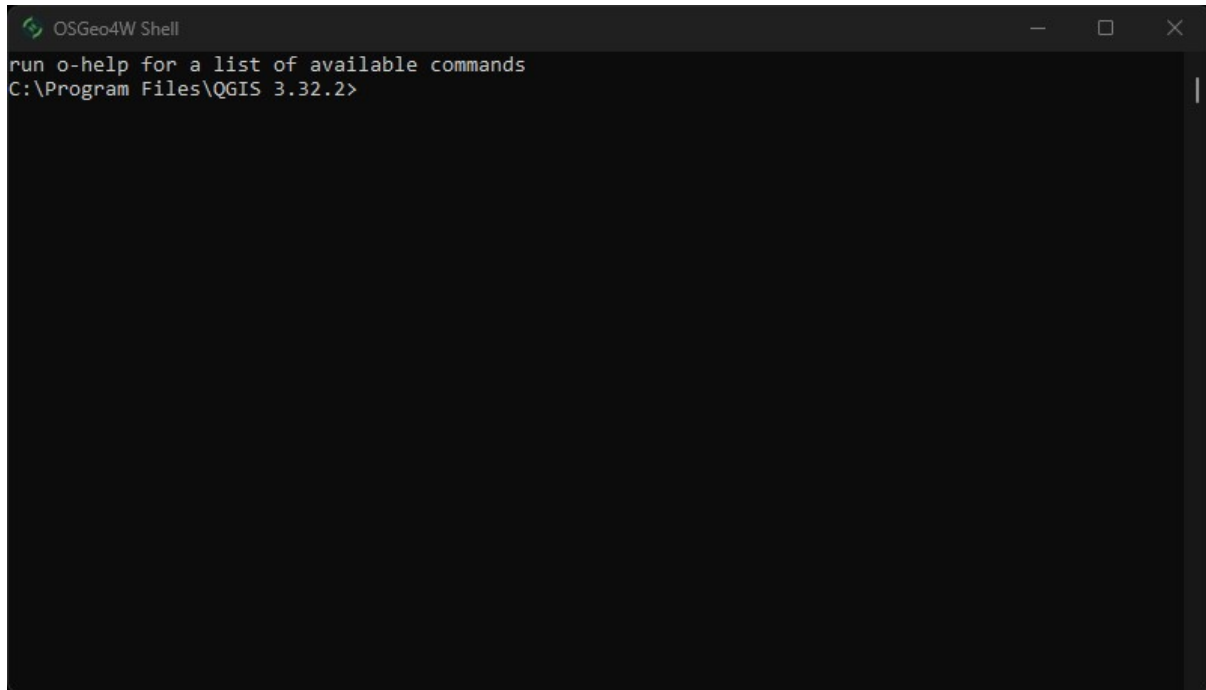


## 2.1.2 Installation of required dependencies

The Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin requires Remotior Sensus, GDAL, NumPy and SciPy for most functionalities. Optionally, scikit-learn and PyTorch are required for machine learning.

Therefore, we need to install the dependencies that are not included in the QGIS installation.

- Close QGIS;
- From the Start menu, open OSGeo4W Shell (administrative rights may be required);



- Enter the following command:

```
pip3 install --upgrade remotior-sensus scikit-learn torch
```

Follow the same procedure for updating the dependencies.

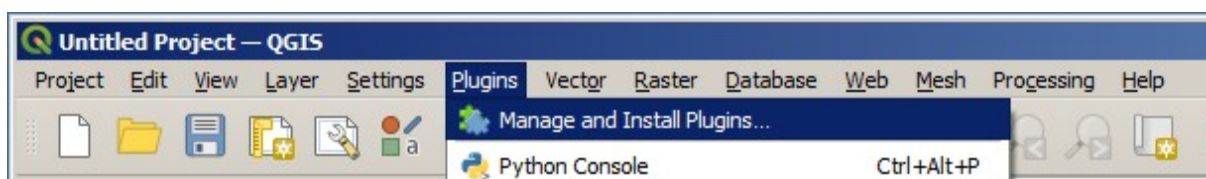
---

**Suggerimento:** In case the library Remotior Sensus is not found, an automatic procedure will try to download it in the plugin directory, allowing for using the main functions of the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin; however, this is not recommended as library Remotior Sensus won't be updated, and scikit-learn and PyTorch functions will not work. Alternatively, one may follow [Advanced installation using Conda](#) (Pag. 23).

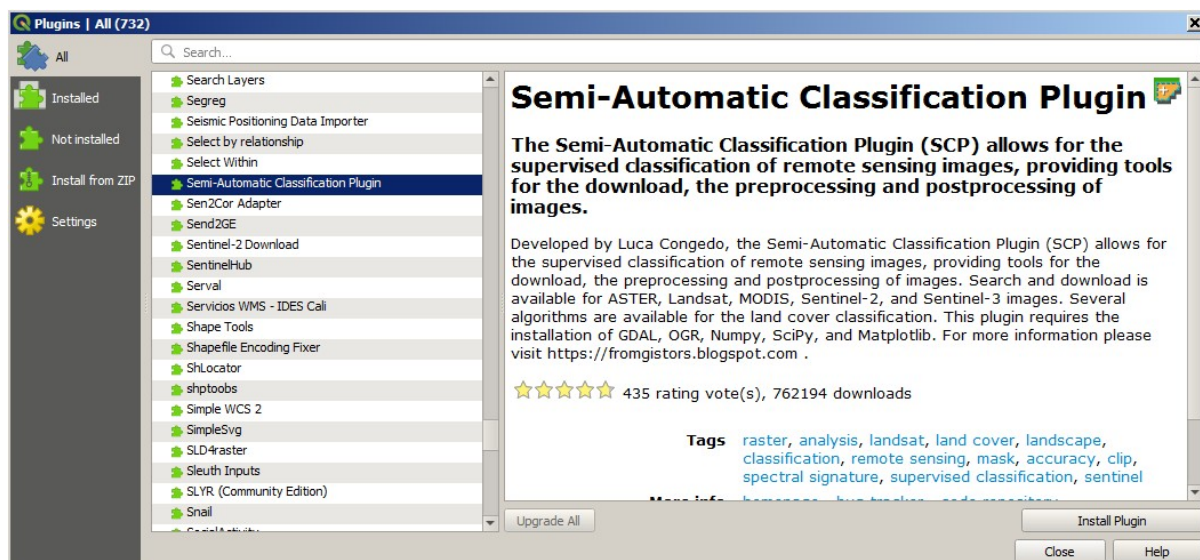
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## 2.1.3 Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin installation

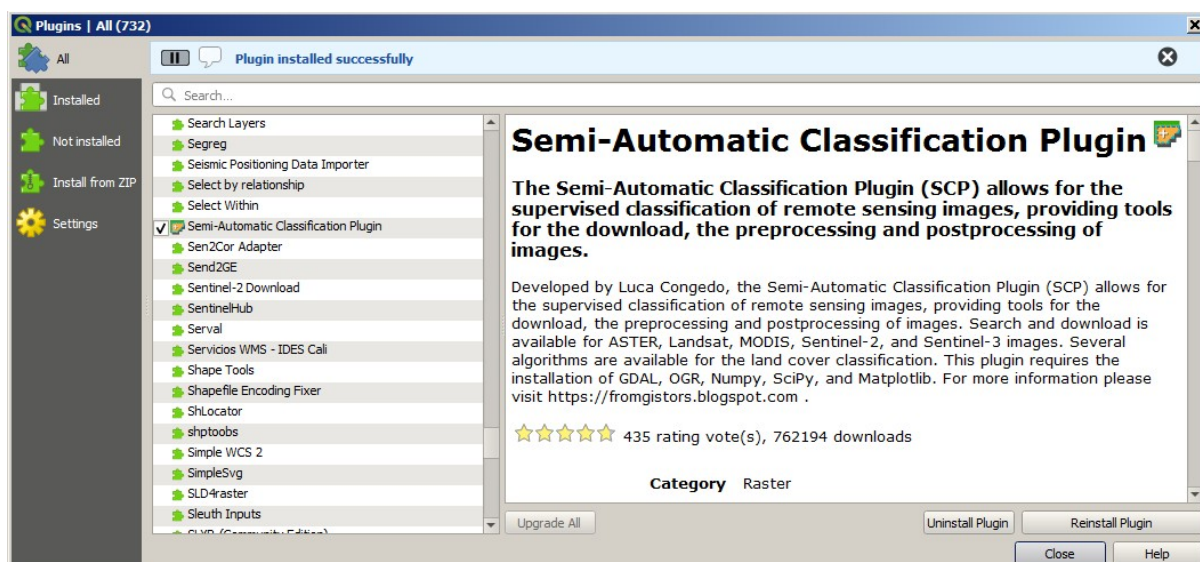
- Run QGIS;
- From the main menu, select Plugins > Manage and Install Plugins;



- From the menu All, select the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin and click the button Install plugin;

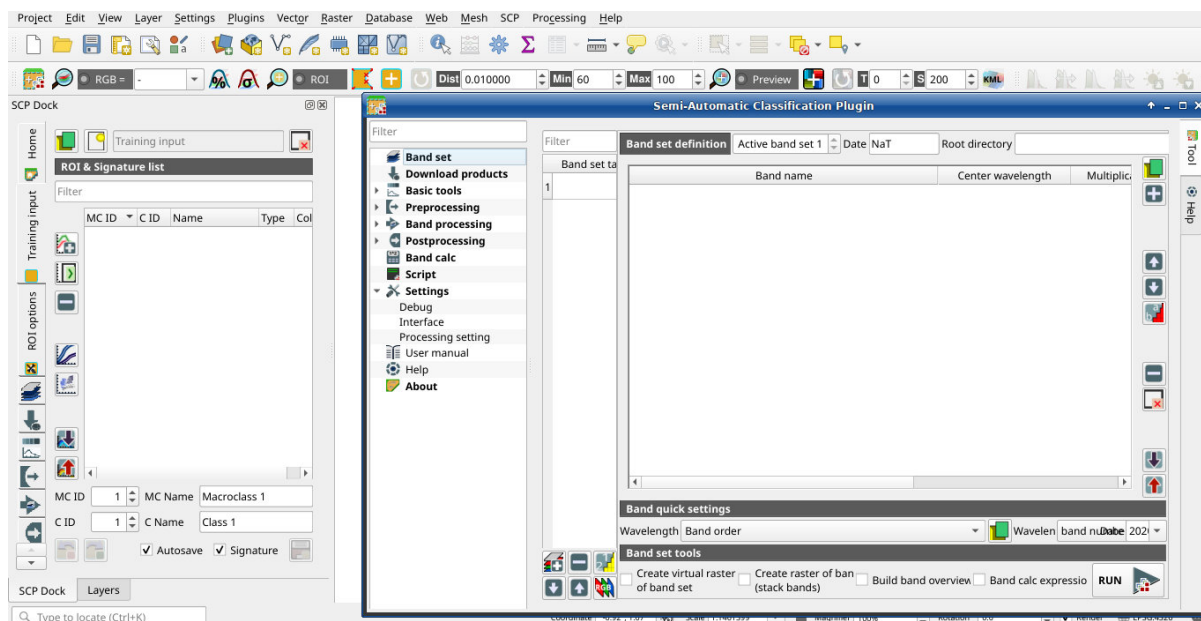



- The SCP should be automatically activated; however, be sure that the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin is checked in the menu `Installed` (the restart of QGIS could be necessary to complete the SCP installation);

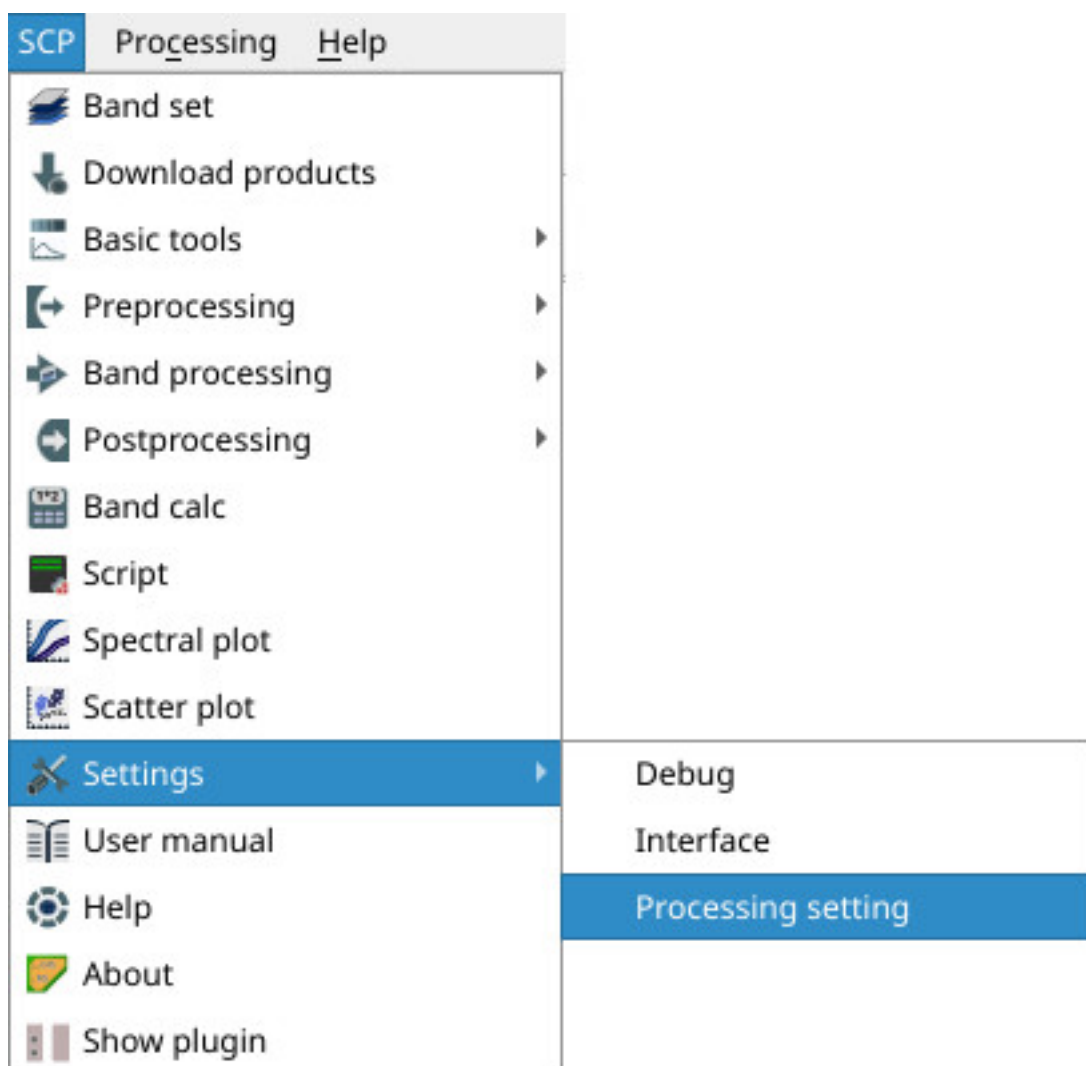


## 2.1.4 Configuration of the plugin

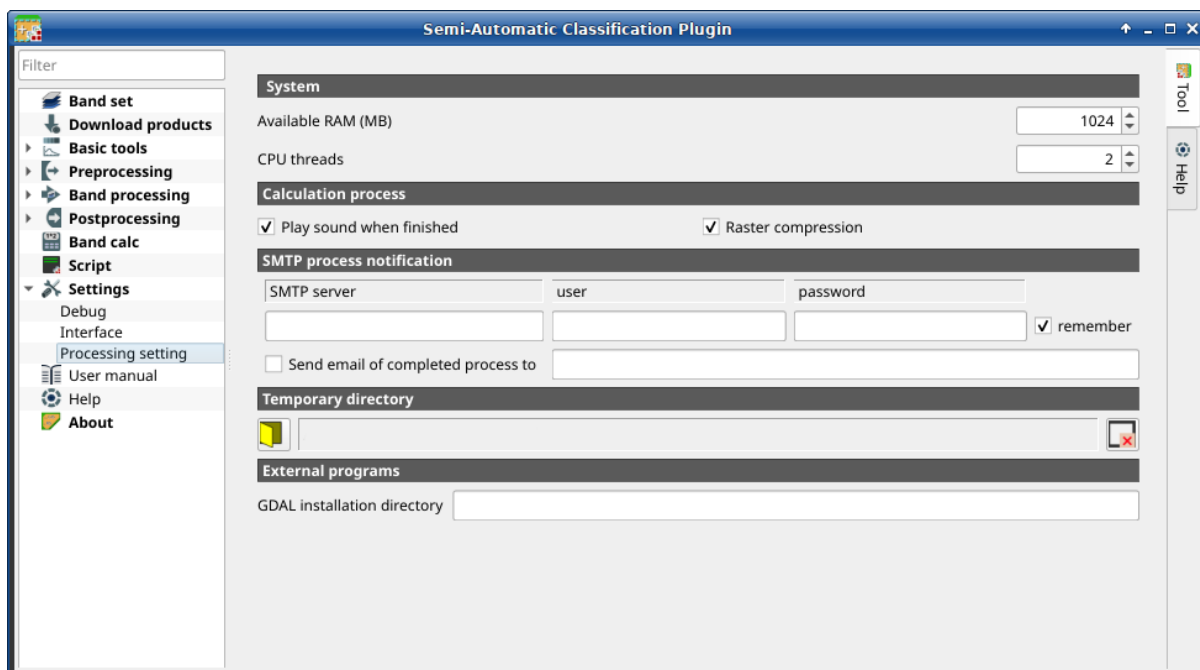
Now, the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin is installed and a dock and a toolbar should be added to QGIS. Also, a SCP menu is available in the Menu Bar of QGIS. It is possible to move the toolbar and the dock according to your needs, as in the following image.



The configuration of available RAM is recommended in order to reduce the processing time. From the *SCP menu* (Pag. 29) select  Settings > Processing .

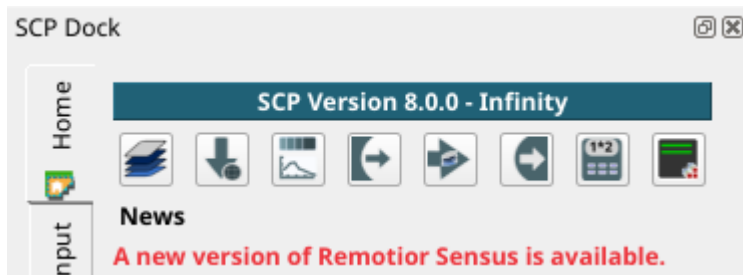


In the *Settings* (Pag. 107), set the Available RAM (MB) to a value that should be half of the system RAM. For instance, if your system has 2GB of RAM, set the value to 1024MB.



## 2.1.5 Update of required dependencies

The dependency Remotior Sensus is frequently updated. The Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin can check automatically if a new version is available, and display a message in the *SCP dock* (Pag. 31).



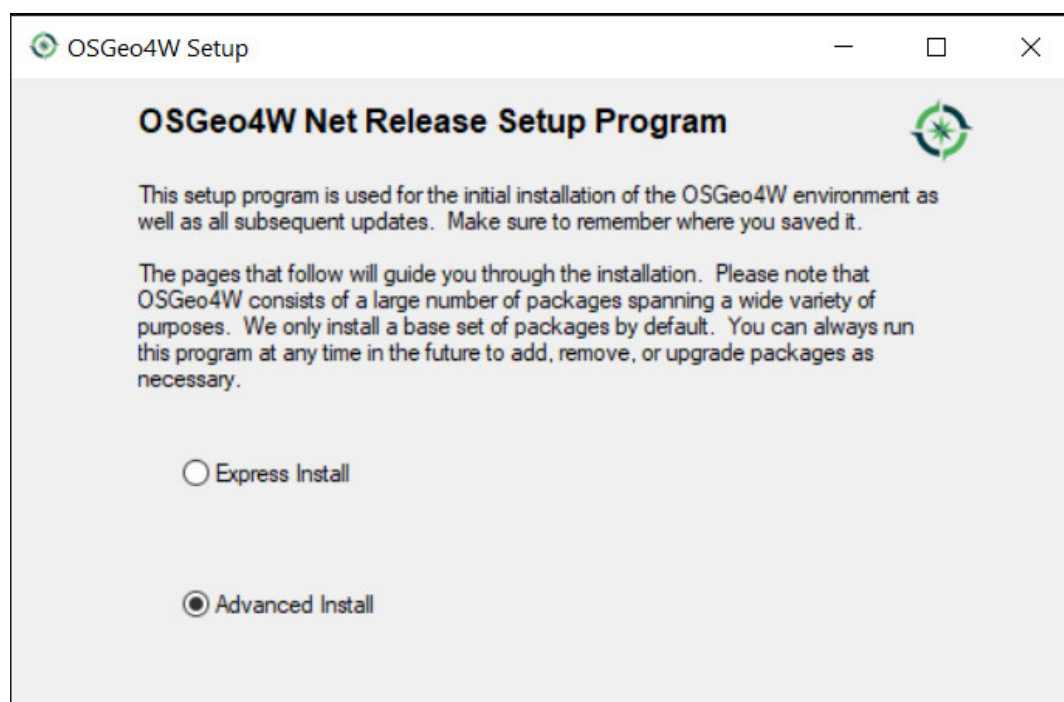
It is recommended to close QGIS and update Remotior Sensus following the same installation steps described in *Installation of required dependencies* (Pag. 4) .

## 2.2 Network installation in Windows 64 bit

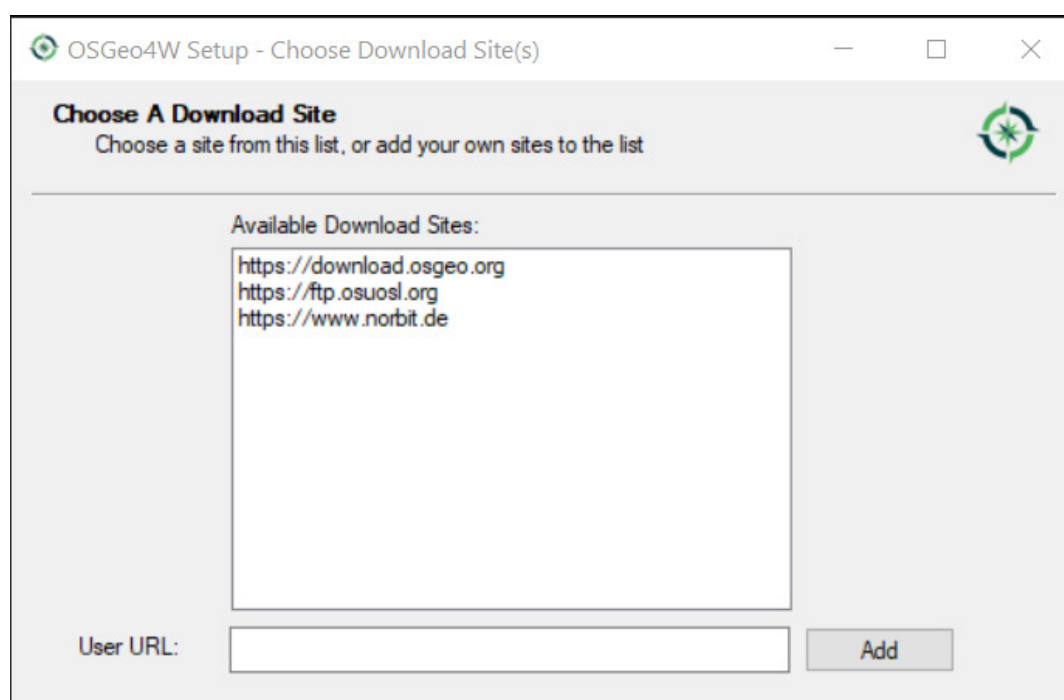
### 2.2.1 QGIS download and installation

- Download the latest QGIS version 64 bit using the OSGeo4W network installer [from here](#) ;
- Execute the QGIS installer with administrative rights and select Advanced Install;





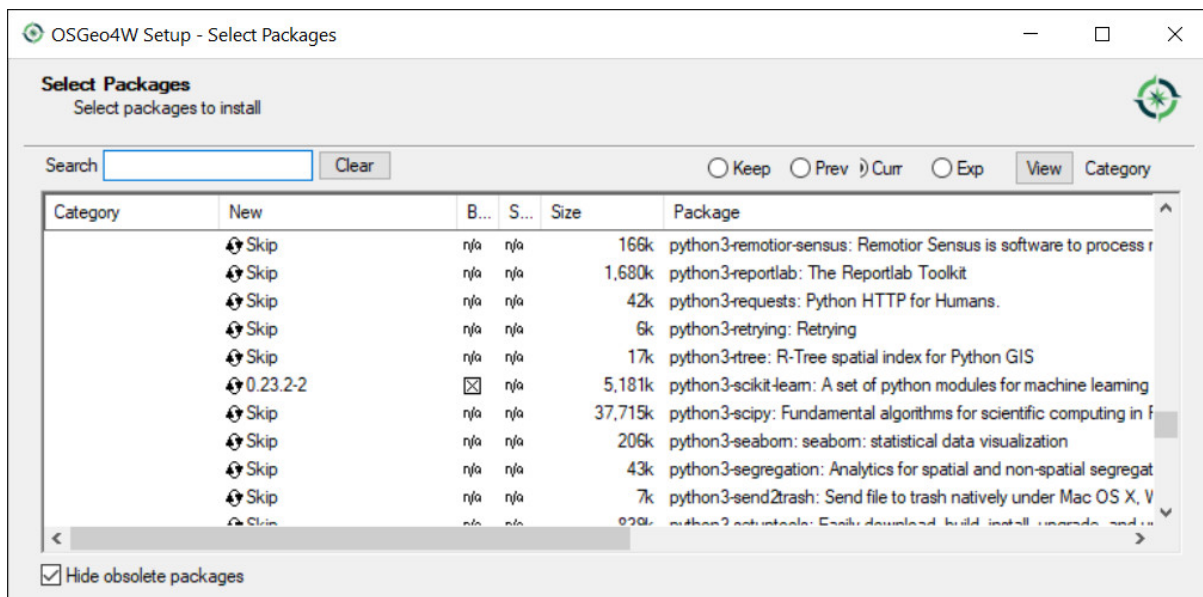
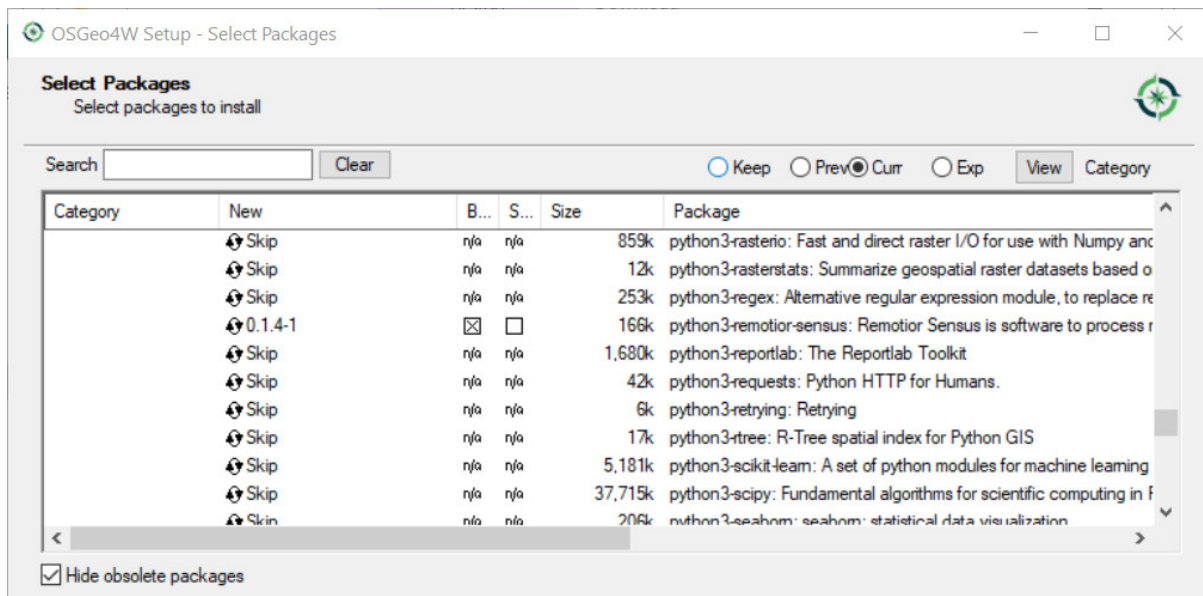
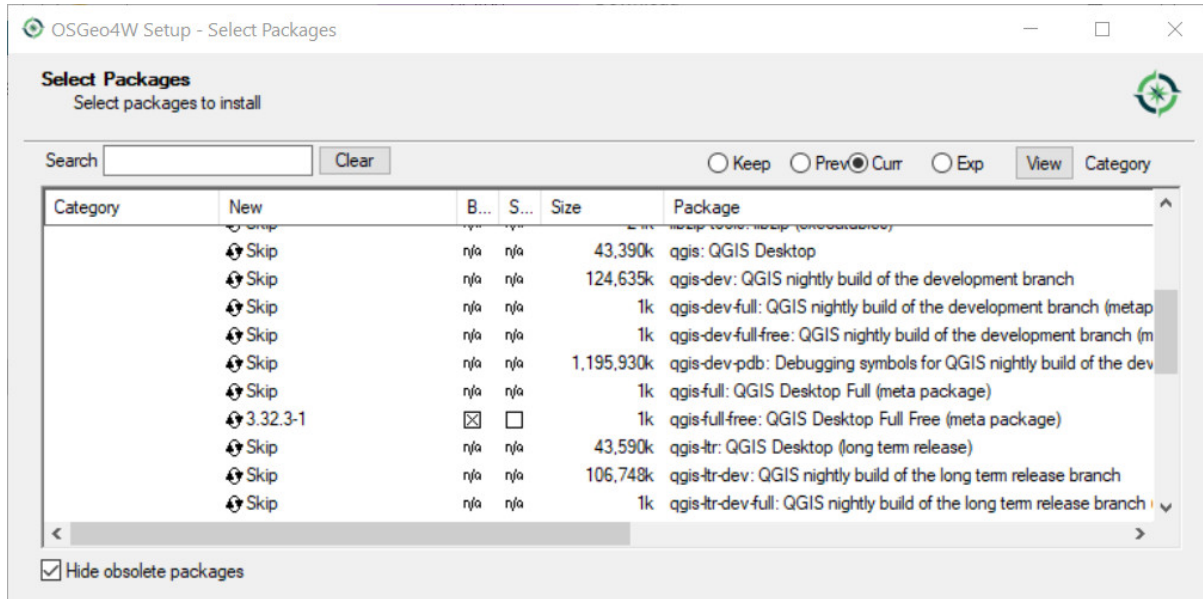
- Select Install from Internet; proceed selecting the default installation directory and the preferred network configuration;

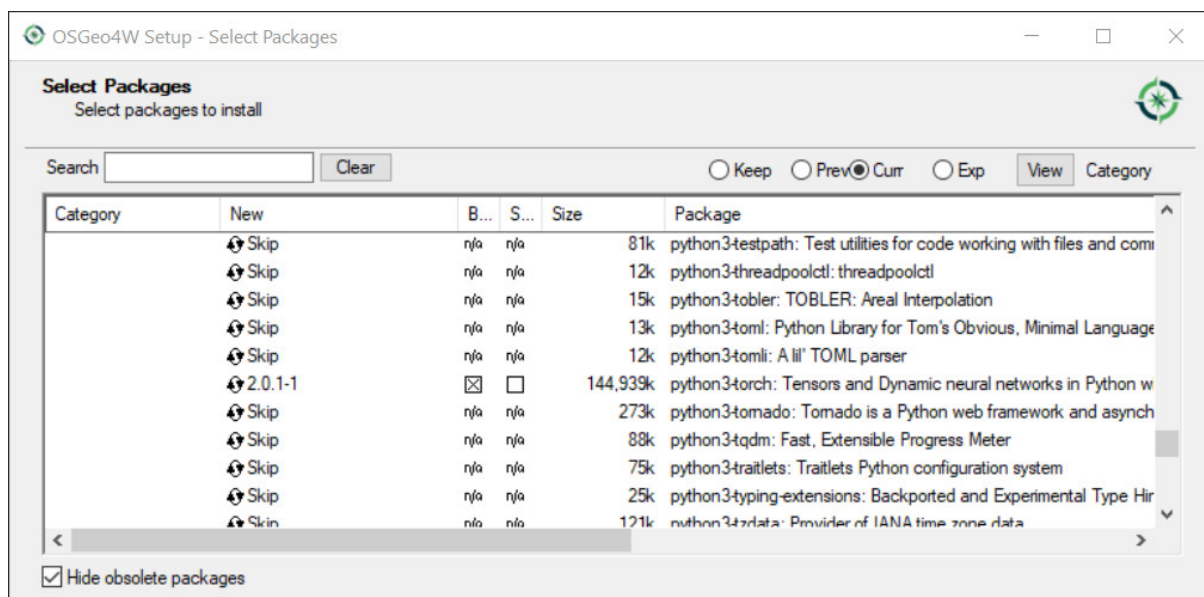


The Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin requires Remotior Sensus, GDAL, NumPy and SciPy for most functionalities. Optionally, scikit-learn and PyTorch are required for machine learning.

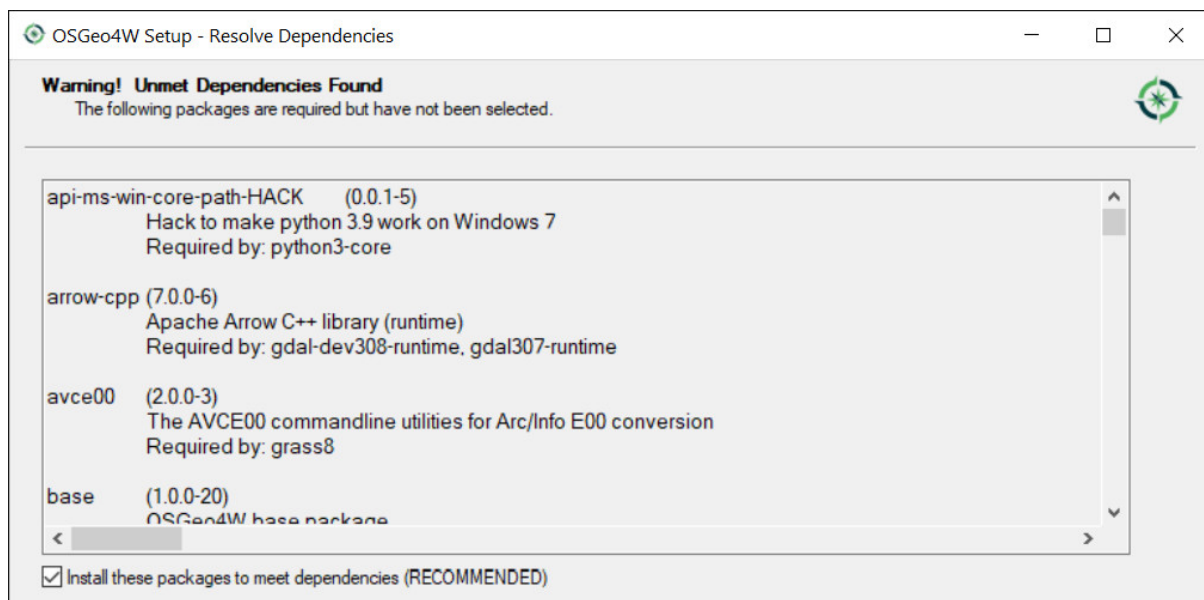
- In the menu Select packages select All > Desktop > qgis-full-free; also select All > Libs > python3-remotior-sensus, All > Libs > python3-scikit-learn and All > Libs > python3-torch;



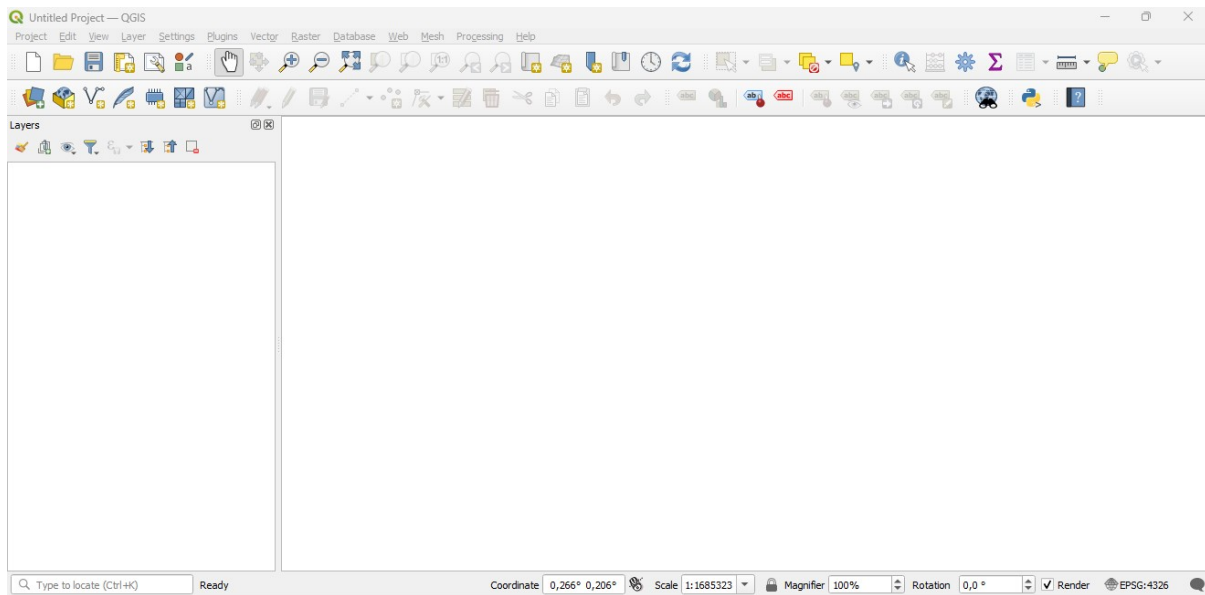




- Click Next and accept to install the required dependencies;

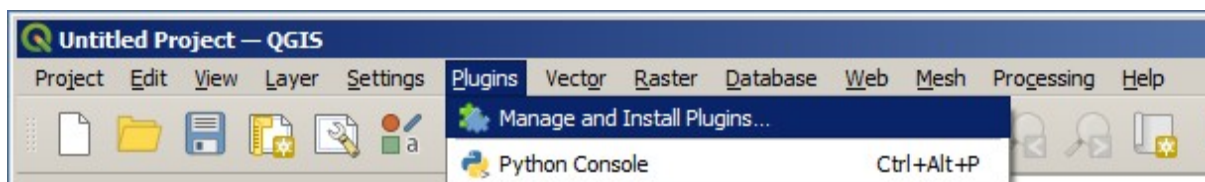


The download of the programs will start, and QGIS will be installed along with the required dependencies.

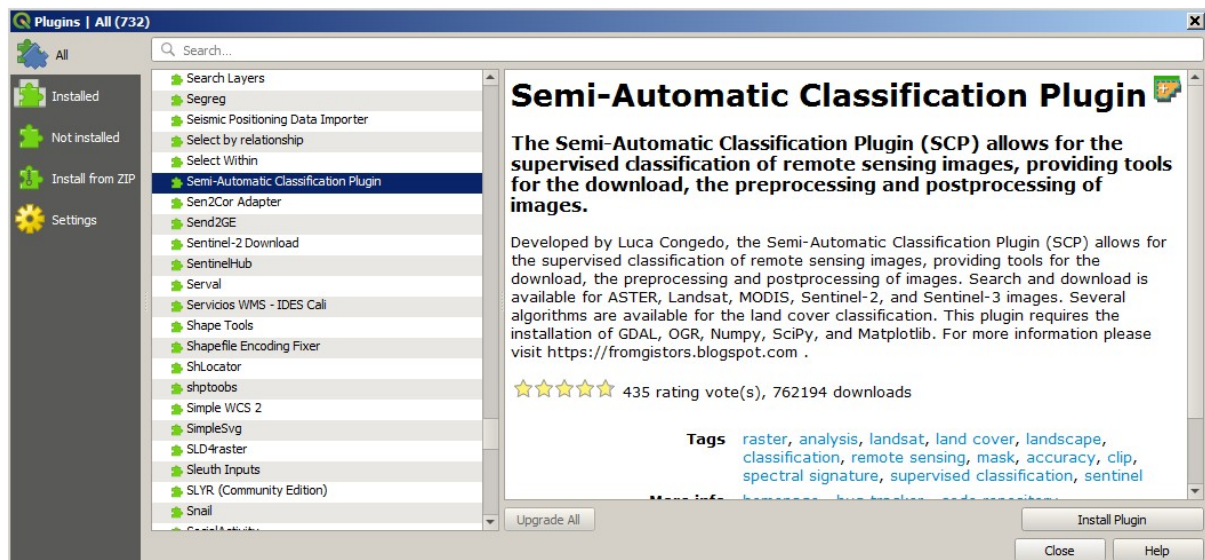


## 2.2.2 Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin installation

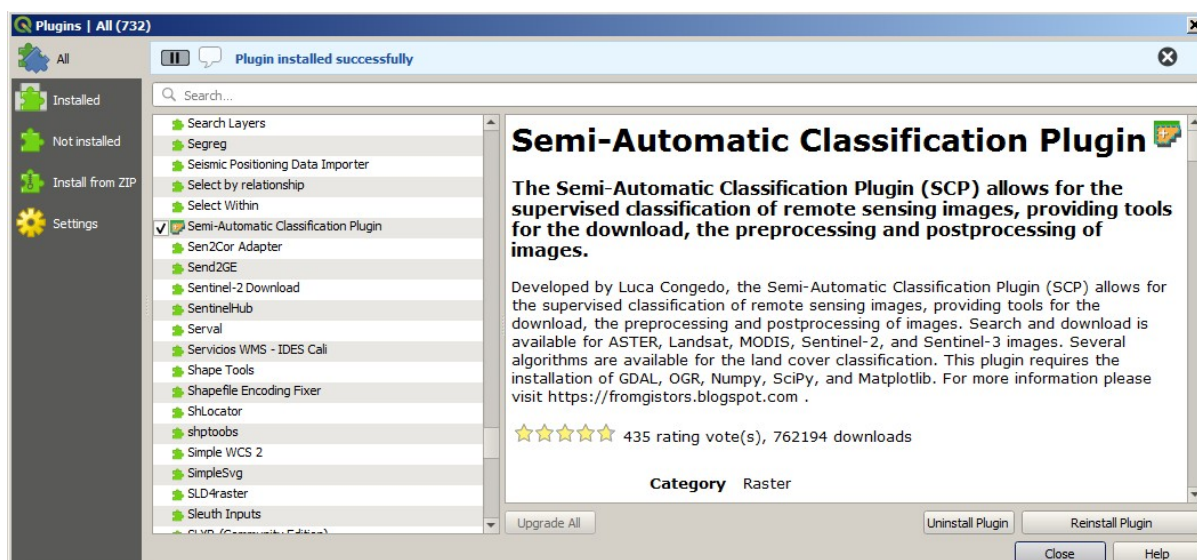
- Run QGIS;
- From the main menu, select Plugins > Manage and Install Plugins;



- From the menu All, select the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin and click the button Install plugin;

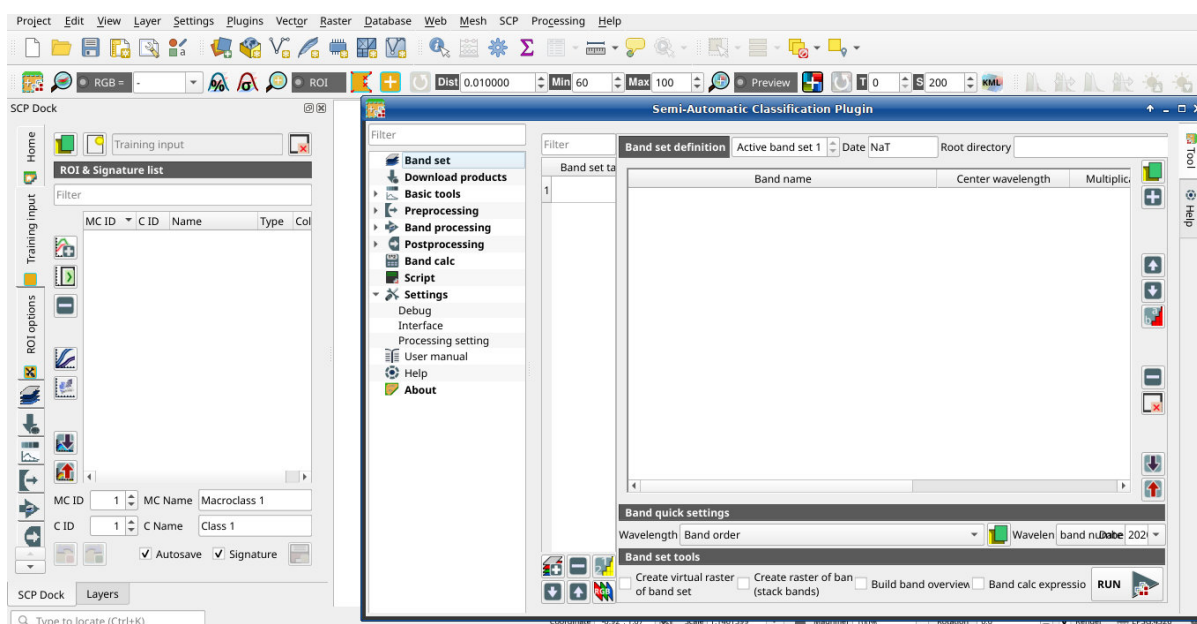



- The SCP should be automatically activated; however, be sure that the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin is checked in the menu Installed (the restart of QGIS could be necessary to complete the SCP installation);



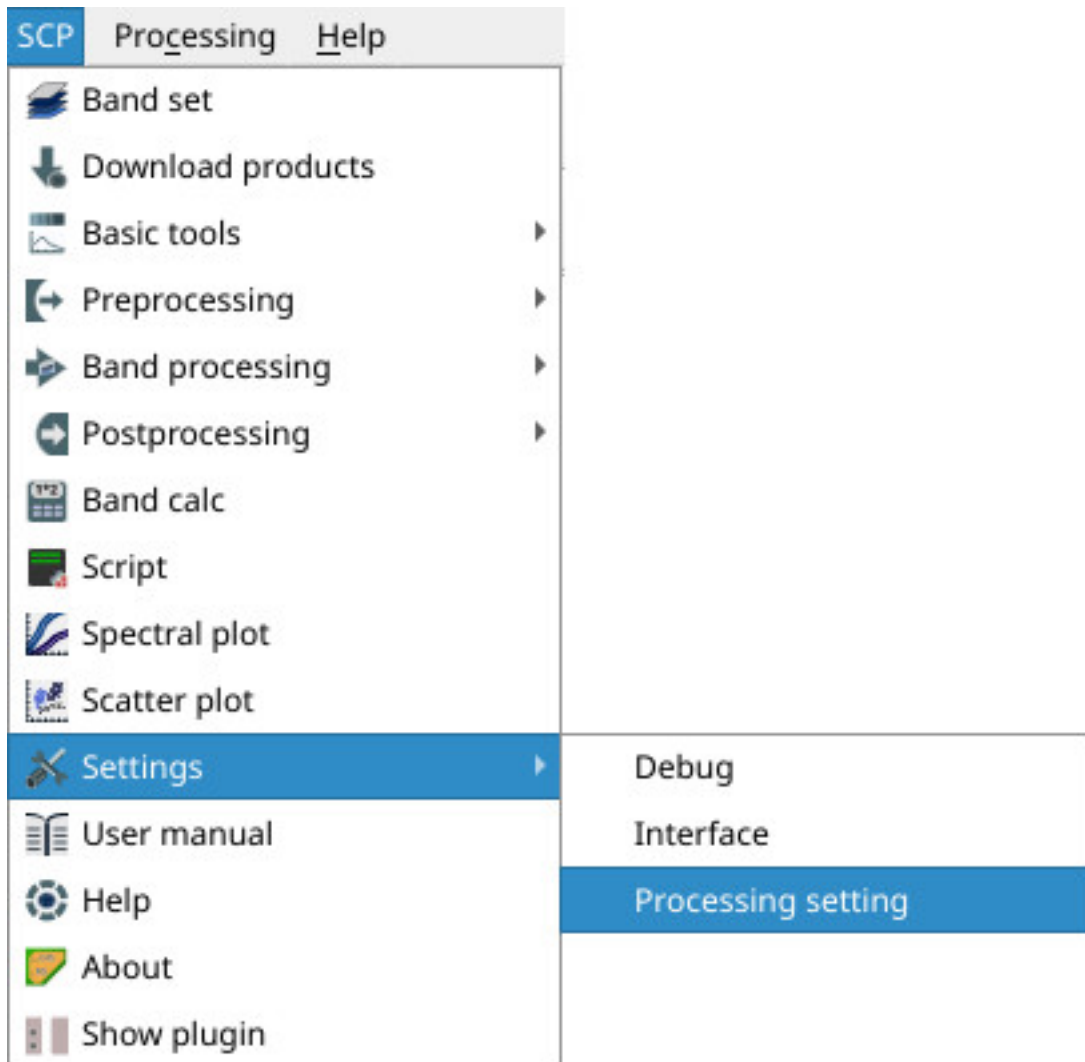
## 2.2.3 Configuration of the plugin

Now, the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin is installed and a dock and a toolbar should be added to QGIS. Also, a SCP menu is available in the Menu Bar of QGIS. It is possible to move the toolbar and the dock according to your needs, as in the following image.

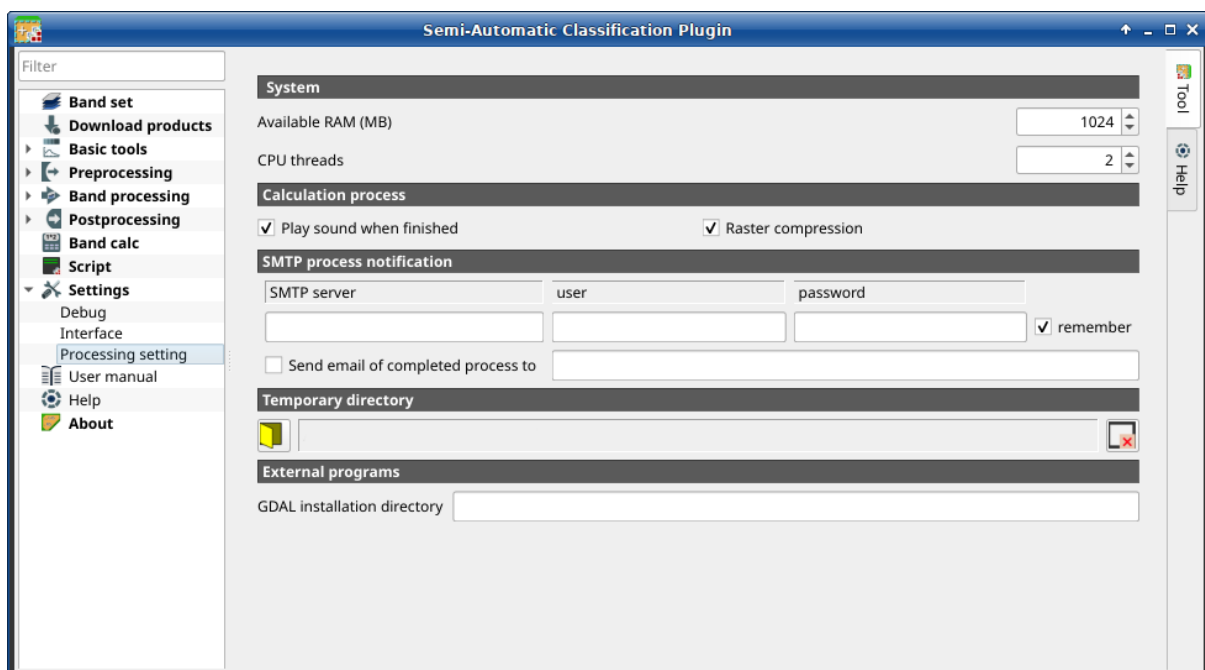


The configuration of available RAM is recommended in order to reduce the processing time. From the *SCP menu* (Pag. 29) select  Settings > Processing.



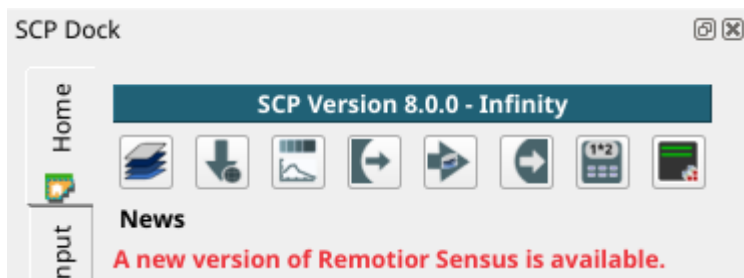


In the [Settings](#) (Pag. 107), set the Available RAM (MB) to a value that should be half of the system RAM. For instance, if your system has 2GB of RAM, set the value to 1024MB.



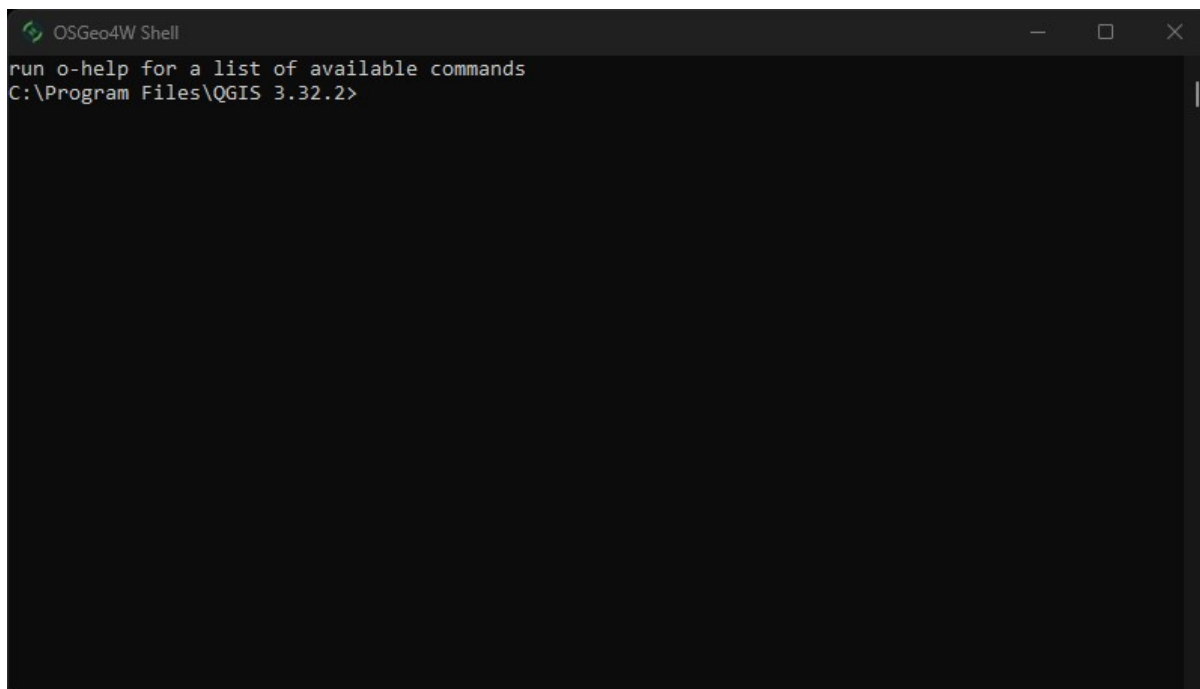
## 2.2.4 Update of required dependencies

The dependency Remotior Sensus is frequently updated. The Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin can check automatically if a new version is available, and display a message in the *SCP dock* (Pag. 31).



It is recommended to close QGIS and update Remotior Sensus following the same installation steps described in *QGIS download and installation* (Pag. 7).

In case the library Remotior Sensus is outdated, it is possible to open the OSGeo4W Shell (administrative rights may be required):



and run the following command:

```
pip3 install --upgrade remotior-sensus
```

## 2.3 Installation in Debian/Ubuntu Linux

### 2.3.1 QGIS download and installation

- Open a terminal and type:

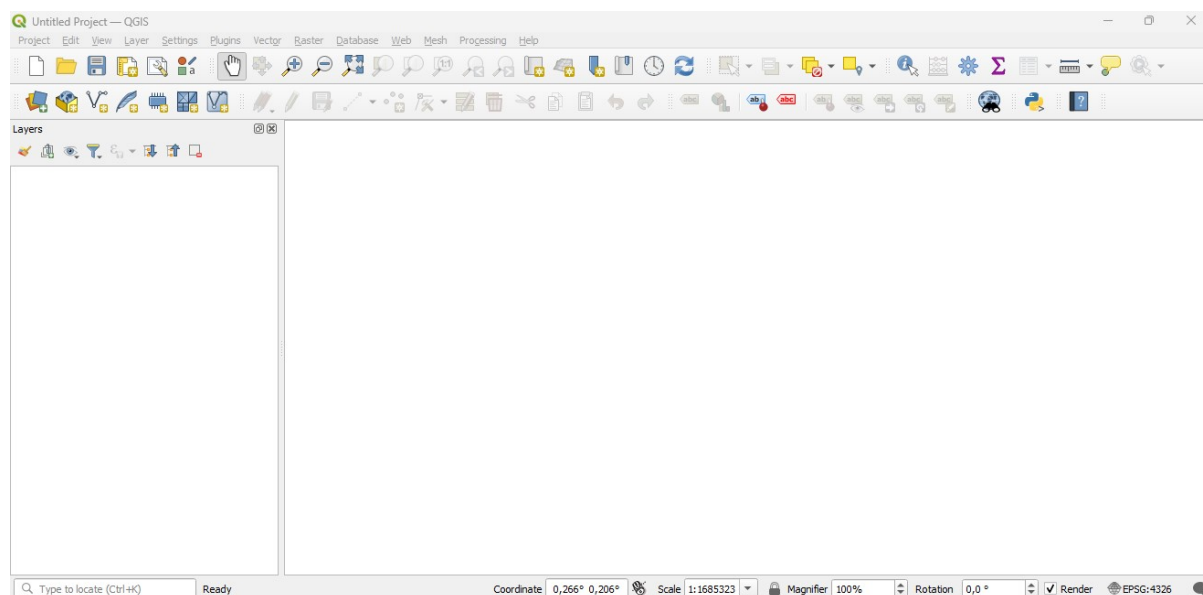
```
sudo apt-get update
```

- Press Enter and type the user password;
- Type in a terminal:

```
sudo apt-get install qgis python3-matplotlib python3-scipy
```

- Press Enter and wait until the software is downloaded and installed.

Now, QGIS is installed.



### 2.3.2 Installation of required dependencies

The Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin requires Remotior Sensus, GDAL, NumPy and SciPy for most functionalities. Optionally, scikit-learn and PyTorch are required for machine learning.

Therefore, we need to install the dependencies that are not included in the QGIS installation.

- Close QGIS;
- Open the terminal (administrative rights may be required);
- Enter the following command:

```
pip3 install --upgrade remotior-sensus scikit-learn torch
```

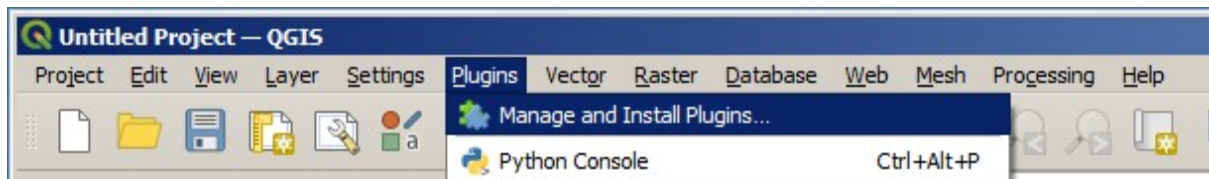
**Avvertimento:** In case you get an error message related to externally managed environment, you may use (at the risk of breaking the OS or the Python installation) the option `--break-system-packages`; alternatively, it is possible to create a virtual environment `python3 -m venv env`, install the packages in it, and start QGIS from the activated environment.

Follow the same procedure for updating the dependencies.

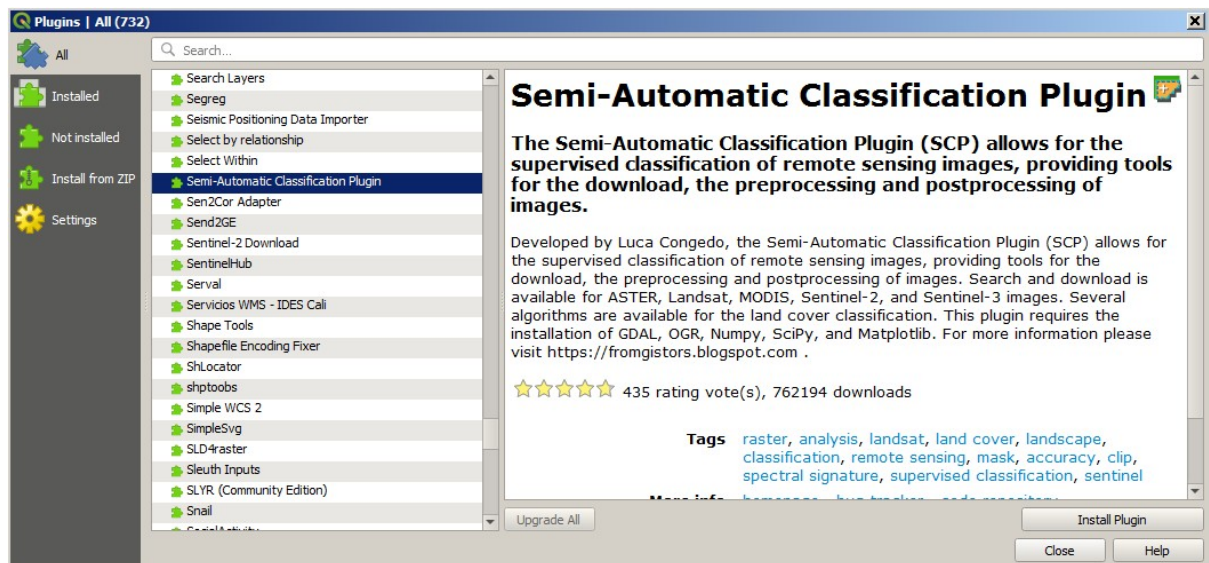
**Suggerimento:** In case the library Remotior Sensus is not found, an automatic procedure will try to download it in the plugin directory, allowing for using the main functions of the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin; however, this is not recommended as library Remotior Sensus won't be updated, and scikit-learn and PyTorch functions will not work. Alternatively, one may follow [Advanced installation using Conda](#) (Pag. 23).

## 2.3.3 Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin installation

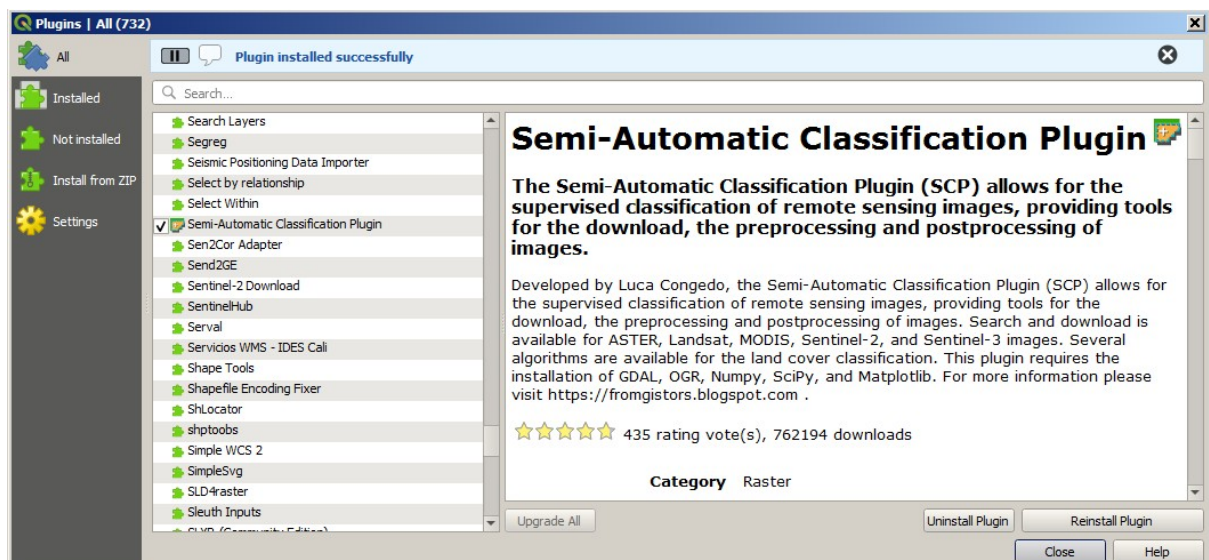
- Run QGIS;
- From the main menu, select Plugins > Manage and Install Plugins;



- From the menu All, select the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin and click the button Install plugin;



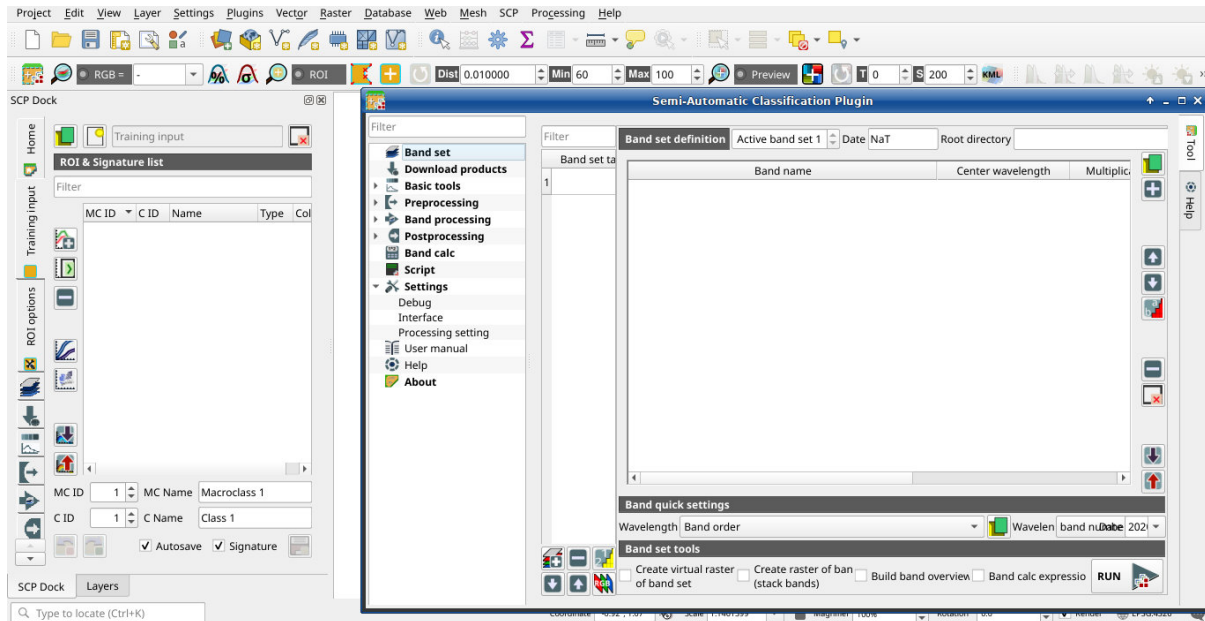
- The SCP should be automatically activated; however, be sure that the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin is checked in the menu Installed (the restart of QGIS could be necessary to complete the SCP installation);




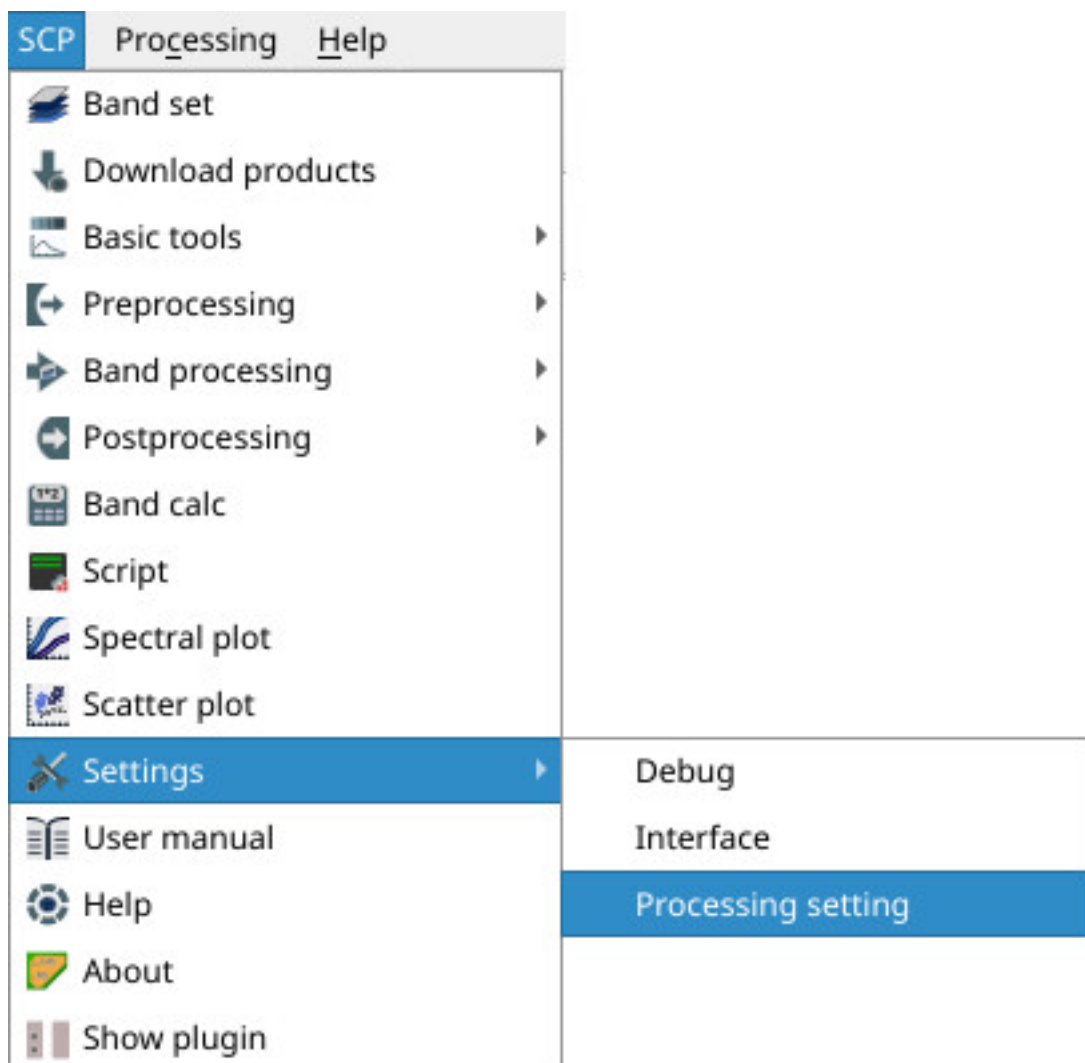


## 2.3.4 Configuration of the plugin

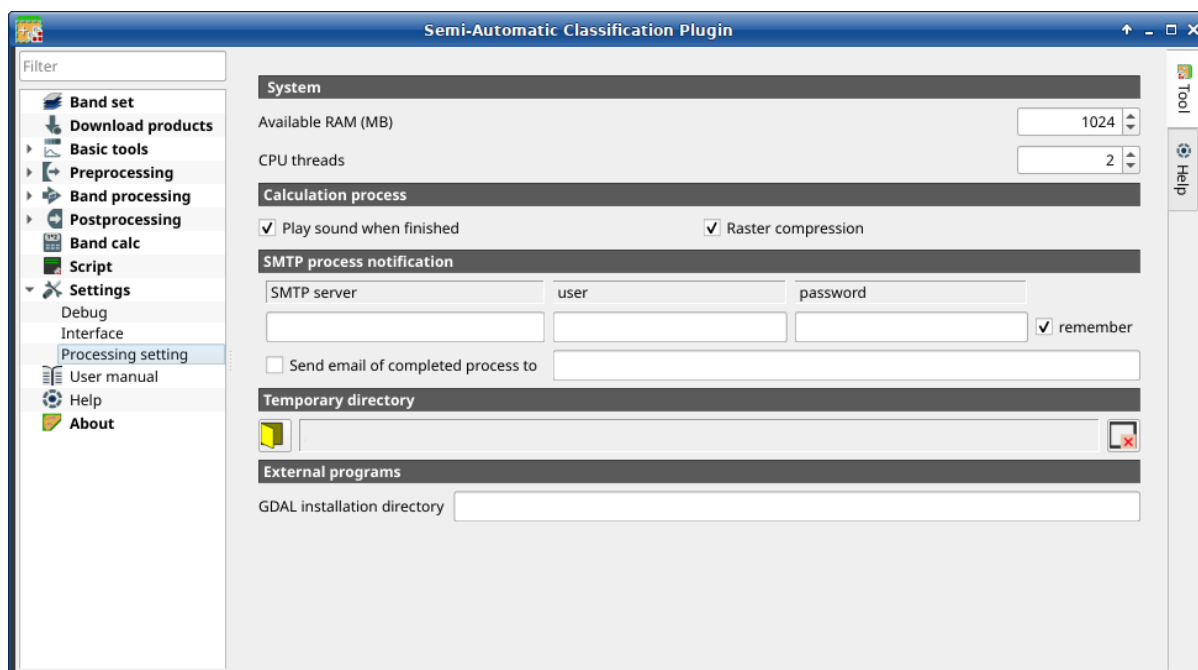
Now, the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin is installed and a dock and a toolbar should be added to QGIS. Also, a SCP menu is available in the Menu Bar of QGIS. It is possible to move the toolbar and the dock according to your needs, as in the following image.



The configuration of available RAM is recommended in order to reduce the processing time. From the *SCP menu* (Pag. 29) select  Settings > Processing.



In the [Settings](#) (Pag. 107), set the Available RAM (MB) to a value that should be half of the system RAM. For instance, if your system has 2GB of RAM, set the value to 1024MB.



## 2.3.5 Update of required dependencies

The dependency Remotior Sensus is frequently updated. The Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin can check automatically if a new version is available, and display a message in the *SCP dock* (Pag. 31).



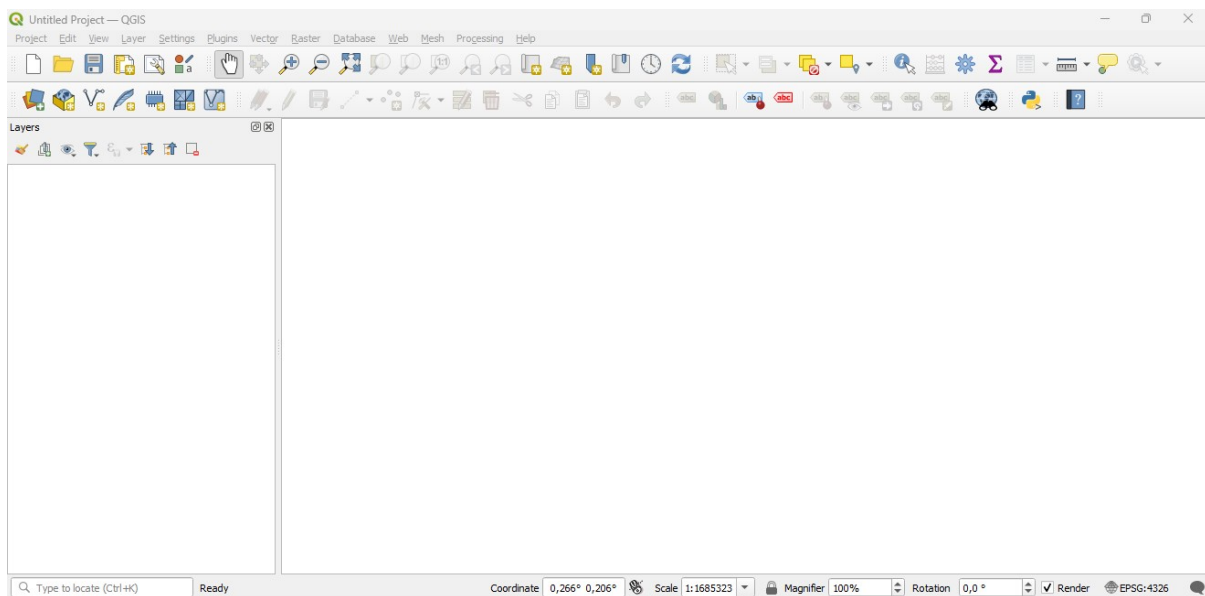
It is recommended to close QGIS and update Remotior Sensus following the same installation steps described in *Installation of required dependencies* (Pag. 15) .

## 2.4 Installation in macOS

### 2.4.1 QGIS download and installation

- Download the latest QGIS version from [here](#) ;
- Execute the QGIS installer with administrative rights, accepting the default configuration.

Now, QGIS is installed.



## 2.4.2 Installation of required dependencies

The Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin requires Remotior Sensus, GDAL, NumPy and SciPy for most functionalities. Optionally, scikit-learn and PyTorch are required for machine learning.

Therefore, we need to install the dependencies that are not included in the QGIS installation.

- Close QGIS;
- Open the terminal (administrative rights may be required);
- Type the following command (you may need to adapt the path */Applications/QGIS.app* to the actual QGIS installation directory):

```
/Applications/QGIS.app/Contents/MacOS/bin/pip3 install --upgrade remotior-sensus_  
↪scikit-learn torch
```

or in case you installed QGIS LTR:

```
/Applications/QGIS-LTR.app/Contents/MacOS/bin/pip3 install --upgrade remotior-sensus_  
↪scikit-learn torch
```

---

**Suggerimento:** In case of error messages such as scikit-learn is already installed, you can just run `/Applications/QGIS.app/Contents/MacOS/bin/pip3 install --upgrade remotior-sensus torch`

---

Follow the same procedure for updating the dependencies.

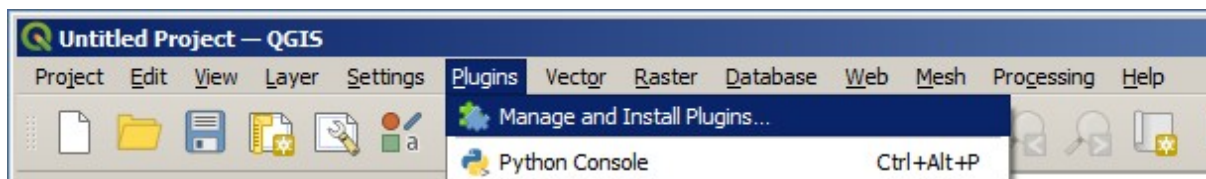
---

**Suggerimento:** In case the library Remotior Sensus is not found, an automatic procedure will try to download it in the plugin directory, allowing for using the main functions of the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin; however, this is not recommended as library Remotior Sensus won't be updated, and scikit-learn and PyTorch functions will not work. Alternatively, one may follow [Advanced installation using Conda](#) (Pag. 23).

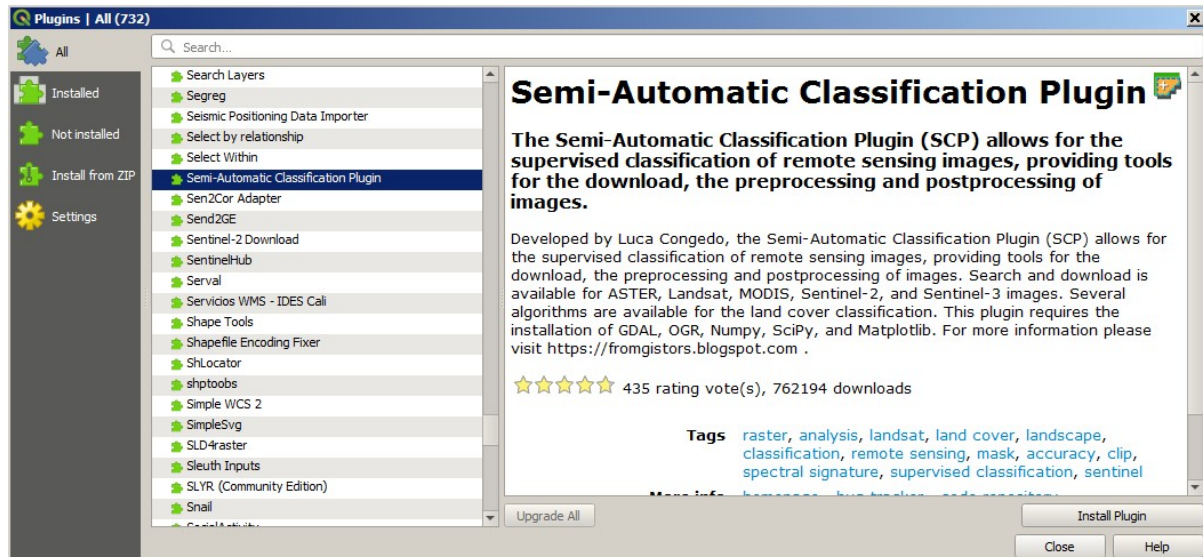
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## 2.4.3 Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin installation

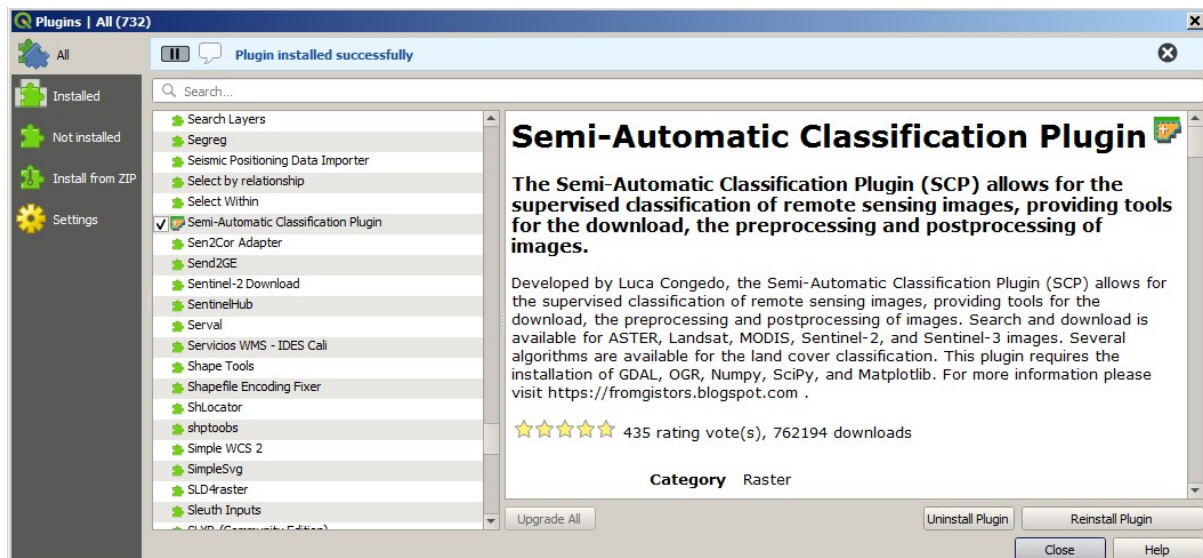
- Run QGIS;
- From the main menu, select Plugins > Manage and Install Plugins;



- From the menu All, select the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin and click the button Install plugin;

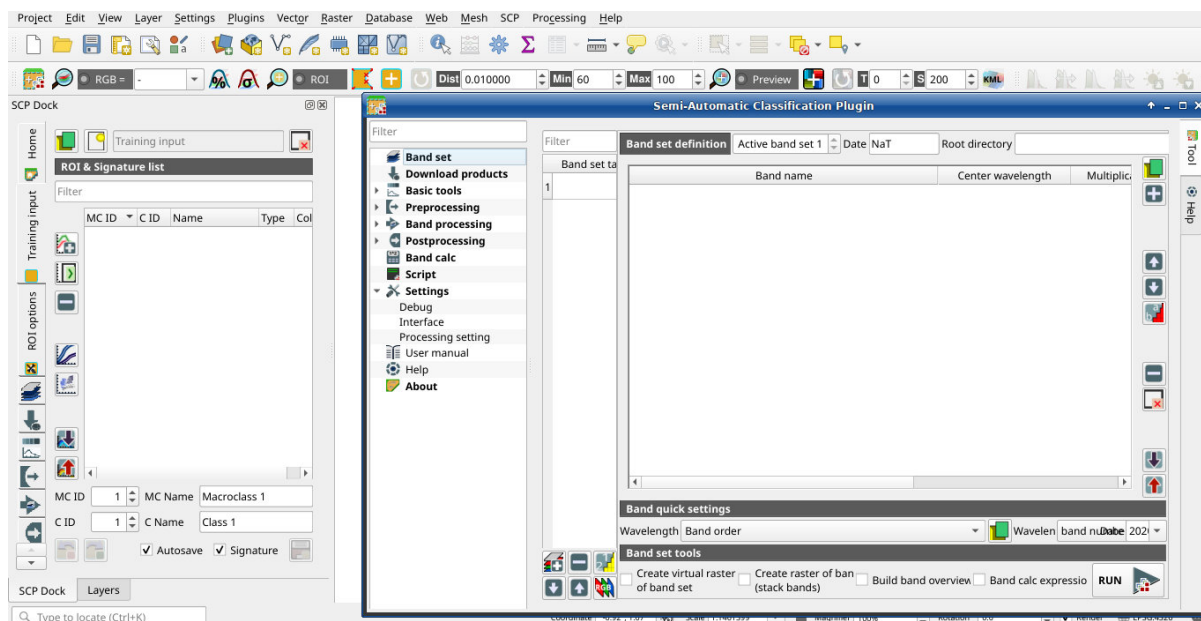



- The SCP should be automatically activated; however, be sure that the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin is checked in the menu `Installed` (the restart of QGIS could be necessary to complete the SCP installation);

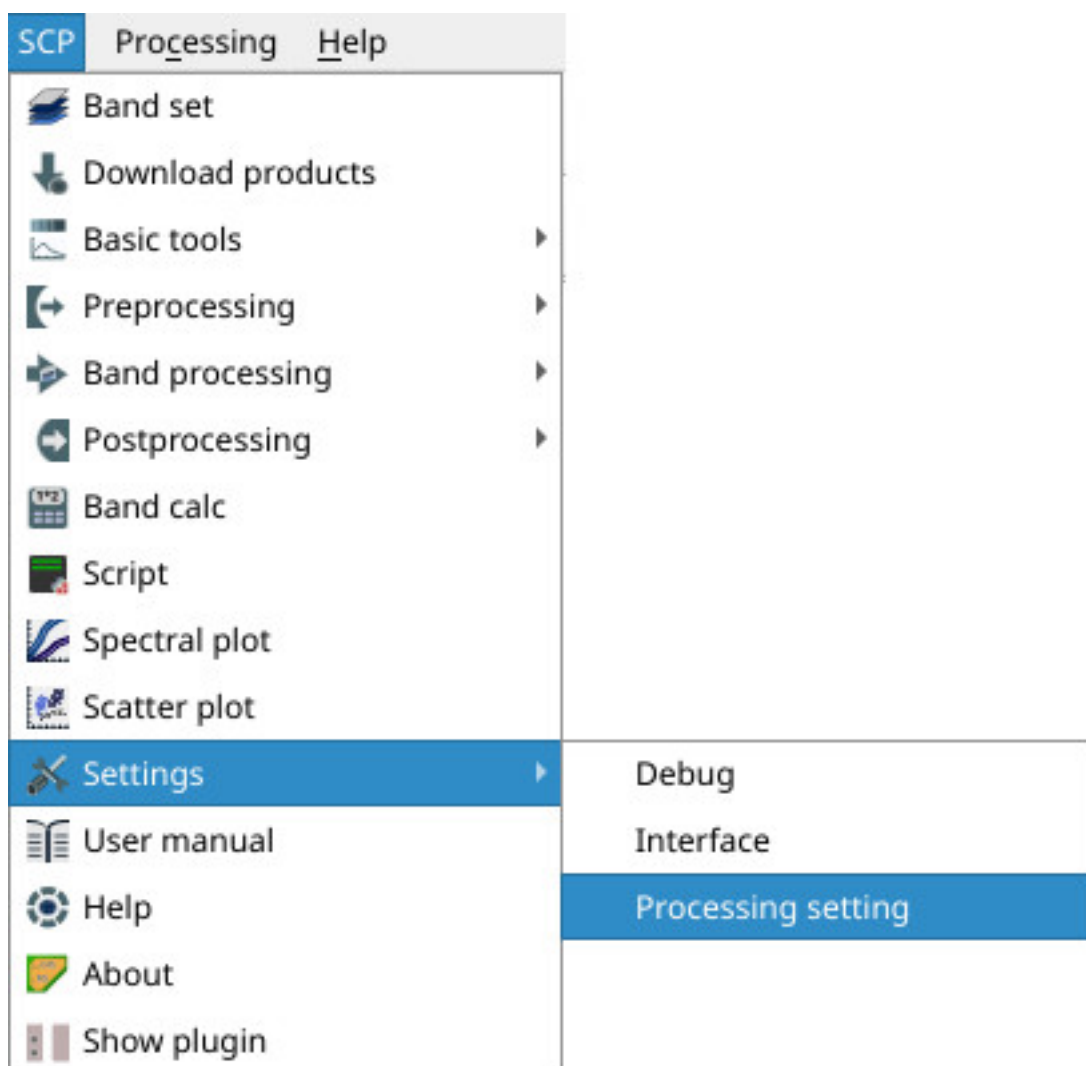


## 2.4.4 Configuration of the plugin

Now, the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin is installed and a dock and a toolbar should be added to QGIS. Also, a SCP menu is available in the Menu Bar of QGIS. It is possible to move the toolbar and the dock according to your needs, as in the following image.

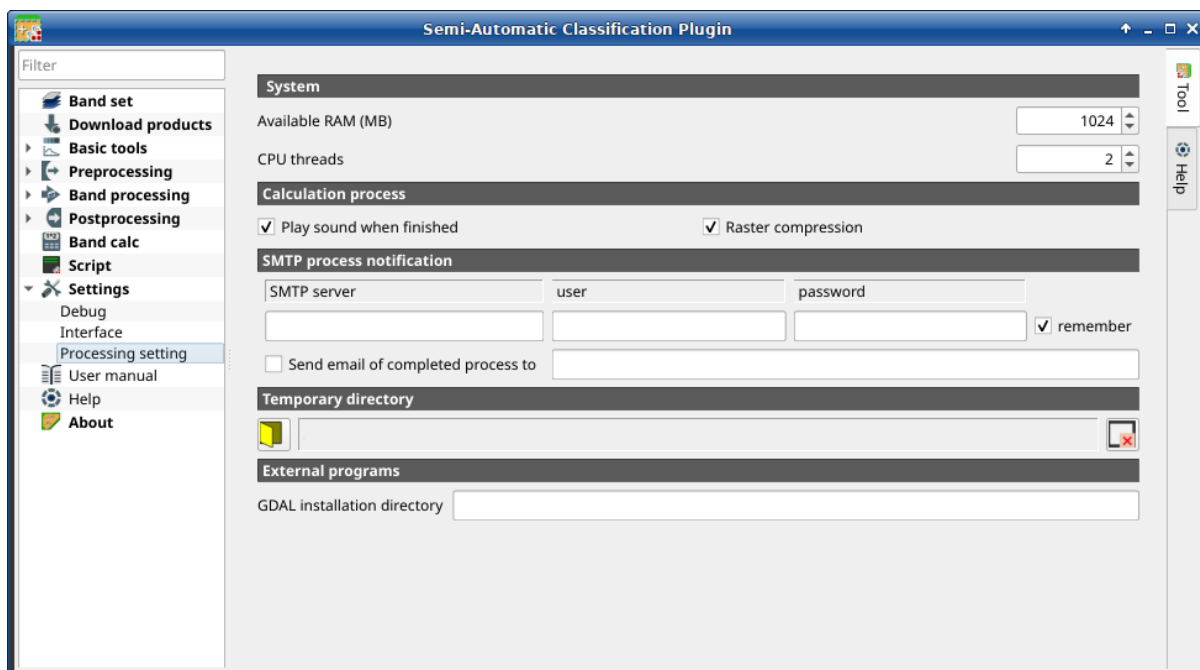


The configuration of available RAM is recommended in order to reduce the processing time. From the *SCP menu* (Pag. 29) select  Settings > Processing .



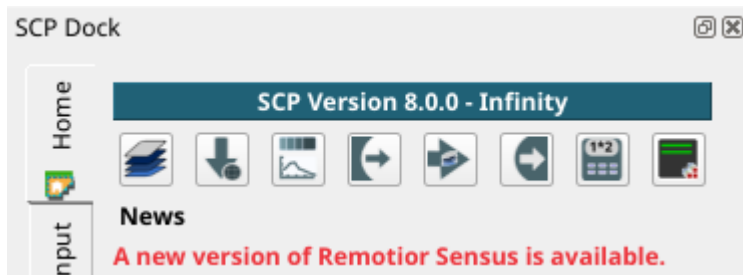


In the *Settings* (Pag. 107), set the Available RAM (MB) to a value that should be half of the system RAM. For instance, if your system has 2GB of RAM, set the value to 1024MB.



## 2.4.5 Update of required dependencies

The dependency Remotior Sensus is frequently updated. The Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin can check automatically if a new version is available, and display a message in the *SCP dock* (Pag. 31).



It is recommended to close QGIS and update Remotior Sensus following the same installation steps described in *Installation of required dependencies* (Pag. 20) .

## 2.5 Advanced installation using Conda

### 2.5.1 QGIS download and installation with the dependencies

The Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin requires Remotior Sensus, GDAL, NumPy and SciPy for most functionalities.

QGIS and the dependencies can be installed using a *Conda* environment (if you don't know *Conda* please read <https://conda-forge.org/docs>). For instance, you can use *Miniforge* to create a *Conda* environment.

Once installed conda, open the terminal and run the following commands to create a new environment:

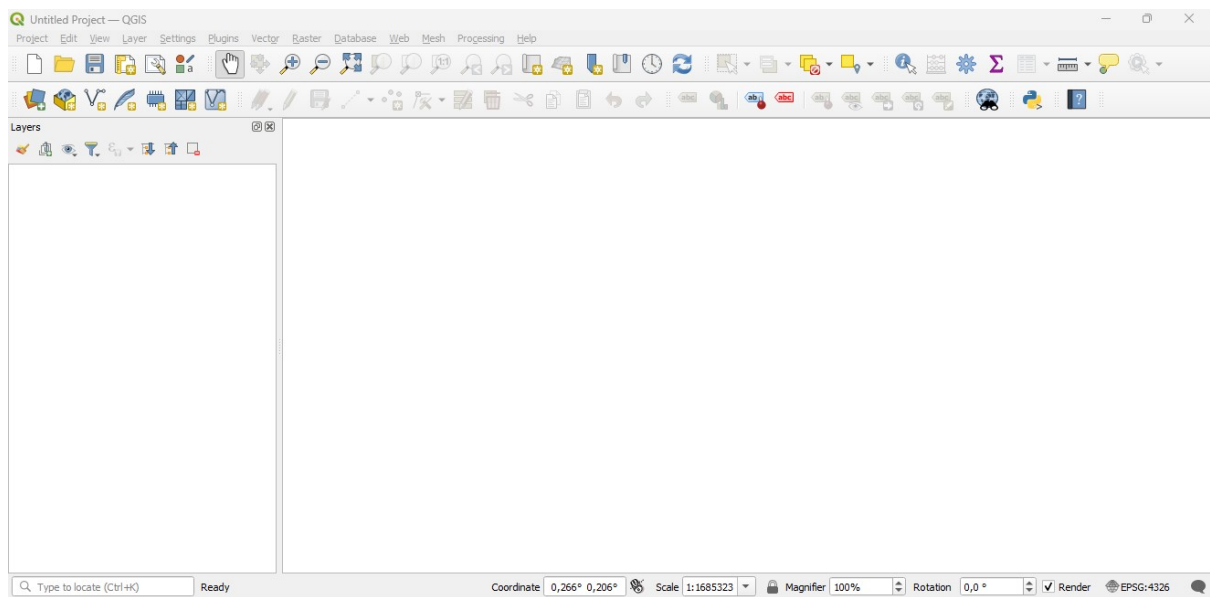
```
$ conda create -c conda-forge --name environment python=3.10
Proceed ([y]/n)? y
$ conda activate environment
```

Now install QGIS and the dependencies (it could take some time):

```
$ conda install -c conda-forge qgis gdal remotior-sensus scikit-learn pytorch
```

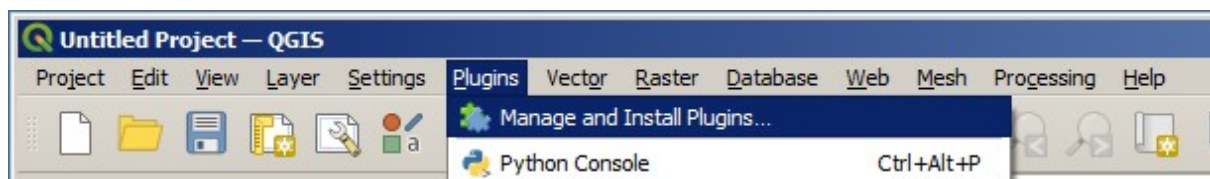
Now, QGIS is installed. To launch it run in the terminal:

```
$ qgis
```



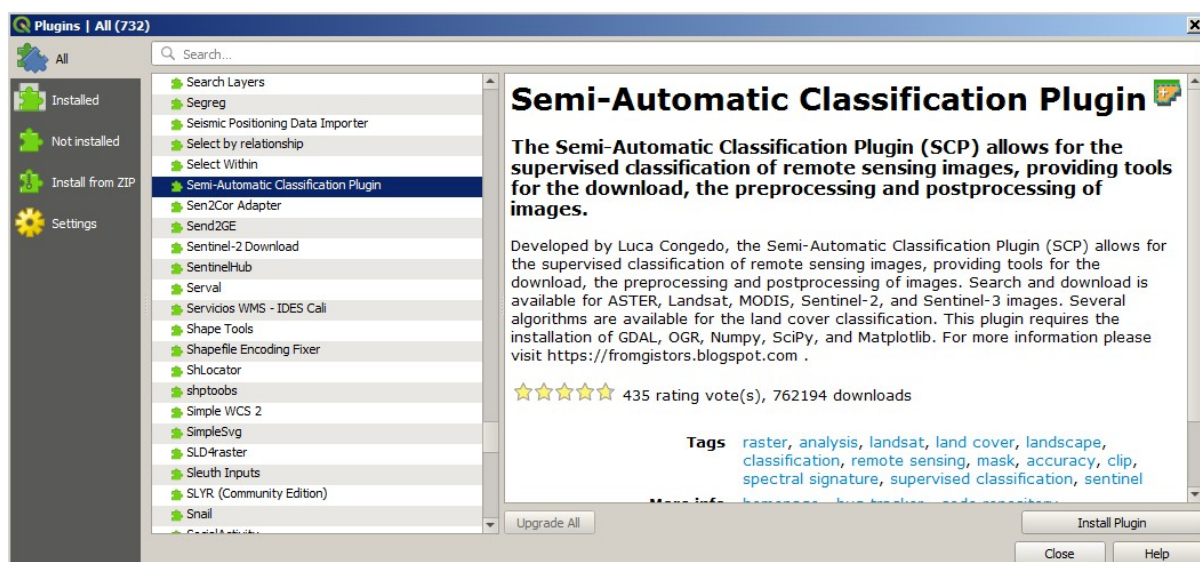
### 2.5.2 Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin installation

- Run QGIS;
- From the main menu, select Plugins > Manage and Install Plugins;

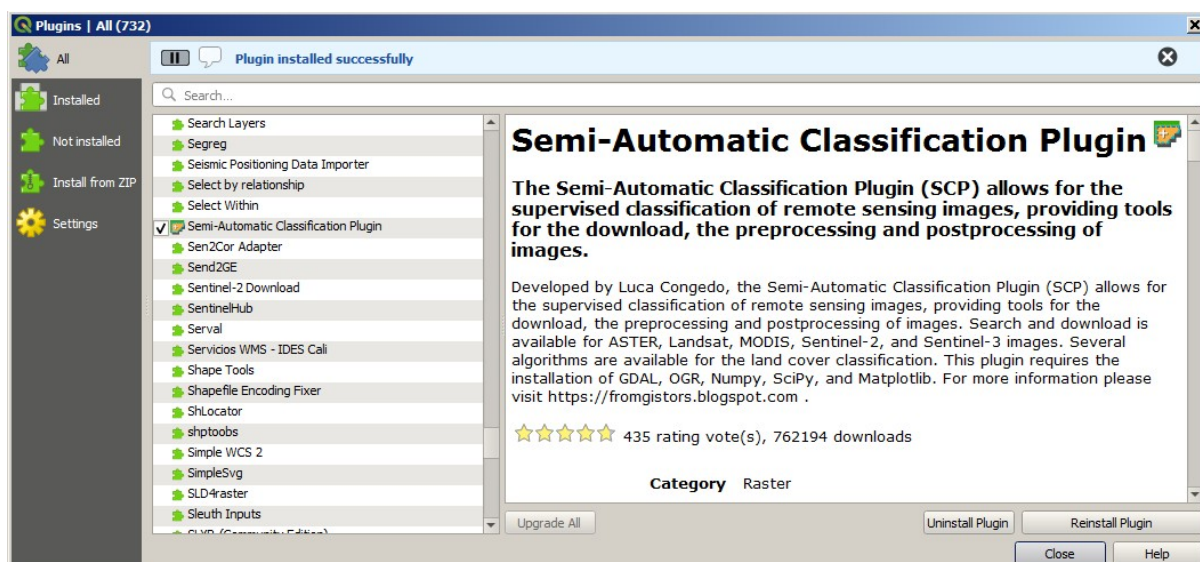


- From the menu All, select the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin and click the button Install plugin;



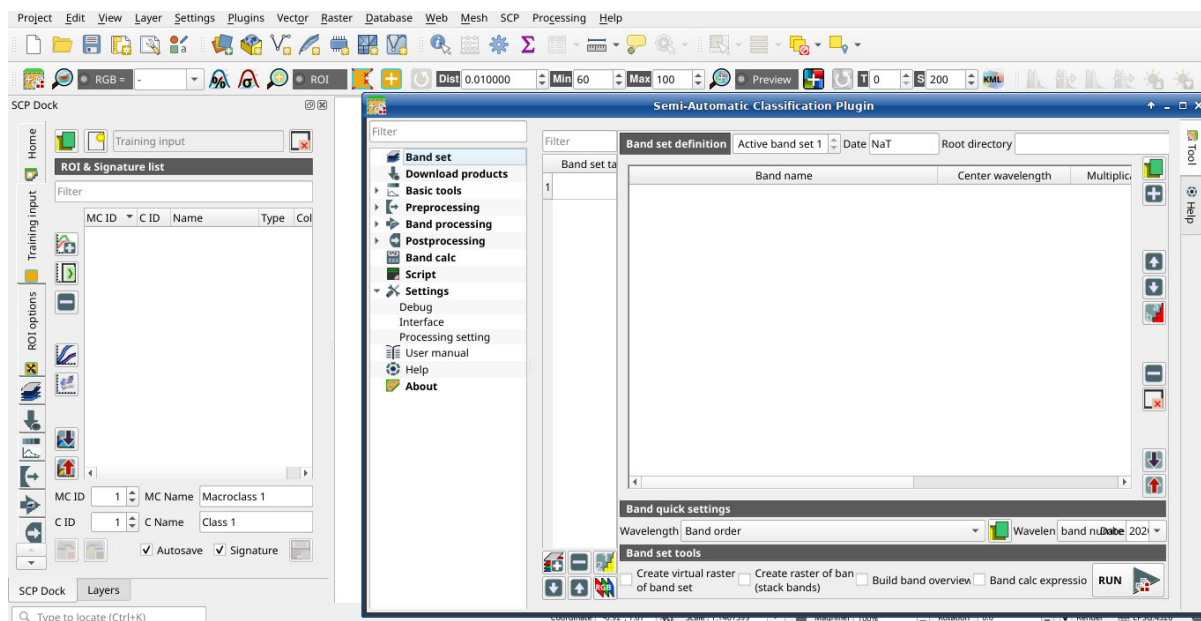



- The SCP should be automatically activated; however, be sure that the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin is checked in the menu `Installed` (the restart of QGIS could be necessary to complete the SCP installation);

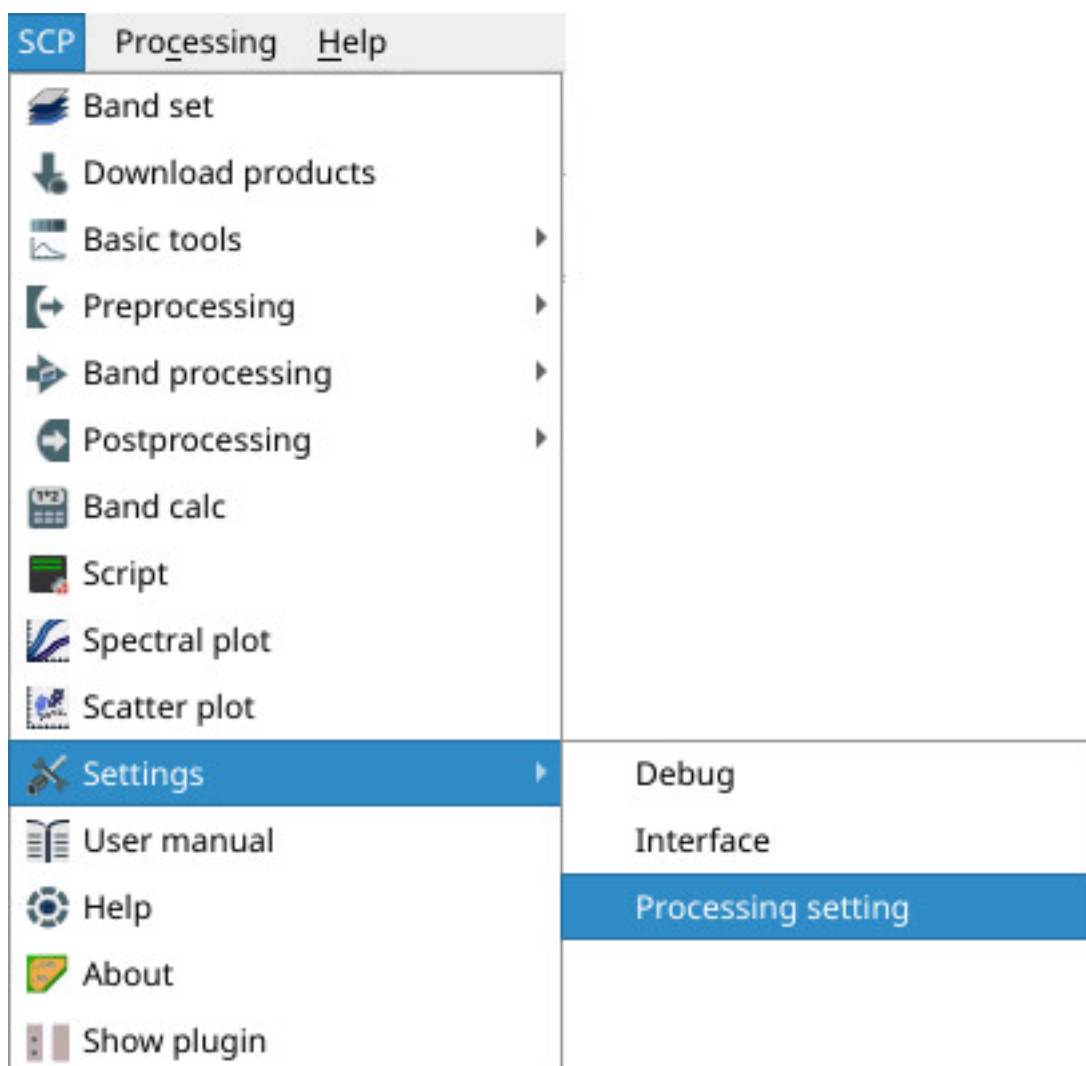


### 2.5.3 Configuration of the plugin

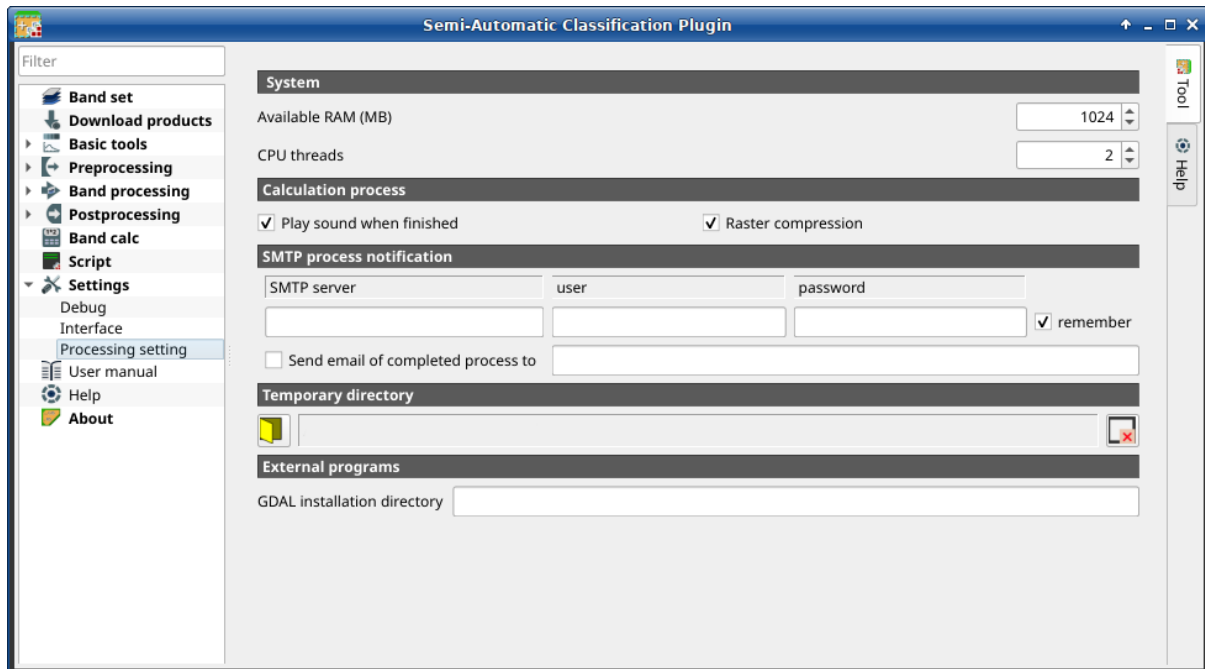
Now, the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin is installed and a dock and a toolbar should be added to QGIS. Also, a SCP menu is available in the Menu Bar of QGIS. It is possible to move the toolbar and the dock according to your needs, as in the following image.



The configuration of available RAM is recommended in order to reduce the processing time. From the *SCP menu* (Pag. 29) select  Settings > Processing .

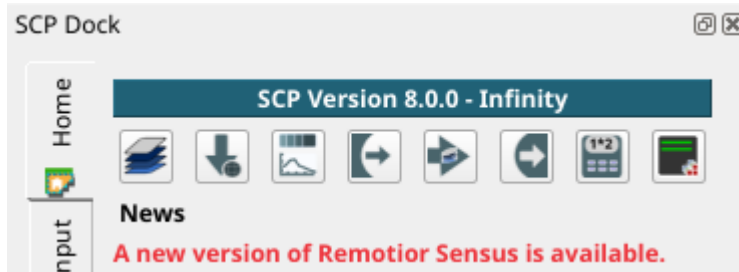


In the [Settings](#) (Pag. 107), set the Available RAM (MB) to a value that should be half of the system RAM. For instance, if your system has 2GB of RAM, set the value to 1024MB.



## 2.5.4 Update of required dependencies

The dependency Remotior Sensus is frequently updated. The Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin can check automatically if a new version is available, and display a message in the [SCP dock](#) (Pag. 31).



It is recommended to close QGIS and update Remotior Sensus using activating the conda environment and running the command:

```
$ conda update -c conda-forge remotior-sensus
```



---

### The Interface of SCP

---

The *SCP* interface is composed of several parts that are described in detail in the following paragraphs. The following video provides a brief introduction to the tools.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVSSO5LPw8s>

#### 3.1 SCP menu

The *SCP menu* allows for the selection of the main functions of the *Main Interface Window* (Pag. 45), the *Spectral Signature Plot* (Pag. 113), and the *Scatter Plot* (Pag. 116).

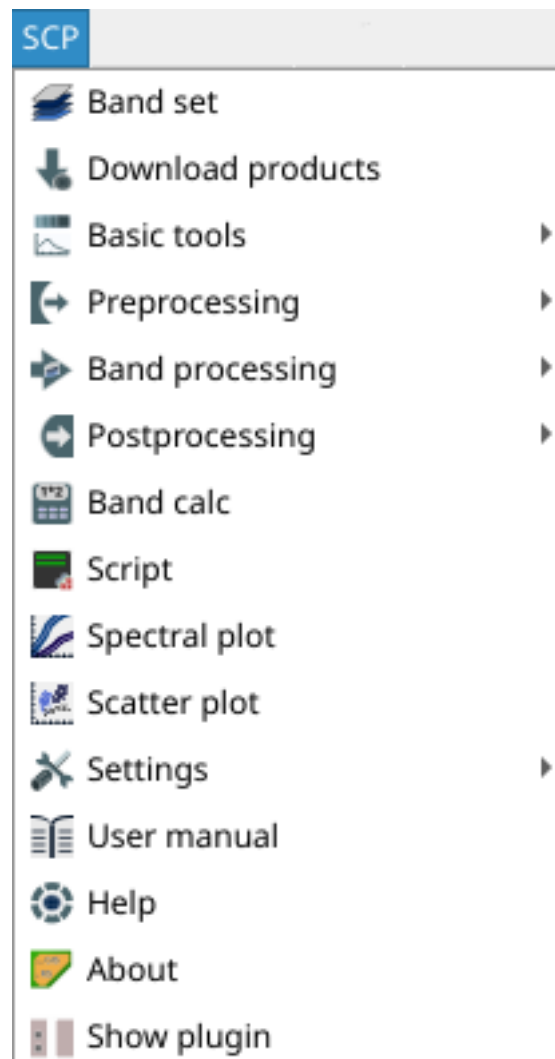










Fig. 1: *SCP menu*

	<i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45)
	<i>Download products</i> (Pag. 48)
	<i>Basic tools</i> (Pag. 53)
	<i>Preprocessing</i> (Pag. 62)
	<i>Band processing</i> (Pag. 74)
	<i>Postprocessing</i> (Pag. 91)
	<i>Band calc</i> (Pag. 98)
	<i>Script</i> (Pag. 106)
	<i>Settings</i> (Pag. 107)
	<i>Spectral Signature Plot</i> (Pag. 113)
	<i>Scatter Plot</i> (Pag. 116)
	<i>User manual</i> : open the online user manual in a web browser
	<i>Online help</i> : open the <a href="#">Online help</a> in a web browser; also, a <a href="#">Facebook group</a> is available for sharing information and asking for help about SCP
	<i>About</i> Information about the plugin
	<i>Show plugin</i> : show all the SCP toolbars and dock if previously hidden

## 3.2 SCP dock

The *SCP dock* allows for the the creation of ROIs (Regions Of Interest) and spectral signatures required for the classification of a *Band set* (Pag. 45). The *Training input* (Pag. 33), created with *SCP*, stores the ROI polygons and spectral signatures; depending on the algorithm, the training could be performed using ROI polygons (e.g. *Random Forest* (Pag. 141)) or spectral signatures (e.g. *Spectral Angle Mapping* (Pag. 138)).

ROIs are polygons used for the definition of the spectral characteristics of land cover classes. Spectral signatures of classes are calculated from the ROIs or can be imported from other sources (see *Import signatures* (Pag. 54)). It is worth pointing out that classification is always based on spectral signatures.

*SCP* allows for the creation of *temporary ROI polygons* using a region growing algorithm or drawn manually with the tools provided in the *Working toolbar* (Pag. 41). These are *temporary ROI polygons* because the ROI creation is an interactive process, and one can refine the geometry according to photointerpretation. Then, one can save *temporary ROI polygons* in the *Training input* (Pag. 33) which is the actual input for classifications.

The *Training input* (Pag. 33) is composed of a vector part that stores the geometries and a spectral signature part, which are managed by *SCP*. A temporary layer is added to QGIS but the actual file is saved and modified during the editing in *SCP*.

In *SCP*, land cover classes (and ROIs) are defined with a system of *Classes* (*Class ID*) and *Macroclasses* (*Macroclass ID*) (see *Classes and Macroclasses* (Pag. 134)) that are used for the classification process; each *Macroclass ID* is related to a *Macroclass Information* (e.g. macroclass name) and each *Class ID* is related to a *Class Information* (e.g. class name), but only *Macroclass ID* and *Class ID* are used for the classification process.

The use of the *Macroclass ID* or *Class ID* for classifications is defined with the option *Use MC ID or C ID* in the *Algorithm* (Pag. 75). Using *Macroclass ID* instead of *Class ID* is useful to group materials that belong to the same land cover class but have spectral signatures that are distant enough to be considered as different materials (e.g., different types of vegetation).

Fig. 2: *SCP dock*



The **classification** can be performed for the entire image (see [Algorithm](#) (Pag. 75)) or for a part of it creating a [Classification preview](#) (Pag. 44).









The *SCP dock* contains the following tabs:

- [Home](#) (Pag. 33)
  - [SCP news](#) (Pag. 33)
- [Training input](#) (Pag. 33)
  - [ROI & Signature list](#) (Pag. 36)
- [ROI options](#) (Pag. 41)

The left side of *SCP dock* contains buttons for accessing the main functions of *SCP*.

### 3.2.1 Home

The tab *Home* contains the buttons for accessing the main functions of *SCP*:

	<a href="#">Band set</a> (Pag. 45)
	<a href="#">Basic tools</a> (Pag. 53)
	<a href="#">Download products</a> (Pag. 48)
	<a href="#">Preprocessing</a> (Pag. 62)
	<a href="#">Band processing</a> (Pag. 74)
	<a href="#">Postprocessing</a> (Pag. 91)
	<a href="#">Band calc</a> (Pag. 98)
	<a href="#">Script</a> (Pag. 106)

#### SCP news

This section displays news about the *SCP* and related services. News are downloaded on startup (internet connection required). It can be enabled or disabled in the settings [Settings](#) (Pag. 107).

### 3.2.2 Training input

This tool allows for the creation of the training input file (.scpx) required for storing ROIs and spectral signatures. The training input file is created according to the characteristics of the *active band set* defined in [Band set](#) (Pag. 45). A new training input file should be created for every *band set*, unless the *band sets* have the same spectral characteristics and coordinate reference system.

Fig. 3: *Home*

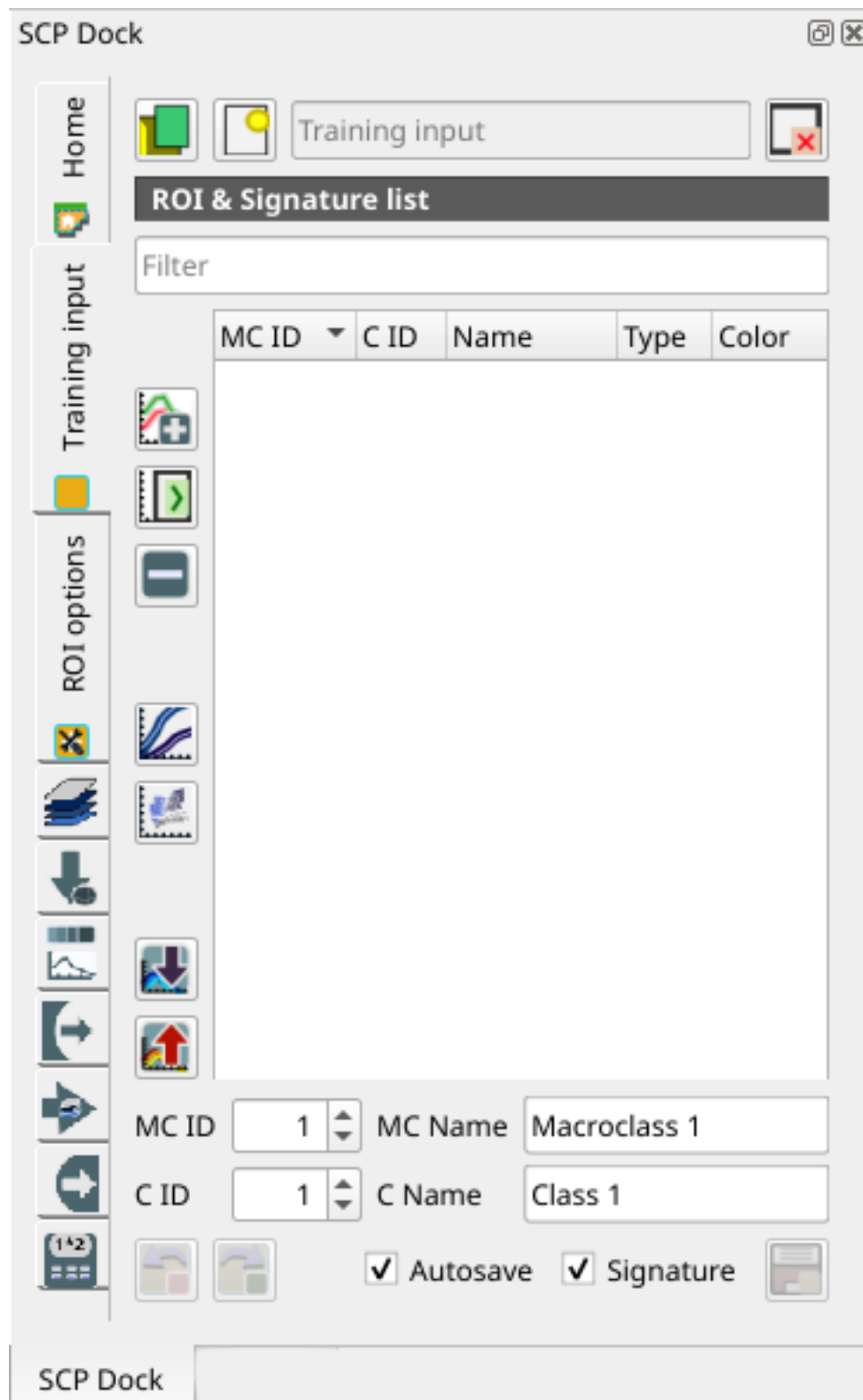







Fig. 4: Training input


Tool symbol and name	Description
	open a training input file; ROIs and spectral signatures are loaded in <i>ROI &amp; Signature list</i> (Pag. 36); the vector part of the training input is loaded in QGIS
	create an empty training input file (.scp $\times$ ); the vector part of the training input is loaded in QGIS; also a backup file is created (a file .scp $\times$ .backup in the same directory as the file .scp $\times$ ) when the QGIS project is saved; to use the backup file simply rename it deleting the ending .backup extension and open it as training input
<i>Training input</i>  	it displays the path to the training input file
	remove the training input

The training input is displayed in QGIS as vector file. ROIs and spectral signatures are displayed in the *ROI & Signature list* (Pag. 36).

**Avvertimento:** In order to avoid data loss, do not edit the vector *Training input* using the QGIS tools. Use only the tools of SCP for managing the *Training input*.


## ROI & Signature list

The tab *ROI & Signature list* displays the ROI polygons and spectral signatures contained in the training input file. The tab *ROI & Signature list* is structured as tree list, where every ROI is grouped in the corresponding Macroclass.

A filter for names can be defined in *Filter* .

The tree list *ROI & Signature list* has the following fields:

- *MC ID*: Macroclass ID is the root of corresponding ROIs and signatures; it can be edited with a single click; if the ID of a spectral signature is set 0, then pixels belonging to this signature are labelled as unclassified; every listed ROIs or signatures has a selection checkbox (only the spectral signatures checked in this list are used for the classification process);
- *C ID*: Class ID; it can be edited with a single click;
- *Name*: Macroclass and Class Name; it can be edited with a single click;
- **Type: type of the item:**
  - *R* = only ROI polygon;
  - *S* = only spectral signature;
  - *RS* = both ROI and spectral signature;
- *Color*: C ID color; double click to select a color for the class that is used in the classification; if the ID of a spectral signature is set 0, then pixels belonging to this signature are labelled as unclassified;

Changes in the *ROI & Signature list* are applied to the file *Training input* (Pag. 33) only when the QGIS project is saved (but there is also the option  *Autosave*). ROIs can be edited, deleted and merged from this list.

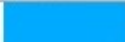







MC ID	C ID	Name	Type	Color
<b>1</b>		<b>Water</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	1	Lake	R&S	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	7	Lake2	R&S	
<b>2</b>		<b>Built-up</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	2	Buildings	R&S	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	8	Small buildings	R&S	
<b>3</b>		<b>Vegetation</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	3	Crops	R&S	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	5	Vegetation	R&S	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	6	Vegetation2	R&S	
<b>4</b>		<b>Bare soil</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4	4	Low vegetation	R&S	








Fig. 5: ROI &amp; Signature list example

**Suggerimento:** According to *Algorithm* (Pag. 75), classifications performed using *C ID* have the colors defined for classes in the *ROI & Signature list* (Pag. 36); classifications performed using *MC ID* have the colors defined for the macroclasses.

If an item is a ROI polygon, double click the item to zoom to that ROI in the map. Items in the list can be highlighted with the mouse left click.

**Suggerimento:** ROIs and spectral signatures can be imported from other sources (see *Import signatures* (Pag. 54)) and exported (see *Export signatures* (Pag. 53)).

The following tools are available.

Tool symbol and name	Description
	merge highlighted spectral signatures or ROIs obtaining a new signature calculated as the average of signature values for each band (covariance matrix is excluded)
	calculate spectral signatures of highlighted ROIs using the <i>active band set</i> in <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45)
	delete highlighted ROIs and signatures
	show the ROI spectral signature in the <i>Spectral Signature Plot</i> (Pag. 113); spectral signature is calculated from the <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45)
	add highlighted ROIs to the <i>Scatter Plot</i> (Pag. 116)
	open the tab <i>Import signatures</i> (Pag. 54)
	open the tab <i>Export signatures</i> (Pag. 53) and export highlighted items

*ROI & Signature list* is complementary to the *Working toolbar* (Pag. 41) and it allows for saving ROIs to the *Training input* (Pag. 33) defining classes and macroclasses. A *Band set* (Pag. 45) must be defined before the ROI creation, and ROI polygons must be inside the area of the *Band set*.

Tool symbol and name	Description
	ROI Macroclass ID
	ROI Macroclass Name
	ROI Class ID
	ROI Class Name
	undo of ROI creation from the <i>Training input</i> (Pag. 33); it is possible to undo a maximum of 10 actions
	redo ROI creation in the <i>Training input</i> (Pag. 33)
 Autosave	if checked, automatically save the <i>ROI &amp; Signature list</i> to the <i>Training input</i> (Pag. 33) every time a ROI is saved
 Signature	if checked, while saving a ROI, the spectral signature thereof is calculated (from <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45) pixels under ROI polygon) and saved to <i>Training input</i> (Pag. 33) (calculation time depends on the band number of the <i>active band set</i> in <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45))
	save the temporary ROI to the <i>Training input</i> (Pag. 33) using the defined classes and macroclasses; ROI is displayed in the <i>ROI &amp; Signature list</i> (Pag. 36)

## Right click menu

A right click on *ROI & Signature list* (Pag. 36) allows for opening a menu containing several functions to manage ROIs and spectral signatures.

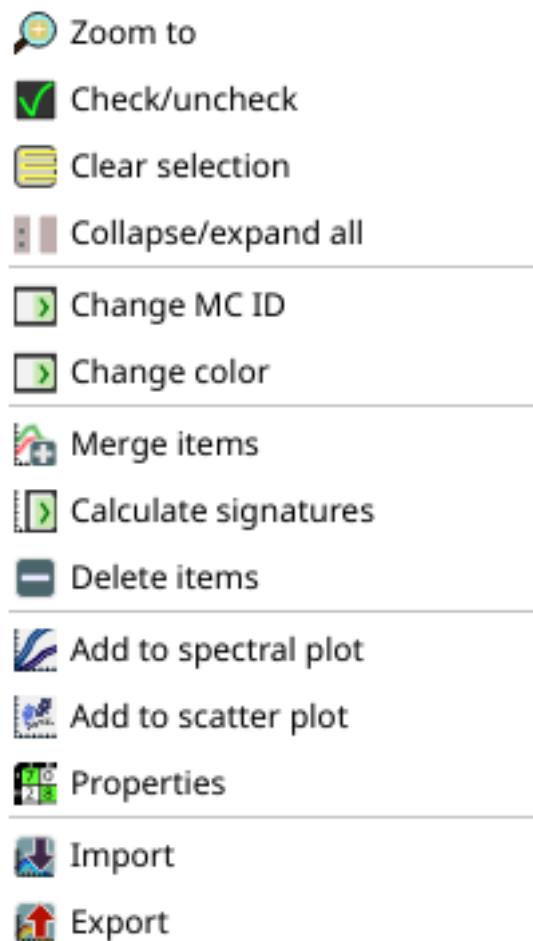



























Fig. 6: *Right click menu*



Tool symbol and name	Description
 <i>Zoom to</i>	zoom to highlighted items (if ROI polygons) in the map
 <i>Check/uncheck</i>	check or uncheck highlighted items
 <i>Clear selection</i>	clear selection of highlighted items
 <i>Collapse/expand all</i>	collapse or expand all macroclasses
 <i>Change MC ID</i>	edit the macroclass of highlighted items (using the value <i>MC ID</i>  displayed in <i>ROI &amp; Signature list</i> (Pag. 36)); if a macroclass is selected, the function is performed to all the included items
 <i>Change color</i>	select a color for the highlighted items; if a macroclass is selected, the function is performed to all the included items
 <i>Merge items</i>	merge highlighted spectral signatures or ROIs obtaining a new signature calculated as the average of signature values for each band (covariance matrix is excluded); if a macroclass is selected, the function is performed to all the included items
 <i>Calculate signatures</i>	calculate spectral signatures of highlighted ROIs using the <i>active band set</i> in <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45); if a macroclass is selected, the function is performed to all the included items
 <i>Delete items</i>	delete highlighted ROIs and signatures; if a macroclass is selected, the function is performed to all the included items;
 <i>Add to spectral plot</i>	show the ROI spectral signature in the <i>Spectral Signature Plot</i> (Pag. 113); spectral signature is calculated from the <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45); if a macroclass is selected, the function is performed to all the included items
 <i>Add to scatter plot</i>	add highlighted ROIs to the <i>Scatter Plot</i> (Pag. 116); if a macroclass is selected, the function is performed to all the included items
 <i>Properties</i>	show the properties of highlighted items;
 <i>Import</i>	open the tab <i>Import signatures</i> (Pag. 54)
 <i>Export</i>	open the tab <i>Export signatures</i> (Pag. 53) and export highlighted items

### 3.2.3 ROI options

*ROI options* are useful for displaying pixel values or improving the creation of ROIs.

Tool symbol and name	Description
  	if the ROI creation pointer is active (see <a href="#">Working toolbar</a> (Pag. 41)), the pixel value of selected vegetation index is displayed on the map; vegetation indices available in the combo box are: * NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index); NDVI requires the near-infrared and red bands; * EVI (Enhanced Vegetation Index); EVI requires the blue, near-infrared and red bands converted to reflectance; wavelengths must be defined in the <a href="#">Band set</a> (Pag. 45); * Custom; use the custom expression defined in the following line
 	set a custom expression; expression is based on the <i>Band set</i> and bands such as band 1 is referred to as «b1», band 2 as «b2» and so on; also reference to band names such as «#NIR#» or «#RED#» can be used
 Rapid ROI 	if checked, temporary ROI is created with region growing using only one <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45) band (i.e. region growing is rapider); the band is defined by the <i>Band set</i> number; if unchecked, ROI is the result of the intersection between ROIs calculated on every band (i.e. region growing is slower, but ROI is spectrally homogeneous in every band)
 Auto-plot	calculate automatically the temporary ROI spectral signature and display it in the <a href="#">Spectral Signature Plot</a> (Pag. 113) (MC Name of this spectral signature is set tempo_ROI)
 Auto-refresh ROI	calculate automatically a new temporary ROI while <i>Region growing parameters</i> in the <a href="#">Working toolbar</a> (Pag. 41) are being changed
Maximum training buffer 	defines the maximum number of action for undo and redo ROIs; the higher is the number, the more is the required memory

## 3.3 Working toolbar

The *Working toolbar* allows for creating *temporary ROIs* and *classification previews*.

- [Image control](#) (Pag. 43)
- [Temporary ROI](#) (Pag. 43)
- [Classification preview](#) (Pag. 44)

The functions are described in detail in the following paragraphs.

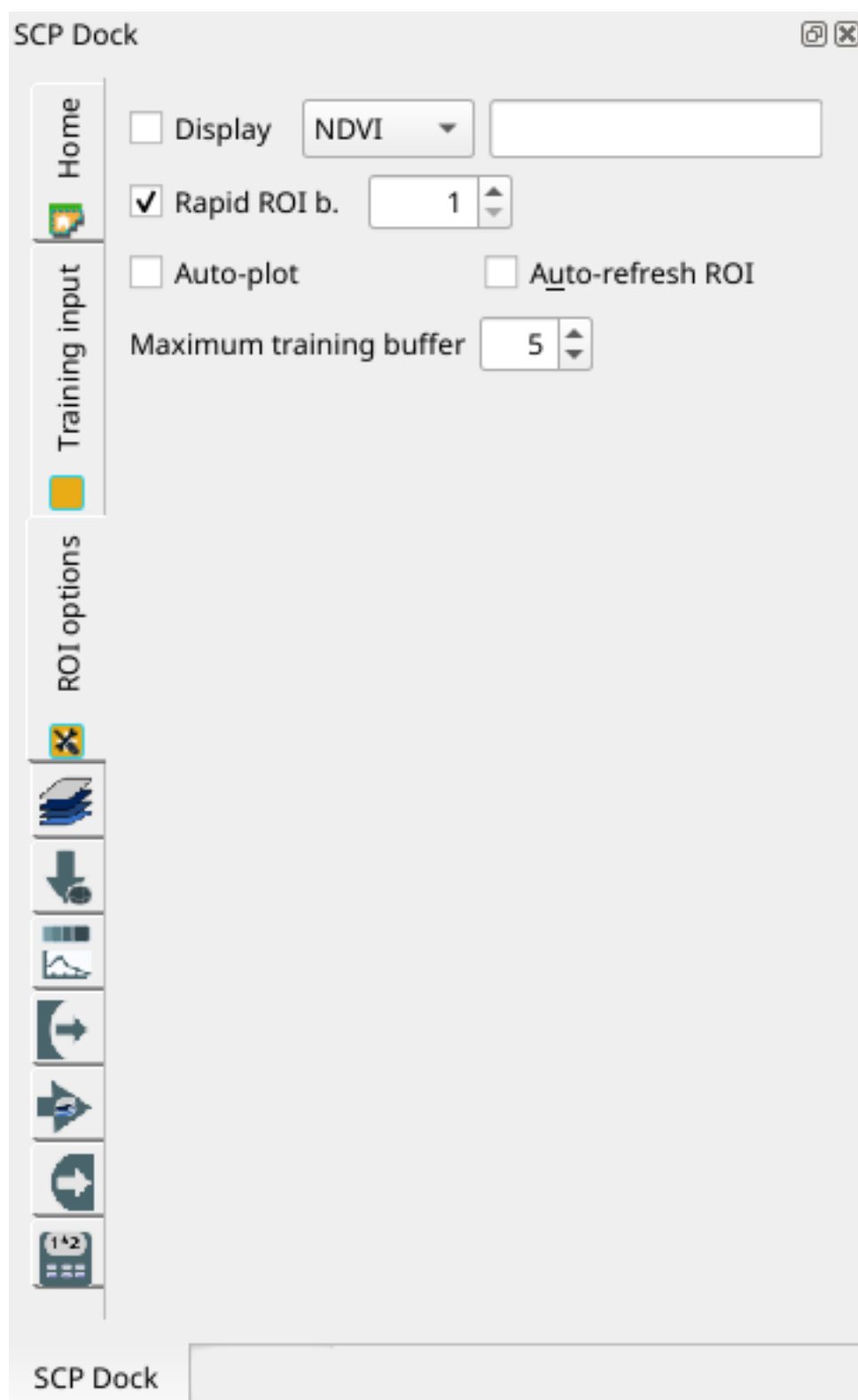








Fig. 7: ROI options








Fig. 8: Working toolbar

### 3.3.1 Image control







Tool symbol and name	Description
	show the <i>Main Interface Window</i> (Pag. 45)
	zoom the map to the extent of the <i>active band set</i> in <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45);
 RGB= <input type="text"/> 	use the button to show/hide the <i>active band set</i> in <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45) in the map; from the list select a <i>Color Composite</i> (Pag. 133) that is applied to the <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45); new color composites can be entered typing the band numbers separated by - or ; or , (e.g. RGB = 4-3-2 or RGB = 4;3;2 or RGB = 4,3,2)
	display the input image stretching the minimum and maximum values according to cumulative count of current map extent
	display the input image stretching the minimum and maximum values according to standard deviation of current map extent

### 3.3.2 Temporary ROI

A *temporary ROI* is a temporary polygon displayed in the map, which can be saved permanently in the *Training input* (Pag. 33). A *temporary ROI* can be drawn manually or using a *Region Growing Algorithm* (Pag. 134) (i.e. the image is segmented around a pixel seed including spectrally homogeneous pixels).

Tool symbol and name	Description
	zoom the map to the extent of <i>temporary ROI</i>
 ROI	use the button to show/hide the <i>temporary ROI</i> and the <i>Training input</i> in the map
	activate the pointer to create a <i>temporary ROI</i> by drawing a polygon in the map; left click on the map to define the ROI vertices and right click to define the last vertex closing the polygon; press the keyboard button CTRL to add a multipart polygon; press the keyboard buttons CTRL + Z for removing the last multipart polygon
	activate the pointer to create a <i>temporary ROI</i> using the region growing algorithm; left click on the map for creating the ROI; right click on the map for displaying the spectral signature of a pixel of the <i>active band set</i> in the <i>Spectral Signature Plot</i> (Pag. 113); press the keyboard button CTRL and left click to add a multipart polygon (new parts are not created if overlapping to other parts); press the keyboard buttons CTRL + Z for removing the last multipart polygon; press the keyboard button CTRL and right click to plot spectral signatures of the same pixel for all the <i>band sets</i>
	create a <i>temporary ROI</i> using the region growing algorithm at the same seed pixel as the previous one; it is useful after changing the <i>region growing parameters</i>

*Region growing parameters:* the following parameters are required for the ROI creation using a region growing algorithm on the *Band set* (Pag. 45):

Tool symbol and name	Description
 	set the interval which defines the maximum spectral distance between the seed pixel and the surrounding pixels (in radiometry unit)
 	set the minimum area of a ROI (in pixel unit); this setting overrides the Range radius until the minimum ROI size is reached; if Rapid ROI on band is checked, then ROI will have at least the size defined Min ROI size; if Rapid ROI on band is unchecked, then ROI could have a size smaller than Min ROI size
 	set the maximum width of a ROI (i.e. the side length of a square, centred at the seed pixel, which inscribes the ROI) in pixel unit

### 3.3.3 Classification preview









*Classification preview* allows for displaying temporary classifications (i.e. classification previews). Classification previews are useful for testing the algorithm in a small area of the *Band set* (Pag. 45), before classifying the entire image which can be time consuming.

*Classification preview* is performed according to the parameters defined in *Algorithm* (Pag. 75).

**Avvertimento:** ROIs and previews are performed on the active *Band set* (Pag. 45).

After the creation of a new preview, old previews are placed in QGIS Layers inside a layer group named *Class\_temp\_group* and are deleted when the QGIS session is closed.

**Avvertimento:** Classification previews are automatically deleted from disk when the QGIS session is closed; a QGIS message (that can be ignored) could ask for the path of missing layers when opening a previously saved project.

Tool symbol and name	Description
	zoom the map to the extent of the last <i>Classification preview</i> (Pag. 44)
 <i>Preview</i>	use the button to show/hide the last <i>Classification preview</i> (Pag. 44) in the map
	activate the pointer for the creation of a <i>Classification preview</i> (Pag. 44); left click the map to start the classification process and display the classification preview
	create a new <i>Classification preview</i> (Pag. 44) centred at the same pixel as the previous one
T 	change dynamically the classification preview transparency, which is useful for comparing the classification to other layers
S  	size of the preview in pixel unit (i.e. the side length of a square, centred at the clicked pixel)
	create a KML file of the QGIS view

## 3.4 Main Interface Window

The Main Interface Window is composed of several tabs described in detail in the following paragraphs. Tabs can be selected through the tree menu at the left side or from the *SCP menu* (Pag. 29).

### 3.4.1 Band set

- *Band set definition* (Pag. 46)
- *Band quick settings* (Pag. 47)
- *Band set table* (Pag. 48)
- *Band set tools* (Pag. 48)

Image input in *SCP* is named *band set*. This tab allows for the definition of one or multiple *band sets* to be used as input for classification and other tools.

*Band sets* are identified by numbers. The *active band set* (i.e. the one selected in *Band set definition* (Pag. 46)) is used as input for several tools in *SCP dock* (Pag. 31) and the *Working toolbar* (Pag. 41). Other *SCP* tools allow for the selection of *band set* numbers.

The *Band set* definition is saved with the QGIS project.

---

**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#) .

---

Following a video tutorial about this tool.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQXfBPke2J4>

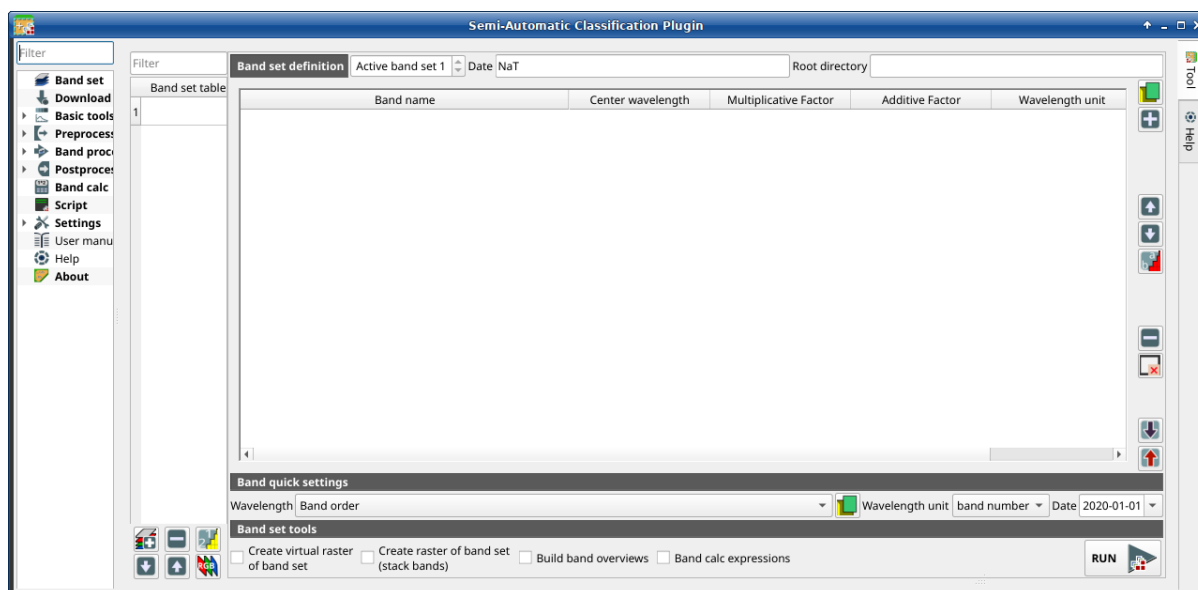


Fig. 9:  *Band set*

## Band set definition










A *band set* is basically a list of bands defined as the following table.

Band name	Center length	wave-length	Multiplicative Factor	Additive Factor	Wave-length unit	Path	Date
name of the band (it cannot be edited)	center of the wavelength of the band	of the	multiplicative rescaling factor	additive rescaling factor	wave-length unit	relative path of the raster	image acquisition date

It is possible to add to the *active band set* one or more bands already loaded in QGIS, or select files that are not loaded. A *Date* can be assigned to a *band set* which can be later used in other tools to select *band sets* by date. Also, a *Root directory* for band paths can be defined, which can be useful to create projects with relative paths.

The following tools are available.







Tool symbol and name	Description
	open file explorer and add raster files (preferably single band raster) to the <i>active band set</i>
	open a window to select rasters already loaded in QGIS and add them to the <i>active band set</i>
	move highlighted bands upward
	move highlighted bands downward
	sort automatically bands by name, giving priority to the ending numbers of name
	remove highlighted bands from the <i>active band set</i>
	clear all bands from <i>active band set</i>
	import a previously saved <i>active band set</i> from file
	export the <i>active band set</i> to a file

It is possible to define a multiplicative rescaling factor and additive rescaling factor for each band (for instance using the values in Landsat metadata), which are used on the fly (i.e. `pixel value = original pixel value * multiplicative rescaling factor + additive rescaling factor`) during the processing.

The *Center wavelength* of bands should be defined in order to use several functions of *SCP*. If the *Center wavelength* of bands is not defined, the band number is used and some *SCP* tools will be disabled.

### Band quick settings

These tools allow for quickly set attributes of the *active band set*.







Tool symbol and name	Description
Wavelength 	rapid definition of band center wavelength for the following satellite sensors: * Band order * ASTER * GeoEye-1 * GOES * Landsat 8 OLI * Landsat 7 ETM+ * Landsat 4-5 TM * Landsat 1, 2, and 3 MSS * MODIS * Pleiades * QuickBird * RapidEye * Sentinel-2 * Sentinel-3 * SPOT 4, 5, and 6 * WorldView-2 and WorldView-3
	open a csv file of wavelength values (center wavelength separated by comma or new line)
Wavelength unit 	<b>select the wavelength unit among:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Band number</i>: no unit, only band number</li> <li><math>\mu m</math>: micrometres</li> <li><i>nm</i>: nanometres</li> </ul>
Date 	set the date of acquisition

## Band set table

The table on the left side is the *Band set table*. It includes the list of all the defined *band sets* (the names of the first bands are displayed), which can be selected with a left click. Double click on a table item can be used to define the *Active band set*.


A *Filter* can be used to display *band sets* in the table matching a name.

The following tools are available for managing *band sets*.

Tool symbol and name	Description
	add a new empty <i>band set</i>
	remove highlighted <i>band sets</i>
	sort <i>band sets</i> by date
	move highlighted <i>band sets</i> upward
	move highlighted <i>band sets</i> downward
	display the RGB color composite of selected <i>band sets</i> (a virtual raster is added in QGIS)

## Band set tools

*Band set tools* are tools that can be executed directly on *Active band set*. Multiple tools can be selected by the corresponding check box. This can also be useful to automate the processing during image conversion.

Tool symbol and name	Description
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Create virtual raster of band set</i>	create a multiband virtual raster of <i>Active band set</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Create raster of band set (stack bands)</i>	stack bands in a single multiband raster
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Build band overview</i>	build band overview of <i>Active band set</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Band calc expression</i>	execute the expression defined in <i>Band calc</i> (Pag. 98)
	execute selected tools

## 3.4.2 Download products

- *Search* (Pag. 49)
  - *Search parameters* (Pag. 50)
  - *Product list* (Pag. 51)
  - *Download* (Pag. 51)
- *Login data* (Pag. 52)
  - *Login Harmonized Landsat Sentinel-2* (Pag. 53)

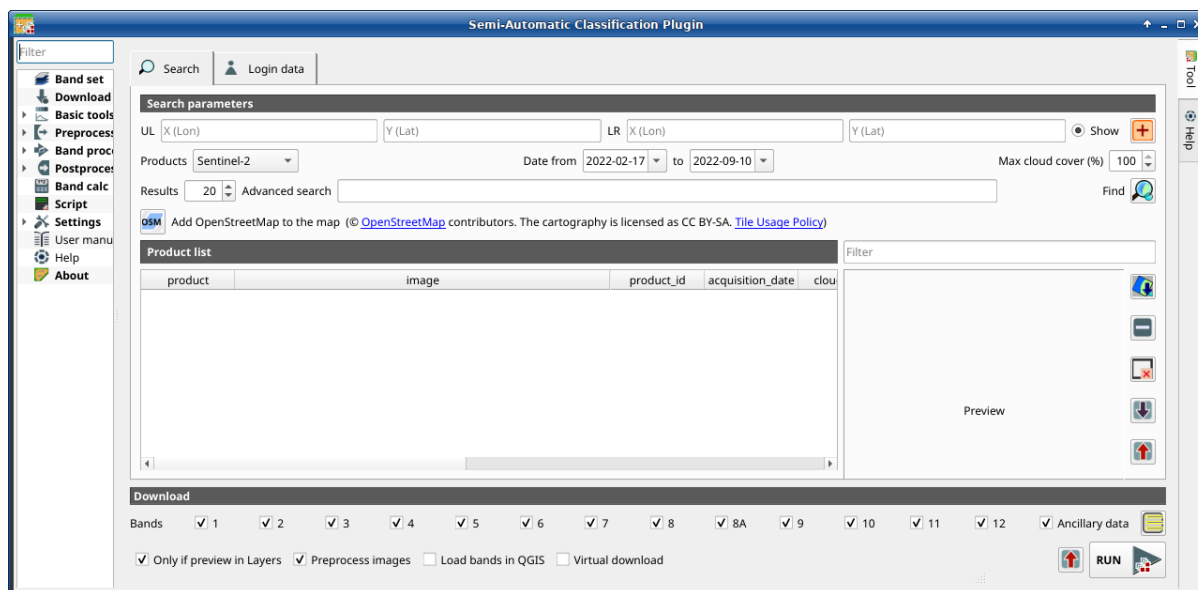



Fig. 10: Download products

The tab  *Download products* includes the tools for searching and downloading free remote sensing images. The search and download is performed through [Remotior Sensus](#). Also, automatic conversion to reflectance of downloaded bands is available.

**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#).

An internet connection is required and free registration could be required depending on the download service.

Following a video tutorial about this tool.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwL2f5Nrn3U>

## Search

The *Search* tool allows for searching and downloading:

- *Sentinel-2*: [Copernicus Sentinel-2](#) images (Level-1C and Level-2A) acquired from 2015 to present days;
- *Landsat\_MPC*: [Landsat Collection](#) images acquired from August 1982 to present days, such as Landsat 5, 7, 8, 9 (data retrieved from Microsoft Planetary Computer);
- *Sentinel-2\_MPC*: [Copernicus Sentinel-2 Level-2A](#) acquired from 2015 to present days (data retrieved from Microsoft Planetary Computer);
- *Landsat\_HLS*: Landsat from Harmonized Landsat Sentinel-2 by NASA which are surface reflectance data product (generated with Landsat 8, Landsat 9, and Sentinel-2 data acquired from 2013 to present days) with observations every two to three days at 30m spatial resolution (more information about the [project](#));
- *Sentinel-2\_HLS*: Sentinel-2 from Harmonized Landsat Sentinel-2 by NASA which are surface reflectance data product (generated with Landsat 8, Landsat 9, and Sentinel-2 data acquired from 2013 to present days) with observations every two to three days at 30m spatial resolution (more information about the [project](#));
- *MODIS\_09Q1\_MPC*: [MODIS Surface Reflectance 8-Day \(250m\)](#) (data retrieved from Microsoft Planetary Computer);














- *MODIS\_11A2\_MPC*: [MODIS Land Surface Temperature 8-Day](#) (data retrieved from Microsoft Planetary Computer);
- *ASTER\_MPC*: [ASTER L1T](#) (data retrieved from Microsoft Planetary Computer);
- *Copernicus\_DEM\_30\_MPC*: [Copernicus DEM GLO-30](#) (data retrieved from Microsoft Planetary Computer);

The download of *Harmonized Landsat Sentinel-2* requires credentials defined in [Login data](#) (Pag. 52).

## Search parameters

Define the search area by entering the coordinates (longitude and latitude) of an **Upper Left (UL)** point and **Lower Right (LR)** point and select a product to search. Optional settings are date of acquisition, maximum cloud cover, number of results (the fewer the results, the faster is the query).

The definition of a search area is required before searching the images.

Tool symbol and name	Description
	set the UL longitude X (Lon) and the UL latitude Y (Lat)
	set the LR longitude X (Lon) and the LR latitude Y (Lat)
	show or hide the search area in the map;
	define a search area by left click to set the UL point and right click to set the LR point; the search area is displayed in the map
<i>Products</i> 	set the search product
<i>Date from</i> 	set the starting date of acquisition
<i>to</i> 	set the ending date of acquisition
<i>Max cloud cover</i> (%) 	maximum cloud cover in the product
<i>Results</i> 	maximum number of products returned by the search
<i>Advanced search</i> 	some services (e.g. Sentinel-2) allows for entering search parameters; for instance, it is possible to enter the name of a granule (e.g. 33TTG)
<i>Filter</i> 	set a filter such as the Product ID (e.g. LC81910312015006LGN00); it is possible to enter multiple Product IDs separated by comma or semicolon (e.g. LC81910312015006LGN00, LC81910312013224LGN00 ); filter is applied to resulting products in the search area
<i>Find</i> 	find the products in the search area; results are displayed inside the table in <a href="#">Product list</a> (Pag. 51); results are added to previous results
 Add OpenStreet-Map to the map	this button allows for the display of OpenStreetMap tiles ( © <a href="#">OpenStreetMap</a> contributors) in the QGIS map as described in <a href="https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/QGIS">https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/QGIS</a> . The cartography is licensed as CC BY-SA ( <a href="#">Tile Usage Policy</a> )

**Suggerimento:** Search results (and the number thereof) depend on the defined area extent and the range of dates. In order to get more results, perform multiple searches defining smaller area extent and narrow acquisition dates

(from and to).






## Product list

The table *Product list* contains the results of the search. Click on any item (highlight the item) to display the image preview thereof (not all the products include image previews). Resulting products are saved with the QGIS project.

The table includes the following fields.

pro- duct	ima- ge	pro- duct_	ac- qui- si- tion_	cloud	zo- ne_pat	row	min_ min_	min_ min_	max_ max_	max_ max_	col- lec- tion	si- ze	pre- view	uid	ref_url
the pro- duct na- me (e.g., Sentin 2)	the ima- ge na- me	the ID of the pro- duct	the ac- qui- si- tion_ da- te of the pro- duct	per- cen- tage of cloud co- ver in the pro- duct	the zone or WRS path de- pen- ding on the pro- duct type	the WRS row	mi- ni- mum la- ti- tu- de of the pro- duct	mi- ni- mum lon- gi- tu- de of the pro- duct	ma- xi- mum la- ti- tu- de of the pro- duct	ma- xi- mum lon- gi- tu- de of the pro- duct	col- lec- tion co- de	pro- duct si- ze	URL of the pro- duct pre- view	iden- ti- fier of the item	re- fe- rence URL









The following tools are available.

Tool and name	symbol	Description
		display preview of highlighted images in the map; preview is roughly georeferenced on the fly (not all the products include a preview)
		remove highlighted images from the list
		remove all images from the list
		import the product list from an XML file
		export the product list to an XML file

## Download

Download the products in the *Product list* (Pag. 51). During the download it is recommended not to interact with QGIS.

Depending on the download service, it is possible to select single bands for download.

Tool symbol and name	Description
 <i>Band X</i>	select bands for download
 <i>Ancillary data</i>	if checked, the metadata files are selected for download
	select or deselect all bands
 <i>Only if preview in Layers</i>	if checked, download only those images listed in <i>Product list</i> (Pag. 51) which are also listed in the QGIS layer panel
 <i>Preprocess images</i>	if checked, bands are automatically converted after the download
 <i>Load bands in QGIS</i>	if checked, bands are loaded in QGIS after the download
	export the download links to a text file (.csv)
	start the download process of all the products listed in <i>Product list</i> (Pag. 51)

## Login data

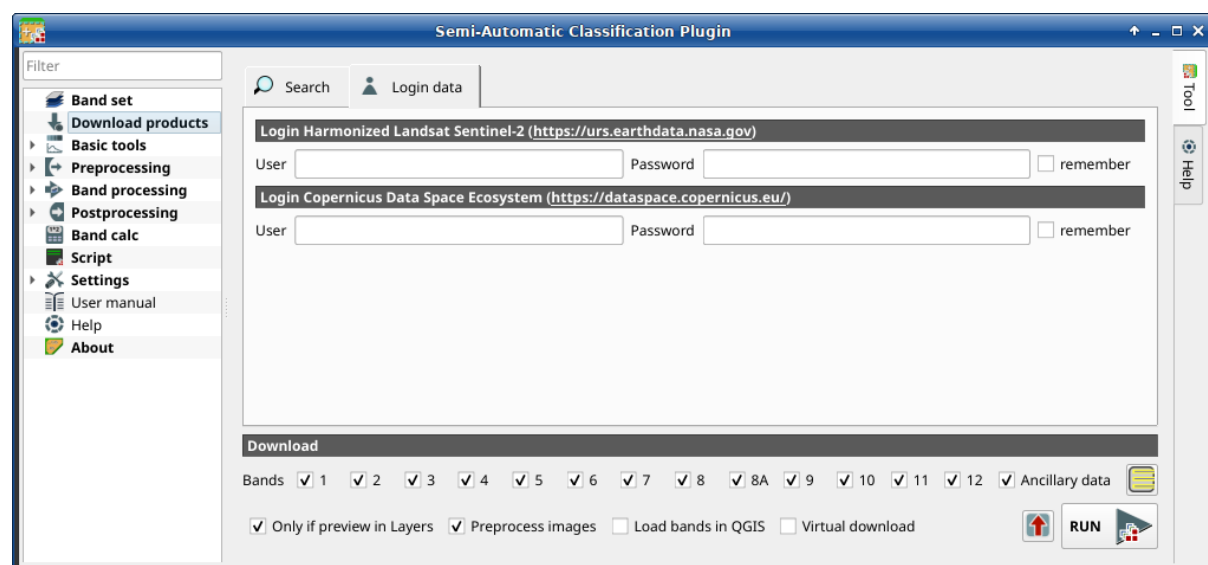






Fig. 11:  Login data

## Login Harmonized Landsat Sentinel-2

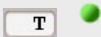


The download of Harmonized Landsat Sentinel-2 requires to login using *EOSDIS Earthdata* credentials (<https://urs.earthdata.nasa.gov>) One can register for free at <https://urs.earthdata.nasa.gov/users/new> .


Tool symbol and name	Description
User 	enter the user name
Password 	enter the password
 <i>remember</i>	if checked, remember user name and password locally in QGIS

**Avvertimento:** If  *remember* is checked, the password is stored unencrypted in QGIS registry.


## Login Copernicus Data Space Ecosystem

The download of Sentinel-2 is available also using *Copernicus Data Space Ecosystem* credentials (<https://dataspace.copernicus.eu>). One can register for free at <https://dataspace.copernicus.eu> .

Tool symbol and name	Description
User 	enter the user name
Password 	enter the password
 <i>remember</i>	if checked, remember user name and password locally in QGIS

**Avvertimento:** If  *remember* is checked, the password is stored unencrypted in QGIS registry.

### 3.4.3 Basic tools

The tab  Basic tools includes several tools for manipulating input data.

#### Export signatures

This tool allows for exporting the signatures highlighted in the *ROI & Signature list* (Pag. 36).



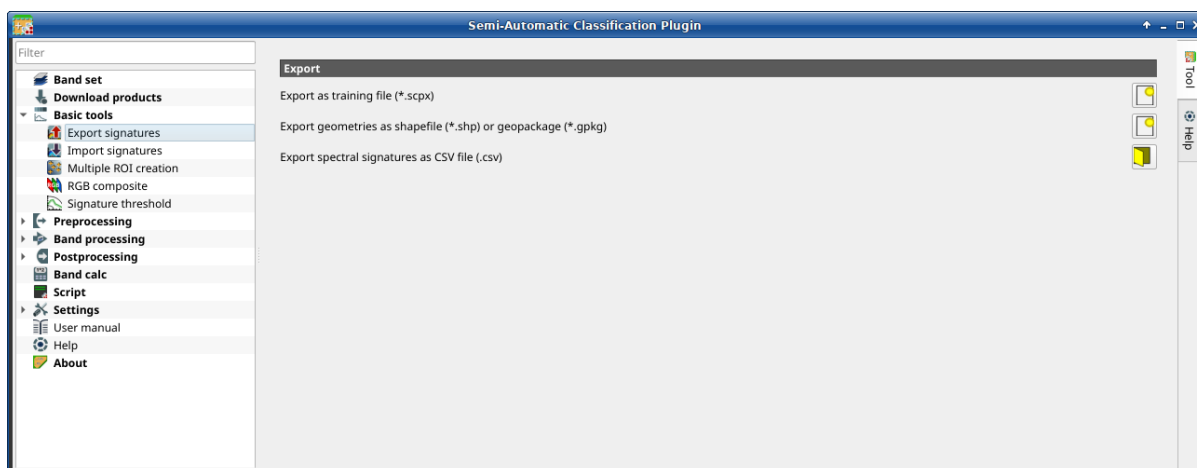





Fig. 12:  *Export signatures*

Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>Export as SCP file</i> 	create a new .scpx file and export highlighted ROIs and spectral signatures as SCP file (.scpx)
<i>Export as shapefile or geopackage</i> 	export highlighted ROIs (spectral signature data excluded) as a new shapefile (.shp) or geopackage (.gpkg)
<i>Export spectral signatures as CSV file</i> 	open a directory, and export highlighted spectral signatures as individual CSV files (.csv) separated by semicolon ( ; )


## Import signatures

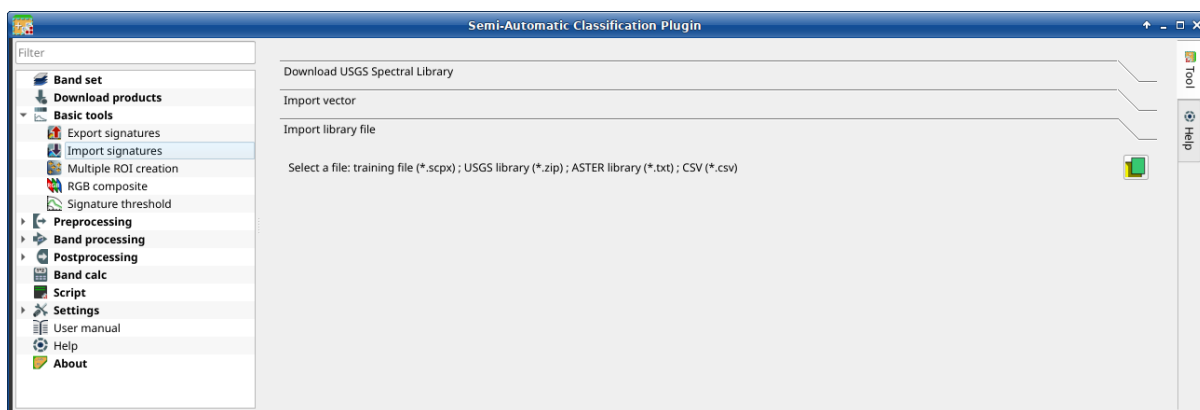
- *Import library file* (Pag. 54)
- *Import vector* (Pag. 55)
- *Download USGS Spectral Library* (Pag. 56)

The tab  *Import signatures* allows for importing spectral signatures from various sources.

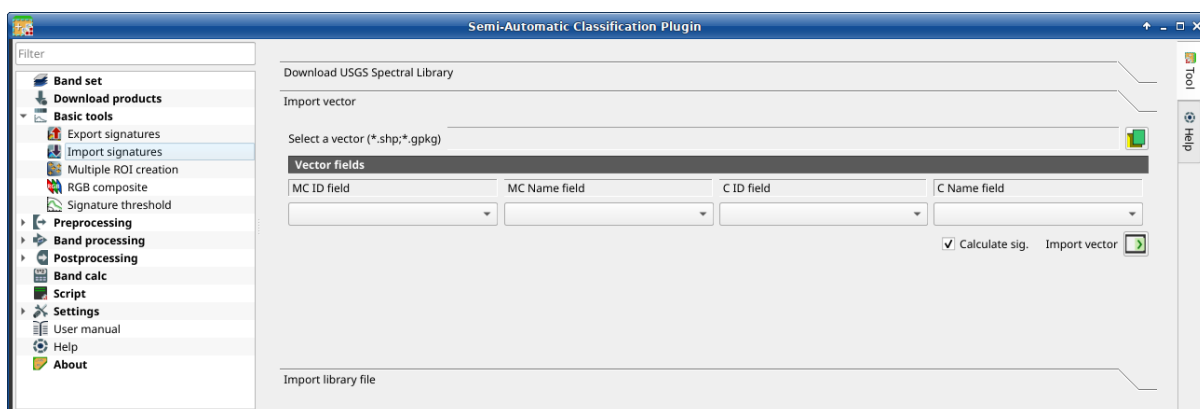
## Import library file

This tool allows for importing spectral signatures from various sources: a previously saved *Training input* (Pag. 33) (.scpx file); a USGS Spectral Library (.asc file); a previously exported .csv file. In case of USGS Spectral Library, the library is automatically sampled according to the image band wavelengths defined in the *Band set* (Pag. 45), and added to the *ROI & Signature list* (Pag. 36);








Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>Select a file</i> 	open a file to be imported in the <i>Training input</i> (Pag. 33)

Fig. 13: *Import library file*

## Import vector

Fig. 14: *Import vector*

This tool allows for importing a vector (shapefile or geopackage), selecting the corresponding fields of the *Training input* (Pag. 33).

Tool symbol and name	Description
 <i>Select a vector</i>	open a vector
 <i>MC ID field</i>	select the vector field corresponding to MC ID
 <i>MC Name field</i>	select the vector field corresponding to MC Name
 <i>C ID field</i>	select the vector field corresponding to C ID
 <i>C Name field</i>	select the vector field corresponding to C Name
 <i>Calculate sig.</i>	if checked, the spectral signature is calculated while the ROI is saved to <i>Training input</i> (Pag. 33)
 <i>Import vector</i>	import all the vector polygons as ROIs in the <i>Training input</i> (Pag. 33)

Download USGS Spectral Library

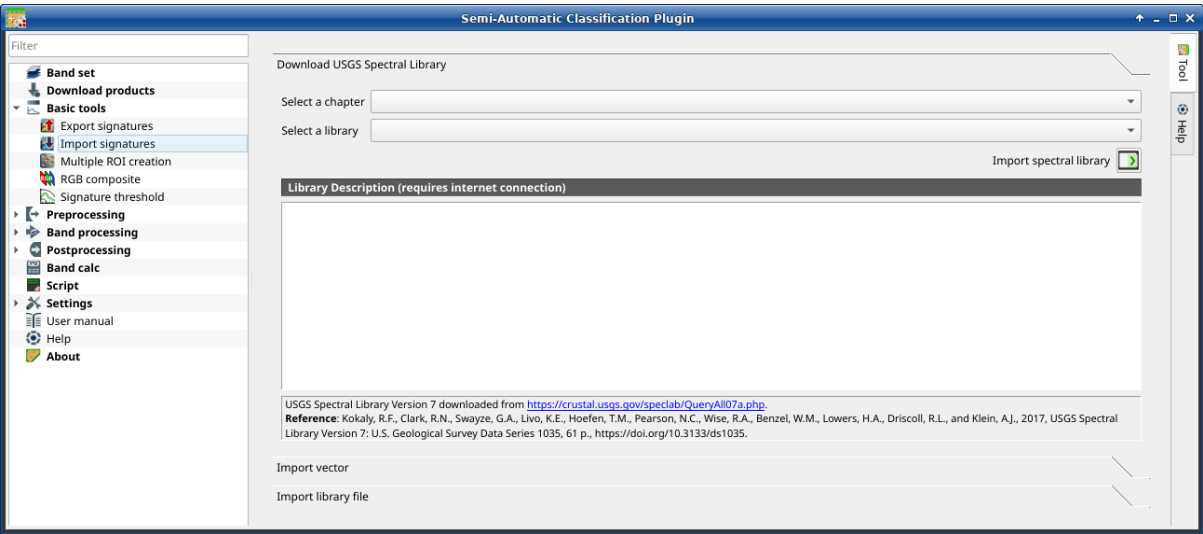





Fig. 15: Download USGS Spectral Library

The tab *Download USGS Spectral Library* allows for the download of the [USGS spectral library](#) (Clark, R.N., Swayze, G.A., Wise, R., Livo, E., Hoefen, T., Kokaly, R., Sutley, S.J., 2007, USGS digital spectral library splib06a: U.S. Geological Survey, Digital Data Series 231).

The libraries are grouped in chapters including Minerals, Mixtures, Coatings, Volatiles, Man-Made, Plants, Vegetation Communities, Mixtures with Vegetation, and Microorganisms.

An internet connection is required.

Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>Select a chapter</i> 	select one of the library chapters; after the selection, chapter libraries are shown in <i>Select a library</i>
<i>Select a library</i> 	select one of the libraries; the library description is displayed in the frame <i>Library description</i>
<i>Import spectral library</i> 	download the library and add the sampled spectral signature to the <a href="#">ROI &amp; Signature list</a> (Pag. 36) using the parameters defined for class and macroclass; the library is automatically sampled according to the image band wavelengths defined in the <i>active band set</i> in <a href="#">Band set</a> (Pag. 45), and added to the <a href="#">ROI &amp; Signature list</a> (Pag. 36)

**Suggerimento:** Spectral libraries downloaded from the USGS Spectral Library can be used with Minimum Distance or Spectral Angle Mapping algorithms, but not Maximum Likelihood because this algorithm needs the covariance matrix that is not included in the spectral libraries.

## Multiple ROI Creation

- *Create random points* (Pag. 58)
- *Point coordinates and ROI definition* (Pag. 58)

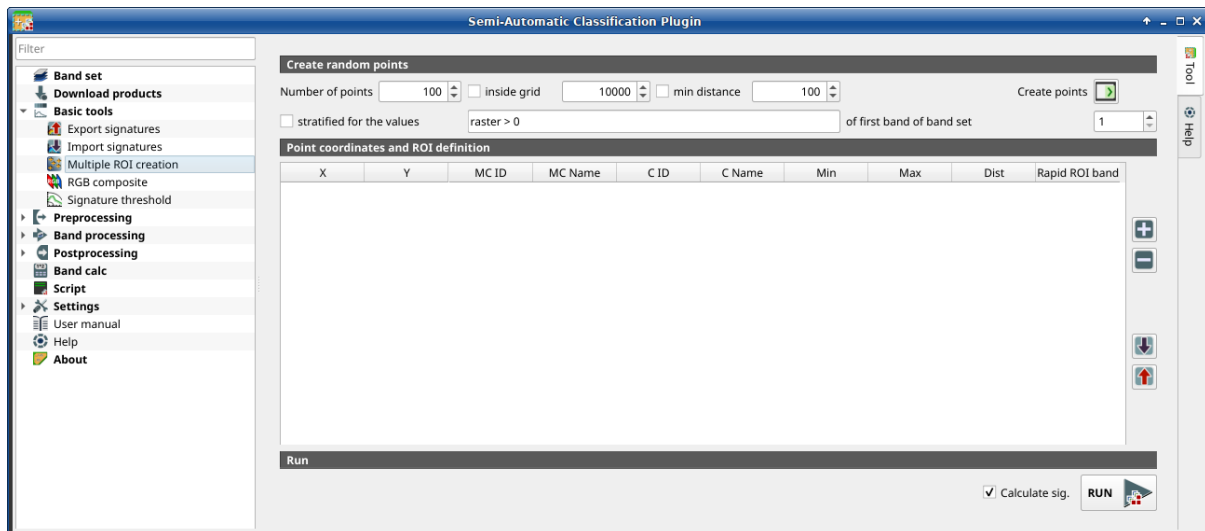










Fig. 16:  *Multiple ROI Creation*

This tab allows for the automatic creation of ROIs, useful for the rapid classification of multi-temporal images, or for accuracy assessment. Given a list of point coordinates and ROI options, this tool performs the region growing of ROIs. Created ROIs are automatically saved to the *Training input* (Pag. 33). The *active band set* in *Band set* (Pag. 45) is used for calculations.

## Create random points







Tool symbol and name	Description
	
<i>Number of points</i> 	set a number of points that will be created when <i>Create points</i>  is clicked
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>inside grid</i> 	if checked, the <i>band set</i> area is divided in cells where the size thereof is defined in the combobox (image unit, usually meters); points defined in <i>Number of random points</i> are created randomly within each cell
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>min distance</i> 	if checked, random points have a minimum distance defined in the combobox (image unit, usually meters); setting a minimum distance can result in fewer points than the number defined in <i>Number of points</i>
<i>Create points</i> 	create random points inside the <i>band set</i> area
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>stratified for the values</i> 	if checked, create random points inside the values defined in the expression calculated for the first band of the defined band set; the expression must include the variable <code>raster</code> ; multiple expressions can be entered separated by semicolon ( ; ) but the total number of stratified points is the same as the defined <i>Number of points</i>
<i>of the first band of band set</i> 	defines the <i>band set</i> in <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>stratified for the values</i>

## Point coordinates and ROI definition

The table *Point coordinates and ROI definition* contains the following fields.

X	Y	MC ID	MC Name	C ID	C Name	Min	Max	Dist	Rapid ROI band
point X coordinate (float)	point Y coordinate (float)	ROI Macro-class ID (int)	ROI Macro-class Name (text)	ROI Class ID (int)	ROI Class Name (text)	the minimum area of a ROI (in pixel unit)	the maximum width of a ROI (in pixel unit)	the interval which defines the maximum spectral distance between the seed pixel and the surrounding pixels (in radiometry unit)	if a band number is defined, ROI is created only using the selected band, similarly to <i>Rapid ROI band</i> in <a href="#">ROI &amp; Signature list</a> (Pag. 36)

The following tools are available.

Tool symbol and name	Description
	add a new row to the table; all the table fields must be filled for the ROI creation
	delete the highlighted rows from the table
	import a point list from text file or a point shapefile to the table; in case of text file, every line must contain values separated by tabs of X, Y, MC ID, MC Name, Class ID, C Name, Min, Max, Dist, and optionally the Rapid ROI band; in case of shapefile, only point coordinates are imported
	export the point list to text file
	if checked, the spectral signature is calculated while the ROI is saved to <i>Training input</i> (Pag. 33)
Calculate sig.	
RUN	start the ROI creation process for all the points and save ROIs to the <i>Training input</i> (Pag. 33)
	

## RGB composite

- *RGB composite* (Pag. 60)
- *Automatic RGB* (Pag. 60)

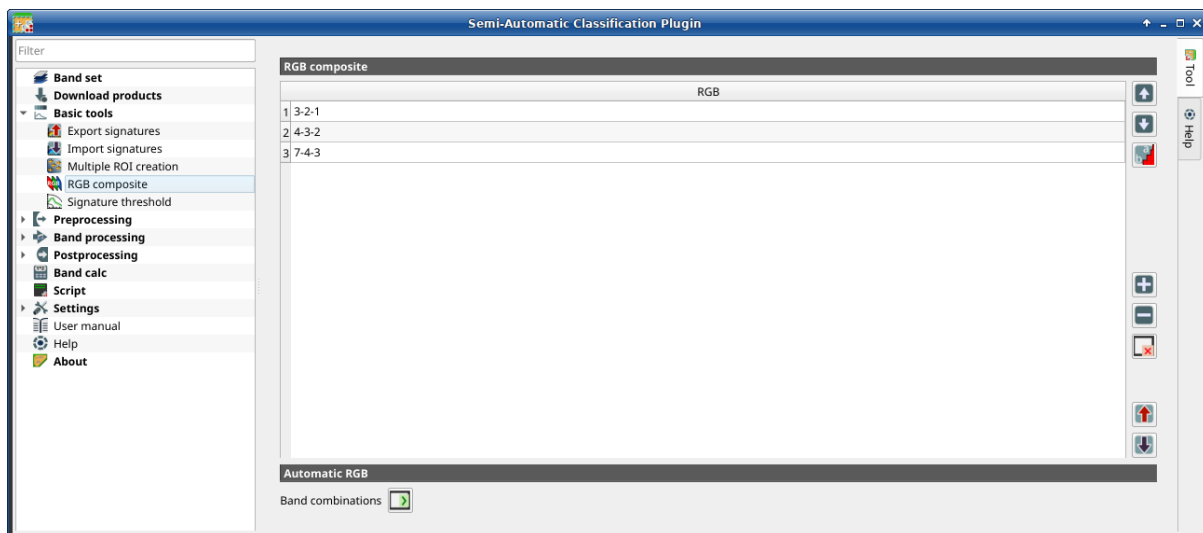










Fig. 17:  *RGB composite*


This tab allows for managing the RGB *Color Composite* (Pag. 133) used in the list *RGB=* of the *Image control* (Pag. 43).

## RGB composite

The table *RGB composite* contains the field *RGB* that allows for entering an RGB combination.

Tool symbol and name	Description
	move highlighted RGB combination upward
	move highlighted RGB combination downward
	automatically sort RGB combinations by name
	add a row to the table
	remove highlighted rows from the table
	clear all RGB combinations from <i>RGB list</i>
	export the <i>RGB list</i> to a file (i.e. .csv)
	import a previously saved <i>RGB list</i> from file (i.e. .csv)

## Automatic RGB

Tool symbol and name	Description
	<i>Band combinations</i> add the combinations of all bands (i.e. permutation) to the <i>RGB composite</i> (Pag. 60) (e.g. 1-2-3, 1-2-4, ..., 3-2-1)

## Signature threshold

- *Signature threshold* (Pag. 61)
- *Automatic thresholds* (Pag. 61)

This tab allows for the definition of a classification threshold (only for Minimum Distance, Maximum Likelihood, and Spectral Angle Mapping algorithms) for each spectral signature. All the signatures contained in the *Training input* (Pag. 33) are listed. Thresholds defined in this tool are applied to classification only if *Threshold* value in *Algorithm* (Pag. 75) is 0.

This is useful for improving the classification results, especially when spectral signatures are similar. Thresholds of signatures are saved in the *Training input* (Pag. 33).

If threshold is 0 then no threshold is applied and all the image pixels are classified. Depending on the selected *Algorithm* (Pag. 75) the threshold value is evaluated differently:

- for Minimum Distance, pixels are unclassified if distance is greater than threshold value;
- for Maximum Likelihood, pixels are unclassified if probability is less than threshold value (max 100);
- for Spectral Angle Mapping, pixels are unclassified if spectral angle distance is greater than threshold value (max 90).



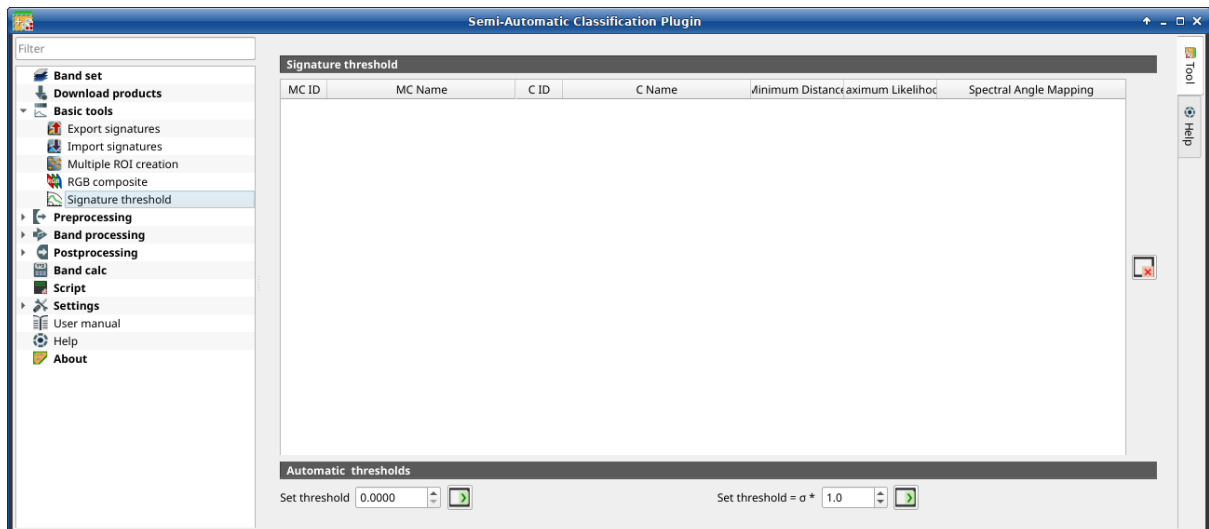


Fig. 18:  *Signature threshold*




## Signature threshold

The table *Signature threshold* contains the following fields.


MC ID	MC Name	C ID	C Name	MD Threshold	ML Threshold	SAM Threshold
signature Macro-class ID	signature Macro-class Name	signature Class ID	signature Class Name	Minimum Distance threshold; this value can be edited	Maximum Likelihood threshold; this value can be edited	Spectral Angle Mapping threshold; this value can be edited

- : reset all signatures thresholds to 0 (i.e. no threshold used);

## Automatic thresholds

Tool symbol and name	Description
 	set the defined value as threshold for all the highlighted signatures in the table
	for all the highlighted signatures, set an automatic threshold calculated as the distance (or angle) between mean signature and $(\text{mean signature} + (\sigma * v))$ , where $\sigma$ is the standard deviation and $v$ is the defined value; currently works for Minimum Distance and Spectral Angle Mapping

### 3.4.4 Preprocessing

The tab  *Preprocessing* provides several tools for data manipulation which are useful before the actual classification process.

#### Clip raster bands

- *Clip band set* (Pag. 62)
- *Clip coordinates* (Pag. 63)

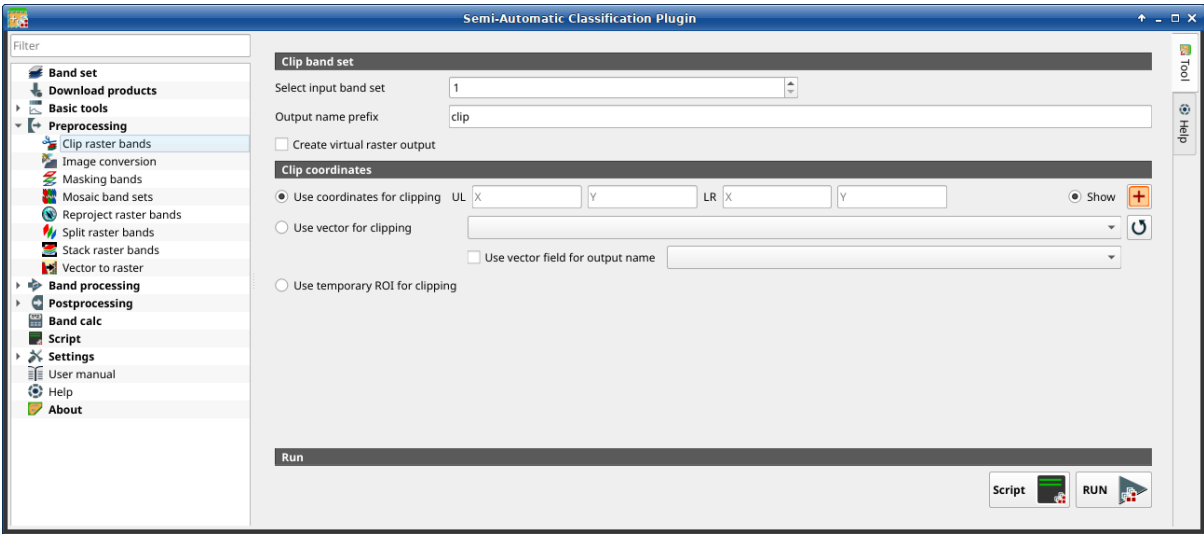






Fig. 19: *Clip multiple rasters*

This tab allows for cutting several image bands at once, using a rectangle defined with point coordinates or a boundary defined with a vector.
















**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#) .

#### Clip band set

Tool symbol and name	Description
Select input band set 	select the input <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45) to be clipped
 Use value as NoData 	if checked, set the value for NoData pixels (e.g. pixels outside the clipped area)
Output name prefix 	set the prefix for output file names (default is clip)

## Clip coordinates

Set the Upper Left (UL) and Lower Right (LR) point coordinates of the rectangle used for clipping; it is possible to enter the coordinates manually. Alternatively use a vector.

Tool symbol and name	Description
 <i>Use coordinates for clipping</i>	if checked, use defined coordinates for clipping bands
UL X 	set the UL X coordinate
UL Y 	set the UL Y coordinate
LR X 	set the LR X coordinate
LR Y 	set the LR Y coordinate
 <i>Show</i>	show or hide the clip area drawn in the map
	define a clip area by drawing a rectangle in the map; left click to set the UL point and right click to set the LR point; the area is displayed in the map
 <i>Use vector for clipping</i> 	if checked, use the selected vector (already loaded in QGIS) for clipping; UL and LR coordinates are ignored
 <i>Use vector field for output name</i> 	if checked, a vector field is selected for clipping while iterating through each vector polygon and the corresponding field value is added to the output name
 <i>Use temporary ROI for clipping</i>	if checked, use a <i>Temporary ROI</i> (Pag. 43) for clipping; UL and LR coordinates are ignored
	refresh layer list
<i>Script</i> 	add this function to the <i>Script</i> (Pag. 106)
<i>RUN</i> 	run this function

## Image conversion

- *Image conversion* (Pag. 64)
- *Metadata* (Pag. 65)

This tool allows for the conversion of several products to reflectance. Depending on the processing level of the source product, the conversion can be to the physical measure of Top Of Atmosphere reflectance (TOA), or the application of a simple atmospheric correction using the DOS1 method (Dark Object Subtraction 1), which is an image-based technique (for more information about conversion to TOA and DOS1 correction, see *Image conversion to reflectance* (Pag. 148)). In case the source product is already provided as surface reflectance level, the rescaling factors are applied to convert the DN to decimal values.

The following products can be processed:

- **Sentinel-2** images Level-1C;
- **Sentinel-2** images Level-2A;
- **Landsat 1, 2, 3 MSS, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9** images Collection 2 Level-2;

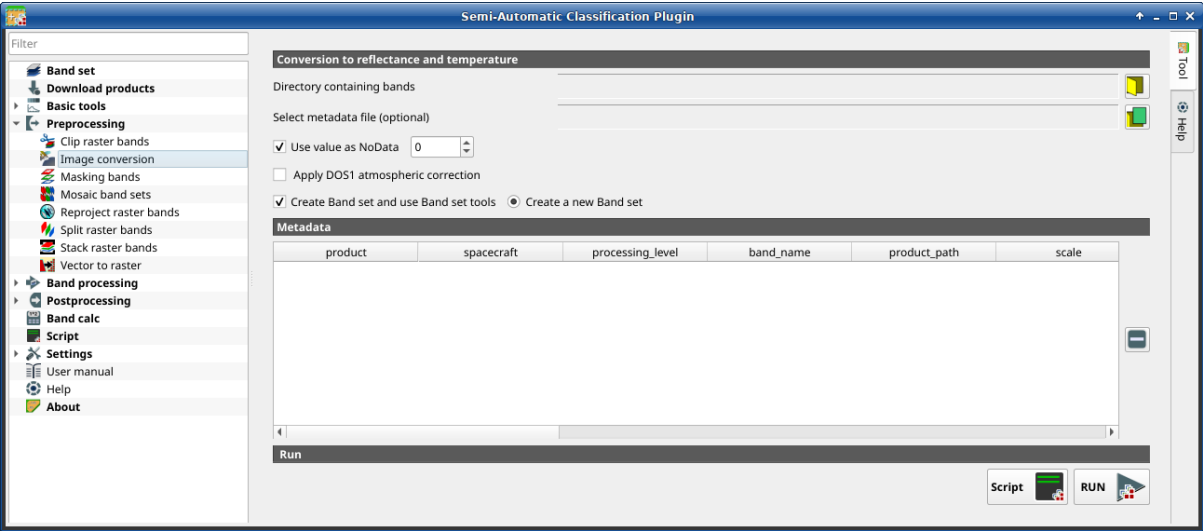








Fig. 20: Image conversion

- **Harmonized Landsat Sentinel-2.**

**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#) .

Image conversion

Once the input is selected, available bands are listed in the metadata table.

Tool symbol and name	Description
 <i>Directory containing bands</i>	open a directory containing product bands; names of bands must end with the corresponding number; if the metadata file is included in this directory then <i>Metadata</i> (Pag. 65) is automatically filled
 <i>Select metadata file</i>	select the metadata file if not included in the <i>Directory containing bands</i> ; for Sentinel-2, the metadata file is a .xml file whose name contains MTD_MSIL1C.
 <i>Use value as NoData</i>	if checked, pixels having NoData a value are not counted during conversion and the DOS1 calculation of DNmin; it is useful when image has a black border (usually pixel value = 0)
 <i>Apply DOS1 atmospheric correction</i>	if checked, the <i>DOS1 Correction</i> (Pag. 150) is applied to all the bands
 <i>Create Band set and use Band set tools</i>	if checked, bands are added to the active <i>Band set</i> after the conversion; also, the <i>Band set</i> is processed according to the tools checked in the <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45)
 <i>Add bands in a new Band set</i>	if checked, bands are added to a new empty <i>Band set</i> after the conversion

**Suggerimento:** For the best spectral precision one should download Surface Reflectance products (e.g., for

Sentinel-2 the Level-2A Products).

**Avvertimento:** For Sentinel-2 L2A images downloaded as .zip file, all the .jp2 files must be moved inside the same directory and renamed according to the band number in the ending (e.g. from name\_02\_10m.jp2 to name\_02.jp2).


## Metadata

*Metadata* are required for the process to identify the product. If the *Metadata* file is not inside the input directory, one can define the file path in *Select metadata file*. In the *Metadata*, all the bands found in are listed.



The table *Metadata* contains the following fields.

product	space-craft	processing_level	band	product	scale	offset	no-data	date	k1	k2	band	e_sun	earth_sun_distance
product name (e.g., Sentinel 2)	space-craft name (e.g., Sentinel 2)	processing level of the product (e.g., Level-2)	name of the band	path of the band	scale of the band	offset of the band	no-data value of the band	date of acquisition of the product	k1 parameter for Land-sat thermal conversion	k2 parameter for Land-sat thermal conversion	band number	solar irradiance of band	Earth-Sun distance

It is possible to remove bands from the table, to exclude these bands from the conversion.

Tool symbol and name	Description
	remove highlighted bands from the table <i>Metadata</i>

Bands having different spatial resolution are not resampled at this stage. However, when using these bands in a classification process, all the bands are resampled on the fly to the highest spatial resolution with nearest neighbor.

Tool symbol and name	Description
 <i>Script</i>	add this function to the <i>Script</i> (Pag. 106)
 <i>RUN</i>	run this function

**Suggerimento:** To reduce file size, output files are saved as data type UInt16 with scale 0.0001, which are interpreted as Float32 type by GDAL.

## Masking bands

- *Mask of band set* (Pag. 67)

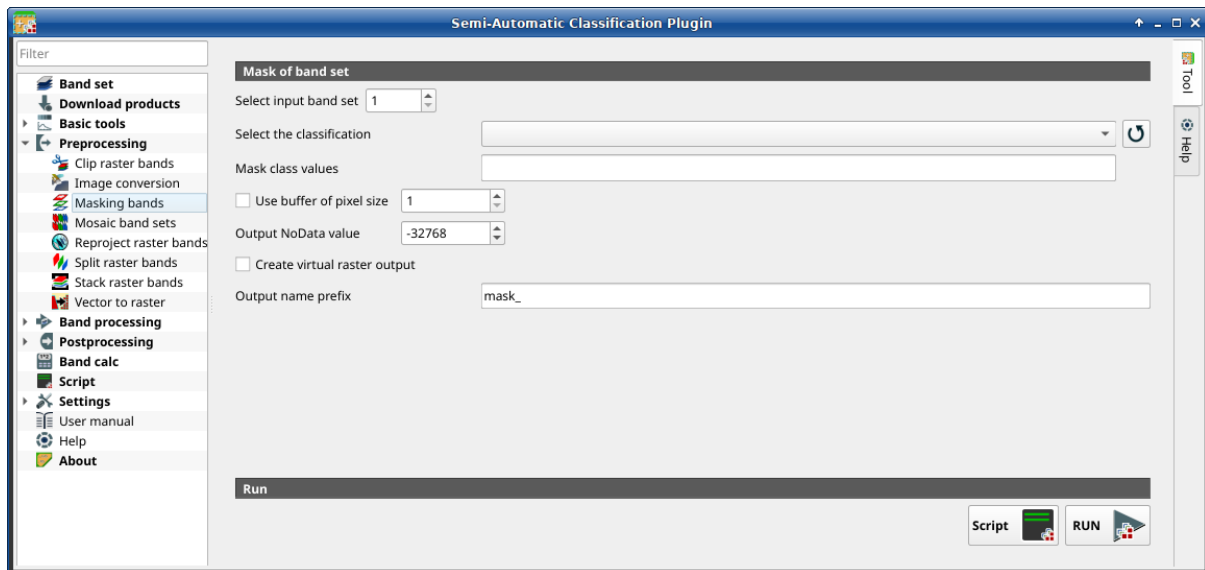


Fig. 21: *Masking bands*

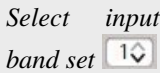







This tool allows for masking bands, based on the values of a raster mask, creating an output masked band for each band of the *Band set* (Pag. 45). NoData is set in all the bands of the *Band set* (Pag. 45) for pixels corresponding to the mask.

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**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#) .

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## Mask of band set

Tool symbol and name	Description
 Select input band set	select the input <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45) to be masked
 Select the classification	select a classification raster (already loaded in QGIS) which contains a mask class
 Mask class values	refresh layer list set the class values to be masked; class values must be separated by , and - can be used to define a range of values (e.g. 1, 3-5, 8 will select classes 1, 3, 4, 5, 8); if the text is red then the expression contains errors
 Use buffer of pixel size	if checked, a buffer is created for masked area, corresponding to the defined number of pixels; this can be useful to dilate masked area
 Output NoData value	set the value of NoData pixels corresponding to the mask
 Output name prefix	set the prefix for output file names (default is mask_)
 Script	add this function to the <i>Script</i> (Pag. 106)
 RUN	run this function

## Mosaic of band sets

- *Mosaic of band sets* (Pag. 68)

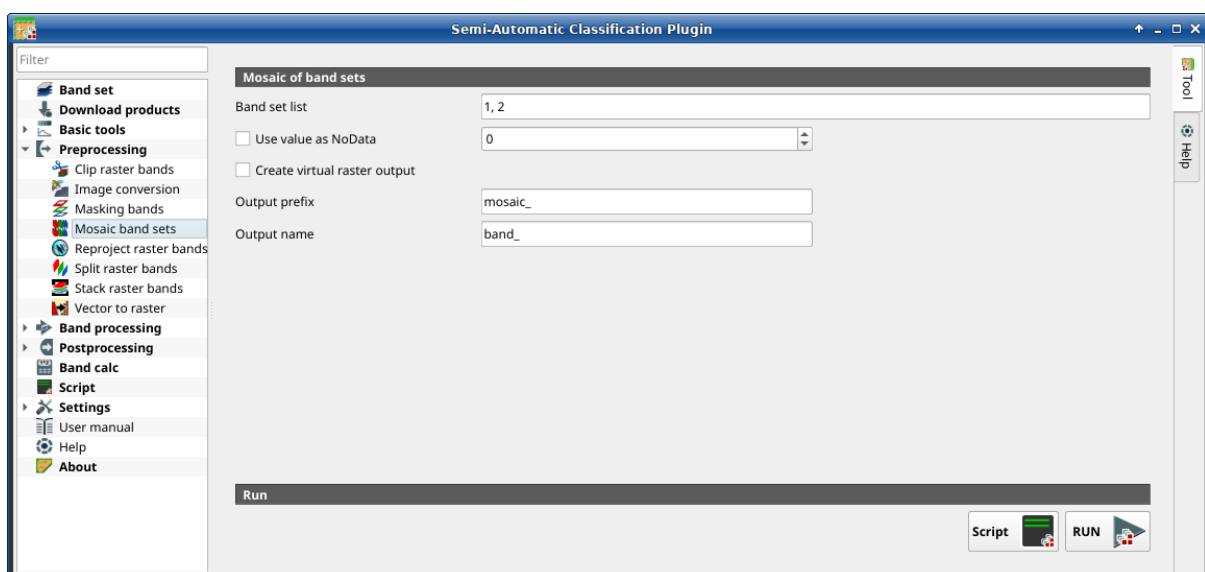










Fig. 22: *Mosaic band sets*

This tool allows for the mosaic of band sets, merging the corresponding bands of two or more band sets defined in the *Band set* (Pag. 45). An output band is created for every corresponding set of bands in the band sets. NoData values of one band set are replaced by the values of the other band sets.

**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#).

## Mosaic of band sets

Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>Band set list</i> 	list if band sets defined in the <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45); in case of overlapping images, the pixel values of the first band set in the list are assigned
 <i>Use value as NoData</i> 	if checked, set the value of NoData pixels, ignored during the calculation
 <i>Create virtual raster output</i> 	if checked, output is created as virtual raster <i>.vrt</i> composed of as many <i>.tif</i> files as the number of threads defined in <i>System</i> (Pag. 110); for large rasters this can speed up the process
<i>Output name prefix</i> 	set the prefix for output file names (default is mosaic)
<i>Script</i> 	add this function to the <i>Script</i> (Pag. 106)
<i>RUN</i> 	run this function

## Reproject raster bands

- *Reproject raster bands* (Pag. 69)

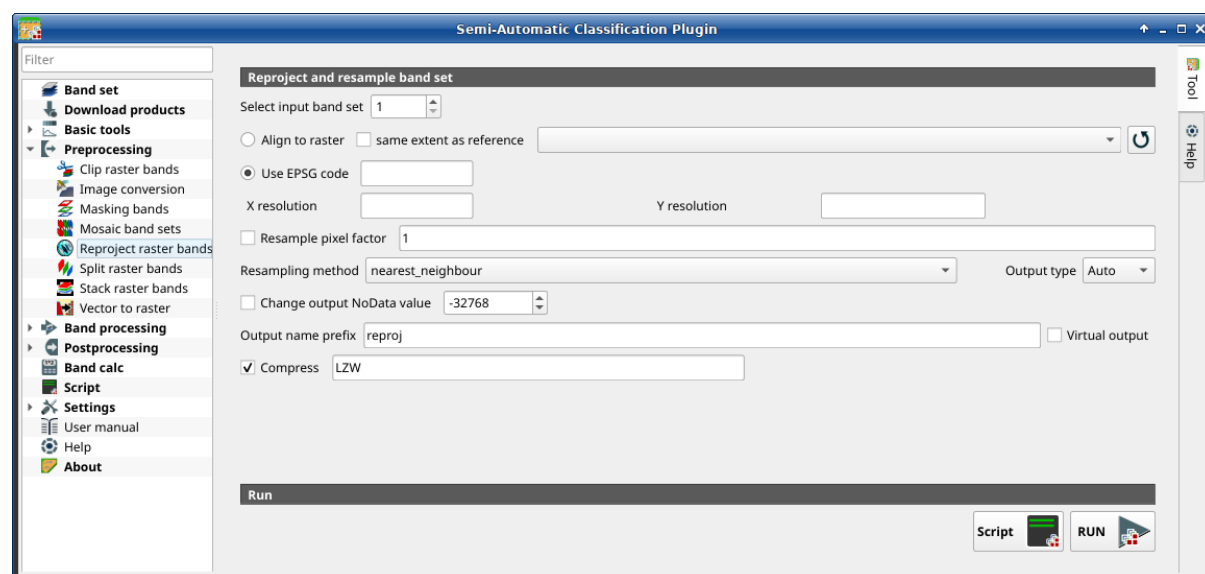

















Fig. 23: *Reproject raster bands*



This tab allows for reprojecting bands in a *Band set* (Pag. 45) and perform other raster operations.

**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#) .

## Reproject raster bands

Tool symbol and name	Description
 <i>Select input band set</i>	select the input <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45) to be reprojected
 <i>Align to raster</i>	if checked, use the same coordinate reference system and pixel size as the selected reference
 <i>same extent as reference</i>	if checked, the output extent will be the same as the reference
	refresh layer list
 <i>Use EPSG code</i>	if checked, use the EPSG code for defining the output coordinate reference system
<i>X resolution</i> 	set X pixel resolution
<i>Y resolution</i> 	set Y pixel resolution
 <i>Resample pixel</i>	if checked, new pixel size will be the original size times this factor
<i>Resampling method</i> 	select the resampling method; options are: nearest_neighbour, average, sum, maximum, minimum, mode, median, first_quartile, third_quartile
<i>Output type</i> 	select the output raster type; options are: Auto (same as input), Float32, Int32, UInt32, Int16, UInt16, Byte
 <i>Change output NoData value</i>	if checked, set a new value for NoData pixels
<i>Output name prefix</i> 	set the prefix for output file names (default is reproj)
<i>Compress</i> 	if checked, set the compression method (e.g., LZW, DEFLATE)
<i>Script</i> 	add this function to the <i>Script</i> (Pag. 106)
<i>RUN</i> 	run this function

Split raster bands

- *Raster list* (Pag. 70)

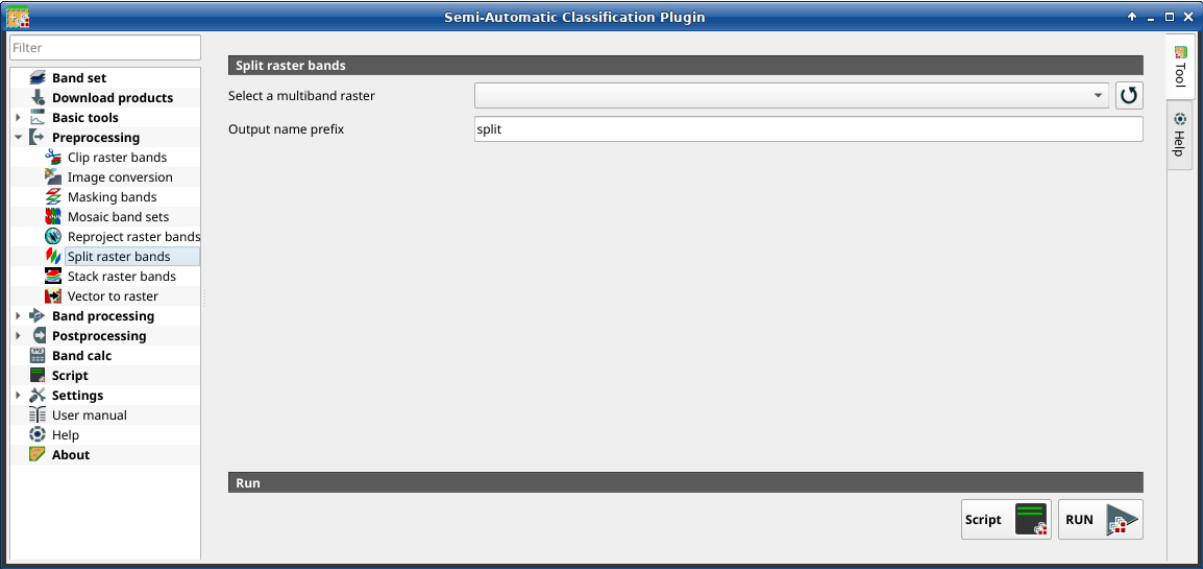







Fig. 24: *Split raster bands*

Split a multiband raster to single bands.

**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#) .

Raster list

Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>Select a multiband raster</i> 	select the input raster
	refresh layer list
<i>Output name prefix</i> 	set the prefix for output file names (default is <code>split</code> )
<i>Script</i> 	add this function to the <i>Script</i> (Pag. 106)
<i>RUN</i> 	run this function

## Stack raster bands

- *Stack band set* (Pag. 71)

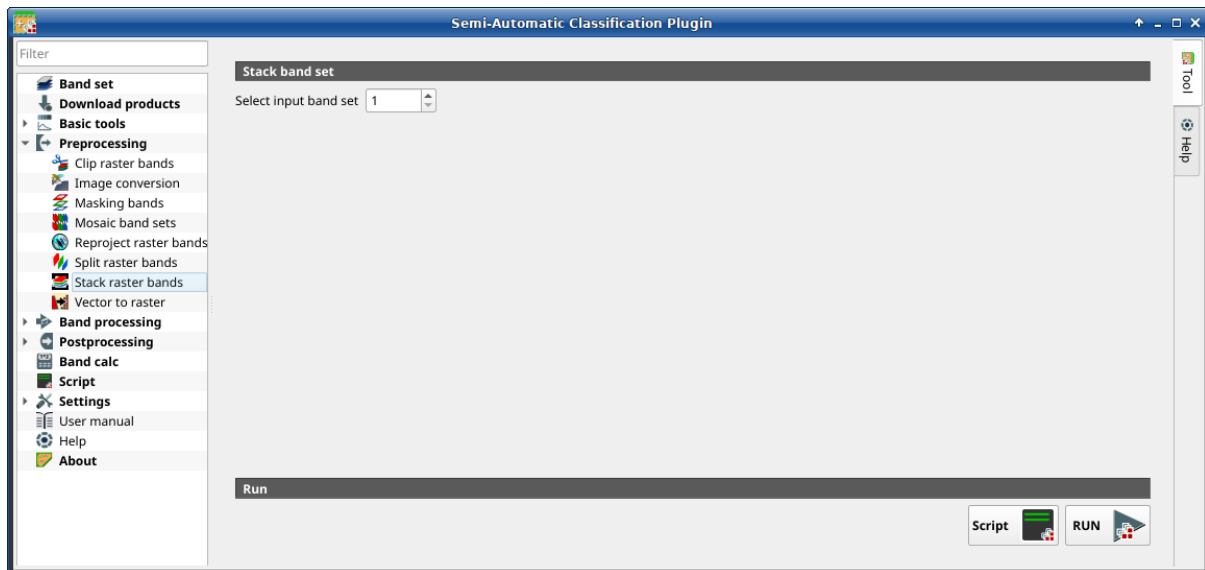





Fig. 25: *Stack raster bands*

Stack all the bands in a *Band set* (Pag. 45) into a multiband raster.

**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#) .

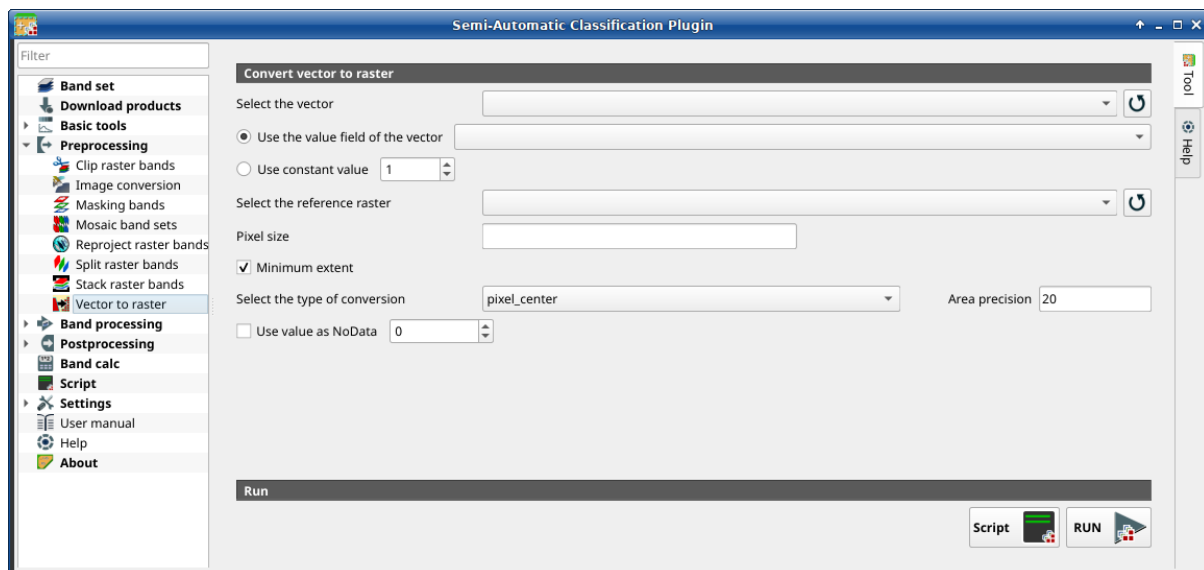
## Stack band set

Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>Select input band set</i> 	select the input <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45) to be stacked
<i>Script</i> 	add this function to the <i>Script</i> (Pag. 106)
<i>RUN</i> 	run this function


















## Vector to raster

This tab allows for the conversion of a vector (polygon) to raster format.


**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#) .

Fig. 26: *Vector to raster*

## Convert vector to raster

Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>Select the vector</i> 	select a vector already loaded in QGIS
	refresh layer list
 <i>Use the value field of the vector</i> 	if checked, the selected field is used as attribute for the conversion; pixels of the output raster have the same values as the vector attribute
 <i>Use constant value</i> 	if checked, the polygons are converted to raster using the selected constant value
<i>Select the reference raster</i> 	select a reference raster; pixels of the output raster have the same size and alignment as the reference raster
	refresh layer list
<i>Pixel size</i> 	set the size of pixel of output raster
 <i>Minimum extent</i>	if checked, the output raster has the minimum vector extent; otherwise, output extent is the same as the <i>Select the reference raster</i> 
<i>Select the type of conversion</i> 	<p><b>select the type of conversion among:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>pixel_center</i>: during the conversion, vector is compared to the reference raster; output raster pixels are attributed to a polygon if pixel center is within that polygon</li> <li>• <i>all_touched</i>: during the conversion, vector is compared to the reference raster; output raster pixels are attributed to a polygon if pixel touches that polygon</li> <li>• <i>area_based</i>: during the conversion, output raster pixels are attributed based on area proportion of polygons</li> </ul>
<i>Area precision</i> 	for <i>area_based</i> method, the higher the value, the higher is the precision in the calculation of area proportion (and the time required for calculation)
 <i>Use value as NoData</i> 	if checked, set a value for NoData pixels
<i>Script</i> 	add this function to the <a href="#">Script</a> (Pag. 106)
<i>RUN</i> 	run this function

### 3.4.5 Band processing

The tab  *Band processing* provides several functions that can be applied to the *Band set* (Pag. 45).

#### Classification

- *Input* (Pag. 75)
- *Algorithm* (Pag. 75)
  - *Maximum Likelihood* (Pag. 75)
  - *Minimum Distance* (Pag. 77)
  - *Multi-layer Perceptron* (Pag. 78)
  - *Random Forest* (Pag. 79)
  - *Spectral Angle Mapping* (Pag. 81)
  - *Support Vector Machine* (Pag. 82)
- *Run* (Pag. 83)

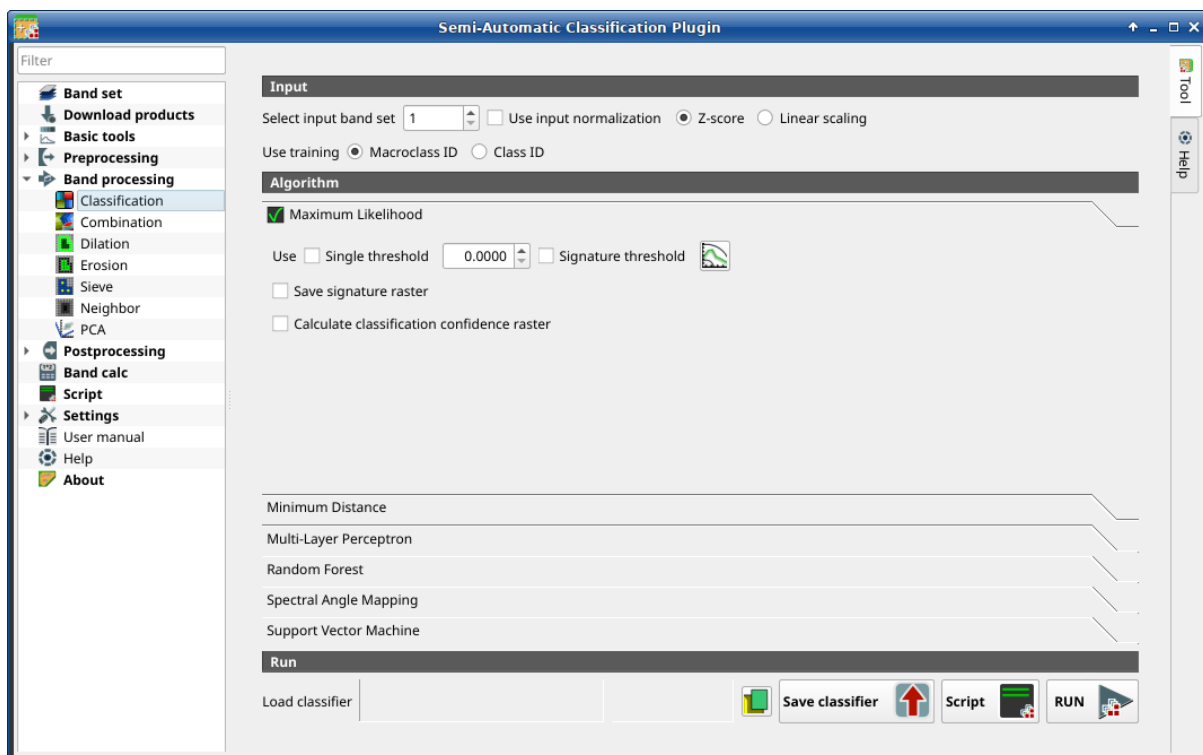


Fig. 27: *Classification*

This tab allows for the classification of the *Band set* (Pag. 45) using the spectral signatures checked in *ROI & Signature list* (Pag. 36). Several classification options are set in this tab which affect the classification process also during the *Classification preview* (Pag. 44).

This tool allows for the selection of one the following algorithms:

- *Maximum Likelihood* (Pag. 75)
- *Minimum Distance* (Pag. 77)

- *Multi-layer Perceptron* (Pag. 78)
- *Random Forest* (Pag. 79)
- *Spectral Angle Mapping* (Pag. 81)
- *Support Vector Machine* (Pag. 82)



Also, it is possible to save and load a trained classifier.

---

**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#) .

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## Input

Tool symbol and name	Description
Select input band set 	select the input <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45) to be classified
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Use input normalization</i> 	if checked, normalize the input based on the selected method
<input type="radio"/> <i>Z-score</i>	if checked with <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Use input normalized</i> , Z-score normalization of input is performed
<input type="radio"/> <i>Linear scaling</i>	if checked with <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Use input normalized</i> , Linear scaling normalization of input is performed
<i>Use training</i> <input type="radio"/> <i>Macroclass ID</i>	if checked, the classification is performed using
<i>Use training</i> <input type="radio"/> <i>Class ID</i> the Macroclass ID (code <i>MC ID</i> of the signature)	if checked, the classification is performed using the Class ID (code <i>C ID</i> of the signature)

## Algorithm

This tool allows for the selection of the classification algorithm. The algorithm tab includes the available parameters.

## Maximum Likelihood

Use the *Maximum Likelihood* (Pag. 137) algorithm.

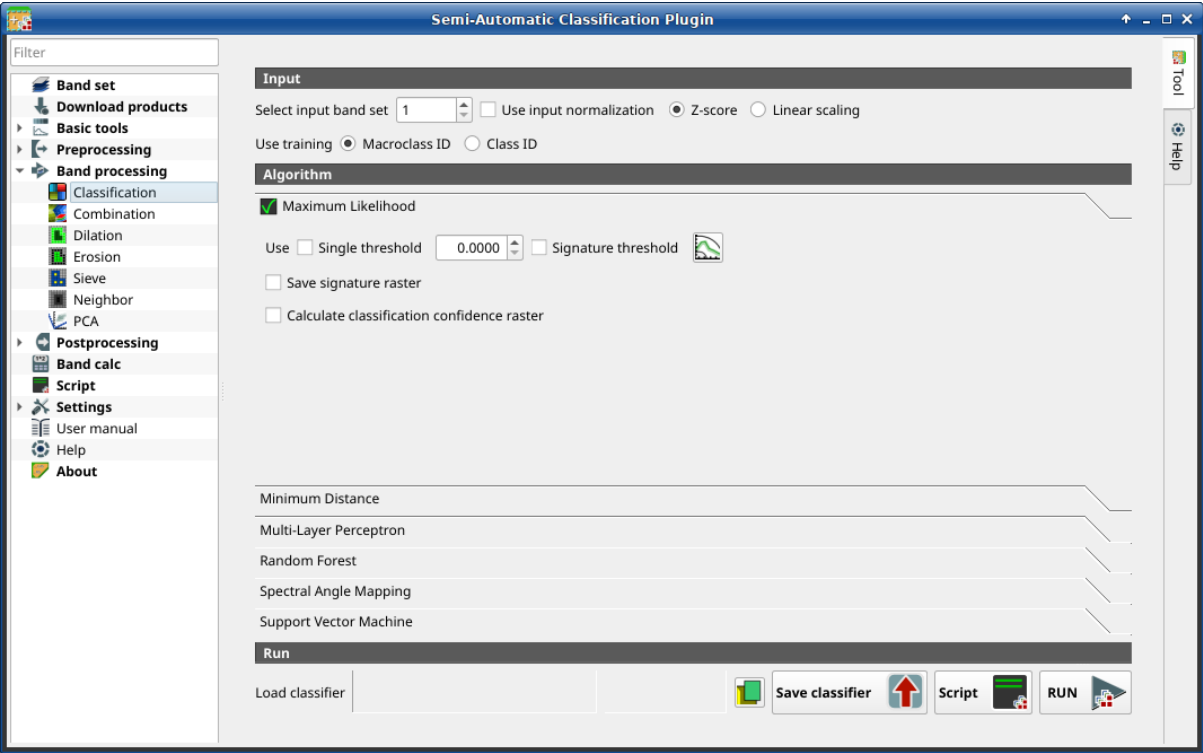


Fig. 28: Maximum Likelihood

Tool symbol and name		Description
<i>Use single threshold</i>		if checked, it allows for the definition of a classification threshold (applied to all the spectral signatures); pixels are unclassified if probability is less than threshold value (max 100)
<i>Signature threshold</i>		if checked, thresholds <i>Signature threshold</i> (Pag. 60) are evaluated
		open the <i>Signature threshold</i> (Pag. 60) for the definition of signature thresholds
	<i>Save signature raster</i>	if checked, in addition to the classification raster, for each spectral signature a raster is saved in the same output directory, which represents the distance between pixel and signature
	<i>Calculate classification confidence raster</i>	if checked, calculate classification confidence raster



## Minimum Distance

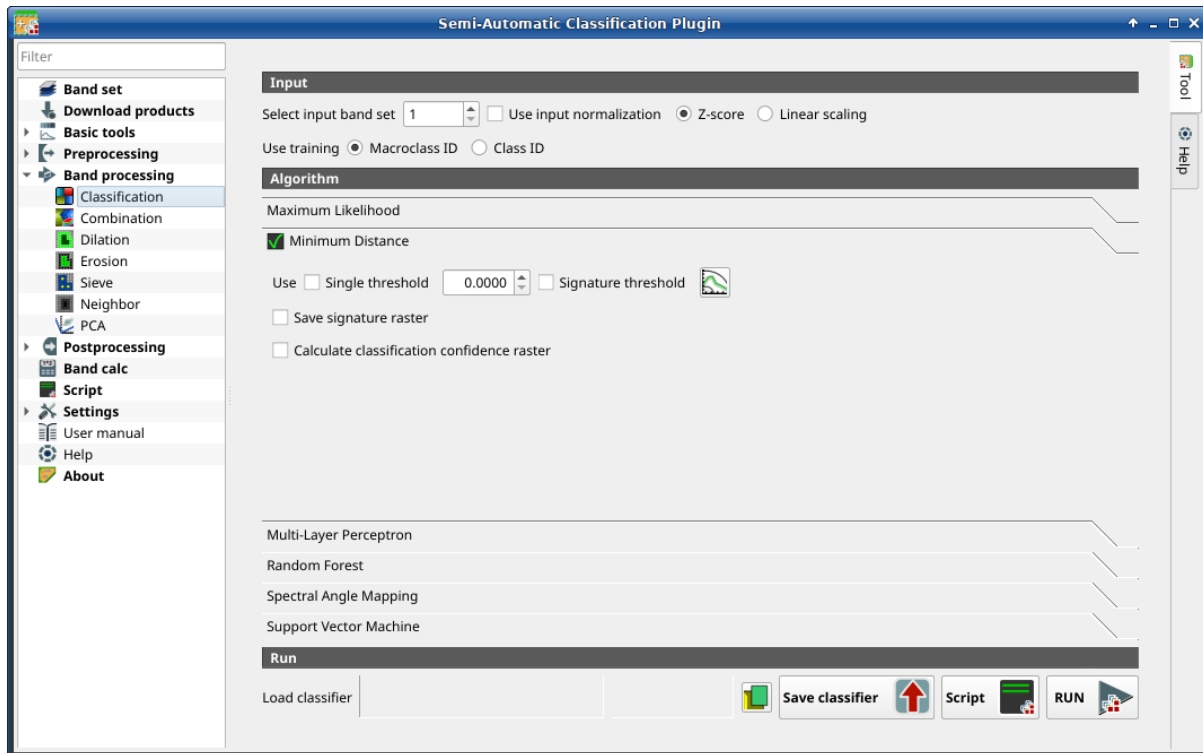







Fig. 29: *Minimum Distance*

Use the *Minimum Distance* (Pag. 135) algorithm.

Tool symbol and name	Description
<div>Use</div> <div>single threshold</div> <div></div>	if checked, it allows for the definition of a classification threshold (applied to all the spectral signatures); pixels are unclassified if distance is greater than threshold value
<div>Signature threshold</div> <div></div>	if checked, thresholds <i>Signature threshold</i> (Pag. 60) are evaluated
<div></div>	open the <i>Signature threshold</i> (Pag. 60) for the definition of signature thresholds
<div></div> <div>Save signature raster</div>	if checked, in addition to the classification raster, for each spectral signature a raster is saved in the same output directory, which represents the distance between pixel and signature
<div></div> <div>Calculate classification confidence raster</div>	if checked, calculate classification confidence raster

## Multi-layer Perceptron

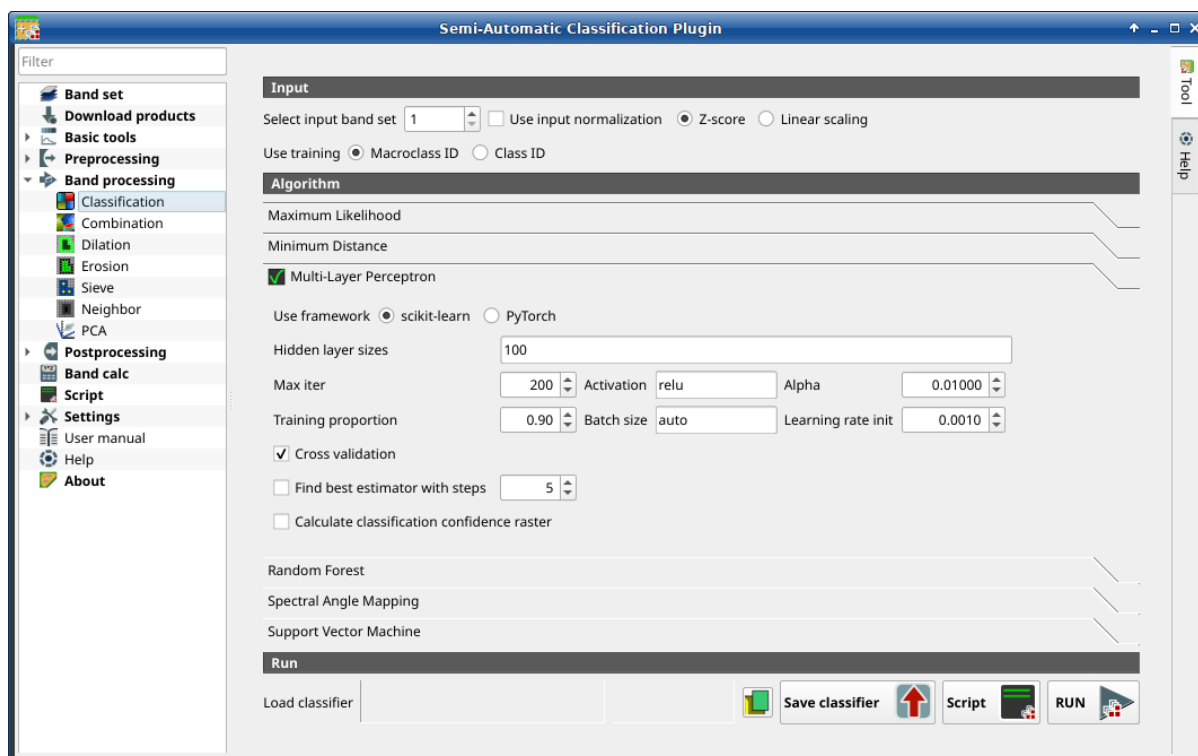














Fig. 30: *Multi-layer Perceptron*

Use the *Multi-Layer Perceptron* (Pag. 142) algorithm.

Tool symbol and name	Description
 <i>Use framework scikit-learn</i>	if checked, use scikit-learn framework (read <a href="#">this</a> )
 <i>Use framework Py-Torch</i>	if checked, use PyTorch framework (read <a href="#">about this</a> )
<i>Hidden layer sizes</i> 	list of values separated by comma, where each value defines the number of neurons in a hidden layer (e.g.: 200, 100 for two hidden layers of 200 and 100 neurons respectively)
<i>Max iter</i> 	set the maximum number of iterations
<i>Activation</i> 	set the activation function (default: relu)
<i>Alpha</i> 	set the weight decay (also L2 regularization term) for Adam optimizer
<i>Training proportion</i> 	set the proportion of data to be used as training and the remaining part as test
<i>Batch size</i> 	set the number of samples per batch for optimizer; if auto, the batch is the minimum value between 200 and the number of samples
<i>Learning rate init</i> 	set initial learning rate
 <i>Cross validation</i>	if checked, perform cross validation
 <i>Find best estimator with steps</i>	if checked, find the best estimator iteratively with a number of steps
 <i>Calculate classification confidence raster</i>	if checked, calculate classification confidence raster

## Random Forest

Use the *Random Forest* (Pag. 141) algorithm.

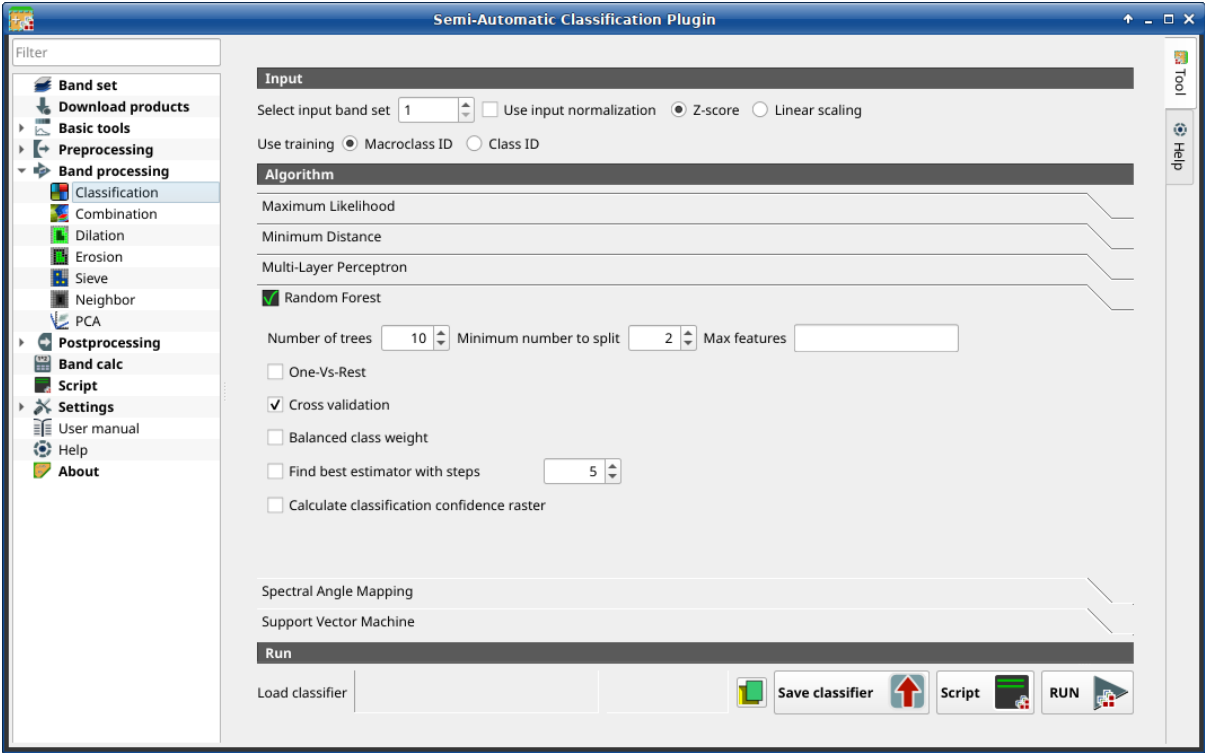


Fig. 31: Random Forest

Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>Number of trees</i>	set the number of trees
<i>Minimum number to split</i>	set the minimum number of samples required to split an internal node
<i>Max features</i>	for node splitting, if empty all features are considered; if sqrt the square root of all the features, if integer number the number of features; if float number a fraction of all the features
<i>One-Vs-Rest</i>	if checked, perform One-Vs-Rest classification (read <a href="#">more</a> )
<i>Cross validation</i>	if checked, perform cross validation
<i>Balanced class weight</i>	if checked, balanced weight is computed inversely proportional to class frequency
<i>Find best estimator with steps</i>	if checked, find the best estimator iteratively with a number of steps
<i>Calculate classification confidence raster</i>	if checked, calculate classification confidence raster

## Spectral Angle Mapping

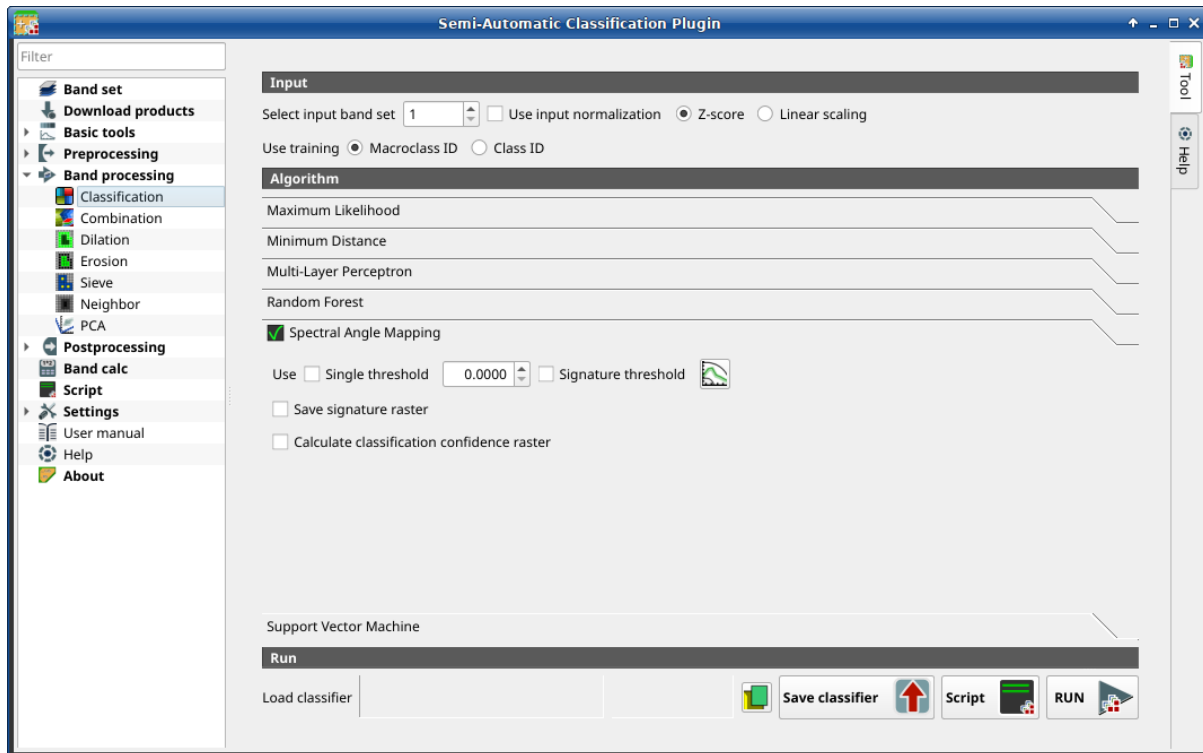







Fig. 32: *Spectral Angle Mapping*

Use the *Spectral Angle Mapping* (Pag. 138) algorithm.

Tool symbol and name	Description
 <i>Use single threshold</i>	if checked, it allows for the definition of a classification threshold (applied to all the spectral signatures); pixels are unclassified if spectral angle distance is greater than threshold value (max 90)
 <i>Signature threshold</i>	if checked, thresholds <i>Signature threshold</i> (Pag. 60) are evaluated
	open the <i>Signature threshold</i> (Pag. 60) for the definition of signature thresholds
 <i>Save signature raster</i>	if checked, in addition to the classification raster, for each spectral signature a raster is saved in the same output directory, which represents the distance between pixel and signature
 <i>Calculate classification confidence raster</i>	if checked, calculate classification confidence raster

Support Vector Machine

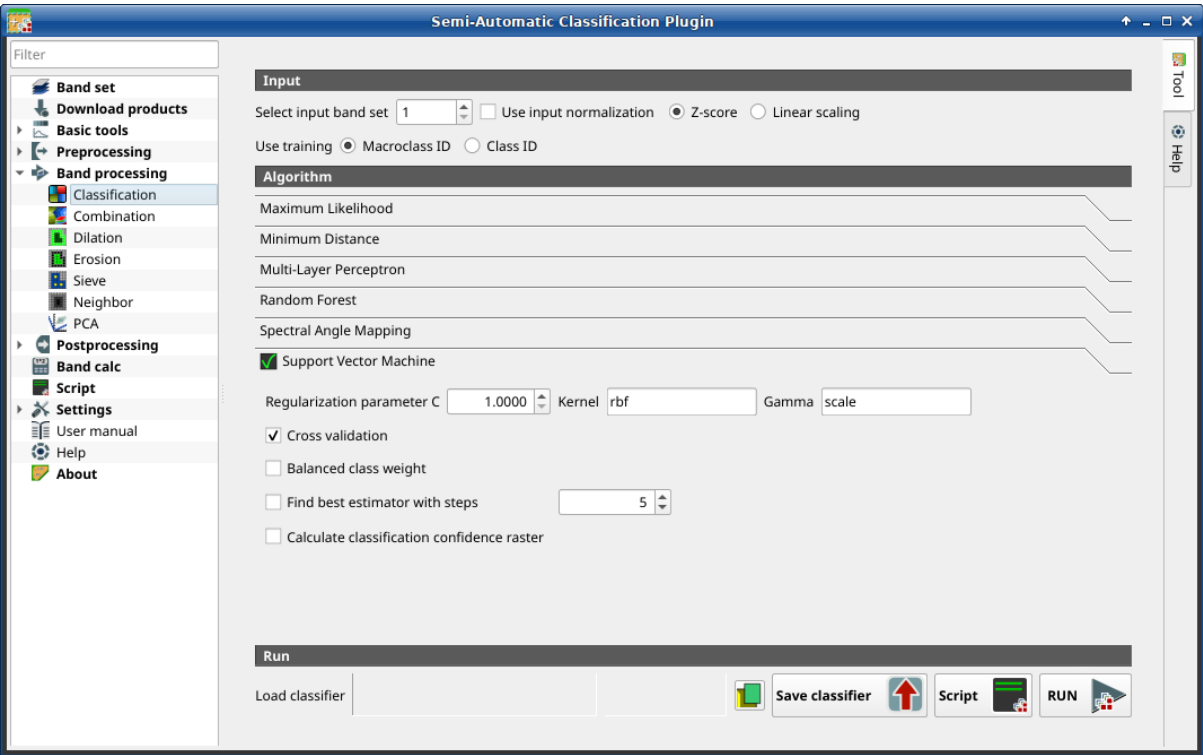


Fig. 33: Support Vector Machine




Use the *Support Vector Machine* (Pag. 142) algorithm.

Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>Regularization parameter C</i> <input type="text" value="1"/>	set the regularization parameter C
<i>Kernel</i> <input type="text" value="T"/>	set the kernel (default: rbf)
<i>Gamma</i> <input type="text" value="T"/>	set the kernel coefficient gamma (default: scale)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Cross validation</i>	if checked, perform cross validation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Balanced class weight</i>	if checked, balanced weight is computed inversely proportional to class frequency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Find best estimator with steps</i>	if checked, find the best estimator iteratively with a number of steps
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Calculate classification confidence raster</i>	if checked, calculate classification confidence raster

## Run

It is possible to run the classification, or save and load a trained classifier.

Classification raster is a file `.tif` (a QGIS style file `.qml` is saved along with the classification); also other outputs can be optionally calculated. Outputs are loaded in QGIS after the calculation.

Tool symbol and name	Description
 <i>Load classifier</i>	open an already save classifier file (.rsmo)
 <i>Save classifier</i>	save the classifier to file (.rsmo), in order to be loaded later
 <i>RUN</i>	run this function

## Combination

- *Combination of band values* (Pag. 84)

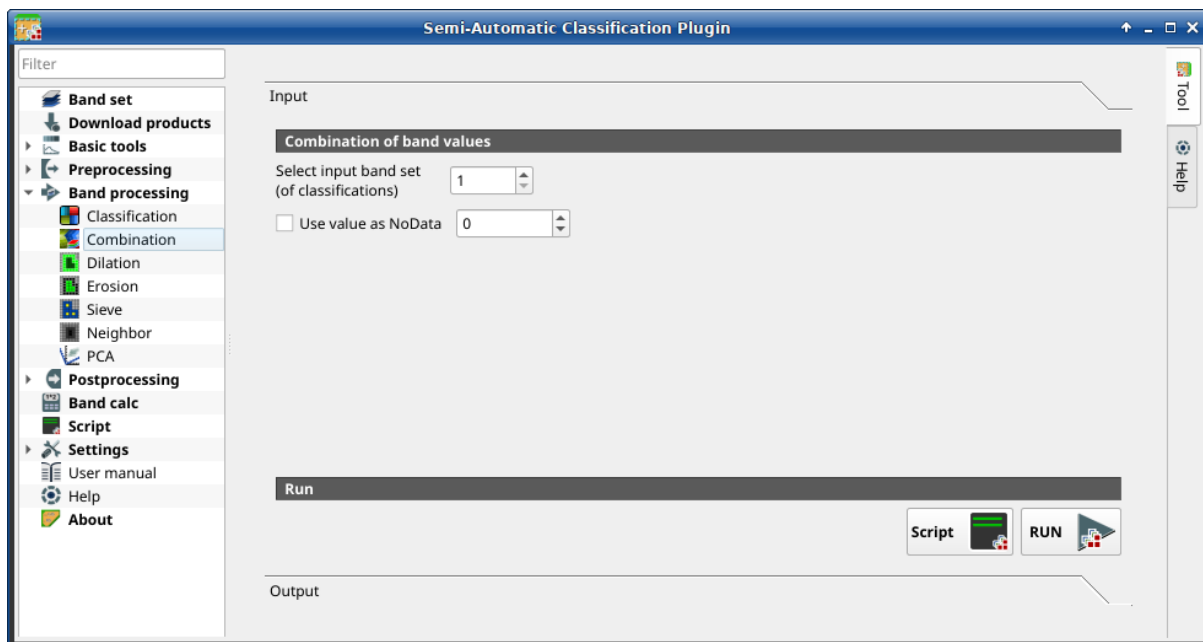






Fig. 34: *Combination*

This tab allows for the combination of bands loaded in a *Band set* (Pag. 45). This tool is intended for combining classifications in order to get a raster where each value corresponds to a combination of class values. Raster values must be integer type. A combination raster is produced as output and the area of each combination is reported in a `.csv` file.

This tool supports virtual raster output; if the output file name ends with `.vrt` then the output is created as virtual raster composed of as many `.tif` files as the number of CPU threads defined in *System* (Pag. 110); for large rasters this can speed up the process.

**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#).

Combination of band values

Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>Select input band set (of classifications)</i> 	select the input <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Use value as NoData</i> 	if checked, set the value of NoData pixels, ignored during the calculation
<i>Script</i> 	add this function to the <i>Script</i> (Pag. 106)
<i>RUN</i> 	run this function

The list of combinations and the area thereof will be displayed in the tab Output.

Dilation

- *Dilation* (Pag. 85)

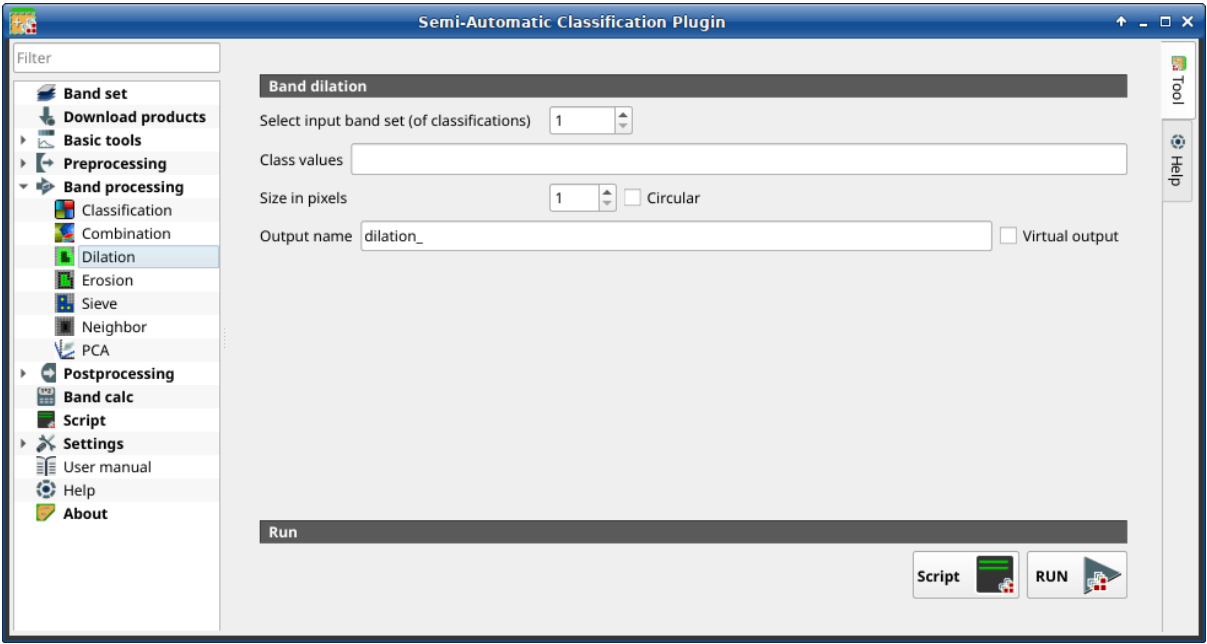









Fig. 35: *Dilation*

This tab allows for dilating the border of a class patch, defining the class values to be dilated and the number of pixels from the border. It is useful for classification refinement.

**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#) .



## Dilation

Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>Select input band set (of classifications)</i> 	select the input <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45)
<i>Class values</i> 	set the class values to be dilated; class values must be separated by , and - can be used to define a range of values (e.g. 1, 3-5, 8 will select classes 1, 3, 4, 5, 8); if the text is red then the expression contains errors
<i>Size in pixels</i> 	number of pixels to be dilated from the border
 <i>Circular</i>	if checked, the dilation will be circular, similar to a buffer
<i>Output name</i>	set the name prefix for output files
 <i>Virtual output</i>	if checked, the output is created as virtual raster composed of as many .tif files as the number of CPU threads defined in <i>System</i> (Pag. 110)
<i>Script</i> 	add this function to the <i>Script</i> (Pag. 106)
<i>RUN</i> 	run this function

## Erosion

- *Erosion* (Pag. 86)

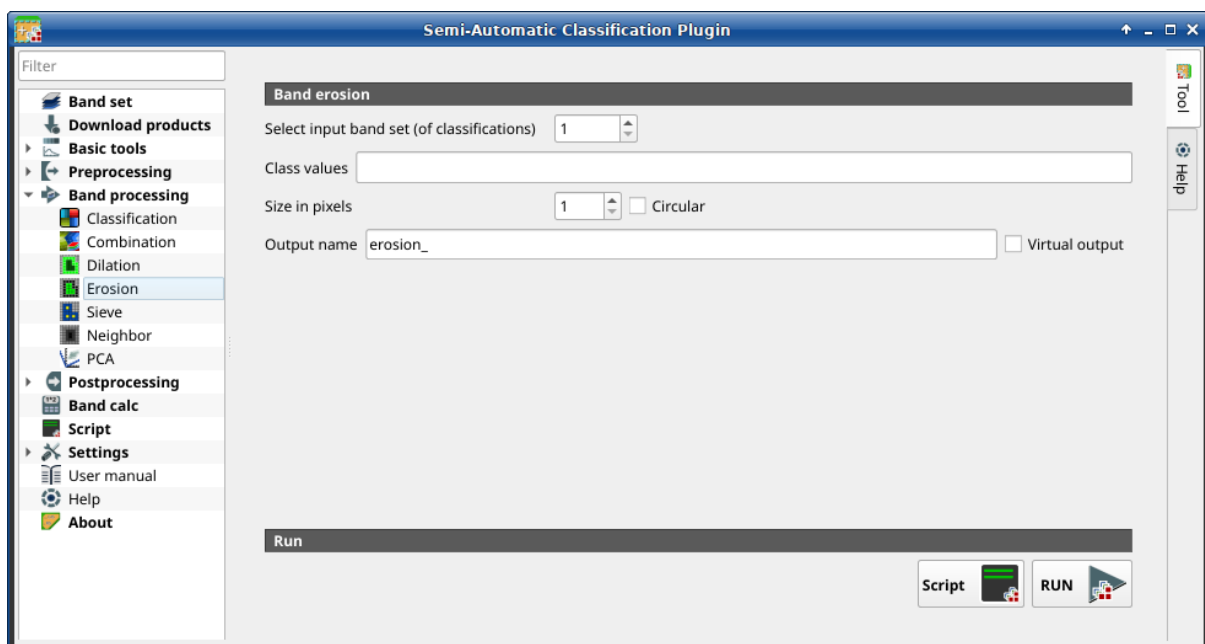











Fig. 36: *Erosion*

This tab allows for removing the border of a class patch (erosion), defining the class values to be eroded and the number of pixels from the border. It is useful for classification refinement.

**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#).

## Erosion

Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>Select input band set (of classifications)</i> 	select the input <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45)
<i>Class values</i> 	set the class values to be eroded; class values must be separated by , and - can be used to define a range of values (e.g. 1, 3-5, 8 will select classes 1, 3, 4, 5, 8); if the text is red then the expression contains errors
<i>Size in pixels</i> 	number of pixels to be eroded from the border
 <i>Circular</i> 	if checked, the erosion will be circular, similar to a buffer
<i>Output name</i>	set the name prefix for output files
 <i>Virtual output</i> 	if checked, the output is created as virtual raster composed of as many .tif files as the number of CPU threads defined in <i>System</i> (Pag. 110)
<i>Script</i> 	add this function to the <i>Script</i> (Pag. 106)
<i>RUN</i> 	run this function

## Sieve

- *Sieve* (Pag. 87)

This tab allows for the replacement of isolated pixel values with the value of the largest neighbour patch. It is useful for removing small patches from a classification.

It is possible to chose 4 `pixel connection` (in a 3x3 window, diagonal pixels are not considered connected) or 8 `pixel connection` (in a 3x3 window, diagonal pixels are considered connected).

**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#).

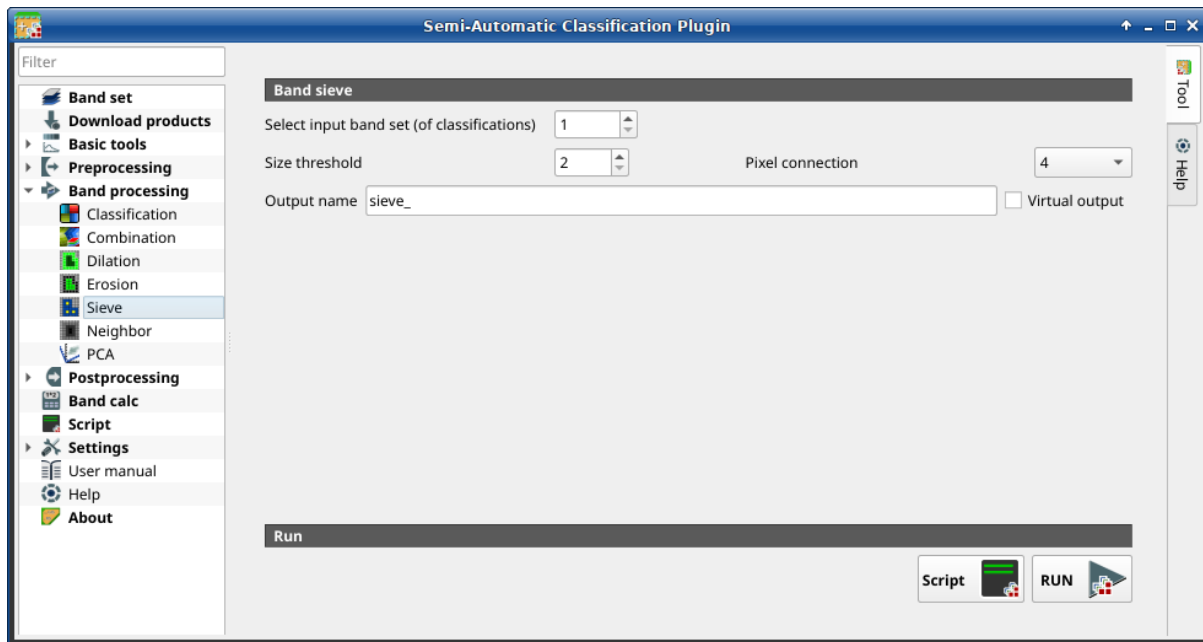








Fig. 37: Sieve

## Sieve

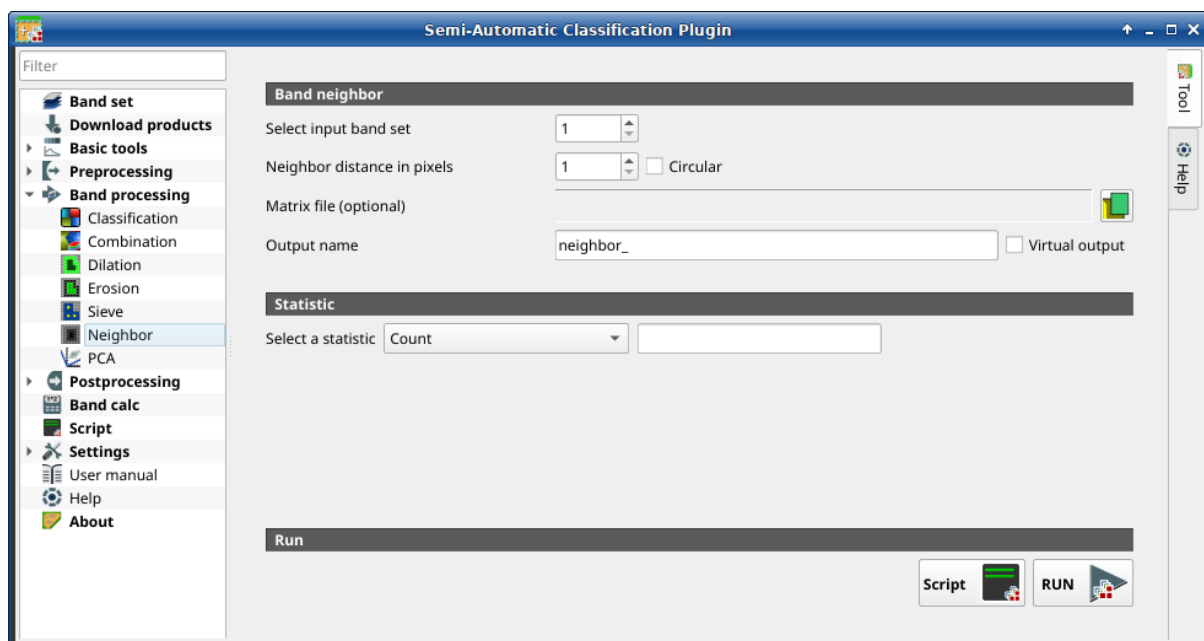
Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>Select input band set (of classifications)</i> 	select the input <a href="#">Band set</a> (Pag. 45)
<i>Size threshold</i> 	size of threshold in number of pixels
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Pixel connection</i> 	select between 4 pixel connection or 8 pixel connection
<i>Output name</i>	set the name prefix for output files
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Virtual output</i> 	if checked, the output is created as virtual raster composed of as many .tif files as the number of CPU threads defined in <a href="#">System</a> (Pag. 110)
<i>Script</i> 	add this function to the <a href="#">Script</a> (Pag. 106)
<i>RUN</i> 	run this function

## Neighbor

- [Neighbor](#) (Pag. 89)
- [Statistic](#) (Pag. 89)
- [Run](#) (Pag. 89)

This tool allows for the calculation of several neighbor pixels statistics for every band of a band set defined in the [Band set](#) (Pag. 45).

The statistics are calculated for every pixel of the input raster considering the values of the neighbor pixels. Neighbor pixels are defined through a distance or through a custom matrix.

Fig. 38: *Neighbor*

For example, the following matrix represents the neighbor pixels within a distance of 1 pixel from a central pixel, resulting in a 3x3 matrix.

Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor
Neighbor	<b>Center</b>	Neighbor
Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor






Several statistics are available. The statistic Sum will result in a raster convolution. For instance, this can be useful to apply an image filter to all the bands of a band set for photointerpretation.

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**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#) .

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## Neighbor

Tool symbol and name	Description
 <i>Select input band set</i>	select the input <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45)
<i>Neighbor distance in pixels</i> 	create a window defining the size based on the distance from the center (in number of pixels)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Circular</i> 	if checked, the window will be circular
<i>Matrix file (optional)</i> 	select a .csv file containing the structure of the window
<i>Output name</i>	set the name prefix for output files
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Virtual output</i> 	if checked, the output is created as virtual raster composed of as many .tif files as the number of CPU threads defined in <i>System</i> (Pag. 110)

## Statistic

Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>Select a statistic</i>  <input type="text" value="T"/>	select a statistic among: Count, Max, Mean, Median, Min, Percentile, StandardDeviation, Sum. For Percentile statistic it is possible to enter the percentile value.

## Run

- *Script* 
  - add this function to the *Script* (Pag. 106)
- *RUN* 
  - run this function

## PCA

- *PCA* (Pag. 90)

This tab allows for the PCA (*Principal Component Analysis* (Pag. 145)) of bands loaded in the *Band set*.

A report .txt is saved along with the PCA bands, containing the covariance matrix, correlation matrix, eigen vectors, and eigen values.

**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#) .

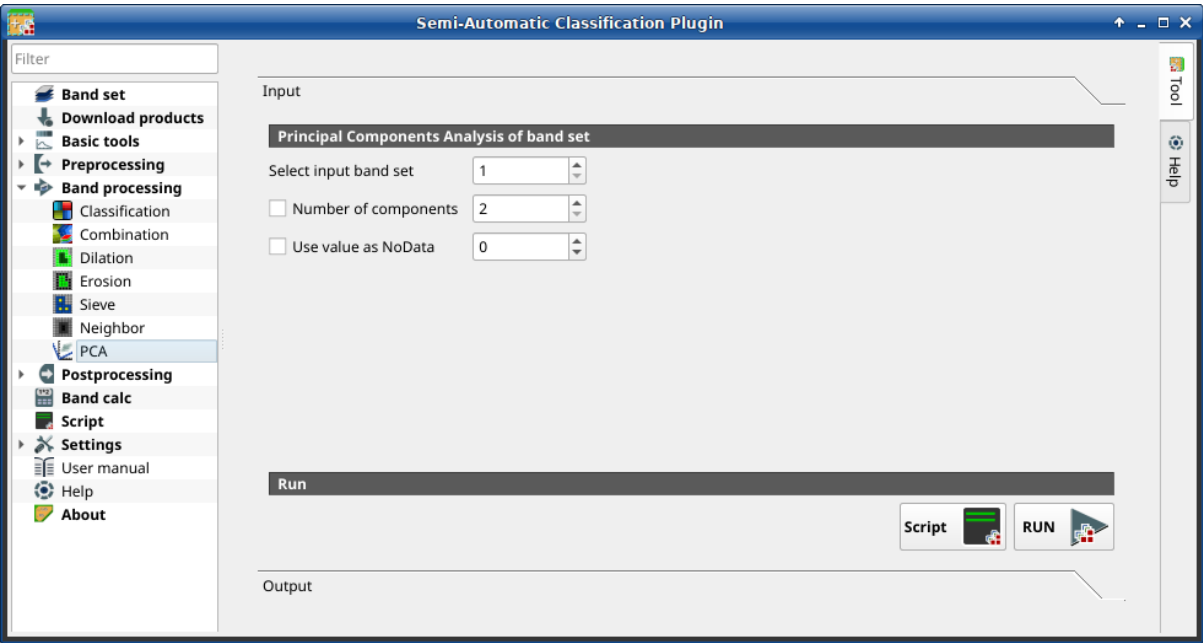











Fig. 39: PCA

PCA

Tool symbol and name	Description
Select input band set 	select the input <i>Band set</i> (Pag. 45)
 <i>Number of components</i> 	set the number of components to be calculated
	
 <i>Use value as NoData</i> 	if checked, set the value of NoData pixels, ignored during the calculation
<i>Script</i> 	add this function to the <i>Script</i> (Pag. 106)
<i>RUN</i> 	run this function

The Output tab will display the Principal Components Analysis details (Covariance matrix, Correlation matrix, Eigenvectors, and Eigenvalues).

### 3.4.6 Postprocessing

The tab  *Postprocessing* provides several functions that can be applied to the classification output.

#### Accuracy

- [Accuracy](#) (Pag. 92)

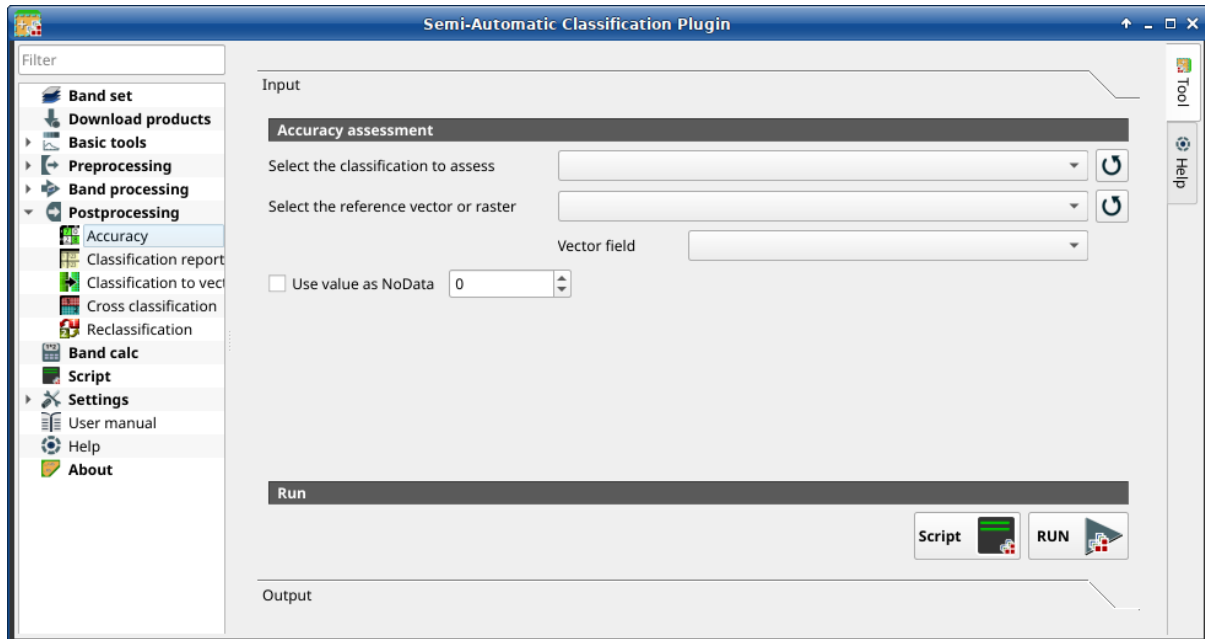


Fig. 40: *Accuracy*

This tab allows for the validation of a classification (read [Accuracy Assessment](#) (Pag. 144) ).

Classification is compared to a reference raster or reference vector (which is automatically converted to raster). If a vector is selected as reference, it is possible to choose a field describing class values.

Several statistics are calculated such as overall accuracy, user's accuracy, producer's accuracy, and Kappa hat. In particular, these statistics are calculated according to the area based error matrix where each element represents the estimated area proportion of each class. This allows for estimating the unbiased user's accuracy and producer's accuracy, the unbiased area of classes according to reference data, and the standard error of area estimates.

The output is an **error raster** that is a **.tif** file showing the errors in the map, where pixel values represent the categories of comparison (i.e. combinations identified by the **ErrorMatrixCode** in the error matrix) between the classification and reference. Also, a text file containing the error matrix (i.e. a **.csv** file separated by tab) is created with the same name defined for the **.tif** file.

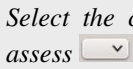

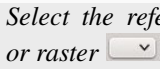






This tool supports **virtual raster** output; if the output file name ends with **.vrt** then the output is created as virtual raster composed of as many **.tif** files as the number of CPU threads defined in [System](#) (Pag. 110); for large rasters this can speed up the process.

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**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#) .

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## Accuracy

Tool symbol and name	Description
 <i>Select the classification to assess</i>	select a classification raster (already loaded in QGIS)
	refresh layer list
 <i>Select the reference vector or raster</i>	select a raster or a vector (already loaded in QGIS), used as reference layer (ground truth) for the accuracy assessment
	refresh layer list
 <i>Vector field</i>	if a vector is selected as reference, select a vector field containing numeric class values
 <i>Use value as NoData</i>	if checked, set the value of NoData pixels, ignored during the calculation
	
 <i>Script</i>	add this function to the <a href="#">Script</a> (Pag. 106)
 <i>RUN</i>	run this function

## Classification report

- [Classification report](#) (Pag. 93)

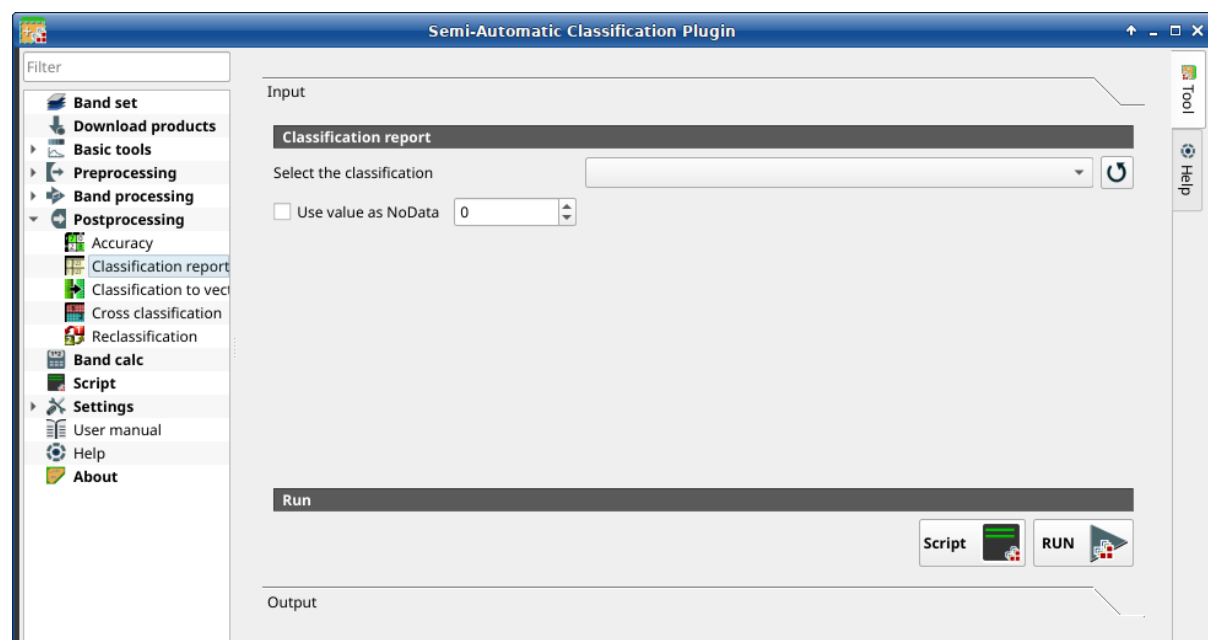








Fig. 41: *Classification report*

This tab allows for the calculation of class statistics such as number of pixels, percentage and area (area unit is defined from the image itself).



**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#) .

## Classification report

Tool symbol and name	Description
Select the classification 	select a classification raster (already loaded in QGIS)
	refresh layer list
 Use value as NoData 	if checked, set the value of NoData pixels, ignored during the calculation
Script 	add this function to the <i>Script</i> (Pag. 106)
RUN 	run this function

The tab Output will display the report.

## Classification to vector

- *Classification to vector* (Pag. 94)
- *Symbology* (Pag. 94)
- *Run* (Pag. 94)

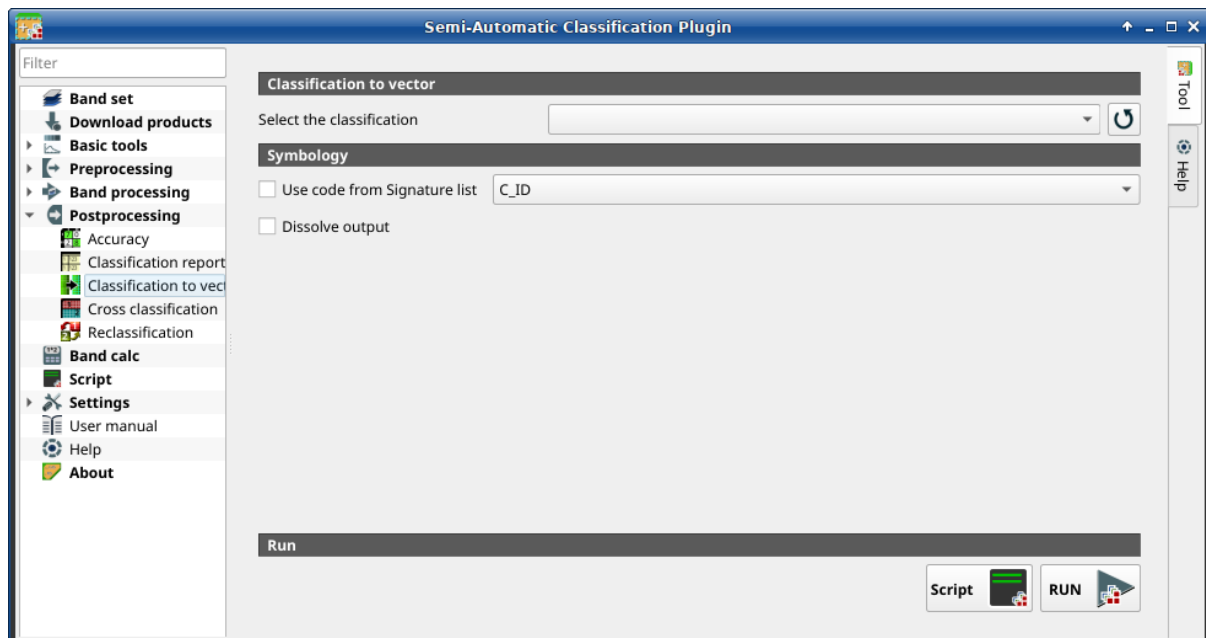




Fig. 42: *Classification to vector*

This tab allows for the conversion of a classification raster to vector GeoPackage (.gpkg) . Parallel processes are used for the conversion, resulting in a vector output which is split in as many portions as the process numbers.



The argument dissolve allows for merging these portions, but it requires additional processing time depending on vector size.

**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#).



## Classification to vector

Tool symbol and name	Description
 <i>Select the classification</i>	select a classification raster (already loaded in QGIS)
 <i>refresh layer list</i>	refresh layer list

## Symbology

Tool symbol and name	Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <i>Use code from Signature list</i></li> </ul>	if checked, color and class information are defined from <i>ROI &amp; Signature list</i> (Pag. 36) * MC ID: use the ID of macroclasses * C ID: use the ID of classes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <i>Dissolve output</i></li> </ul>	if checked, dissolve adjacent polygons having the same values

## Run

- *Script* 
  - add this function to the *Script* (Pag. 106)
- *RUN* 
  - run this function

## Cross classification

- *Cross classification* (Pag. 95)

This tab allows for the calculation of a cross classification raster and matrix. Classification is compared to a reference raster or reference vector (which is automatically converted to raster). This is useful for calculating the area for every combination between reference classes and classification values. If a vector is selected as reference, it is possible to choose a field describing class values.

The output is a **cross raster** that is a .tif file where pixel values represent the categories of comparison (i.e. combinations identified by the CrossMatrixCode) between the classification and reference. Also, a text file containing the cross matrix (i.e. a .csv file) is created with the same name defined for the .tif file.

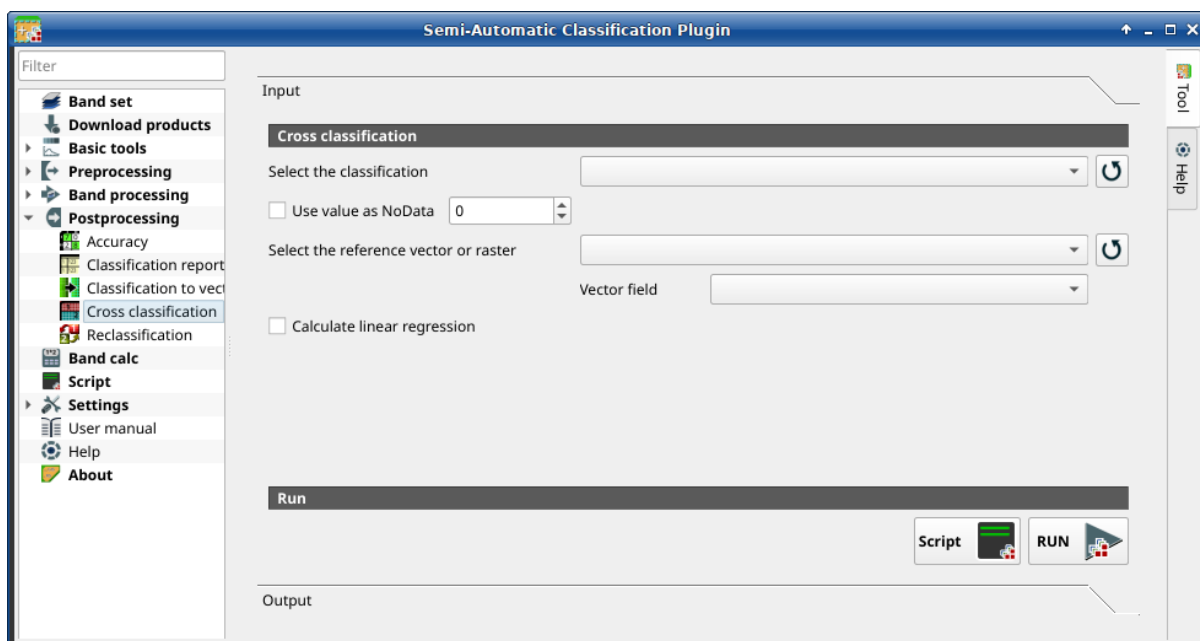


Fig. 43: Cross classification

This tool supports virtual raster output; if the output file name ends with `.vrt` then the output is created as virtual raster composed of as many `.tif` files as the number of CPU threads defined in *System* (Pag. 110); for large rasters this can speed up the process.

**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#) .

## Cross classification

Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>Select the classification</i>	select a classification raster (already loaded in QGIS)
	refresh layer list
<i>Use value as NoData</i>	if checked, set the value of NoData pixels, ignored during the calculation
<i>Select the reference vector or raster</i>	select a raster or a vector (already loaded in QGIS), used as reference layer
	refresh layer list
<i>Vector field</i>	if a vector is selected as reference, select a vector field containing numeric class values
<i>Calculate linear regression</i>	if checked, calculate linear regression between the two input layers
<i>Script</i>	add this function to the <i>Script</i> (Pag. 106)
<i>RUN</i>	run this function

Reclassification

- *Cross classification* (Pag. 96)
- *Values* (Pag. 97)
- *Symbology* (Pag. 97)
- *Run* (Pag. 98)

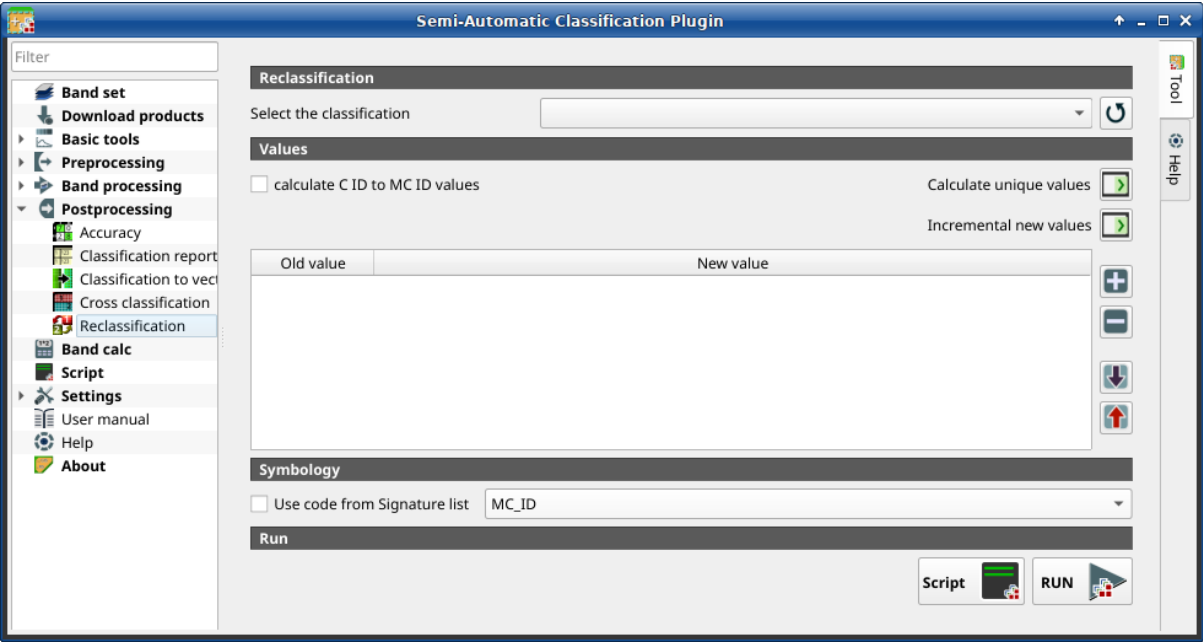




Fig. 44: *Reclassification*

This tab allows for the reclassification (i.e. assigning a new class code to raster pixels). In particular, it eases the conversion from C ID to MC ID values.









This tool supports virtual raster output; if the output file name ends with `.vrt` then the output is created as virtual raster composed of as many `.tif` files as the number of CPU threads defined in *System* (Pag. 110); for large rasters this can speed up the process.

**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#).

Cross classification

Tool symbol and name	Description
Select the classification 	select a classification raster (already loaded in QGIS)
	refresh layer list

## Values

Tool symbol and name	Description
 <i>calculate C ID to MC ID values</i>	if checked, the reclassification table is filled according to the <a href="#">ROI &amp; Signature list</a> (Pag. 36)
<i>Calculate unique values</i> 	when <i>Calculate unique values</i> is clicked
<i>Incremental new values</i> 	calculate unique values in the classification and fill the reclassification table
	calculate a new incremental value (e.g. 1, 2, 3, ...) for every old value and fill the reclassification table
	add a row to the table
	remove highlighted rows from the table
	import rules from a text file .csv separated by comma having the following structure Old_value,New_value (where Old_value can be also an expression and New_value is an integer value) for instance:: raster < 1,1 (raster > 1) & (raster < 3),2 raster < 3,3
	export the reclassification table to a text file (.csv) that can be imported later



The reclassification table is structured with the following fields.

Old value	New value
value or expression defining old values to be reclassified	integer value for the corresponding Old value



Old value can be a value or an expressions defined using the variable name `raster` (custom names can be defined in [Variable name for expressions](#) (Pag. 109) ), following Python operators (e.g.:

- `raster > 3` select all pixels having value > 3 ;
- `(raster > 5) | (raster < 2)` select all pixels having value > 5 or < 2 ;
- `(raster >= 2) & (raster <= 5)` select all pixel values between 2 and 5.

## Symbology

Tool symbol and name	Description
 <i>Use code from Signature list</i> 	<p>if checked, color and class information are defined from <a href="#">ROI &amp; Signature list</a> (Pag. 36):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MC ID: use the ID of macroclasses</li> <li>• C ID: use the ID of classes</li> </ul>

## Run

Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>Script</i> 	add this function to the <i>Script</i> (Pag. 106)
<i>RUN</i> 	run this function

### 3.4.7 Band calc

- *Band list* (Pag. 99)
- *Expression* (Pag. 99)
- *Output raster* (Pag. 100)
- *Input variables* (Pag. 101)
- *Output variables* (Pag. 102)
- *Functions* (Pag. 103)
  - *Conditional* (Pag. 103)
  - *Logical* (Pag. 104)
  - *Statistics* (Pag. 104)
  - *Operations* (Pag. 104)
  - *Indices* (Pag. 105)
  - *Variables* (Pag. 105)

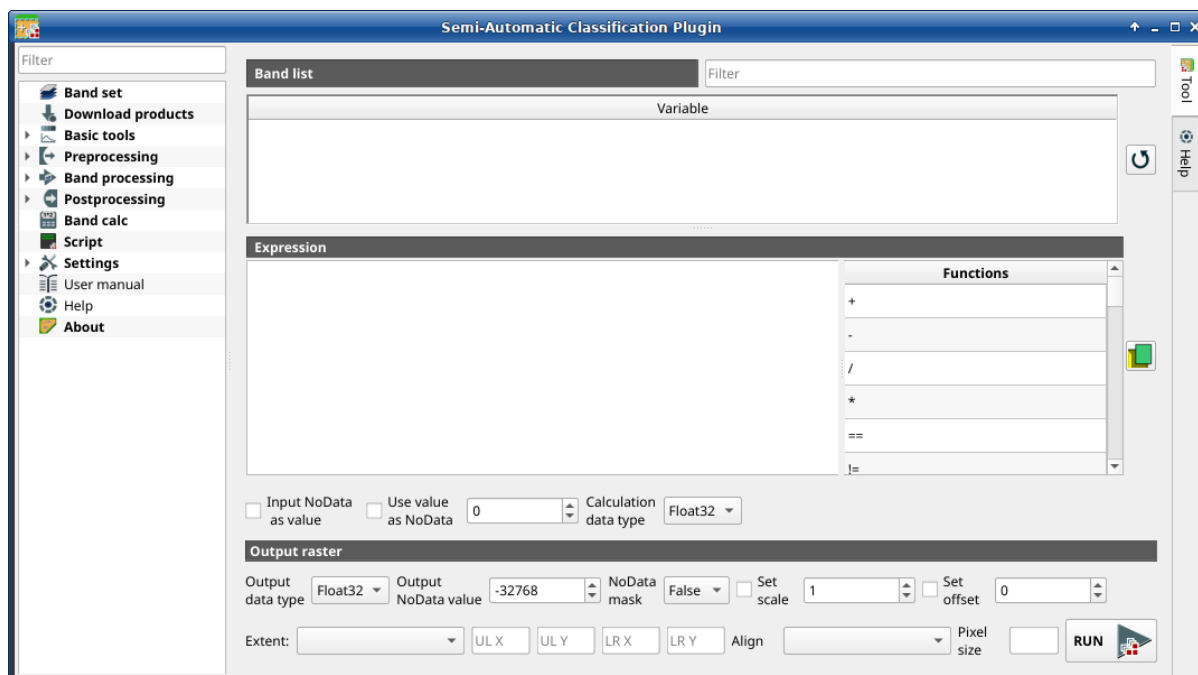


Fig. 45: *Band calc*

The `Band calc` allows for the **raster calculation for bands** (i.e. calculation of pixel values) using [NumPy functions](#). `Band calc` can also work with multiple expression lines to perform multiple calculation at a time; several iteration functions are available for *Band sets* allowing for performing multi-temporal calculations.

This tool supports `virtual raster output`; if the output file name ends with `.vrt` then the output is created as virtual raster composed of as many `.tif` files as the number of CPU threads defined in [System](#) (Pag. 110); for large rasters this can speed up the process.




Raster bands must be already loaded in QGIS. Input rasters can also be in different projection, but the output will have the projection of the reference raster.

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**Suggerimento:** Information about APIs of this tool in Remotior Sensus at this [link](#).

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## Band list

Tool symbol and name	Description
 <i>Band list</i>	table containing a list of single band rasters (already loaded in QGIS) and <i>Input variables</i> (Pag. 101) defined from <i>Band set</i>
<i>Filter</i> 	filter the variable list
	refresh band list

## Expression

Enter a mathematical expression for raster bands. In particular, NumPy functions can be used with the prefix `np.` (e.g. `np.log10(raster1)`). For a list of NumPy functions see [the NumPy page](#).

The expression can work with *Variable* between `"`. Double click on any item in the *Band list* (Pag. 99) for adding the name thereof to the expression.

If text color in the *Expression* is green, then the syntax is correct; if text color is red, then the syntax is incorrect and it is not possible to execute the calculation.








It is possible to enter multiple expressions separated by newlines such as the following example:

```
"raster1" + "raster2"
"raster3" - "raster4"
```

The above example calculates two new rasters in the output directory with the suffix `_1` (e.g. `calc_raster_1`) for the first expression and `_2` (e.g. `calc_raster_2`) for the second expression. Also, it is possible to define the output name using the symbol `@` followed by the name, such as the following example:

```
"raster1" + "raster2" @calc_1
"raster3" - "raster4" @calc_2
```

*Input variables* (Pag. 101) and *Output variables* (Pag. 102) can be used in the expression.

Tool symbol and name	Description
 <i>Input NoData</i>	if checked, input NoData pixels are replaced by NoData value and accounted in calculation
 <i>as value</i>	
 <i>Use value as</i>	if checked, selected value is used as NoData during calculation
<i>NoData</i>  	
<i>Calculation data type</i>	select the data type used during calculation as Float32 (default), Int32, Int16, UInt32, UInt16, Byte; for instance, if Int32 is selected, input float values will be evaluated as integer
 <i>Functions</i>	list of <i>Functions</i> (Pag. 103) names (double click to copy one in the expression) such as mathematical, conditional, logical, statistics, indices, and custom
	open a text file (.txt) containing custom expressions to be listed in <i>Functions</i>

A text file can be loaded for adding expressions to the *Functions*. The text must contain an expression for each line; each line must be in the form `expression_name; expression` (separated by ;) where the `expression_name` is the expression name that is displayed in the *Functions*. Opening an empty text file will remove custom expressions from the *Functions*. Following an example of text content:












```
NDVI; ( "#NIR#" - "#RED#" ) / ( "#NIR#" + "#RED#" ) @NDVI
EVI; 2.5 * ( "#NIR#" - "#RED#" ) / ( "#NIR#" + 6 * "#RED#" - 7.5 * "#BLUE#" + 1 ) @EVI
SR; ( "#NIR#" / "#RED#" ) @SR
```

## Output raster

The output raster is a .tif file, with the same spatial resolution and projection of input rasters; if input rasters have different spatial resolutions, then the highest resolution (i.e. minimum pixel size) is used for output raster.

**Suggerimento:** If multiple lines are entered in Expression or output name are defined in line, a directory selection instead of a file selection is prompted for output.



Tool symbol and name	Description
Output data type 	select the output data type as Float32 (default), Int32, Int16, UInt32, UInt16, Byte; it can be different from <i>Calculation data type</i>
Output NoData value  NoData mask 	set the value of NoData pixels in output raster manage NoData at pixel level; if True, then output is NoData if any input is NoData; if False, then output is NoData if all the inputs are NoData; if None, then NoData is not applied to output
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Set scale  	if checked, set a scale in output raster (and output values are divided by scale)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Set offset  	if checked, set an offset in output raster (and offset is subtracted to output values)
Extent  UL X UL Y LR X LR Y	<b>set the extent of the output raster among:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Union”: the extent union of input rasters</li> <li>• “Map extent”: the extent of the map currently displayed</li> <li>• “Intersection”: the extent intersection of input raster extents (i.e. minimum extent)</li> <li>• “Custom”: coordinates defined in UL X UL Y LR X LR Y</li> <li>• Layer name: the extent of the selected layer</li> </ul>
Align 	align the output raster to a specific <i>Layer name</i> or “Default” for automatic alignment to input rasters
Pixel size 	set pixel size
RUN 	run this function; it is disabled if the expression syntax is not correct

## Input variables

The following variables related to the *Band set* (Pag. 45) are available (please note that the character " is always required):

- *bandset#b BAND\_NUMBER*: bands in the active *Band set* can be referenced directly; the following example refers to band 1 of the active *Band set*:

```
"bandset#b1"
```

- *bandset BANDSET\_NUMBER b BAND\_NUMBER*: bands in the *Band set* can be referenced directly; the following example refers to band 1 of the *Band set* 1:

```
"bandset1b1"
```

- *bandset{ BANDSET\_NUMBER\_LIST }b BAND\_NUMBER*: list of all the bands X of all the *Band sets* matching a list between curly brackets (e.g. {1,2,3}) or range of *Band sets* separated by colon (e.g. {1:3}) or a list of ranges of *Band sets* (e.g. {1:3, 5:8}), which is equivalent to [bandset1bX, bandset2bX, ..., bandsetNbX]; this variable can be used in expressions that accept band lists such as the sum:

```
sum("bandset{1,3}b1")
```

- *bandset#b\**: list of all the bands of active *Band set*, which is equivalent to [*bandset#b1*, *bandset#b2*, ..., *bandset#bX*]; to be used in expressions that accept band lists such as the maximum value:

```
max("bandset#b*")
```

- *bandset BANDSET\_NUMBER b\**: list of all the bands of *Band set N*, which is equivalent to [*bandsetNb1*, *bandsetNb2*, ..., *bandsetNbX*]; to be used in expressions that accept band lists such as the minimum value:

```
min("bandset1b*")
```

- *bandset\*b BAND\_NUMBER*: list of all the bands X of all the *Band sets*, which is equivalent to [*bandset1bX*, *bandset2bX*, ..., *bandsetNbX*]; to be used in expressions that accept band lists such as the mean value:

```
mean("bandset*b1")
```

- *bandset{ DATE }b BAND\_NUMBER*: list of all the bands X of all the *Band sets* matching a list of dates (format yyyy-mm-dd) between curly brackets (e.g. {2019-01-01,2019-07-31}) or range of dates separated by colon (e.g. {2019-01-01:2019-07-31}) or a list of ranges of dates (e.g. {2019-01-01:2019-01-31, 2019-04-01:2019-07-31}), which is equivalent to [*bandset2bX*, *bandset5bX*, ..., *bandsetNbX*]; *Band sets* dates are defined in *Band set definition* (Pag. 46); this variable can be used in expressions that accept band lists such as the median value:

```
median("bandset{2019-01-01,2019-07-31}b1")
```

- «#BLUE#»: the band with the center wavelength closest to 0.475  $\mu m$ ;
- «#GREEN#»: the band with the center wavelength closest to 0.56  $\mu m$ ;
- «#RED#»: the band with the center wavelength closest to 0.65  $\mu m$ ;
- «#NIR#»: the band with the center wavelength closest to 0.85  $\mu m$ ; for example:

```
( "#NIR#" - "#RED#" ) / ( "#NIR#" + "#RED#" )
```

## Output variables

**Output names** can be defined in the expression line entering the symbol @ followed by the name, such as the following example:

```
"raster1" * 2 @first_calculation
```

If the output name is defined in the expression, an output directory will be selected after clicking the button *RUN*.

**Avvertimento:** It is recommended to avoid the use of characters # and @ in the output raster name.

It is possible to set the **output path** directly by defining the output name with this structure @path@name, such as:

```
"raster1" * 2 @/home/user@first_calculation
```

The directory will be created if it does not exist.

It is possible to create a **temporary output** (saved in the temporary directory) with @temp@ followed by output name, such as:

```
"raster1" * 2 @temp@first_calculation
```

The **output name** of calculation can be used as **input variable** for the following calculations; for example:

```
"raster1" * 2 @first_calculation
"first_calculation" + 5 @temp@second_calculation
"second_calculation" - "raster1" @/home/user@third_calculation
```

It is possible to **add the calculation result to a Band set** using the symbol % followed by the *Band set* number such as:

```
"raster1" @first_calculation%1
```

It is possible to **add the calculation result to the active Band set** using the symbol % followed by the symbol # such as:

```
"raster1" @first_calculation%#
```

Also, variables for output name are available:

- #BANDSET#: the name of the first band in the *Band set* (Pag. 45);
- #DATE#: the current date and time (e.g. 20161110\_113846527764);

Using the symbol @ followed by the variable #BANDSET# can save the raster calculation inside the **directory containing the first band** of the active band set, such as:

```
"raster1" @#BANDSET#@first_calculation
```

If the output name is defined with the extension .vrt, the output will be a **virtual raster** referencing the single .tif files calculated by parallel processing. For instance, the following expression will calculate the raster with parallel processing and the output will be a .vrt:

```
"raster1" @first_calculation.vrt
```

Virtual file is useful to reduce calculation time of parallel processing by avoiding the writing of the entire output raster.

**Avvertimento:** A .vrt virtual file is a text file containing the reference to existing .tif files. Moving the .vrt virtual file or the .tif files in different directories can make the virtual file unusable.

## Functions

### Conditional

- *where*: conditional expression according to the syntax `where( condition , value if true, value if false)` for example:

```
where("raster1" == 1, 2, "raster1")
```

Parenthesis are required for multiple conditions for instance to select pixel values between 1 and 3:

```
where( ("raster1" > 1) & ("raster1" < 3), 2, "raster1")
```

Nested conditions can be defined such as:

```
where( ("raster1" > 1) & ("raster1" < 3), 2, "raster1")
```

## Logical

- *AND*: AND;
- *OR*: OR;
- *XOR*: XOR;
- *NOT*: NOT;

## Statistics

A band list between square brackets or *Input variables* (Pag. 101) are required arguments.

- *max*: maximum; for instance:

```
max(["raster1", "raster2", "raster3"])
```

- *min*: minimum; for instance:

```
min(["bandset#b*"])
```

- *mean*: mean; for instance:

```
mean("bandset*b1")
```

- *median*: median; for instance:

```
median("bandset{2019-01-01,2019-07-31}b1")
```

- *percentile*: percentile calculation; the expression must have this structure `percentile([band_list], percentile_value)`; for instance, the following expression calculates the 10th percentile of active band set:

```
percentile("bandset#b*", 10)
```

- *std*: standard deviation; for instance:

```
std("bandset{1,3}b1")
```

- *sum*: sum; for instance:

```
sum("bandset{1:5}b1")
```

## Operations

- *sin*: sine; for instance:

```
sin("raster1")
```

- *cos*: cosine;
- *tan*: tangent;
- *asin*: inverse sine;
- *acos*: inverse cosine;
- *atan*: inverse tangent;
- *exp*: natural exponential;

- *ln*: natural logarithm;
- *log*: base 10 logarithm;

## Indices

- *NDVI*: if selected, the NDVI calculation is entered in the *Expression*:

```
( "#NIR#" - "#RED#" ) / ( "#NIR#" + "#RED#" ) @ NDVI
```

- *EVI*: if selected, the EVI calculation is entered in the *Expression*:

```
2.5 * ( "#NIR#" - "#RED#" ) / ( "#NIR#" + 6 * "#RED#" - 7.5 * "#BLUE#" + 1 ) @ EVI
```

- *NBR*: if selected, the NBR calculation is entered in the *Expression*:

```
( "#NIR#" - "#SWIR2#" ) / ( "#NIR#" + "#SWIR2#" ) @NBR
```

## Variables

- *nodata*: NoData value of raster (e.g. `nodata("raster1")`); it can be used as value in the expression:

```
where("raster1" == nodata("raster1"), 0, "raster1")
```

- *forbandsets*: it allows for the iteration over *Band sets* defined between square brackets; a range of *Band sets* separated by colon (e.g. `forbandsets[1:3]`) or a list separated by commas (e.g. `forbandsets[1,2,3]`; *forbandsets* must be entered in the first line of expressions (not compatible with *forbandsinbandset*), for instance:

```
forbandsets[1:3]
"bandset#b1" @#BANDSET#
```

During the iteration, the *Input variables* (Pag. 101) related to the active *Band set* are replaced by the iterator, therefore the expression:

```
forbandsets[1:3]
"bandset#b1" @#BANDSET#
```

is equivalent to:

```
"bandset1b1" @calc1
"bandset2b1" @calc2
"bandset3b1" @calc3
```

It is possible to enter a string (or a list of strings separated by comma ,) after the square bracket ] to filter *Band sets* by the name of first band in *Band set*; for instance, the following expression will iterate the first 3 *Band sets* selecting only the *Band set* whose name of the first band includes RT:

```
forbandsets[1,2,3]RT
```

Also, *forbandsets*: allows for the iteration over *Band sets* dates (format yyyy-mm-dd, defined in *Band set definition* (Pag. 46)) between square brackets, such as the following examples:

Iterating over a range of dates:

```
forbandsets[2020-01-01:2020-07-31]
"bandset#b1" @#BANDSET#
```

Iterating over a list of dates:

```
forbandsets[2020-02-01,2020-03-11,2020-04-21]
"bandset#b1" @#BANDSET#
```

Iterating over a list of ranges of dates:

```
forbandsets[2010-01-01:2010-06-31, 2010-08-01:2010-08-31, 2010-10-01:2010-12-31]
"bandset#b1" @#BANDSET#
```

During the iteration, the *Input variables* (Pag. 101) related to the active *Band set* are replaced by the iterator.

It is possible to enter a string (or a list of strings separated by comma ,) after the square bracket ] to filter *Band sets* by the name of first band in *Band set*; for instance, the following expression will iterate the *Band sets* in the range selecting only the *Band set* whose name of the first band includes RT:

```
forbandsets[2020-01-01:2020-07-31]RT
```

- *forbandsinbandset*: it allows for the iteration over bands in a *Band set* or a range of *Band sets* between square brackets; *forbandsinbandset* must be entered in the first line of expressions (not compatible with *forbandsets*); the variable *#BAND#* must be used to refer to the iterated band such as the following examples:

Iterating over the bands of the first *Band set* (note the " in the expression):

```
forbandsinbandset[1]
where("#BAND#" > 1, 1, 2) @#BAND#)
```

Iterating over all the bands of *Band sets* from 1 to 3:

```
forbandsinbandset[1:3]
where("#BAND#" > 1, 1, 2) @#BAND#)
```

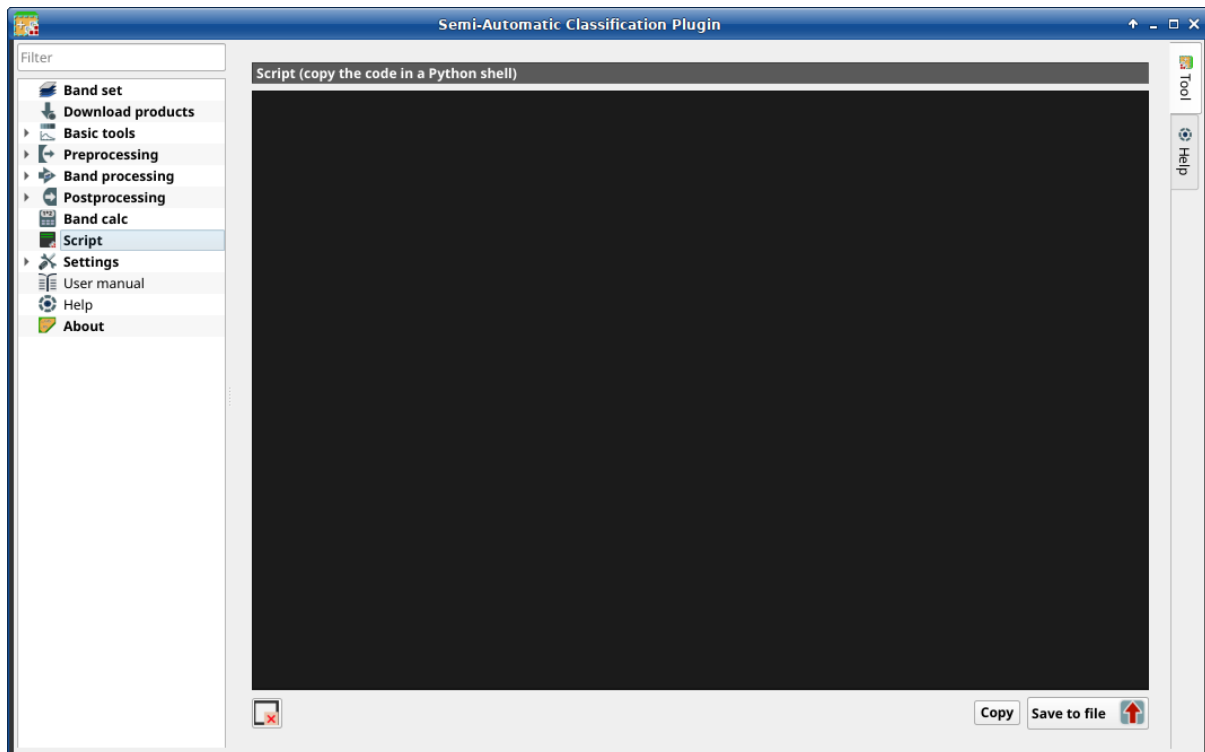
- *#BAND#*:
- *#BANDSET#*: the name of the first band in the *Band set* (Pag. 45);
- *#DATE#*: the current date and time (e.g. 20161110\_113846527764);
- *@*: character @;

### 3.4.8 Script

- *Script* (Pag. 107)

This tab displays the output of the *Script* buttons that are available in several tools, which ease the creation of Python scripts using *Remotior Sensus*.


It is possible to edit or copy the Python code and run it in a Python shell. New code is appended to the existing one, when using the *Script* buttons.

Fig. 46: *Script*

## Script

Tool symbol and name	Description
	clear the content of the script
<i>Copy</i>	copy the content of the script to the clipboard
<i>Save to file</i>	save the script to file .py

## 3.4.9 Settings

The tab  *Settings* allows for the customization of *SCP*.

## Debug

- *Log file* (Pag. 108)
- *Test* (Pag. 108)

This tab allows for the debug of *SCP* in case of issues, and the check of *SCP* dependencies.

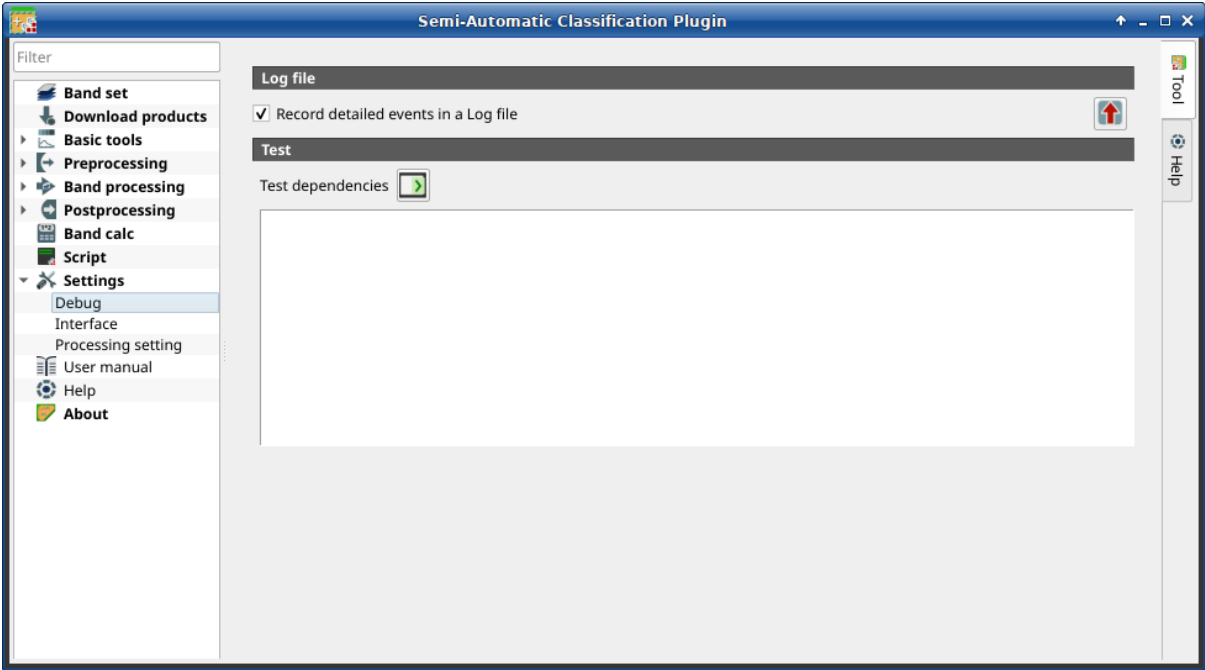





Fig. 47: Debug

Log file

Tool symbol and name	Description
 <i>Record detailed events in a Log file</i>	if checked, start recording detailed events in a Log file
	export the Log file to a .txt file

Test

Tool and name	symbol	Description
<i>Test dependencies</i>		test SCP dependencies (NumPy, SciPy, Matplotlib, GDAL, PyTorch, scikit-learn, Remotior Sensus, Multiprocess, Internet connection)

Interface

- *ROI style* (Pag. 109)
- *Variable name for expressions* (Pag. 109)
- *Temporary group name* (Pag. 110)
- *Dock* (Pag. 110)

This tab includes a few advanced settings of the SCP interface.



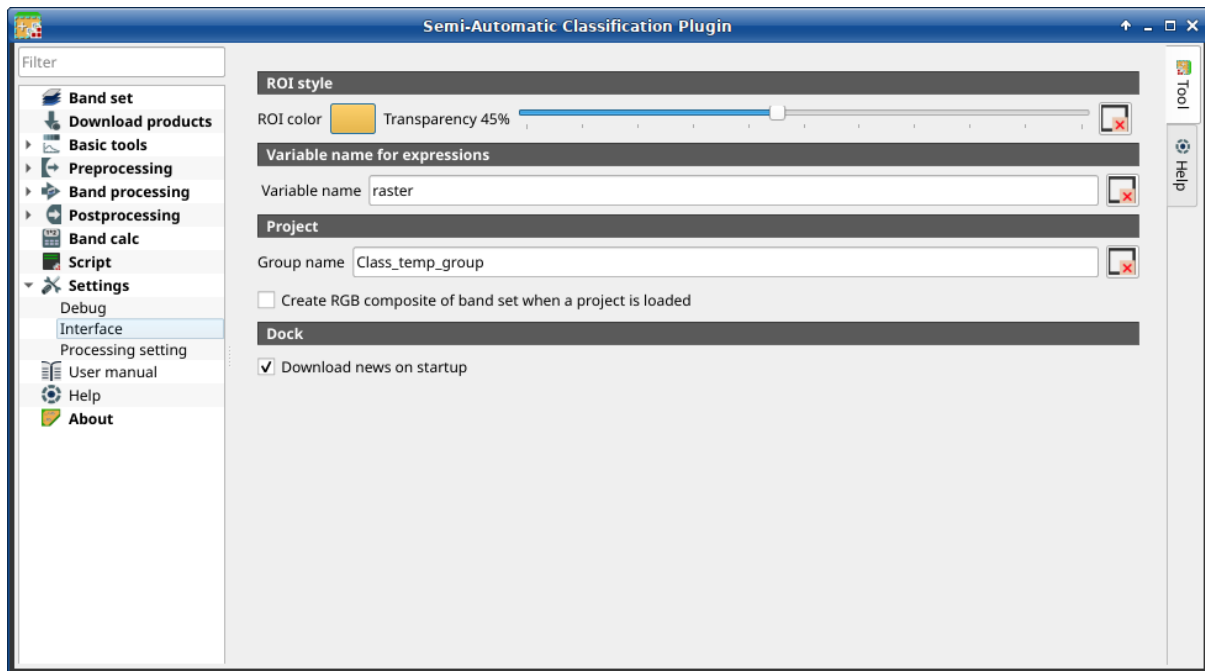






Fig. 48: Interface




## ROI style

Change ROI color and transparency for a better visualization of temporary ROIs on the map.

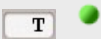



Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>ROI color</i> 	button for changing ROI color
<i>Transparency</i>  	change ROI transparency
	reset ROI color and transparency to default

## Variable name for expressions



Set the variable name used in expressions of the [Reclassification](#) (Pag. 96).

Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>Variable name</i>  	set variable name (default is <code>raster</code> )
	reset variable name to default

## Temporary group name

Tool symbol and name	Description
Group name 	set group name (default is Class_temp_group)
	reset group name to default
 Create RGB composite of band set when a project is loaded 	if checked, a RGB composite of active band set is added to the map when a project is loaded



## Dock

Tool symbol and name	Description
 Download news on startup 	if checked, news about the SCP and related services are downloaded on startup and displayed in Dock; also, it checks for updates of <a href="#">Remotior Sensus</a>

## Processing setting

- [System](#) (Pag. 110)
- [Calculation process](#) (Pag. 111)
- [SMTP process notification](#) (Pag. 112)
- [Temporary directory](#) (Pag. 112)
- [External programs](#) (Pag. 112)

## System

Tool symbol and name	Description
Available RAM (MB) 	set the available RAM (in MB) that is used during the processes in order to improve the SCP performance; this value should be half of the system RAM (e.g. 1024MB if system has 2GB of RAM)
CPU threads 	set the number of threads available for processing; it is recommended to set a value lower than the maximum number of system threads (e.g. if the system has 4 available threads set value 3)

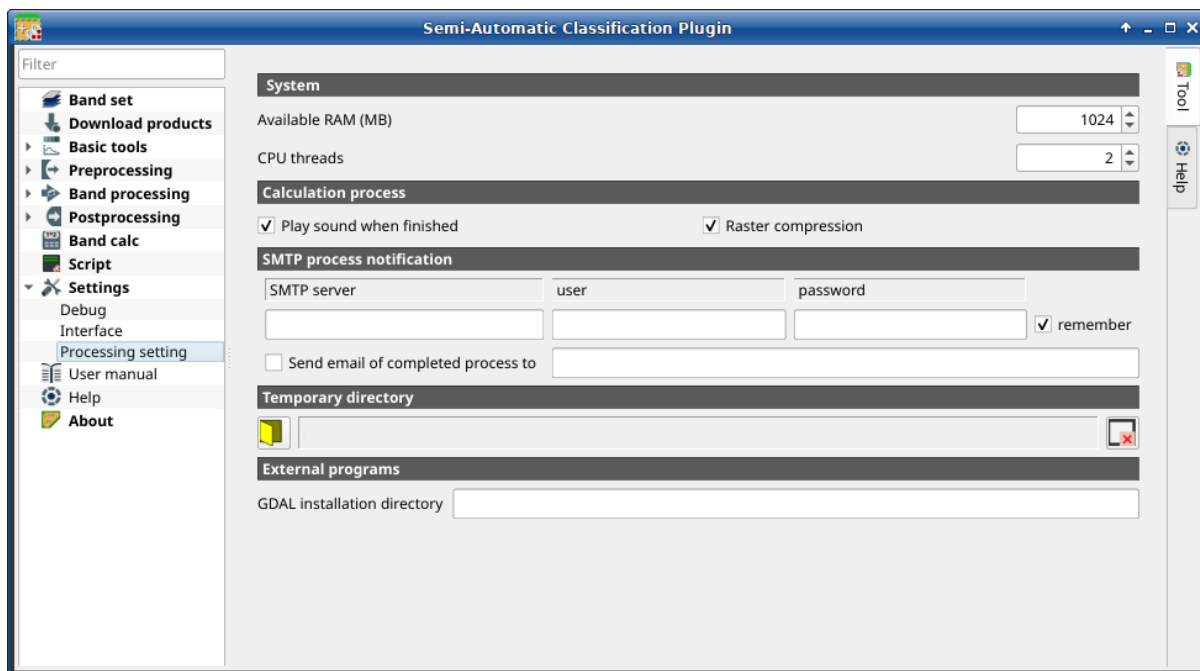







Fig. 49: Processing

### Calculation process




Tool symbol and name	Description
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Play sound when finished</i>	if checked, play a sound when the process is completed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Raster compression</i>	if checked, a lossless compression (DEFLATE or PACKBITS) is applied to raster outputs in order to save disk space; it is recommended to check this option to save disk space, or uncheck to faster the calculation

## SMTP process notification

Tool symbol and name	Description
 <i>SMTP server</i> <input type="text" value="T"/>	the SMTP server to login for sending a notification email when all the <i>SCP</i> processes are finished (a notification is sent also in case of error, but not in case of crash)
<i>user</i> <input type="text" value="T"/> 	the SMTP server user
<i>password</i> <input type="text" value="T"/> 	the SMTP server password
<i>Send email of completed process to</i> <input type="text" value="T"/> 	a list of addresses (separated by comma) to send the notification email to



**Avvertimento:** If  *remember* is checked, the password is stored unencrypted in QGIS registry.

## Temporary directory

Tool symbol and name	Description
 	select a new temporary directory where temporary files are saved during the processing; the path to the current temporary directory is displayed; default is a system temporary directory
	reset to default temporary directory

## External programs

Some tools require external programs to perform the processing.

Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>GDAL installation directory</i> <input type="text" value="T"/>  	enter the path to the GDAL directory containing tools such as <code>gdal_translate</code> and <code>gdalwarp</code> (e.g. <code>/usr/bin</code> ); this parameter is usually not required

## 3.5 Spectral Signature Plot

The window *Spectral Signature Plot* includes several functions for displaying spectral signature values as a function of wavelength (defined in the *Band set* (Pag. 45)). Signatures can be added to the Spectral Signature Plot through the *SCP dock* (Pag. 31).

Overlapping signatures (belonging to different classes or macroclasses) are highlighted in orange in the table *Signature list* (Pag. 113); the overlapping check is performed considering *MC ID* or *C ID* according to the setting *Use*

☒ *MC ID* ☒ *C ID* in *Classification* (Pag. 74). Overlapping signatures sharing the same *ID* are not highlighted.

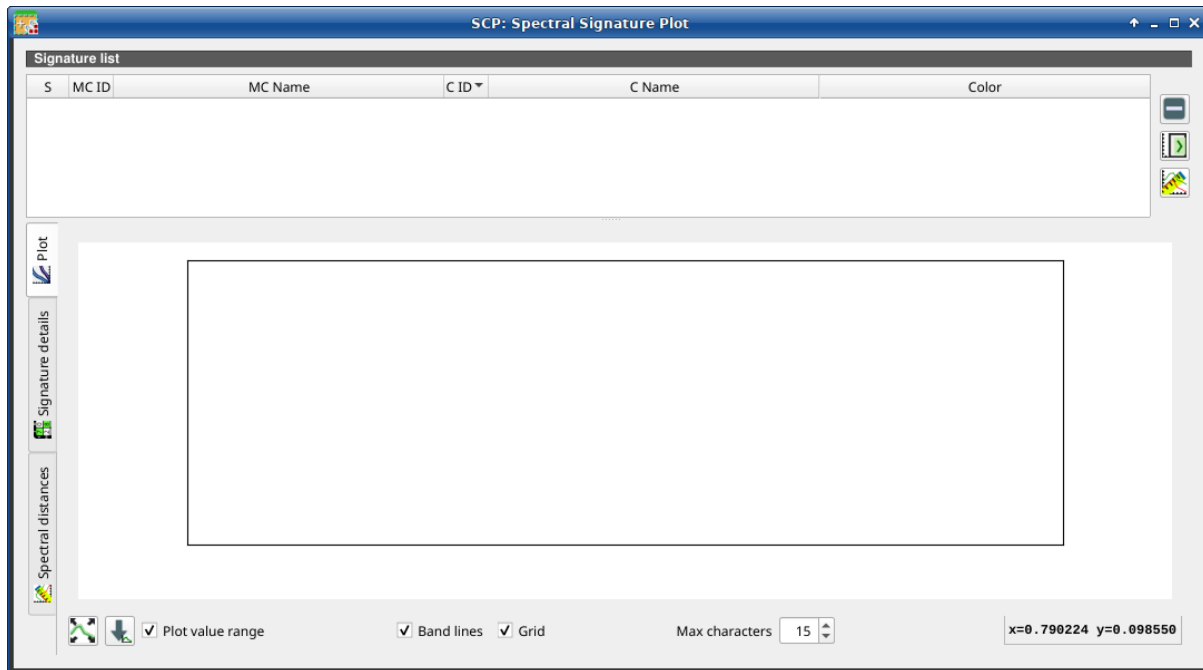





Fig. 50: *Spectral Signature Plot*

### 3.5.1 Signature list

The *Signature list* is a table that includes the spectral signatures added from the *SCP dock* (Pag. 31).

S	MC ID	MC Na- me	C ID	C Na- me	Color
checkbox field; if checked, the spectral signature is displayed in the plot	signature Macro- class ID	signature Macro- class Name	signature Class ID	signature Class Name	signature color; also, the combination <i>MC ID-C ID</i> is displayed in case of overlap with other signatures



The following tools are available.

Tool symbol and name	Description
	remove highlighted signatures from this list
	add highlighted spectral signatures to <i>ROI &amp; Signature list</i> (Pag. 36)
	calculate the spectral distances of spectral signatures displayed in the plot; distances are reported in the tab <i>Spectral distances</i> (Pag. 114)

## Plot

**Left click** and hold inside the plot to **move** the view of the plot. Use the **mouse wheel** to **zoom in and out** the view of the plot. **Right click** and hold inside the plot to **zoom in a specific area** of the plot. Legend inside the plot can be moved using the mouse.

The following tools are available.

Tool symbol and name	Description
	automatically fit the plot to data
	save the plot image to file (available formats are .jpg, .png, and .pdf)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Plot value range</i>	if checked, plot the value range for each signature with a semi-transparent area
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Band lines</i>	if checked, display a vertical line for each band (center wavelength)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Grid</i>	if checked, display a grid
<i>Max characters</i> <input type="text" value="1"/>	set the maximum length of text in the legend
<i>x y</i>	display x y coordinates of mouse cursor inside the plot

## Signature details

Display the details about spectral signatures (i.e. Wavelength, Values, and Standard deviation). In case of signatures calculated from ROIs, the ROI size (number of pixels) is also displayed.

## Spectral distances

Display spectral distances of signatures (see *Signature list* (Pag. 113)), which are useful for assessing ROI separability (see *Spectral Distance* (Pag. 142)).

**The following spectral distances are calculated :**

- *Spectral Angle* (Pag. 142): range [0 = identical, 90 = different]; useful in particular for *Spectral Angle Mapping* (Pag. 138) classifications
- *Euclidean Distance* (Pag. 143): useful in particular for *Minimum Distance* (Pag. 135) classifications
- *Bray-Curtis Similarity* (Pag. 143): range [0 = different, 100 = identical]; useful in general

Values are displayed in red if signatures are particularly similar.

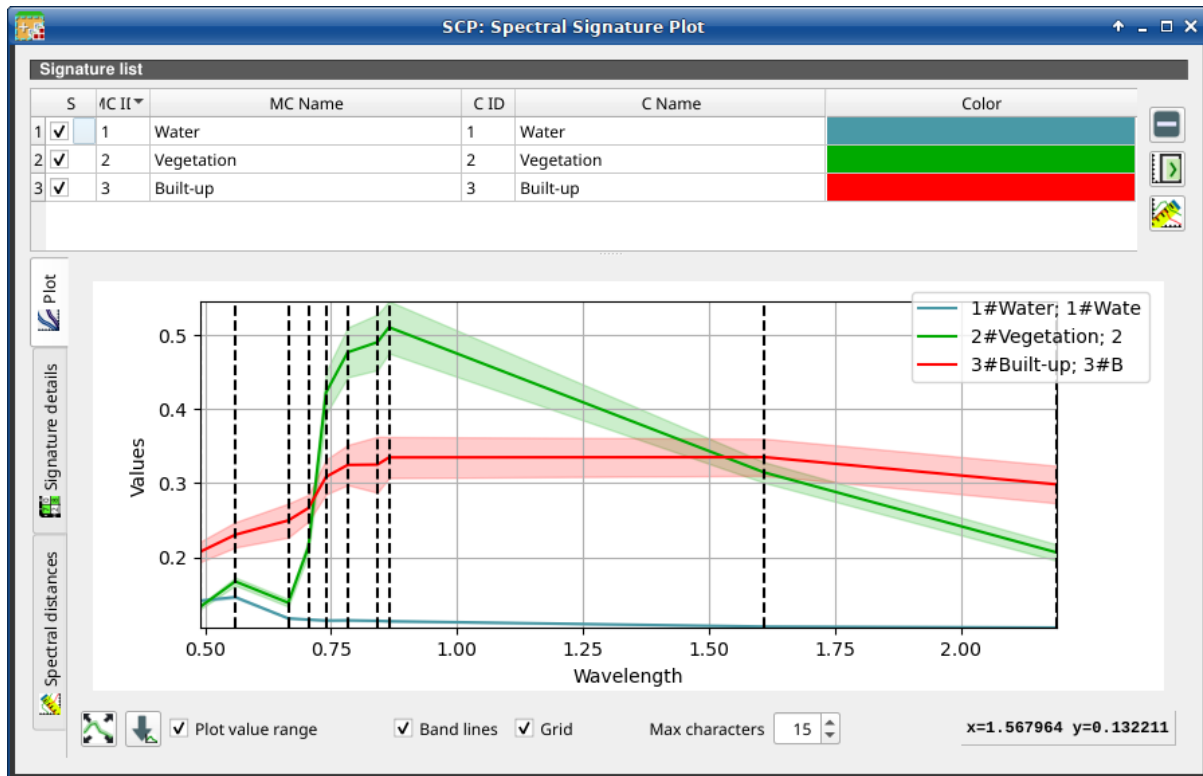


Fig. 51: Spectral Signature: Example of plot

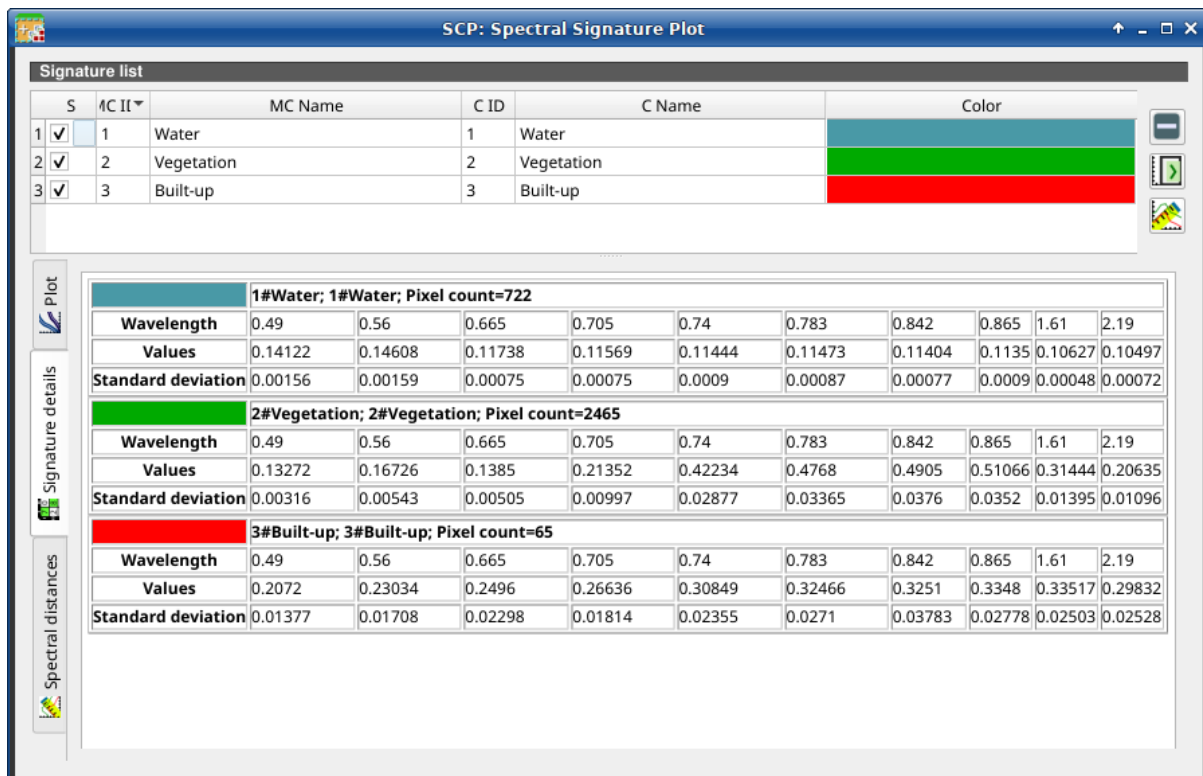


Fig. 52: Spectral Signature: Example of signature details

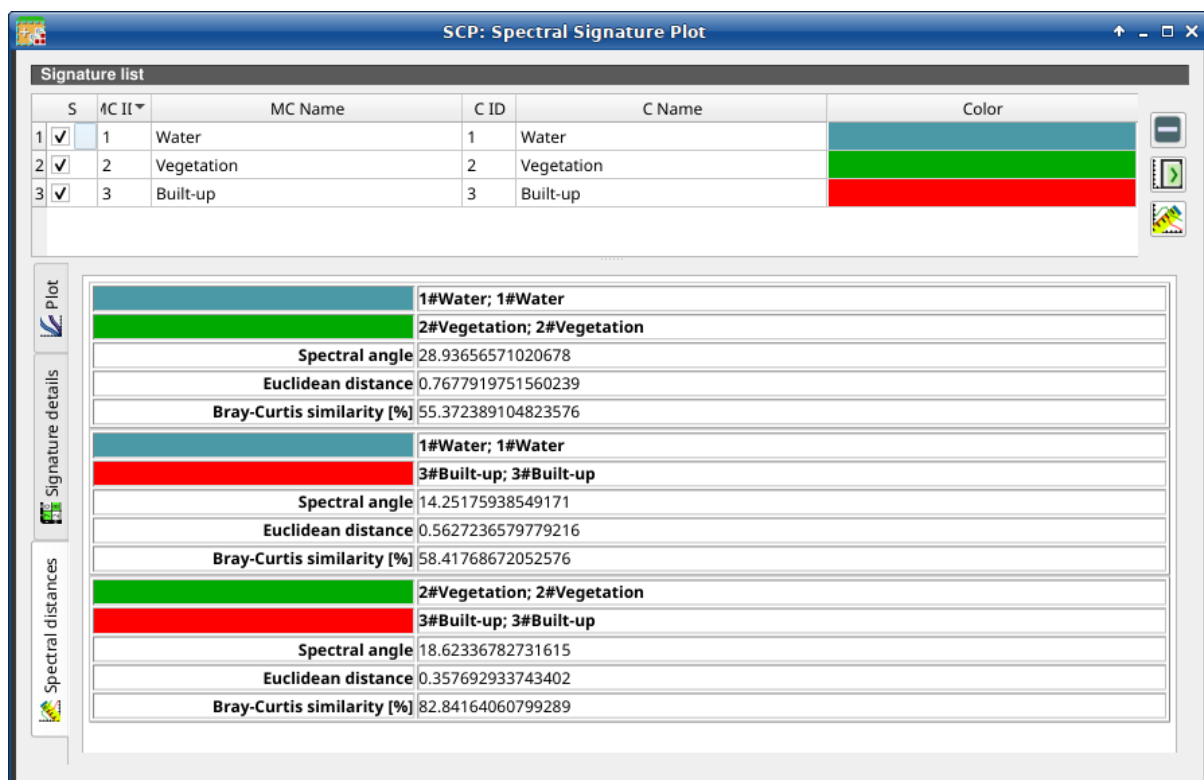


Fig. 53: Spectral Signature: Example of spectral distances

## 3.6 Scatter Plot

The window *Scatter plot* displays pixel values for two raster bands as points in the 2D space. Scatter plots are useful for assessing ROI separability between two bands.

The functions are described in detail in the following paragraphs.

### 3.6.1 Scatter list

The *Scatter list* is a table that includes the spectral signatures added from the *SCP dock* (Pag. 31).

S	MC ID	MC Name	C ID	C Name	Color
checkbox field; if checked, the spectral signature is displayed in the plot	signature Macroclass ID	signature Macroclass Name	signature Class ID	signature Class Name	signature color

The following tools are available.



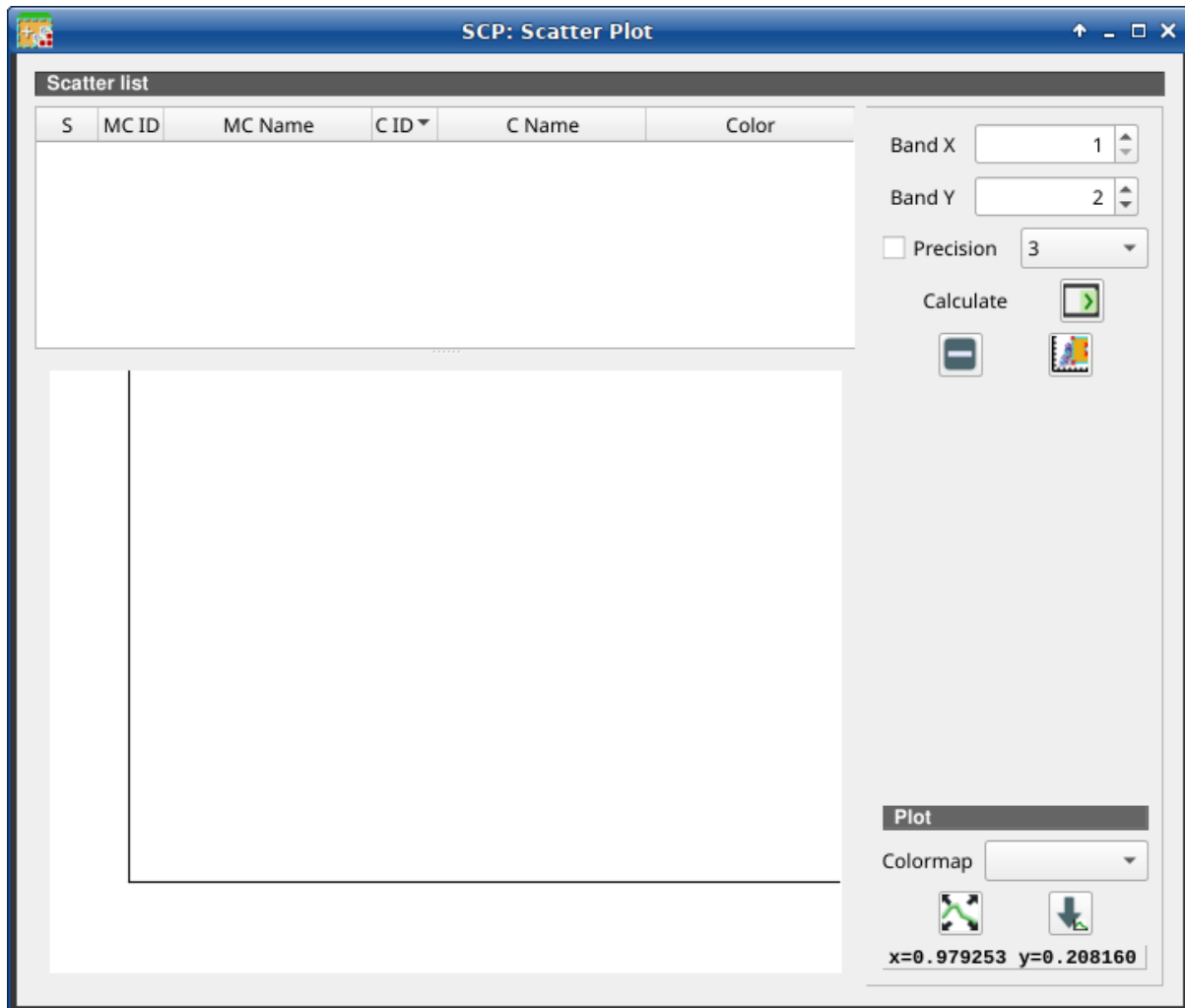
















Fig. 54: Scatter Plot

Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>Band X</i> 	X band of the plot
<i>Band Y</i> 	Y band of the plot
	remove highlighted signatures from this list
	add highlighted spectral signatures to <i>ROI &amp; Signature list</i> (Pag. 36)
 <i>Precision</i> 	use custom precision for calculation (precision should be selected according significant digits): * 4 = $10^{-4}$ * 3 = $10^{-3}$ * 2 = $10^{-2}$ * 1 = $10^{-1}$ * 0 = 1 * -1 = 10 * -2 = $10^2$ * -3 = $10^3$
<i>Calculate</i> 	calculate the scatter plot for the ROIs checked in the list
	remove highlighted signatures from this list
	add a temporary scatter plot to the list (as MC Name = tempScatter) and start the plot calculation of the last temporary ROI (see <i>Working toolbar</i> (Pag. 41))

**Avvertimento:** Using a precision value that is too high can result in slow calculation or failure.

## Plot

**Left click** and hold inside the plot to **move** the view of the plot. Use the **mouse wheel** to **zoom in and out** the view of the plot. **Right click** and hold inside the plot to **zoom in a specific area** of the plot.

Tool symbol and name	Description
<i>Colormap</i>  	select a colormap that is applied to highlighted scatter plots in the list when  is clicked; if no scatter plot is highlighted then the colormap is applied to all the scatter plots
	automatically fit the plot to data
	save the plot image to file (available formats are .jpg, .png, and .pdf)
<i>x y</i>	display x y coordinates of mouse cursor inside the plot

## 3.7 Integration in QGIS Processing

Several *SCP* tools can be accessed from the QGIS Processing Toolbox, and can be used to create models. The tools are available in the menu *Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin*.

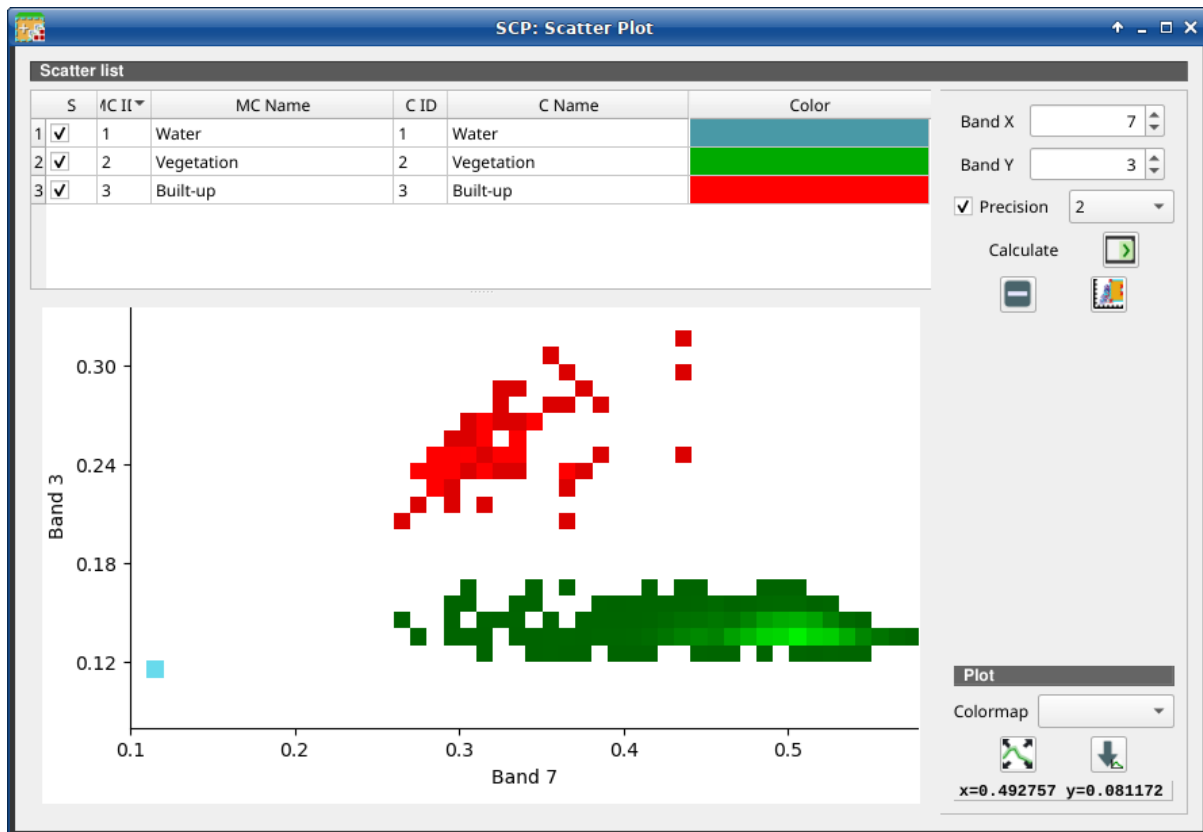
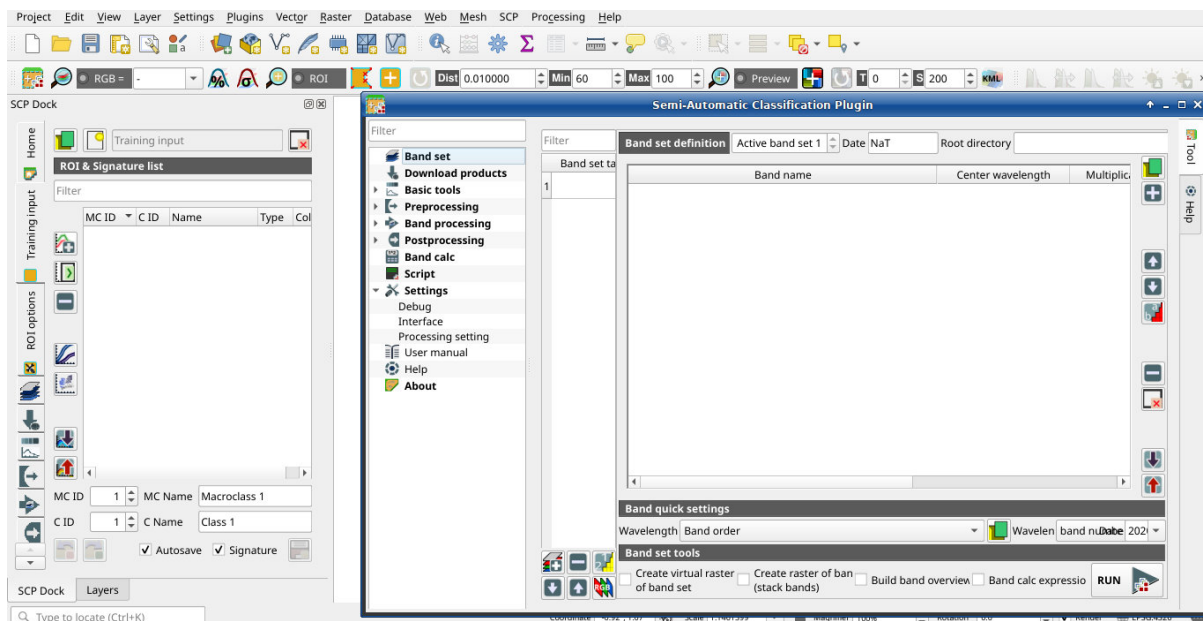


Fig. 55: Example Scatter Plot



The functions described in the following paragraphs use these conventions:

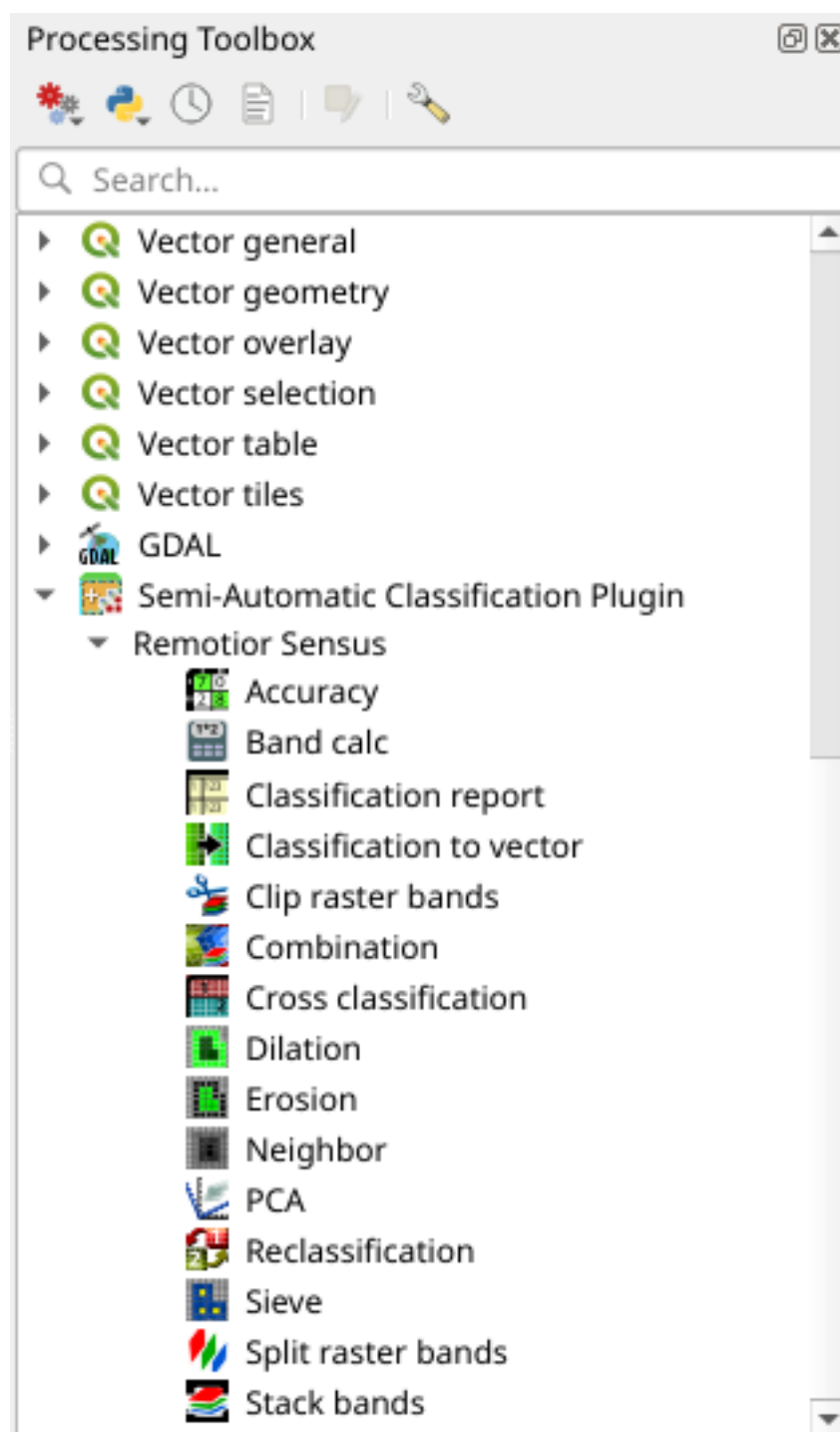











Fig. 56: *Integration in QGIS Processing Toolbox*

	Input date
	Input text
	List
	Input number
	Optional
	Configuration stored in the active project of QGIS
	Configuration stored in QGIS registry
	Slider
	Table



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Brief Introduction to Remote Sensing

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  - *GIS definition* (Pag. 124)
  - *Remote Sensing definition* (Pag. 124)
  - *Sensors* (Pag. 126)
  - *Radiance and Reflectance* (Pag. 126)
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- *Multispectral satellites* (Pag. 127)
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- *Spectral Distance* (Pag. 142)
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## 4.1 Basic Definitions

This chapter provides basic definitions about GIS and remote sensing.

### 4.1.1 GIS definition

There are several definitions of **GIS** (Geographic Information Systems), which is not simply a program. In general, GIS are systems that allow for the use of geographic information (data have spatial coordinates). In particular, GIS allow for the view, query, calculation and analysis of spatial data, which are mainly distinguished in raster or vector data structures. Vector is made of objects that can be points, lines or polygons, and each object can have one or more attribute values; a raster is a grid (or image) where each cell has an attribute value (Fisher and Unwin, 2005). Several GIS applications use raster images that are derived from remote sensing.

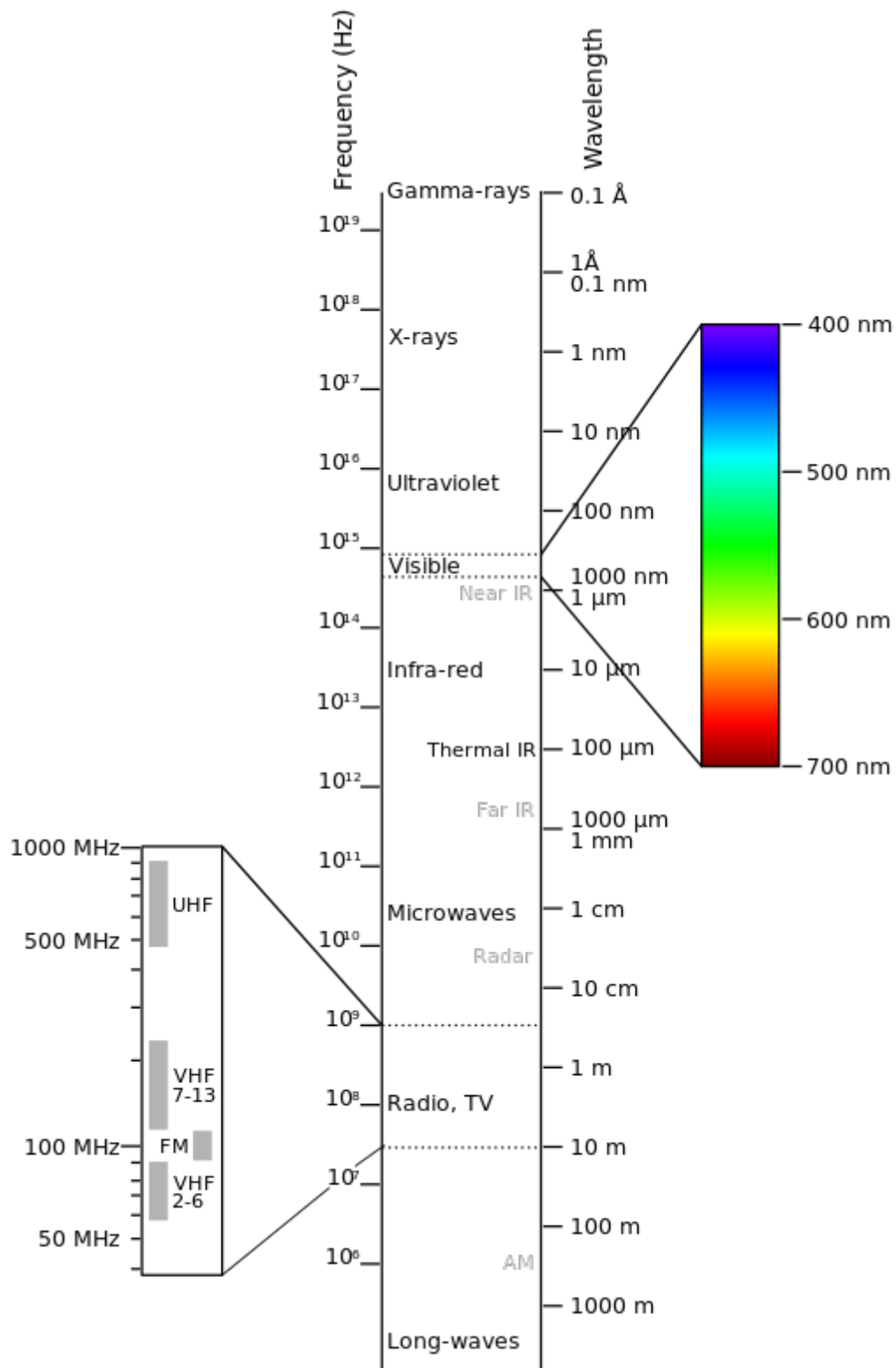
### 4.1.2 Remote Sensing definition

A general definition of **Remote Sensing** is «the science and technology by which the characteristics of objects of interest can be identified, measured or analyzed the characteristics without direct contact» (JARS, 1993).

Usually, remote sensing is the measurement of the energy that is emanated from the Earth's surface. If the source of the measured energy is the sun, then it is called **passive remote sensing**, and the result of this measurement can be a digital image (Richards and Jia, 2006). If the measured energy is not emitted by the Sun but from the sensor platform then it is defined as **active remote sensing**, such as radar sensors which work in the microwave range (Richards and Jia, 2006).

The **electromagnetic spectrum** is «the system that classifies, according to wavelength, all energy (from short cosmic to long radio) that moves, harmonically, at the constant velocity of light» (NASA, 2013). Passive sensors measure energy from the optical regions of the electromagnetic spectrum: visible, near infrared (i.e. IR), short-wave IR, and thermal IR (see Figure *Electromagnetic-Spectrum* (Pag. 125)).



Fig. 1: *Electromagnetic-Spectrum*

by Victor Blacus (SVG version of File:Electromagnetic-Spectrum.png)

[CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)]

via Wikimedia Commons

<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3AElectromagnetic-Spectrum.svg>

The interaction between solar energy and materials depends on the wavelength; solar energy goes from the Sun to the Earth and then to the sensor. Along this path, **solar energy** is (NASA, 2013):

- **Transmitted** - The energy passes through with a change in velocity as determined by the index of refraction for the two media in question.
- **Absorbed** - The energy is given up to the object through electron or molecular reactions.
- **Reflected** - The energy is returned unchanged with the angle of incidence equal to the angle of reflection. Reflectance is the ratio of reflected energy to that incident on a body. The wavelength reflected (not absorbed) determines the color of an object.
- **Scattered** - The direction of energy propagation is randomly changed. Rayleigh and Mie scatter are the two most important types of scatter in the atmosphere.
- **Emitted** - Actually, the energy is first absorbed, then re-emitted, usually at longer wavelengths. The object heats up.

### 4.1.3 Sensors

**Sensors** can be on board of airplanes or on board of satellites, measuring the electromagnetic radiation at specific ranges (usually called bands). As a result, the measures are quantized and converted into a digital image, where each picture elements (i.e. pixel) has a discrete value in units of Digital Number (DN) (NASA, 2013). The resulting images have different characteristics (resolutions) depending on the sensor. There are several kinds of **resolutions**:

- **Spatial resolution**, usually measured in pixel size, «is the resolving power of an instrument needed for the discrimination of features and is based on detector size, focal length, and sensor altitude» (NASA, 2013); spatial resolution is also referred to as geometric resolution or IFOV;
- **Spectral resolution**, is the number and location in the electromagnetic spectrum (defined by two wavelengths) of the spectral bands (NASA, 2013) in multispectral sensors, for each band corresponds an image;
- **Radiometric resolution**, usually measured in bits (binary digits), is the range of available brightness values, which in the image correspond to the maximum range of DNs; for example an image with 8 bit resolution has 256 levels of brightness (Richards and Jia, 2006);
- For satellites sensors, there is also the **temporal resolution**, which is the time required for revisiting the same area of the Earth (NASA, 2013).

### 4.1.4 Radiance and Reflectance

Sensors measure the **radiance**, which corresponds to the brightness in a given direction toward the sensor; it useful to define also the **reflectance** as the ratio of reflected versus total power energy.

### 4.1.5 Spectral Signature

The **spectral signature** is the reflectance as a function of wavelength (see Figure *Spectral Reflectance Curves of Four Different Targets* (Pag. 127)); each material has a unique signature, therefore it can be used for material classification (NASA, 2013).

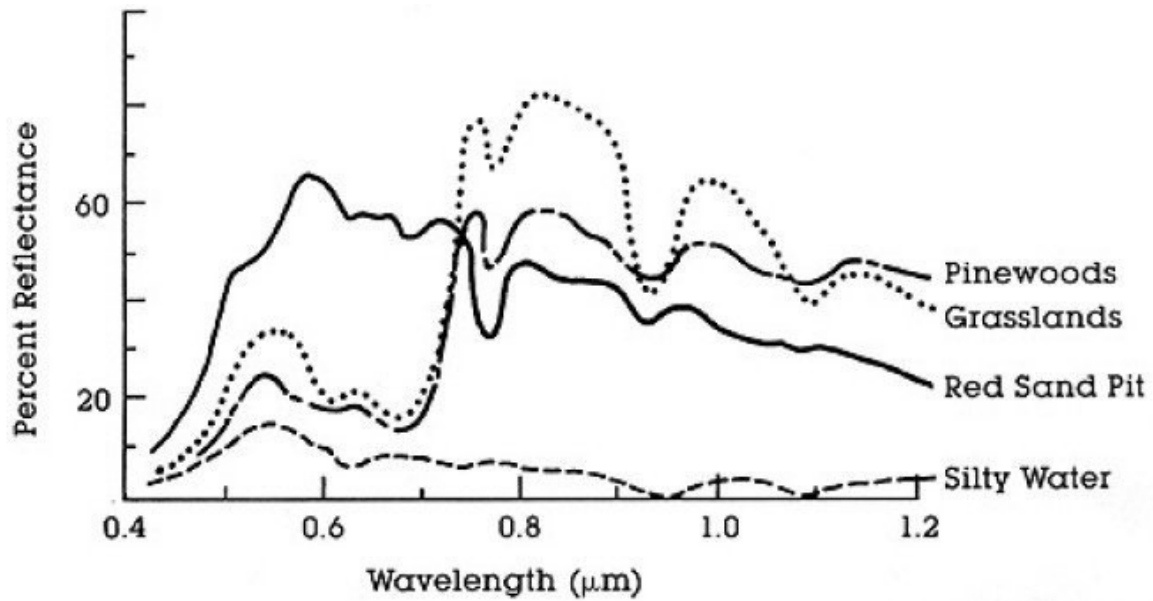


Fig. 2: *Spectral Reflectance Curves of Four Different Targets*  
(from NASA, 2013)

#### 4.1.6 Land Cover

**Land cover** is the material at the ground, such as soil, vegetation, water, asphalt, etc. (Fisher and Unwin, 2005). Depending on the sensor resolutions, the number and kind of land cover classes that can be identified in the image can vary significantly.

## 4.2 Multispectral satellites

There are several satellites with different characteristics that acquire multispectral images of earth surface. The following satellites are particularly useful for land cover monitoring because images are provided for free and can be downloaded directly from SCP; data have been acquired for the past few decades and the archive is continuously growing with recent images.

### 4.2.1 Landsat Satellites

**Landsat** is a set of multispectral satellites developed by the NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration of USA), since the early 1970's.

Landsat images are very used for environmental research. The resolutions of Landsat 4 and Landsat 5 sensors are reported in the following table (from [http://landsat.usgs.gov/band\\_designations\\_landsat\\_satellites.php](http://landsat.usgs.gov/band_designations_landsat_satellites.php)); also, Landsat temporal resolution is 16 days (NASA, 2013).

*Landsat 4 and Landsat 5 Bands*

Landsat 4, Landsat 5 Bands	Wavelength [micrometers]	Resolution [meters]
Band 1 - Blue	0.45 - 0.52	30
Band 2 - Green	0.52 - 0.60	30
Band 3 - Red	0.63 - 0.69	30
Band 4 - Near Infrared (NIR)	0.76 - 0.90	30
Band 5 - SWIR	1.55 - 1.75	30
Band 6 - Thermal Infrared	10.40 - 12.50	120 (resampled to 30)
Band 7 - SWIR	2.08 - 2.35	30

The resolutions of Landsat 7 sensor are reported in the following table (from [http://landsat.usgs.gov/band\\_designations\\_landsat\\_satellites.php](http://landsat.usgs.gov/band_designations_landsat_satellites.php)); also, Landsat temporal resolution is 16 days (NASA, 2013).

*Landsat 7 Bands*

Landsat 7 Bands	Wavelength [micrometers]	Resolution [meters]
Band 1 - Blue	0.45 - 0.52	30
Band 2 - Green	0.52 - 0.60	30
Band 3 - Red	0.63 - 0.69	30
Band 4 - Near Infrared (NIR)	0.77 - 0.90	30
Band 5 - SWIR	1.57 - 1.75	30
Band 6 - Thermal Infrared	10.40 - 12.50	60 (resampled to 30)
Band 7 - SWIR	2.09 - 2.35	30
Band 8 - Panchromatic	0.52 - 0.90	15

The resolutions of Landsat 8 sensor are reported in the following table (from [http://landsat.usgs.gov/band\\_designations\\_landsat\\_satellites.php](http://landsat.usgs.gov/band_designations_landsat_satellites.php)); also, Landsat temporal resolution is 16 days (NASA, 2013).

*Landsat 8 Bands*

Landsat 8 Bands	Wavelength [micrometers]	Resolution [meters]
Band 1 - Coastal aerosol	0.43 - 0.45	30
Band 2 - Blue	0.45 - 0.51	30
Band 3 - Green	0.53 - 0.59	30
Band 4 - Red	0.64 - 0.67	30
Band 5 - Near Infrared (NIR)	0.85 - 0.88	30
Band 6 - SWIR 1	1.57 - 1.65	30
Band 7 - SWIR 2	2.11 - 2.29	30
Band 8 - Panchromatic	0.50 - 0.68	15
Band 9 - Cirrus	1.36 - 1.38	30
Band 10 - Thermal Infrared (TIRS) 1	10.60 - 11.19	100 (resampled to 30)
Band 11 - Thermal Infrared (TIRS) 2	11.50 - 12.51	100 (resampled to 30)

A vast archive of images is freely available from the [U.S. Geological Survey](#) . For more information about how to freely download Landsat images read [this](#) .

Images are identified with the paths and rows of the WRS ([Worldwide Reference System for Landsat](#) ).

### 4.2.2 Sentinel-2 Satellite

**Sentinel-2** is a multispectral satellite developed by the European Space Agency (ESA) in the frame of [Copernicus](#) land monitoring services. Sentinel-2 acquires 13 spectral bands with the spatial resolution of 10m, 20m and 60m depending on the band, as illustrated in the following table (ESA, 2015).

*Sentinel-2 Bands*

Sentinel-2 Bands	Central Wavelength [micrometers]	Resolution [meters]
Band 1 - Coastal aerosol	0.443	60
Band 2 - Blue	0.490	10
Band 3 - Green	0.560	10
Band 4 - Red	0.665	10
Band 5 - Vegetation Red Edge	0.705	20
Band 6 - Vegetation Red Edge	0.740	20
Band 7 - Vegetation Red Edge	0.783	20
Band 8 - NIR	0.842	10
Band 8A - Vegetation Red Edge	0.865	20
Band 9 - Water vapour	0.945	60
Band 10 - SWIR - Cirrus	1.375	60
Band 11 - SWIR	1.610	20
Band 12 - SWIR	2.190	20

Sentinel-2 images are freely available from the ESA website <https://scihub.copernicus.eu>.

### 4.2.3 Sentinel-3 Satellite

**Sentinel-3** is a satellite developed by the European Space Agency (ESA) in the frame of [Copernicus](#) land monitoring services. It carries several instruments, in particular the Ocean and Land Colour Instrument (OLCI) is a push-broom imaging spectrometer acquiring 21 bands in the range 0.4-1.02 m with a swath width of 1,270km and 300m spatial resolution (ESA, 2013). The revisit time is about 2 days.

*Sentinel-3 Bands*

Sentinel-3 Bands	Central Wavelength [micrometers]
Oa1	0.400
Oa2	0.4125
Oa3	0.4425
Oa4	0.490
Oa5	0.510
Oa6	0.560
Oa7	0.620
Oa8	0.665
Oa9	0.67375
Oa10	0.68125
Oa11	0.70875
Oa12	0.75375
Oa13	0.76125
Oa14	0.764375
Oa15	0.7675
Oa16	0.77875
Oa17	0.865
Oa18	0.885
Oa19	0.900
Oa20	0.940
Oa21	1.020

#### 4.2.4 ASTER Satellite

The **ASTER** (Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer) satellite was launched in 1999 by a collaboration between the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and the NASA. ASTER has 14 bands whose spatial resolution varies with wavelength: 15m in the visible and near-infrared, 30m in the short wave infrared, and 90m in the thermal infrared (USGS, 2015). ASTER bands are illustrated in the following table (due to a sensor failure **SWIR data acquired since April 1, 2008 is not available**). An additional band 3B (backwardlooking near-infrared) provides stereo coverage.

*ASTER Bands*

ASTER Bands	Wavelength [micrometers]	Resolution [meters]
Band 1 - Green	0.52 - 0.60	15
Band 2 - Red	0.63 - 0.69	15
Band 3N - Near Infrared (NIR)	0.78 - 0.86	15
Band 4 - SWIR 1	1.60 - 1.70	30
Band 5 - SWIR 2	2.145 - 2.185	30
Band 6 - SWIR 3	2.185 - 2.225	30
Band 7 - SWIR 4	2.235 - 2.285	30
Band 8 - SWIR 5	2.295 - 2.365	30
Band 9 - SWIR 6	2.360 - 2.430	30
Band 10 - TIR 1	8.125 - 8.475	90
Band 11 - TIR 2	8.475 - 8.825	90
Band 12 - TIR 3	8.925 - 9.275	90
Band 13 - TIR 4	10.25 - 10.95	90
Band 14 - TIR 5	10.95 - 11.65	90

#### 4.2.5 MODIS Products

The **MODIS** (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) is an instrument operating on the Terra and Aqua satellites launched by NASA in 1999 and 2002 respectively. Its temporal resolutions allows for viewing the entire Earth surface every one to two days, with a swath width of 2,330km. Its sensors measure 36 spectral bands at three spatial resolutions: 250m, 500m, and 1,000m (see [https://lpdaac.usgs.gov/dataset\\_discovery/modis](https://lpdaac.usgs.gov/dataset_discovery/modis)).

Several products are available, such as surface reflectance and vegetation indices. In this manual we are considering the surface reflectance bands available at 250m and 500m spatial resolution (Vermote, Roger, & Ray, 2015).

*MODIS Bands*

MODIS Bands	Wavelength [micrometers]	Resolution [meters]
Band 1 - Red	0.62 - 0.67	250 - 500
Band 2 - Near Infrared (NIR)	0.841 - 0.876	250 - 500
Band 3 - Blue	0.459 - 0.479	500
Band 4 - Green	0.545 - 0.565	500
Band 5 - SWIR 1	1.230 - 1.250	500
Band 6 - SWIR 2	1.628 - 1.652	500
Band 7 - SWIR 3	2.105 - 2.155	500

The following products (Version 6, see [https://lpdaac.usgs.gov/dataset\\_discovery/modis/modis\\_products\\_table](https://lpdaac.usgs.gov/dataset_discovery/modis/modis_products_table)) are available for download (Vermote, Roger, & Ray, 2015):

- MOD09GQ: daily reflectance at 250m spatial resolution from Terra MODIS;
- MYD09GQ: daily reflectance at 250m spatial resolution from Aqua MODIS;
- MOD09GA: daily reflectance at 500m spatial resolution from Terra MODIS;
- MYD09GA: daily reflectance at 500m spatial resolution from Aqua MODIS;

- MOD09Q1: reflectance at 250m spatial resolution, which is a composite of MOD09GQ (each pixel contains the best possible observation during an 8-day period);
- MYD09Q1: reflectance at 250m spatial resolution, which is a composite of MYD09GQ (each pixel contains the best possible observation during an 8-day period);
- MOD09A1: reflectance at 250m spatial resolution, which is a composite of MOD09GA (each pixel contains the best possible observation during an 8-day period);
- MYD09A1: reflectance at 250m spatial resolution, which is a composite of MYD09GA (each pixel contains the best possible observation during an 8-day period);

#### 4.2.6 GOES Products

The **Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite-R Series (GOES-R)** are geostationary satellites developed for weather monitoring by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the NASA (NOAA, 2020).

GOES constellation is composed of **GOES-R** satellite (also known as GOES-16 that replaced GOES-13 on December 2017), and **GOES-S** satellite (also known as GOES-17, operational since February 2019). Other satellites (GOES-T and GOES-U) are planned to be launched in the future. For more information please visit <https://www.goes-r.gov/mission/mission.html>.

GOES geostationary satellites monitor continuously the same area, a very large portion of Earth surface with three geographic coverage regions: Full Disk, Continental United States (CONUS), and Mesoscale. In particular, Full Disk products have hemispheric coverage of 83° local zenith angle, and images are acquired every 5-15 minutes. GOES-16 monitors from 75.2 degrees west longitude, including America, the Atlantic Ocean, and the west coast of Africa. GOES-17 monitors from 137.2 degrees west longitude, including the Pacific Ocean.

GOES sensors include several spectral bands.

##### *GOES Bands*

GOES Bands	Central Wavelength [micrometers]	Resolution [meters]
Band 1 - Blue	0.47	1000
Band 2 - Red	0.64	500
Band 3 - Near Infrared (NIR)	0.87	1000
Band 4 - SWIR - Cirrus	1.38	2000
Band 5 - SWIR	1.61	1000
Band 6 - SWIR	2.25	2000

### 4.3 SAR satellites

**Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)** is a technique of active remote sensing that is the sensor platform emits microwaves in order to acquire images of the ground (Richards and Jia, 2006). In fact, the sensor platform emits the radiation (at a specific wavelength) and measures the magnitude and the phase of radiation that bounces back from the ground to the sensor.

Unlike passive sensors, SAR systems can work day and night and can penetrate clouds allowing for the monitoring of surface also with adverse meteorological conditions; depending on the microwave wavelength, the radiation can penetrate different types of materials allowing for different applications (NASA, 2020).

The main SAR systems can be divided according to the wavelength as illustrated in the following table (NASA, 2020):

##### *Main SAR Bands*

Band	Wavelength [centi-meters]	Application
X	3.8 – 2.4	High Resolution SAR, urban monitoring, ice and snow, little penetration into vegetation cover
C	7.5 – 3.8	global mapping, change detection, ice, low penetration into vegetation cover
S	15 – 7.5	global mapping, agriculture monitoring, medium penetration into vegetation cover
L	30 – 15	Medium resolution SAR, biomass and vegetation mapping, high penetration into vegetation cover

Usually, SAR sensors can emit and measure different polarizations (i.e. orientation of the microwaves of the electric field), for instance vertical (i.e. polarization oriented in the vertical direction in antenna coordinates) and horizontal (i.e. polarization oriented in the horizontal direction in antenna coordinates) (ESA, 2020).

SAR systems can acquire in both ascending and descending orbits, however the acquired images are affected by the different acquisition geometries, which should be considered when mixing ascending and descending images.

Acquisitions are called *swaths* and usually they are composed of sub-swaths. With particular acquisition modes, the resolution of pixels along track (the side parallel to the flight direction) can be different than slant-range (the side perpendicular to the flight direction).

SAR phase information is used to perform interferometry (also InSAR) to measure the distance from the sensor to the target (NASA, 2020).

For more information, please read the [ESA introduction to SAR](#) and the [NASA definition of SAR](#).

### 4.3.1 Sentinel-1 Satellites

**Sentinel-1** is a [Copernicus mission](#) of satellites that operate at C-band to provide SAR imagery at medium resolution (about 10m).

The Sentinel-1 constellation provides high revisit time (about 5 days), a wide swath (250 km), and acquires images in different operational modes. The primary operation mode on land is the Interferometric Wide swath (IW), which is data is acquired in three swaths using the Terrain Observation with Progressive Scanning SAR (TOPSAR) imaging technique (ESA, 2020b).

The Level-1 products systematically delivered by Copernicus are Single Look Complex (SLC, data comprising complex imagery with amplitude and phase) and **Ground Range Detected** (GRD, Level-1 data with multi-looked intensity only).

Sentinel-1 supports dual polarization, which are horizontal (H) or vertical (V); VV and VH polarimetric channels are available to classify and analyze land cover such as built-up areas or vegetation.

## 4.4 Land Cover Classification

This chapter provides basic definitions about land cover classifications.



### 4.4.1 Supervised Classification

A **semi-automatic classification** (also supervised classification) is an image processing technique that allows for the identification of materials in an image, according to their spectral signatures. There are several kinds of classification algorithms, but the general purpose is to produce a thematic map of the land cover.

Image processing and GIS spatial analyses require specific software such as the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin for QGIS.

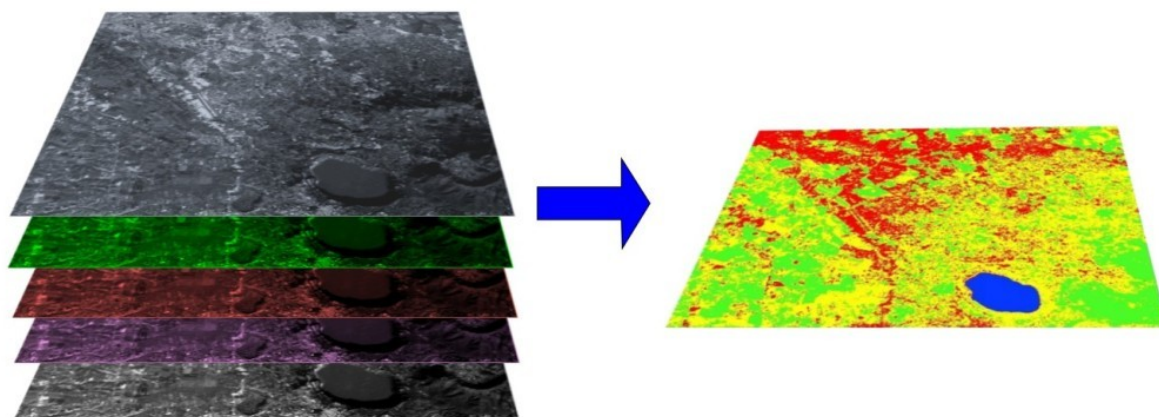


Fig. 3: A multispectral image processed to produce a land cover classification  
(Landsat image provided by USGS)

### 4.4.2 Color Composite

Often, a combination is created of three individual monochrome images, in which each is assigned a given color; this is defined **color composite** and is useful for photo interpretation (NASA, 2013). Color composites are usually expressed as:

«R G B = Br Bg Bb»

where:

- R stands for Red;
- G stands for Green;
- B stands for Blue;
- Br is the band number associated to the Red color;
- Bg is the band number associated to the Green color;
- Bb is the band number associated to the Blue color.

The following Figure *Color composite of a Landsat 8 image* (Pag. 134) shows a color composite «R G B = 4 3 2» of a Landsat 8 image (for Landsat 7 the same color composite is R G B = 3 2 1; for Sentinel-2 is R G B = 4 3 2) and a color composite «R G B = 5 4 3» (for Landsat 7 the same color composite is R G B = 4 3 2; for Sentinel-2 is R G B = 8 4 3). The composite «R G B = 5 4 3» is useful for the interpretation of the image because vegetation pixels appear red (healthy vegetation reflects a large part of the incident light in the near-infrared wavelength, resulting in higher reflectance values for band 5, thus higher values for the associated color red).

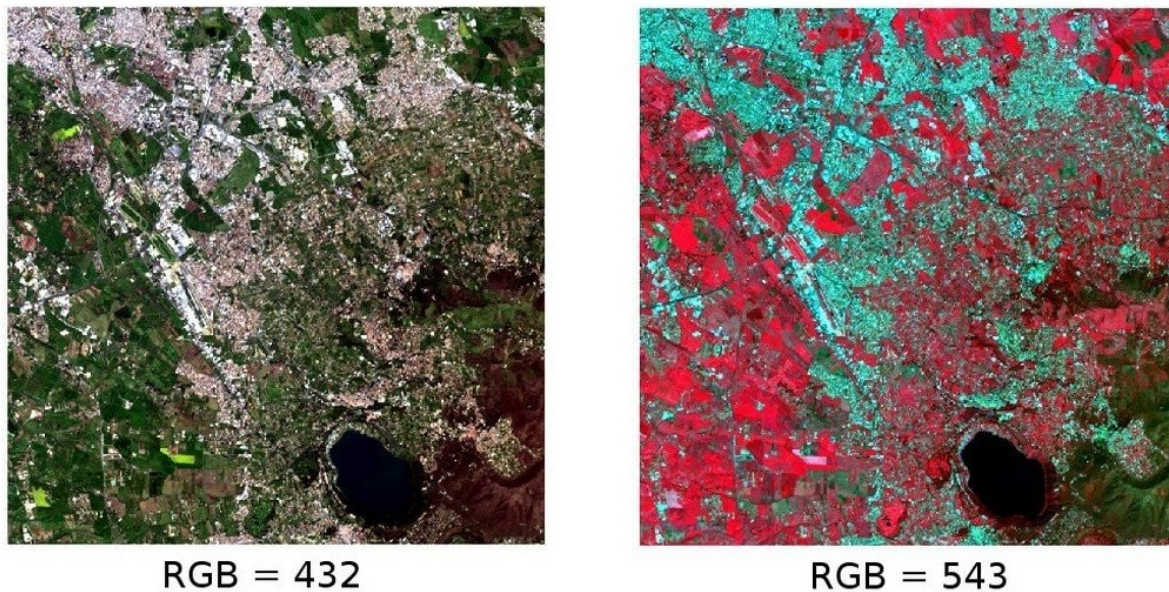


Fig. 4: *Color composite of a Landsat 8 image*  
Data available from the U.S. Geological Survey

#### 4.4.3 Training Areas

Usually, supervised classifications require the user to select one or more Regions of Interest (ROIs, also Training Areas) for each land cover class identified in the image. **ROIs** are polygons drawn over homogeneous areas of the image that overlay pixels belonging to the same land cover class.

#### Region Growing Algorithm

The Region Growing Algorithm allows to select pixels similar to a seed one, considering the **spectral similarity** (i.e. spectral distance) of adjacent pixels. In *SCP* the Region Growing Algorithm is available for the training area creation. The parameter **distance** is related to the similarity of pixel values (the lower the value, the more similar are selected pixels) to the seed one (i.e. selected clicking on a pixel). An additional parameter is the **maximum width**, which is the side length of a square, centred at the seed pixel, which inscribes the training area (if all the pixels had the same value, the training area would be this square). The **minimum size** is used as a constraint (for every single band), selecting at least the pixels that are more similar to the seed one until the number of selected pixels equals the minimum size.

In figure *Region growing example* (Pag. 135) the central pixel is used as seed (image a) for the region growing of one band (image b) with the parameter spectral distance = 0.1; similar pixels are selected to create the training area (image c and image d).

#### 4.4.4 Classes and Macroclasses

Land cover classes are identified with an arbitrary ID code (i.e. Identifier). *SCP* allows for the definition of **Macroclass ID** (i.e. MC ID) and **Class ID** (i.e. C ID), which are the identification codes of land cover classes. A **Macroclass** is a group of ROIs having different Class ID, which is useful when one needs to classify materials that have different spectral signatures in the same land cover class. For instance, one can identify grass (e.g. ID class = 1 and Macroclass ID = 1) and trees (e.g. ID class = 2 and Macroclass ID = 1) as vegetation class (e.g. Macroclass ID = 1). Multiple Class IDs can be assigned to the same Macroclass ID, but the same Class ID cannot be assigned to multiple Macroclass IDs, as shown in the following table.

*Example of Macroclasses*

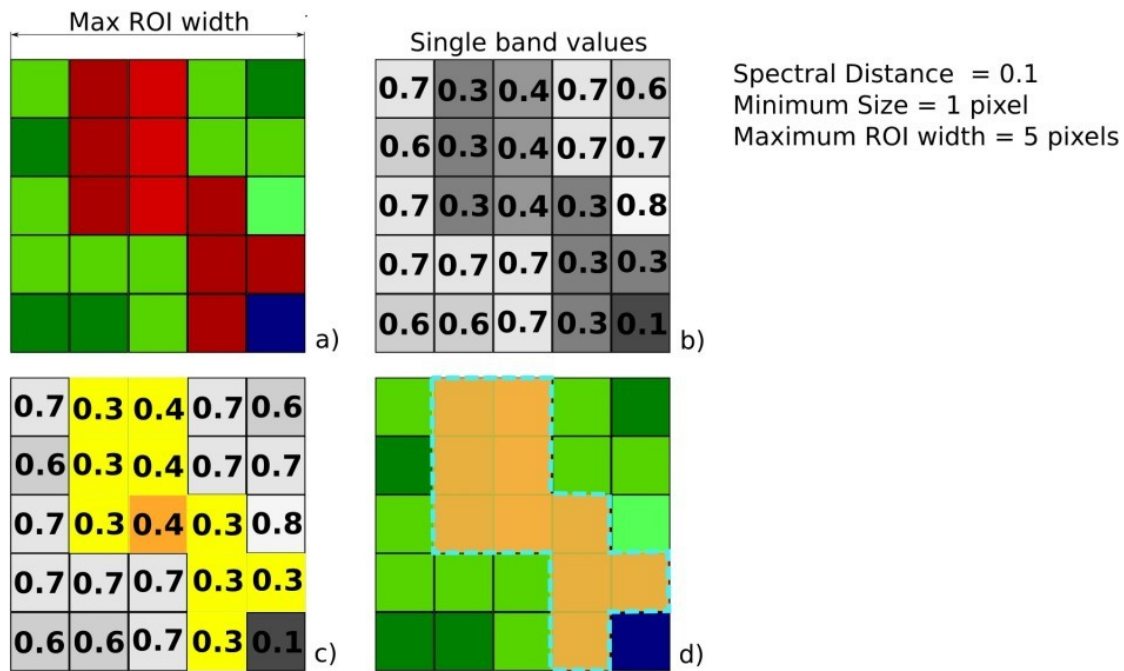


Fig. 5: Region growing example

Macroclass name	Macroclass ID	Class name	Class ID
Vegetation	1	Grass	1
Vegetation	1	Trees	2
Built-up	2	Buildings	3
Built-up	2	Roads	4

Therefore, Classes are subsets of a Macroclass as illustrated in Figure [Macroclass example](#) (Pag. 136).

If the use of Macroclass is not required for the study purpose, then the same Macroclass ID can be defined for all the ROIs (e.g. Macroclass ID = 1) and Macroclass values are ignored in the classification process.

#### 4.4.5 Classification Algorithms

The **spectral signatures** (spectral characteristics) of reference land cover classes are calculated considering the values of pixels under each ROI having the same Class ID (or Macroclass ID). Therefore, the classification algorithm classifies the whole image by comparing the spectral characteristics of each pixel to the spectral characteristics of reference land cover classes. SCP implements the following classification algorithms.

##### Minimum Distance

Minimum Distance algorithm calculates the Euclidean distance  $d(x, y)$  between spectral signatures of image pixels and training spectral signatures, according to the following equation:

$$d(x, y) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - y_i)^2}$$

where:

- $x$  = spectral signature vector of an image pixel;
- $y$  = spectral signature vector of a training area;

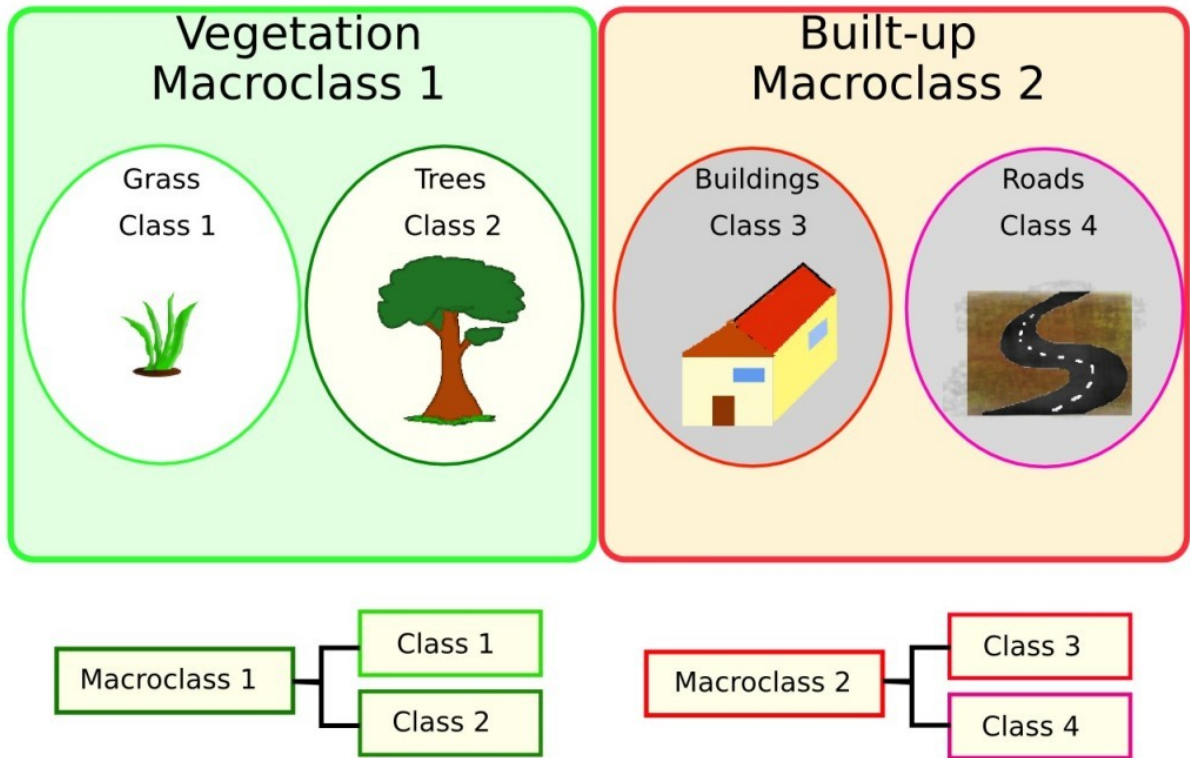


Fig. 6: Macroclass example

- $n$  = number of image bands.

Therefore, the distance is calculated for every pixel in the image, assigning the class of the spectral signature that is closer, according to the following discriminant function (adapted from Richards and Jia, 2006):

$$x \in C_k \iff d(x, y_k) < d(x, y_j) \forall k \neq j$$

where:

- $C_k$  = land cover class  $k$ ;
- $y_k$  = spectral signature of class  $k$ ;
- $y_j$  = spectral signature of class  $j$ .

It is possible to define a threshold  $T_i$  in order to exclude pixels below this value from the classification:

$$x \in C_k \iff d(x, y_k) < d(x, y_j) \forall k \neq j$$

and

$$d(x, y_k) < T_i$$



## Maximum Likelihood

Maximum Likelihood algorithm calculates the probability distributions for the classes, related to Bayes' theorem, estimating if a pixel belongs to a land cover class. In particular, the probability distributions for the classes are assumed the of form of multivariate normal models (Richards & Jia, 2006). In order to use this algorithm, a sufficient number of pixels is required for each training area allowing for the calculation of the covariance matrix. The discriminant function, described by Richards and Jia (2006), is calculated for every pixel as:

$$g_k(x) = \ln p(C_k) - \frac{1}{2} \ln |\Sigma_k| - \frac{1}{2} (x - y_k)^t \Sigma_k^{-1} (x - y_k)$$

where:

- $C_k$  = land cover class  $k$ ;
- $x$  = spectral signature vector of a image pixel;
- $p(C_k)$  = probability that the correct class is  $C_k$ ;
- $|\Sigma_k|$  = determinant of the covariance matrix of the data in class  $C_k$ ;
- $\Sigma_k^{-1}$  = inverse of the covariance matrix;
- $y_k$  = spectral signature vector of class  $k$ .

Therefore:

$$x \in C_k \iff g_k(x) > g_j(x) \forall k \neq j$$

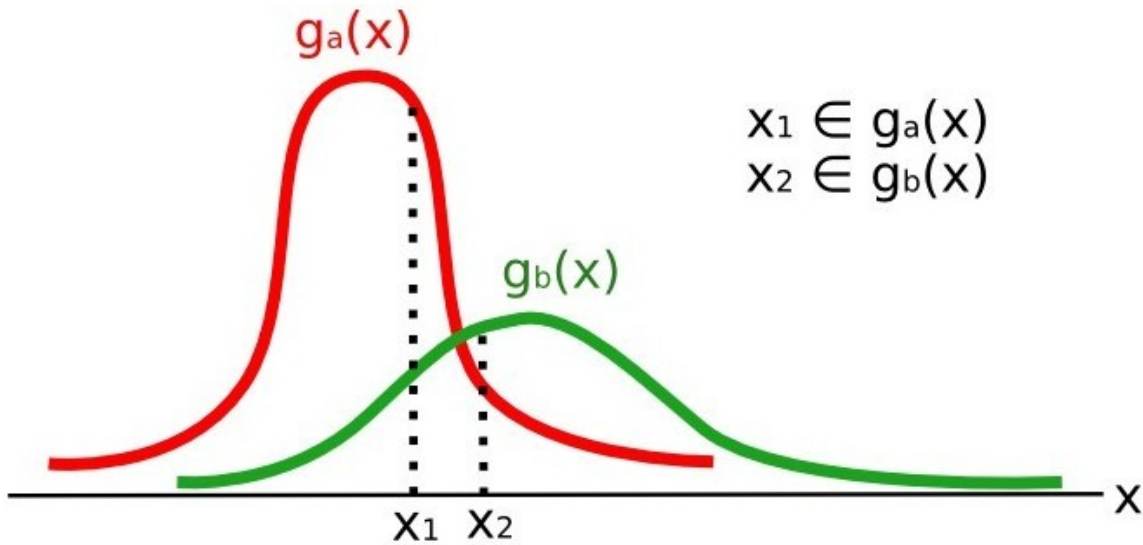


Fig. 7: Maximum Likelihood example

In addition, it is possible to define a threshold to the discriminant function in order to exclude pixels below this value from the classification. Considering a threshold  $T_i$  the classification condition becomes:

$$x \in C_k \iff g_k(x) > g_j(x) \forall k \neq j$$

and

$$g_k(x) > T_i$$

Maximum likelihood is one of the most common supervised classifications, however the classification process can be slower than *Minimum Distance* (Pag. 135).

## Spectral Angle Mapping

The Spectral Angle Mapping calculates the spectral angle between spectral signatures of image pixels and training spectral signatures. The spectral angle  $\theta$  is defined as (Kruse et al., 1993):

$$\theta(x, y) = \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i}{(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} * (\sum_{i=1}^n y_i^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right)$$

Where:

- $x$  = spectral signature vector of an image pixel;
- $y$  = spectral signature vector of a training area;
- $n$  = number of image bands.

Therefore a pixel belongs to the class having the lowest angle, that is:

$$x \in C_k \iff \theta(x, y_k) < \theta(x, y_j) \forall k \neq j$$

where:

- $C_k$  = land cover class  $k$ ;
- $y_k$  = spectral signature of class  $k$ ;
- $y_j$  = spectral signature of class  $j$ .

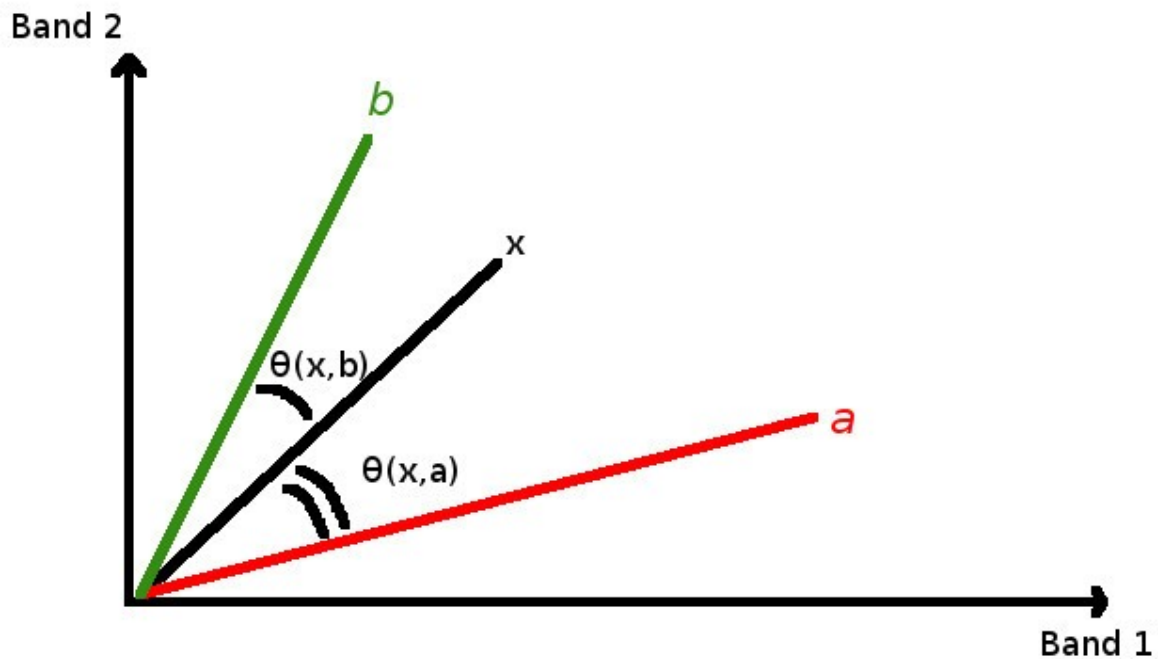


Fig. 8: Spectral Angle Mapping example

In order to exclude pixels below this value from the classification it is possible to define a threshold  $T_i$ :

$$x \in C_k \iff \theta(x, y_k) < \theta(x, y_j) \forall k \neq j$$

and

$$\theta(x, y_k) < T_i$$

Spectral Angle Mapping is largely used, especially with hyperspectral data.

## Parallelepiped Classification

Parallelepiped classification is an algorithm that considers a range of values for each band, forming a multidimensional parallelepiped that defines a land cover class. A pixel is classified if the values thereof are inside a parallelepiped. One of the major drawbacks is that pixels whose signatures lie in the overlapping area of two or more parallelepipeds cannot be classified (Richards and Jia, 2006).

## Land Cover Signature Classification

This classification allows for the definition of spectral thresholds for each training input signature (a minimum value and a maximum value for each band). The thresholds of each training input signature define a spectral region belonging to a certain land cover class.

Spectral signatures of image pixels are compared to the training spectral signatures; a pixel belongs to class  $X$  if pixel spectral signature is completely contained in the spectral region defined by class  $X$ . In case of pixels falling inside overlapping regions or outside any spectral region, it is possible to use additional classification algorithms (i.e. *Minimum Distance* (Pag. 135), *Maximum Likelihood* (Pag. 137), *Spectral Angle Mapping* (Pag. 138)) considering the spectral characteristics of the original input signature.

In the following image, a scheme illustrates the *Land Cover Signature Classification* for a simple case of two spectral bands  $x$  and  $y$ . User defined spectral regions define three classes ( $g_a$ ,  $g_b$ , and  $g_c$ ). Point  $p_1$  belongs to class  $g_a$  and point  $p_2$  belongs to class  $g_b$ . However, point  $p_3$  is inside the spectral regions of both classes  $g_b$  and  $g_c$  (overlapping regions); in this case, point  $p_3$  will be unclassified or classified according to an additional classification algorithm. Point  $p_4$  is outside any spectral region, therefore it will be unclassified or classified according to an additional classification algorithm. Given that point  $p_4$  belongs to class  $g_c$ , the spectral region thereof could be extended to include point  $p_4$ .

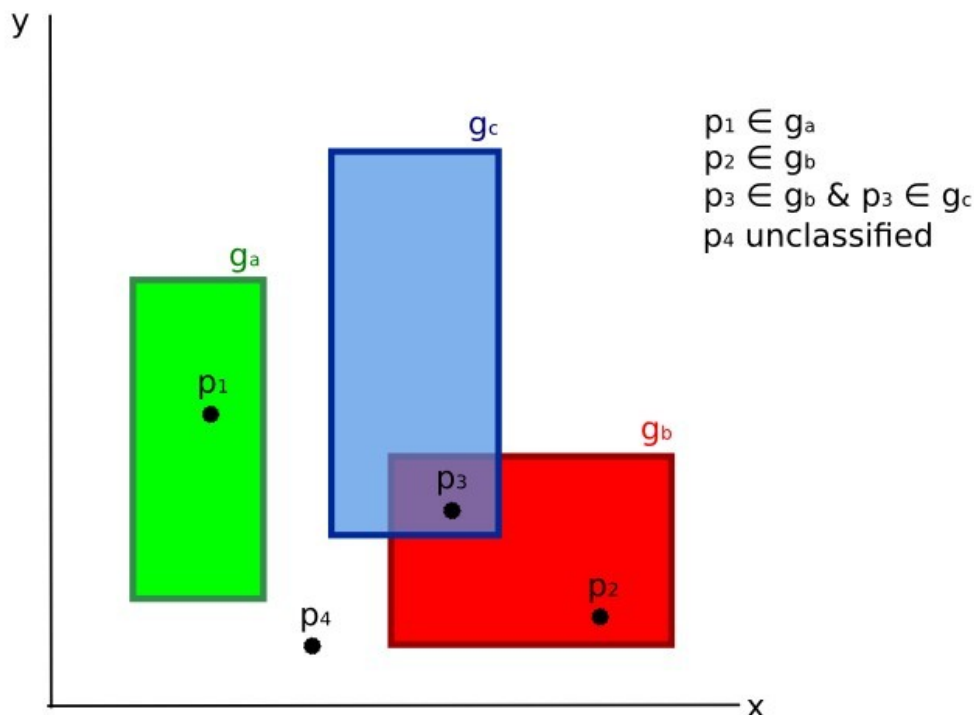


Fig. 9: Land cover signature classification

This is similar to *Parallelepiped Classification* (Pag. 139), with the exception that spectral regions are defined by user, and can be assigned independently for the upper and lower bounds. One can imagine spectral regions as the set of all the spectral signatures of pixels belonging to one class.

In figure *Plot of spectral ranges* (Pag. 140) the spectral ranges of three classes ( $g_a$ ,  $g_b$ , and  $g_c$ ) are displayed; the colored lines inside the ranges (i.e. semi-transparent area) represent the spectral signatures of pixels that defined

the upper and lower bounds of the respective ranges. Pixel  $p_1$  (dotted line) belongs to class  $g_b$  because the spectral signature thereof is completely inside the range of class  $g_b$  (in the upper limit); pixel  $p_2$  (dashed line) is unclassified because the spectral signature does not fall completely inside any range; pixel  $p_3$  (dotted line) belongs to class  $g_a$ .

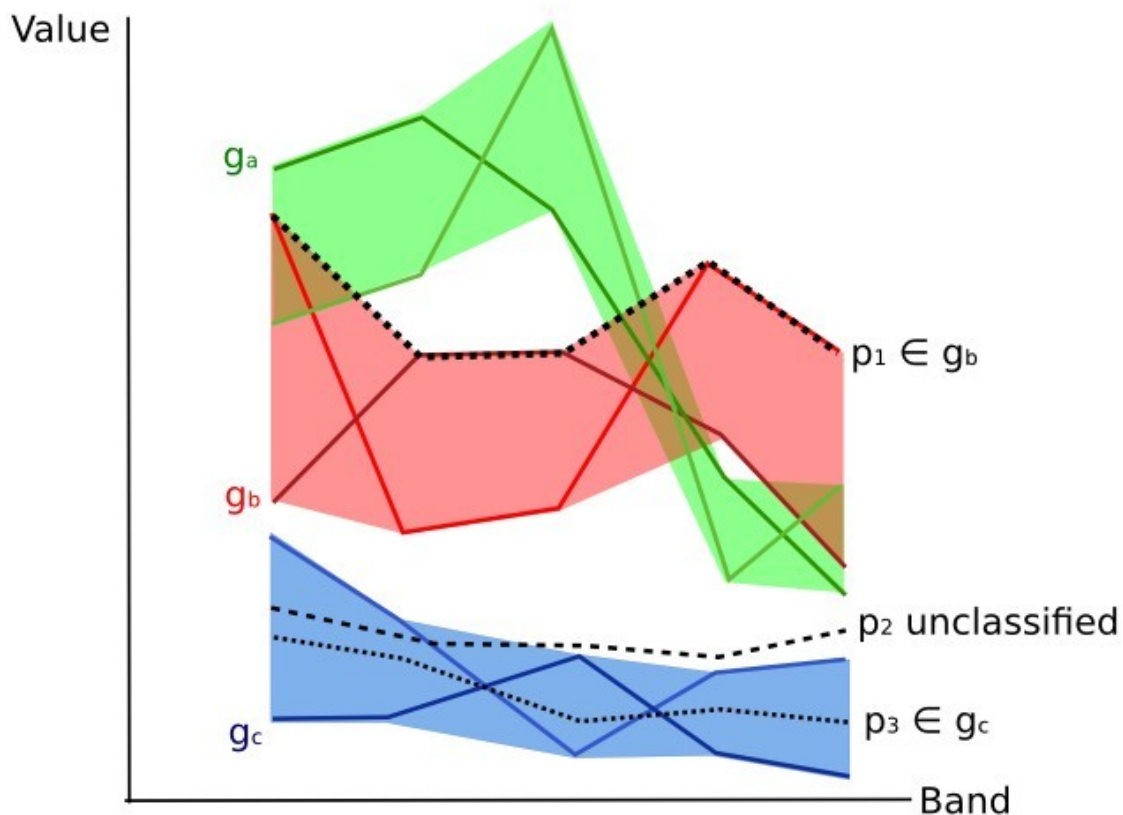


Fig. 10: *Plot of spectral ranges*

It is worth noticing that these spectral thresholds can be applied to any spectral signature, regardless of spectral characteristics thereof; this function can be very useful for separating similar spectral signatures that differ only in one band, defining thresholds that include or exclude specific signatures. In fact, classes are correctly separated if the spectral ranges thereof are not overlapping at least in one band. Of course, even if spectral regions are overlapping, chances are that no pixel will fall inside the overlapping region and be misclassified; which is the upper (or lower) bound of a range do not imply the existence, in the image, of any spectral signature having the maximum (or minimum) range values for all the bands (for instance pixel  $p_1$  of figure *Plot of spectral ranges* (Pag. 140) could not exist).

One of the main benefit of the *Land Cover Signature Classification* is that it is possible to select pixels and include the signature thereof in a spectral range; therefore, the classification should be the direct representation of the class expected for every spectral signature. This is very suitable for the classification of a single land cover class (defined by specific spectral thresholds), and leave unclassified the rest of the image that is of no interest for the purpose of the classification.



## Algorithm raster

An algorithm raster represents the «distance» (according to the definition of the classification algorithm) of an image pixel to a specific spectral signature.

In general, an algorithm raster is produced for every spectral signature used as training input. The value of every pixel is the result of the algorithm calculation for a specific spectral signature. Therefore, a pixel belongs to class `X` if the value of the algorithm raster corresponding to class `X` is the lowest in case of *Minimum Distance* (Pag. 135) or *Spectral Angle Mapping* (Pag. 138) (or highest in case of *Maximum Likelihood* (Pag. 137)).

Given a classification, a combination of algorithm rasters can be produced, in order to create a raster with the lowest «distances» (i.e. pixels have the value of the algorithm raster corresponding to the class they belong in the classification). Therefore, this raster can be useful to identify pixels that require the collection of more similar spectral signatures (see *Classification preview* (Pag. 44)).

## 4.4.6 Machine Learning

**Machine Learning** is a broad set of classification techniques that aim to build mathematical models based on training data.

In general, Machine Learning algorithms split the data in (ESA, 2019):

- Training Dataset: the sample data used to fit the model;
- Validation Dataset: the sample data used to tune the model parameters to fit on the training dataset;
- Test Dataset: the sample data used to provide an evaluation of the final model;

Usually, the training and model evaluation are performed iteratively.

### Random Forest

**Random Forest** is a particular machine learning technique, based on the iterative and random creation of decision trees (i.e. a set of rules and conditions that define a class).

First, the input features should be defined, which can be spectral bands or ancillary rasters. *Training Areas* (Pag. 134) should be created to define the classes used for training the model.

Random Forest calculates several random decision trees, based on the following parameters:

- number of training samples: is the number of training data (pixels) randomly used to train the model; it should be set lower than total training input pixels;
- number of trees: is the number of decision trees; the more the number of trees, the more is the model accuracy, but it also increases the calculation time.

For instance, a decision tree could be defined as:

- class 1 = band 1 > 0.1 → band 2 < 0.3 → band 3 > 0.4
- class 2 = band 1 > 0.4 → band 2 > 0.6 → band 3 < 0.1
- class 3 = band 1 < 0.7 → band 2 > 0.1 → band 3 < 0.5

Random Forest creates several decision trees randomly. Usually, the **Gini coefficient** is calculated to split the trees. Therefore, a model based on the decision trees is created and used to classify all the pixels.

A pixel is classified according to the majority vote of decision trees, for example a pixel is classified as class 1 if most decision trees evaluated it as class 1. Also, a confidence layer is produced, which measures the uncertainty of the model based on training data.

Random Forest can be used to evaluate the importance of input features, according to the contribution thereof to the model.

## Multi-Layer Perceptron

**Multi-Layer Perceptron** is a supervised classification algorithm that is based on the definition of an artificial neural network. A Multi-Layer Perceptron is made of an input layer, one or more hidden layers (made of a defined number of neurons that are fully connected by non-linear activation functions), and the output layer (also read this [documentation](#))

Several parameters can be defined as described [here](#)

## Support Vector Machine

**Support Vector Machine** is a supervised classification algorithm that is based on the calculation of hyperplanes in order to separate input data values.

Several parameters can be defined as described at this [link](#)

## 4.4.7 Spectral Distance

It is useful to evaluate the spectral distance (or separability) between training signatures or pixels, in order to assess if different classes that are too similar could cause classification errors. The *SCP* implements the following algorithms for assessing similarity of spectral signatures.

### Jeffries-Matusita Distance

Jeffries-Matusita Distance calculates the separability of a pair of probability distributions. This can be particularly meaningful for evaluating the results of *Maximum Likelihood* (Pag. 137) classifications.

The Jeffries-Matusita Distance  $J_{xy}$  is calculated as (Richards and Jia, 2006):

$$J_{xy} = 2 \left( 1 - e^{-B} \right)$$

where:

$$B = \frac{1}{8} (x - y)^t \left( \frac{\Sigma_x + \Sigma_y}{2} \right)^{-1} (x - y) + \frac{1}{2} \ln \left( \frac{|\frac{\Sigma_x + \Sigma_y}{2}|}{|\Sigma_x|^{\frac{1}{2}} |\Sigma_y|^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right)$$

where:

- $x$  = first spectral signature vector;
- $y$  = second spectral signature vector;
- $\Sigma_x$  = covariance matrix of sample  $x$ ;
- $\Sigma_y$  = covariance matrix of sample  $y$ ;

The Jeffries-Matusita Distance is asymptotic to 2 when signatures are completely different, and tends to 0 when signatures are identical.

### Spectral Angle

The Spectral Angle is the most appropriate for assessing the *Spectral Angle Mapping* (Pag. 138) algorithm. The spectral angle  $\theta$  is defined as (Kruse et al., 1993):

$$\theta(x, y) = \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i}{(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} * (\sum_{i=1}^n y_i^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right)$$

Where:

- $x$  = spectral signature vector of an image pixel;

- $y$  = spectral signature vector of a training area;
- $n$  = number of image bands.

Spectral angle goes from 0 when signatures are identical to 90 when signatures are completely different.

### Euclidean Distance

The Euclidean Distance is particularly useful for the evaluating the result of *Minimum Distance* (Pag. 135) classifications. In fact, the distance is defined as:

$$d(x, y) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - y_i)^2}$$

where:

- $x$  = first spectral signature vector;
- $y$  = second spectral signature vector;
- $n$  = number of image bands.

The Euclidean Distance is 0 when signatures are identical and tends to increase according to the spectral distance of signatures.

### Bray-Curtis Similarity

The Bray-Curtis Similarity is a statistic used for assessing the relationship between two samples ([read this](#)). It is useful in general for assessing the similarity of spectral signatures, and Bray-Curtis Similarity  $S(x, y)$  is calculated as:

$$S(x, y) = 100 - \left( \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i - y_i|}{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i + \sum_{i=1}^n y_i} \right) * 100$$

where:

- $x$  = first spectral signature vector;
- $y$  = second spectral signature vector;
- $n$  = number of image bands.

The Bray-Curtis similarity is calculated as percentage and ranges from 0 when signatures are completely different to 100 when spectral signatures are identical.

### 4.4.8 Classification Result

The result of the classification process is a raster (see an example of Landsat classification in Figure *Landsat classification* (Pag. 144)), where pixel values correspond to class IDs and each color represent a land cover class.

A certain amount of errors can occur in the land cover classification (i.e. pixels assigned to a wrong land cover class), due to spectral similarity of classes, or wrong class definition during the ROI collection.

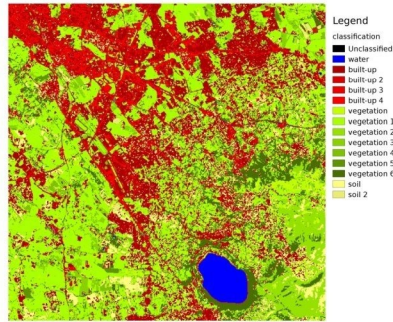


Fig. 11: *Landsat classification*  
Data available from the U.S. Geological Survey

#### 4.4.9 Accuracy Assessment

After the classification process, it is useful to assess the accuracy of land cover classification, in order to identify and measure map errors. Usually, **accuracy assessment** is performed with the calculation of an error matrix, which is a table that compares map information with reference data (i.e. ground truth data) for a number of sample areas (Congalton and Green, 2009).

The following table is a scheme of error matrix, where  $k$  is the number of classes identified in the land cover classification, and  $n$  is the total number of collected sample units. The items in the major diagonal ( $a_{ii}$ ) are the number of samples correctly identified, while the other items are classification error.

*Scheme of Error Matrix*

	Ground truth 1	Ground truth 2	...	Ground truth $k$	Total
<b>Class 1</b>	$a_{11}$	$a_{12}$	...	$a_{1k}$	$a_{1+}$
<b>Class 2</b>	$a_{21}$	$a_{22}$	...	$a_{2k}$	$a_{2+}$
...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Class <math>k</math></b>	$a_{k1}$	$a_{k2}$	...	$a_{kk}$	$a_{k+}$
<b>Total</b>	$a_{+1}$	$a_{+2}$	...	$a_{+k}$	$n$

Therefore, it is possible to calculate the overall accuracy as the ratio between the number of samples that are correctly classified (the sum of the major diagonal), and the total number of sample units  $n$  (Congalton and Green, 2009).

The overall accuracy (also expressed in percentage) is defined as:

$$O = \sum_{i=1}^k a_{ii}/n$$

The user's accuracy for each class is defined as the ratio (also expressed in percentage) between correct samples and the row total:

$$U_i = a_{ii}/a_{i+}$$

The commission error  $CE_i = 1 - U_i$  corresponds to pixels classified as class  $i$  that actually belong to a different class.

The producer's accuracy for each class is calculated as the ratio (also expressed in percentage) between correct samples and the column total:

$$P_i = a_{ii}/a_{+i}$$

The omission error  $OE_i = 1 - P_i$  corresponds to pixels actually belonging to class  $i$  that were classified erroneously as a different class.

It is recommended to calculate the area based error matrix (Olofsson et al., 2014) where each element represents the estimated area proportion of each class. This allows for estimating the unbiased user's accuracy and producer's accuracy, the unbiased area of classes according to reference data, and the standard error of area estimates.

For further information, the following documentation is freely available: [Landsat Data Users Handbook](#).

## 4.5 Image processing

Remote sensing images can be processed in various ways in order to obtain classification, indices, or other derived information that can be useful for land cover characterization.

### 4.5.1 Principal Component Analysis

Principal Component Analysis (PCA) is a method for reducing the dimensions of measured variables (bands) to the principal components (JARS, 1993).

The principal component transformation provides a new set of bands (principal components) having the following characteristic: principal components are uncorrelated; each component has variance less than the previous component. Therefore, this is an efficient method for extracting information and data compression (Ready and Wintz, 1973).

Given an image with  $N$  spectral bands, the principal components are obtained by matrix calculation (Ready and Wintz, 1973; Richards and Jia, 2006):

$$Y = D^t X$$

where:

- $Y$  = vector of principal components
- $D$  = matrix of eigenvectors of the covariance matrix  $C_x$  in  $X$  space
- $t$  denotes vector transpose

And  $X$  is calculated as:

$$X = P - M$$

- $P$  = vector of spectral values associated with each pixel
- $M$  = vector of the mean associated with each band

Thus, the mean of  $X$  associated with each band is 0.  $D$  is formed by the eigenvectors (of the covariance matrix  $C_x$ ) ordered as the eigenvalues from maximum to minimum, in order to have the maximum variance in the first component. This way, the principal components are uncorrelated and each component has variance less than the previous component (Ready and Wintz, 1973).

Usually the first two components contain more than the 90% of the variance. For example, the first principal components can be displayed in a *Color Composite* (Pag. 133) for highlighting *Land Cover* (Pag. 127) classes, or used as input for *Supervised Classification* (Pag. 133).

### 4.5.2 Pan-sharpening

Pan-sharpening is the combination of the spectral information of multispectral bands (MS), which have lower spatial resolution (for Landsat bands, spatial resolution is 30m), with the spatial resolution of a panchromatic band (PAN), which for Landsat 7 and 8 it is 15m. The result is a multispectral image with the spatial resolution of the panchromatic band (e.g. 15m). In *SCP*, a Brovey Transform is applied, where the pan-sharpened values of each multispectral band are calculated as (Johnson, Tateishi and Hoan, 2012):

$$MSpan = MS * PAN / I$$

where  $I$  is Intensity, which is a function of multispectral bands.

The following weights for  $I$  are defined, basing on several tests performed using the *SCP*. For Landsat 8, Intensity is calculated as:

$$I = (0.42 * Blue + 0.98 * Green + 0.6 * Red) / 2$$

For Landsat 7, Intensity is calculated as:

$$I = (0.42 * Blue + 0.98 * Green + 0.6 * Red + NIR) / 3$$



Fig. 12: Example of pan-sharpening of a Landsat 8 image. Left, original multispectral bands (30m); right, pan-sharpened bands (15m)

Data available from the U.S. Geological Survey

### 4.5.3 Spectral Indices

Spectral indices are operations between spectral bands that are useful for extracting information such as vegetation cover (JARS, 1993). One of the most popular spectral indices is the **Normalized Difference Vegetation Index** (NDVI), defined as (JARS, 1993):

$$NDVI = (NIR - Red) / (NIR + Red)$$

NDVI values range from -1 to 1. Dense and healthy vegetation show higher values, while non-vegetated areas show low NDVI values.

Another index is the **Enhanced Vegetation Index** (EVI) which attempts to account for atmospheric effects such as path radiance calculating the difference between the blue and the red bands (Didan, et al., 2015). EVI is defined as:

$$EVI = G(NIR - Red) / (NIR + C_1 Red - C_2 Blue + L)$$

where:  $G$  is a scaling factor,  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are coefficients for the atmospheric effects, and  $L$  is a factor for accounting the differential NIR and Red radiant transfer through the canopy. Typical coefficient values are:  $G = 2.5$ ,  $L = 1$ ,  $C_1 = 6$ ,  $C_2 = 7.5$  (Didan, et al., 2015).



#### 4.5.4 Clustering

Clustering is the grouping of pixels based on spectral similarity (e.g. *Euclidean Distance* (Pag. 143) or *Spectral Angle* (Pag. 142)) calculated for a multispectral image (Richards and Jia, 2006).

Clustering can be used for unsupervised classification or for the automatic selection of spectral signatures. It is worth noticing that, while *Supervised Classification* (Pag. 133) produces a classification with the classes identified during the training process, the classes produced by clustering (i.e. clusters) have no definition and consequently the user must assign a land cover label to each class.

The main advantage of clustering resides in automation. Of course, clusters do not necessarily represent a particular land cover type and additional processing could be required for producing an accurate classification.

There are several types of clustering, mainly based on iterative methods; the following are the algorithms provided in *SCP*.

##### K-means

The K-means method is based on the calculation of the average spectral signature of clusters (Wikipedia, 2017; JARS, 1993).

At first, the user defines the number of clusters expected in the image, which correspond to as many spectral signatures (i.e. seeds). Starting spectral signatures can be selected in various ways (e.g. randomly, provided by the user, calculated automatically from image values).

During the first iteration clusters are produced calculating the pixel spectral distance with initial spectral signatures. The algorithms *Euclidean Distance* (Pag. 143) or *Spectral Angle* (Pag. 142) can be used for distance calculation. Pixels are assigned according to the most similar spectral signature, therefore producing clusters.

Then, the average spectral signature is calculated for each cluster of pixels, resulting in the spectral signatures that will be used in the following iteration.

This process continues iteratively producing clusters and mean spectral signatures, until one of the following condition is verified:

- the spectral distance between the spectral signatures produced in this iteration with the corresponding ones produced in the previous iteration is lower than a certain threshold;
- the maximum number of iterations is reached.

After the last iteration, a raster of clusters is produced using the spectral signatures derived from the last iteration.

##### ISODATA

The ISODATA (Iterative Self-Organizing Data Analysis Technique) method is similar to K-means but with the additional steps of merging clusters having similar spectral signatures and splitting clusters having too high variability (i.e. standard deviation) of spectral signatures (Ball & Hall, 1965). Following, the *SCP* implementation of ISODATA is described.

At first, the user defines the number of clusters expected in the image, which correspond to as many spectral signatures (i.e. seeds). Starting spectral signatures can be selected in various ways (e.g. randomly, provided by the user, calculated automatically from image values). Initial parameters provided by user are:

- $C$  = number of desired clusters
- $N_{min}$  = minimum number of pixels for a cluster
- $\sigma_t$  = maximum standard deviation threshold for splitting
- $D_t$  = distance threshold for merging

During the first iteration clusters are produced calculating the *Euclidean Distance* (Pag. 143) of pixels with initial spectral signatures. Pixels are assigned according to the most similar spectral signature, therefore producing clusters.

Therefore, the following parameters are calculated:

- $N_i$  = number of pixels of cluster  $i$
- $S_i$  = average spectral signature of cluster  $i$
- $AVERAGEDIST_i$  = average distance of cluster  $i$  with the seed spectral signature
- $AVERAGEDISTANCE$  = overall average distance of all clusters
- $\sigma_{ij}$  = standard deviation of cluster  $i$  in band  $j$
- $\sigma max_i$  = maximum standard deviation of cluster  $i$  (i.e.  $\max(\sigma_{ij})$ )
- $k_i$  = band where  $\sigma max_i$  occurred
- $Sk_i$  = value of  $S_i$  at band  $k_i$
- $P$  = number of clusters

Then, for each cluster  $i$ , if  $N_i < N_{min}$ , then the cluster  $i$  is discarded.

If  $P \leq C$  then try to split clusters. For each cluster  $i$ :

- If  $\sigma max_i > \sigma_t$ :
  - If  $((AVERAGEDIST_i > AVERAGEDISTANCE) \text{ AND } (N_i > (2 * N_{min} + 2))) \text{ OR } (C > 2 * P)$ :
    - \* create a new spectral signature  $S_{p+1} = S_i$
    - \* in  $S_i$  set the value  $Sk_i = Sk_i + \sigma max_i$
    - \* in  $S_{p+1}$  set the value  $Sk_{p+1} = Sk_i - \sigma max_i$
    - \*  $P = P + 1$
    - \* start a new iteration

If  $P > (2 * C)$  then try to merge clusters.

- For each combination  $xy$  of spectral signatures calculate  $D_{xy} = \text{Euclidean Distance}$  (Pag. 143) of spectral signatures  $S_x$  and  $S_y$ .
- If the minimum  $D_{xy}$  is greater than  $D_t$ :
  - $S_{\{i\}} = (N_i * S_{\{i\}} + N_j * S_{\{j\}}) / (N_i + N_j)$
  - discard  $S_{\{j\}}$
  - $P = P - 1$
  - start a new iteration

After the last iteration, a raster of clusters is produced using the spectral signatures derived from the last iteration. The number of clusters can vary according to the processes of splitting and merging.

## 4.6 Image conversion to reflectance

This chapter provides information about the conversion to reflectance implemented in *SCP*.



### 4.6.1 Radiance at the Sensor's Aperture

**Radiance** is the «flux of energy (primarily irradiant or incident energy) per solid angle leaving a unit surface area in a given direction», «Radiance is what is measured at the sensor and is somewhat dependent on reflectance» (NASA, 2011, p. 47).

Images such as Landsat or Sentinel-2 are composed of several bands and a metadata file which contains information required for the conversion to reflectance.

Landsat images are provided in radiance, scaled prior to output. For Landsat images **Spectral Radiance at the sensor's aperture** ( $L_\lambda$ , measured in [watts/(meter squared \* ster \*  $\mu m$ ))] is given by (<https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/nli/landsat/using-usgs-landsat-level-1-data-product>):

$$L_\lambda = M_L * Q_{cal} + A_L$$

where:

- $M_L$  = Band-specific multiplicative rescaling factor from Landsat metadata (RADIANCE\_MULT\_BAND\_x, where x is the band number)
- $A_L$  = Band-specific additive rescaling factor from Landsat metadata (RADIANCE\_ADD\_BAND\_x, where x is the band number)
- $Q_{cal}$  = Quantized and calibrated standard product pixel values (DN)

Sentinel-2 images (Level-1C) are already provided in *Top Of Atmosphere (TOA) Reflectance* (Pag. 149), scaled prior to output (ESA, 2015).

### 4.6.2 Top Of Atmosphere (TOA) Reflectance

Images in radiance can be converted to Top Of Atmosphere (TOA) Reflectance (combined surface and atmospheric reflectance) in order to reduce the in between-scene variability through a normalization for solar irradiance. This TOA reflectance ( $\rho_p$ ), which is the unitless ratio of reflected versus total power energy (NASA, 2011), is calculated by:

$$\rho_p = (\pi * L_\lambda * d^2) / (ESUN_\lambda * \cos\theta_s)$$

where:

- $L_\lambda$  = Spectral radiance at the sensor's aperture (at-satellite radiance)
- $d$  = Earth-Sun distance in astronomical units (provided with Landsat 8 metadata file, and an excel file is available from [http://landsathandbook.gsfc.nasa.gov/excel\\_docs/d.xls](http://landsathandbook.gsfc.nasa.gov/excel_docs/d.xls) )
- $ESUN_\lambda$  = Mean solar exo-atmospheric irradiances
- $\theta_s$  = Solar zenith angle in degrees, which is equal to  $\theta_s = 90^\circ - \theta_e$  where  $\theta_e$  is the Sun elevation

It is worth pointing out that Landsat 8 images are provided with band-specific rescaling factors that allow for the direct conversion from DN to TOA reflectance.

Sentinel-2 images are already provided in scaled TOA reflectance, which can be converted to TOA reflectance with a simple calculation using the Quantification Value provided in the metadata (see [https://sentinel.esa.int/documents/247904/349490/S2\\_MSI\\_Product\\_Specification.pdf](https://sentinel.esa.int/documents/247904/349490/S2_MSI_Product_Specification.pdf) ).

Sentinel-3 images are already provided in scaled TOA radiance. Conversion to reflectance is performed applying the coefficients `scale_factor` and `add_offset` provided in the metadata of each band. The ancillary raster `tie_geometries.nc` provides the value of sun zenith angle and the ancillary raster `instrument_data` provides information about the solar flux for each band, which are used for the conversion to reflectance with the correction for sun angle. In addition, the georeferencing of the bands is performed using the ancillary raster `geo_coordinates.nc` which provides coordinates of every pixel.

### 4.6.3 Surface Reflectance

The effects of the atmosphere (i.e. a disturbance on the reflectance that varies with the wavelength) should be considered in order to measure the reflectance at the ground.

As described by Moran et al. (1992), the **land surface reflectance** ( $\rho$ ) is:

$$\rho = [\pi * (L_\lambda - L_p) * d^2] / [T_v * ((ESUN_\lambda * \cos\theta_s * T_z) + E_{down})]$$

where:

- $L_p$  is the path radiance
- $T_v$  is the atmospheric transmittance in the viewing direction
- $T_z$  is the atmospheric transmittance in the illumination direction
- $E_{down}$  is the downwelling diffuse irradiance

Therefore, we need several atmospheric measurements in order to calculate  $\rho$  (physically-based corrections). Alternatively, it is possible to use **image-based techniques** for the calculation of these parameters, without in-situ measurements during image acquisition. It is worth mentioning that **Landsat Surface Reflectance High Level Data Products** for Landsat 8 are available (for more information read [http://landsat.usgs.gov/CDR\\_LSR.php](http://landsat.usgs.gov/CDR_LSR.php)).

### 4.6.4 DOS1 Correction

The **Dark Object Subtraction** (DOS) is a family of image-based atmospheric corrections. Chavez (1996) explains that «the basic assumption is that within the image some pixels are in complete shadow and their radiances received at the satellite are due to atmospheric scattering (path radiance). This assumption is combined with the fact that very few targets on the Earth's surface are absolute black, so an assumed one-percent minimum reflectance is better than zero percent». It is worth pointing out that the accuracy of image-based techniques is generally lower than physically-based corrections, but they are very useful when no atmospheric measurements are available as they can improve the estimation of land surface reflectance. The **path radiance** is given by (Sobrino et al., 2004):

$$L_p = L_{min} - L_{DO1\%}$$

where:

- $L_{min}$  = «radiance that corresponds to a digital count value for which the sum of all the pixels with digital counts lower or equal to this value is equal to the 0.01% of all the pixels from the image considered» (Sobrino et al., 2004, p. 437), therefore the radiance obtained with that digital count value ( $DN_{min}$ )
- $L_{DO1\%}$  = radiance of Dark Object, assumed to have a reflectance value of 0.01

In particular for Landsat images:

$$L_{min} = M_L * DN_{min} + A_L$$

Sentinel-2 images are converted to radiance prior to DOS1 calculation.

The **radiance of Dark Object** is given by (Sobrino et al., 2004):

$$L_{DO1\%} = 0.01 * [(ESUN_\lambda * \cos\theta_s * T_z) + E_{down}] * T_v / (\pi * d^2)$$

Therefore the **path radiance** is:

$$L_p = M_L * DN_{min} + A_L - 0.01 * [(ESUN_\lambda * \cos\theta_s * T_z) + E_{down}] * T_v / (\pi * d^2)$$

There are several DOS techniques (e.g. DOS1, DOS2, DOS3, DOS4), based on different assumption about  $T_v$ ,  $T_z$ , and  $E_{down}$ . The simplest technique is the **DOS1**, where the following assumptions are made (Moran et al., 1992):

- $T_v = 1$

- $T_z = 1$
- $E_{down} = 0$

Therefore the **path radiance** is:

$$L_p = M_L * DN_{min} + A_L - 0.01 * ESUN_{\lambda} * \cos\theta_s / (\pi * d^2)$$

And the resulting **land surface reflectance** is given by:

$$\rho = [\pi * (L_{\lambda} - L_p) * d^2] / (ESUN_{\lambda} * \cos\theta_s)$$

ESUN [W/(m<sup>2</sup> \*  $\mu$ m)] values for Landsat sensors are provided in the following table.

*ESUN values for Landsat bands*

Band	Landsat MSS*	1	Landsat MSS*	2	Landsat MSS*	3	Landsat TM*	4	Landsat TM*	5	Landsat ETM+**	7
1							1983		1983		1970	
2							1795		1796		1842	
3							1539		1536		1547	
4	1823		1829		1839		1028		1031		1044	
5	1559		1539		1555		219.8		220		225.7	
6	1276		1268		1291							
7	880.1		886.6		887.9		83.49		83.44		82.06	
8											1369	

\* from Chander, Markham, & Helder (2009)

\*\* from [http://landsathandbook.gsfc.nasa.gov/data\\_prod/prog\\_sect11\\_3.html](http://landsathandbook.gsfc.nasa.gov/data_prod/prog_sect11_3.html)

For **Landsat 8**, *ESUN* can be calculated as (from <http://grass.osgeo.org/grass65/manuals/i.landsat.toar.html>):

$$ESUN = (\pi * d^2) * RADIANCE\_MAXIMUM / REFLECTANCE\_MAXIMUM$$

where *RADIANCE\_MAXIMUM* and *REFLECTANCE\_MAXIMUM* are provided by image metadata.

ESUN [W/(m<sup>2</sup> \*  $\mu$ m)] values for **Sentinel-2** sensor (provided in image metadata) are illustrated in the following table.

*ESUN values for Sentinel-2 bands*

Band	Sentinel-2
1	1913.57
2	1941.63
3	1822.61
4	1512.79
5	1425.56
6	1288.32
7	1163.19
8	1036.39
8A	955.19
9	813.04
10	367.15
11	245.59
12	85.25

ESUN [W/(m<sup>2</sup> \*  $\mu$ m)] values for **ASTER** sensor are illustrated in the following table (from Finn et al., 2012).

*ESUN values for ASTER bands*

Band	ASTER
1	1848
2	1549
3	1114
4	225.4
5	86.63
6	81.85
7	74.85
8	66.49
9	59.85

An example of comparison of TOA reflectance, DOS1 corrected reflectance and the Landsat Surface Reflectance High Level Data Products (ground truth) is provided in Figure *Spectral signatures of a built-up pixel* (Pag. 152).

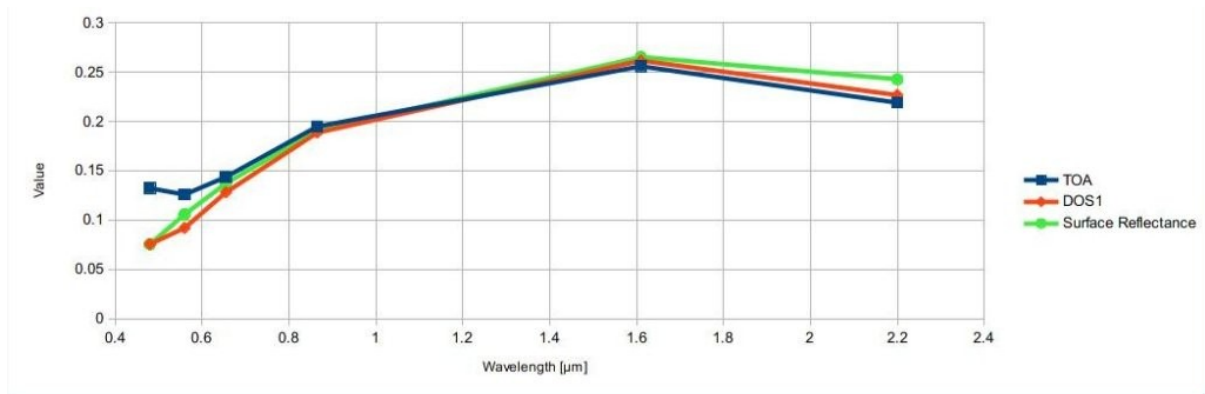


Fig. 13: *Spectral signatures of a built-up pixel*

Comparison of TOA reflectance, DOS1 corrected reflectance and Landsat Surface Reflectance High Level Data Products

## 4.7 Conversion to Temperature

This chapter provides the basic information about the conversion to **At-Satellite Brightness Temperature** implemented in *SCP* and the estimation of **Land Surface Temperature**.

### 4.7.1 Conversion to At-Satellite Brightness Temperature

For thermal bands, the conversion of DN to At-Satellite Brightness Temperature is given by (from <https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/nli/landsat/using-usgs-landsat-level-1-data-product>):

$$T_B = K_2 / \ln[(K_1 / L_\lambda) + 1]$$

where:

- $K_1$  = Band-specific thermal conversion constant (in watts/meter squared \* ster \*  $\mu m$ )
- $K_2$  = Band-specific thermal conversion constant (in kelvin)

and  $L_\lambda$  is the Spectral Radiance at the sensor's aperture, measured in watts/(meter squared \* ster \*  $\mu m$ ).

The  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  constants for Landsat sensors are provided in the following table.

*Thermal Conversion Constants for Landsat*

Constant	Landsat 4*	Landsat 5*	Landsat 7**
$K_1$	671.62	607.76	666.09
$K_2$	1284.30	1260.56	1282.71

\* from Chander & Markham (2003)

\*\* from NASA (2011)

For **Landsat 8**, the  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  values are provided in the image metadata file.

$K_1$  and  $K_2$  are calculated as (Jimenez-Munoz & Sobrino, 2010):

$$K_1 = c_1/\lambda^5$$

$$K_2 = c_2/\lambda$$

where (Mohr, Newell, & Taylor, 2015):

- $c_1$  = first radiation constant =  $1.191 \times 10^{-16} \text{ W m}^2 \text{ sr}^{-1}$
- $c_2$  = second radiation constant =  $1.4388 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m K}$

Therefore, for ASTER bands  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  are provided in the following table.

*Thermal Conversion Constants for ASTER*

Constant	Band 10	Band 11	Band 12	Band 13	Band 14
$K_1$	$3.024 \times 10^3$	$2.460 \times 10^3$	$1.909 \times 10^3$	$8.900 \times 10^2$	$6.464 \times 10^2$
$K_2$	$1.733 \times 10^3$	$1.663 \times 10^3$	$1.581 \times 10^3$	$1.357 \times 10^3$	$1.273 \times 10^3$

## 4.7.2 Estimation of Land Surface Temperature

Several studies have described the estimation of Land Surface Temperature. Land Surface Temperature can be calculated from At-Satellite Brightness Temperature  $T_B$  as (Weng et al., 2004):

$$T = T_B / [1 + (\lambda * T_B / c_2) * \ln(e)]$$

where:

- $\lambda$  = wavelength of emitted radiance
- $c_2 = h * c / s = 1.4388 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m K}$
- $h$  = Planck's constant =  $6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s}$
- $s$  = Boltzmann constant =  $1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J/K}$
- $c$  = velocity of light =  $2.998 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$

The values of  $\lambda$  for the thermal bands of Landsat and ASTER satellites can be calculated from the tables in *Landsat Satellites* (Pag. 127) and *ASTER Satellite* (Pag. 130).

Several studies used NDVI for the estimation of land surface emissivity (Sobrino et al., 2004); other studies used a land cover classification for the definition of the land surface emissivity of each class (Weng et al. 2004). For instance, the emissivity ( $e$ ) values of various land cover types are provided in the following table (from Mallick et al., 2012).

*Emissivity values*

Land surface	Emissivity e
Soil	0.928
Grass	0.982
Asphalt	0.942
Concrete	0.937

## 4.8 References

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The following are very basic tutorials for land cover classification using the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin (SCP). It is assumed that you have a basic knowledge of QGIS (you can find a guide to QGIS interface [at this page](#)).

## 5.1 Tutorial 1: Basic Land Cover Classification

The following is a basic tutorial about the land cover classification using the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin (SCP). It is assumed that you have a basic knowledge of QGIS. Following the video of the tutorial.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SZDCFXjIbA>

- *Tutorial 1: Basic Land Cover Classification* (Pag. 157)
  - *Download the Data* (Pag. 158)
  - *Define the Band set and create the Training Input File* (Pag. 158)
  - *Create the ROIs* (Pag. 160)
  - *Create a Classification Preview* (Pag. 164)
  - *Create the Classification Output* (Pag. 170)

### 5.1.1 Tutorial 1: Basic Land Cover Classification

This is a basic tutorial about the use of SCP for the classification of a multispectral image. It is recommended to read the *Brief Introduction to Remote Sensing* (Pag. 123) before following this tutorial.

The purpose of the classification is to identify the following land cover classes:

1. Water;
2. Built-up;
3. Vegetation;
4. Soil.

The basic steps are:

1. the definition of input data (image bands) in a *Band set* (Pag. 45);
2. the creation of a *Training input* (Pag. 33) to collect training areas to train the classification algorithm;
3. the *Classification* (Pag. 74) of input data.

## Download the Data

Other tutorials will show how to search and download satellite images within *SCP*. In this tutorial we are going to use a *Sentinel-2 Satellite* (Pag. 129) image, already converted to reflectance and clipped to the study area, downloading a .zip file (which contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data 2023).

The study area of this tutorial covers part of the Lake Garda in the Northern Italy. Download the .zip file from this [link](#) and extract the directory containing the image bands.


## Define the Band set and create the Training Input File

We are going to use a subset of *Sentinel-2 Satellite* (Pag. 129) image (Copernicus land monitoring services) and use the bands illustrated in the following table.

Sentinel-2 Bands	Central Wavelength [micrometers]	Resolution [meters]
Band 2 - Blue	0.490	10
Band 3 - Green	0.560	10
Band 4 - Red	0.665	10
Band 5 - Vegetation Red Edge	0.705	20
Band 6 - Vegetation Red Edge	0.740	20
Band 7 - Vegetation Red Edge	0.783	20
Band 8 - NIR	0.842	10
Band 8A - Vegetation Red Edge	0.865	20
Band 11 - SWIR	1.610	20
Band 12 - SWIR	2.190	20

First, we need to define the *Band set* which is the input image for *SCP* classification. Open the tab *Band set* (Pag. 45)

clicking the button  in the *SCP menu* (Pag. 29) or the *SCP dock* (Pag. 31).

Click the button  to select the .tif files from the extracted directory to the *Band set* tab.

---

**Suggerimento:** It is possible to define multiple *Band sets*. It is also possible to add to a *Band set* bands that are already loaded in QGIS. Each *Band set* definition is saved with the QGIS project.

---

In the table *Band set definition*, we need to order the band names in ascending order and assign the center wavelength to each bands (required for spectral signature calculation). We can do this in one step by selecting *Sentinel-2* in the *Wavelength* list of the *Band quick settings* (Pag. 47).

We can display a *Color Composite* (Pag. 133) of bands: Near-Infrared, Red, and Green.

---

**Suggerimento:** If a *Band set* (Pag. 45) is defined, a temporary virtual raster (named Virtual Band Set 1) is created automatically, which allows for the display of a *Color Composite* (Pag. 133).

---

In the *Working toolbar* (Pag. 41), click the list *RGB=* and select the item 7-3-2 (corresponding to the band numbers in *Band set* (Pag. 45)). You can see that Virtual Band Set 1 is added to QGIS Layers as multiband image, and the displayed bands correspond to the selected color composite.

Because we selected Near-Infrared, Red, and Green bands, in the map, vegetation is highlighted in red. Selecting the color composite 3-2-1, natural colors would be displayed.

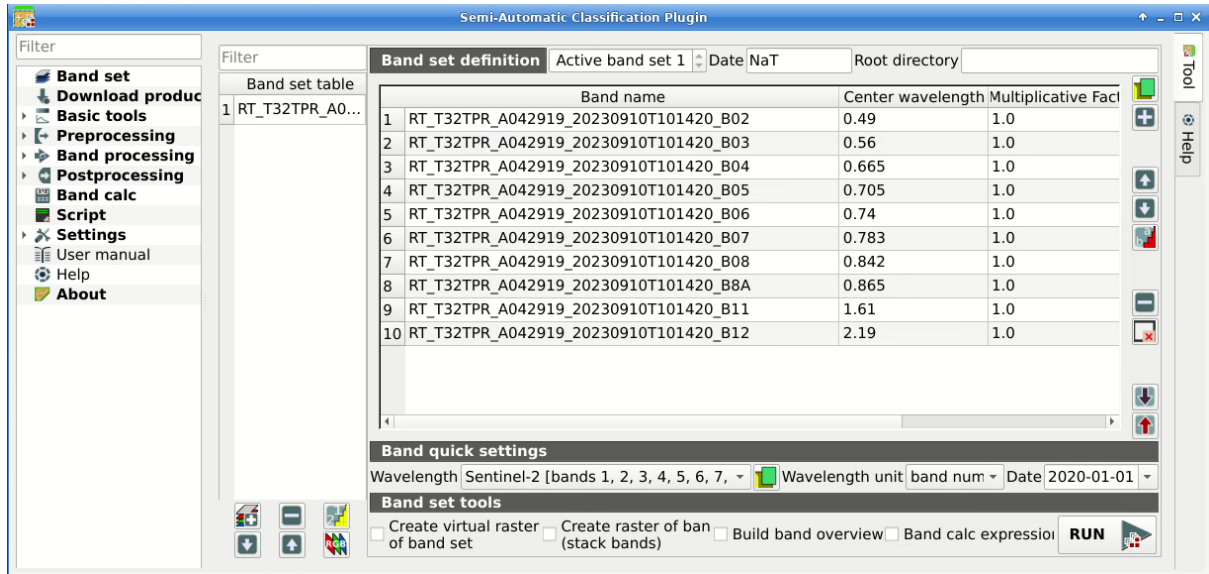


Fig. 1: Definition of a band set

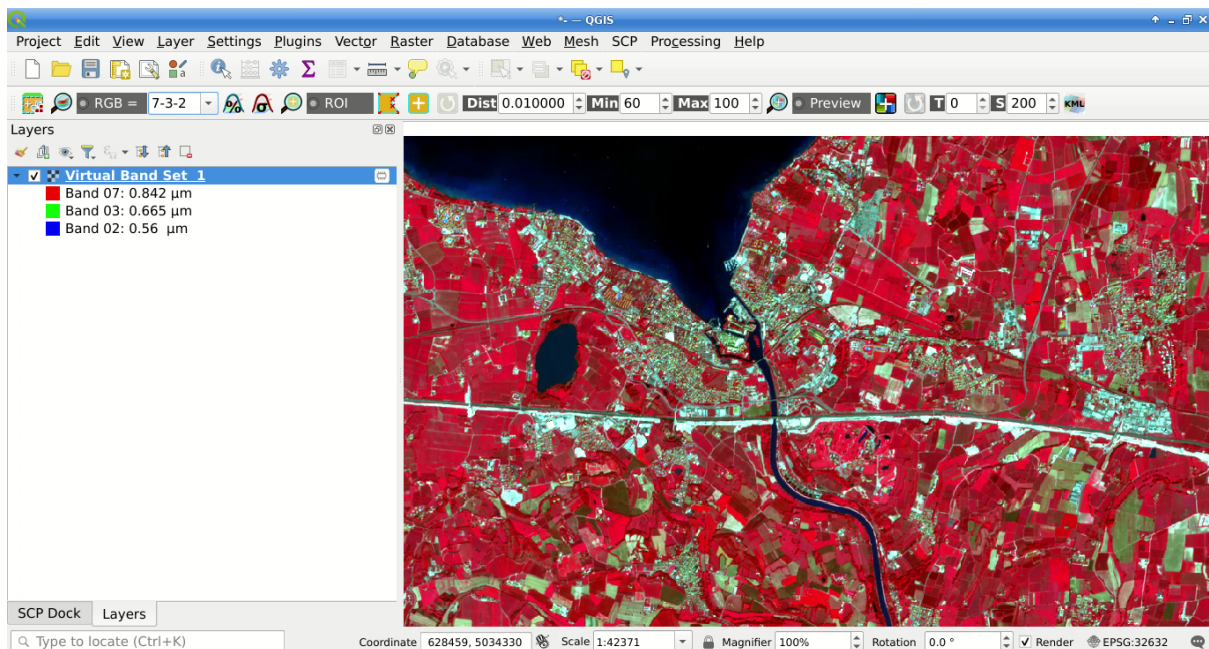




Fig. 2: Color composite RGB=7-3-2

After *Band set* (Pag. 45) creation, we need to create a *Training input* (Pag. 33) file in order to collect *Training Areas* (Pag. 134) (ROIs) and calculate the *Spectral Signature* (Pag. 126) thereof (which are required to train the classification algorithm).

In the *SCP dock* (Pag. 31) select the tab *Training input* (Pag. 33) and click the button  to create the *Training input* (define a name such as `training.scp`).

---

**Suggerimento:** A *Training input* is a `.scpx` file which stores the geometries and the spectral signatures. Once it is created, it is configured with the wavelength properties of the corresponding *Band set*. To use a *Training input* create with a different *Band set*, one should create a new *Training input*, and then import the existing *Training input* with  *Import library file* (Pag. 54) .

---

The path of the file is displayed and a vector is added to QGIS layers with the same name as the *Training input*.

**Avvertimento:** In order to prevent data loss, one should not edit the *Training input* using QGIS vector tools.

## Create the ROIs

We are going to create ROIs defining the *Classes and Macroclasses* (Pag. 134). Each ROI is identified by a Class ID (i.e. C ID), and each ROI is assigned to a land cover class through a Macroclass ID (i.e. MC ID).

Macroclasses are composed of several materials having different spectral signatures; in order to achieve good classification results we should separate spectral signatures of different materials, even if belonging to the same macroclass. Thus, we are going to create several ROIs for each macroclass (setting the same *MC ID*, but assigning a different *C ID* to every ROI).


We are going to use the Macroclass IDs defined in the following table.

Macroclass name	Macroclass ID
Water	1
Built-up	2
Vegetation	3
Soil	4

---

**Suggerimento:** ROIs can be created by manually drawing a polygon or with an automatic region growing algorithm.

---

In the map zoom over the dark blue area in the upper left corner of the image which is a water body. To manually create a ROI inside the dark area, click the button  in the *Working toolbar* (Pag. 41). Left click on the map to define the ROI vertices and right click to define the last vertex closing the polygon. An orange semi-transparent polygon is displayed over the image, which is a temporary polygon (i.e., it is not saved in the *Training input* (Pag. 33)).

---

**Suggerimento:** You can draw temporary polygons (the previous one will be overridden) until the shape covers the intended area.

---

If the shape of the temporary polygon sufficiently covers the water area, we can save it to the *Training input* (Pag. 33).

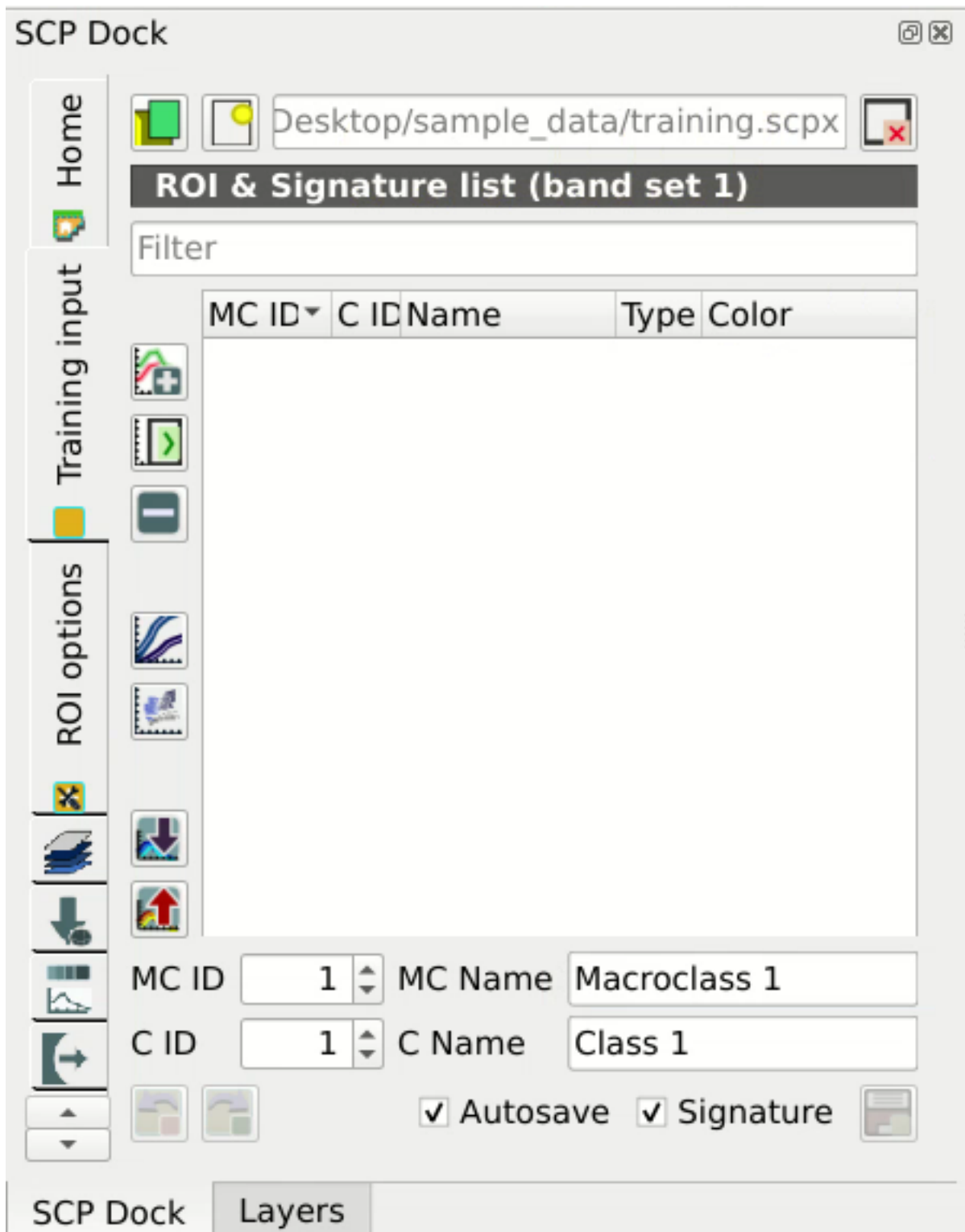



Fig. 3: Definition of Training input in SCP






Fig. 4: A temporary ROI created manually

Open the *Training input* (Pag. 33) to define the *Classes and Macroclasses* (Pag. 134) . In the *ROI & Signature list* (Pag. 36) set *MC ID* = 1 and *MC Name* = Water; also set *C ID* = 1 and *C Name* = Lake. Now click  to save the ROI in the *Training input*.

After a few seconds, the ROI is listed in the *ROI & Signature list* (Pag. 36) and the spectral signature is calculated (because  *Signature* is checked).

As you can see, the *C ID* in *ROI & Signature list* (Pag. 36) is automatically increased by 1. Saved ROI is displayed as a dark polygon in the map and the temporary ROI is removed. Also, in the *ROI & Signature list* (Pag. 36) you can notice that the *Type* is *RS* (i.e., ROI and spectral signature), meaning that the ROI spectral signature was calculated and saved in the *Training input*.

Now we are going to create a second ROI for the built-up class using the automatic region growing algorithm. Zoom near the center of the image. In *Working toolbar* (Pag. 41) set the *Dist* value to 0.03 . Click the button  in the *Working toolbar* (Pag. 41) and click over the light blue area of the map. After a while the orange semi-transparent polygon is displayed over the image.

---

**Suggerimento:** *Dist* value should be set according to the range of pixel values; in general, increasing this value creates larger ROIs.


---

In the *ROI & Signature list* (Pag. 36) set *MC ID* = 2 and *MC Name* = Built-up ; also set *C ID* = 2 (it should be already set) and *C Name* = Buildings.

Again, the *C ID* in *ROI & Signature list* (Pag. 36) is automatically increased by 1.

Create a ROI for the class Vegetation (red pixels in color composite RGB=7-3-2) and a ROI for the class Soil (bare soil or low vegetation) (yellow pixels in color composite RGB=7-3-2) following the same steps described previously. The following images show a few examples of these classes identified in the map.

---

**Suggerimento:** It is possible to display the *Spectral signatures* of created ROIs in the  *Spectral Signature Plot* (Pag. 113).

---

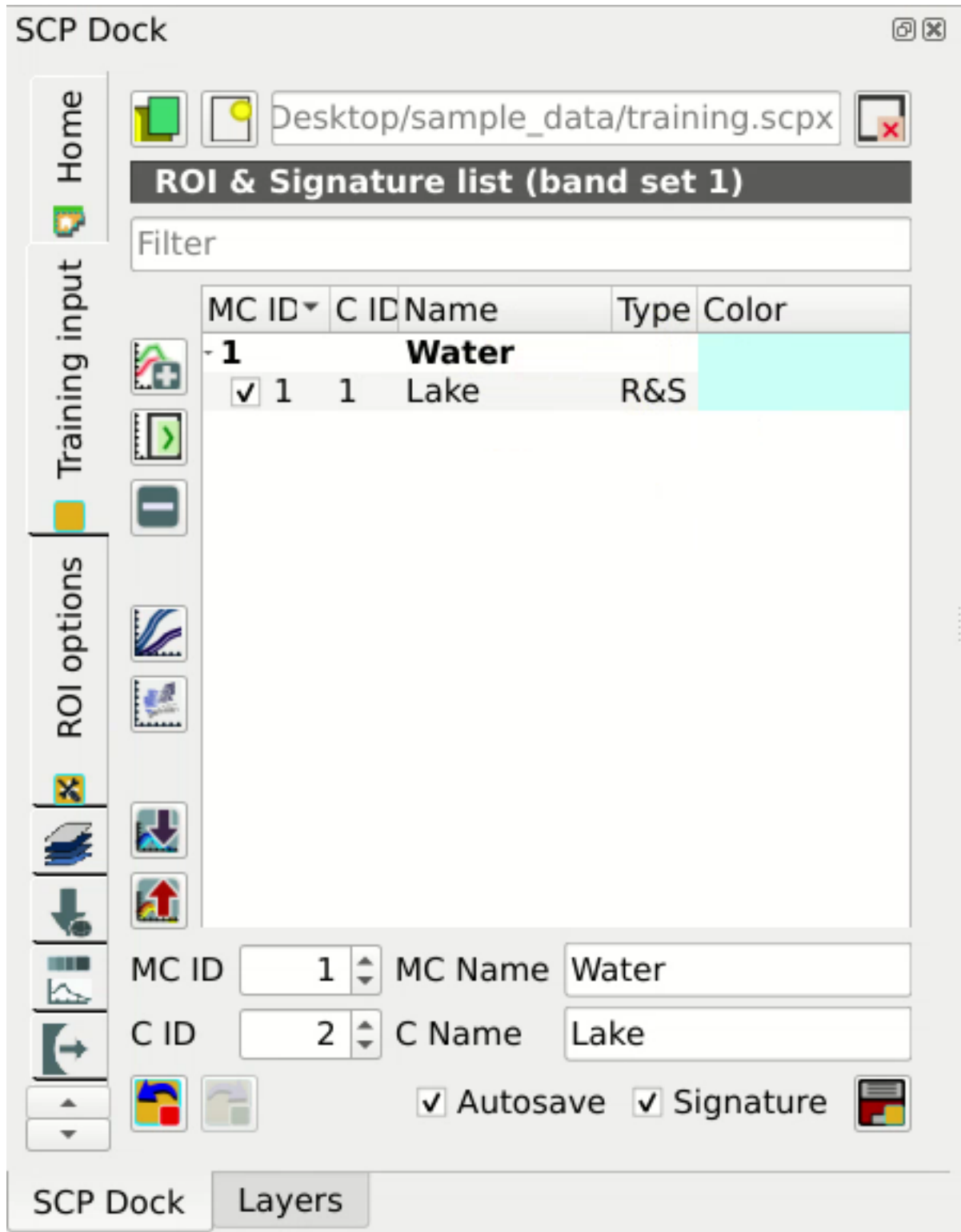


Fig. 5: The ROI saved in the Training input



Fig. 6: A temporary ROI created with the automatic region growing algorithm


### Create a Classification Preview


The classification process is based on collected ROIs (and spectral signatures thereof). It is useful to create a *Classification preview* (Pag. 44) in order to assess the results (influenced by spectral signatures) before the final classification. In case the results are not good, we can collect additional ROIs to better classify land cover.

Before running a classification (or a preview), set the color of land cover classes that will be displayed in the classification raster. In the *ROI & Signature list* (Pag. 36), double click the color (in the column *Color*) of each ROI to choose a representative color of each class. Also, we need to set the color for macroclasses in *ROI & Signature list* (Pag. 36).

Now we need to select the classification algorithm. In this tutorial we are going to use the *Maximum Likelihood* (Pag. 137).

Open the tool *Classification* (Pag. 74) to set the use of classes or macroclasses. Check *Use* ☒ *Class ID* and in *Algorithm* (Pag. 75) select the *Maximum Likelihood*. The *input band set* is 1 because it is the number of the band set containing the image (bands) that we want to classify.

In *Classification preview* (Pag. 44) set *Size* = 300; click the button  and then left click a point of the image in the map. The classification process should be rapid, and the result is a classified square centered in the clicked coordinates.

Previews are temporary rasters (deleted after QGIS is closed) placed in a group named *Class\_temp\_group* in the QGIS panel Layers. Now in *Classification* (Pag. 74) check *Use* ☒ *MC ID* and click the button  in *Classification preview* (Pag. 44). The preview now represents the colors defined for macroclass.

---

**Suggerimento:** It is useful to perform a classification preview every time a ROI (or a spectral signature) is added to the *ROI & Signature list* (Pag. 36), in order to assess the contribution thereof to the classification; if the ROI



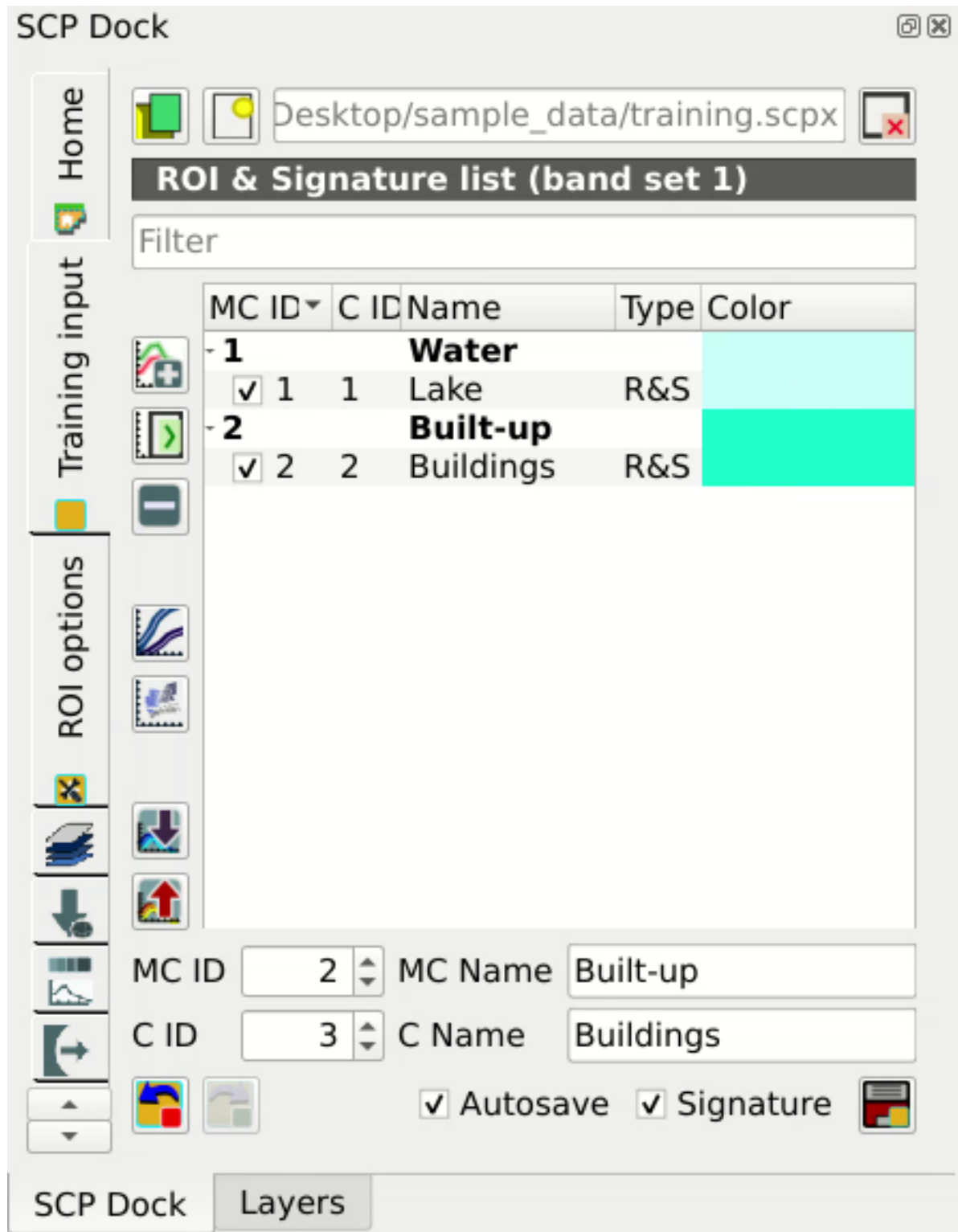


Fig. 7: The ROI saved in the Training input



Fig. 8: *Vegetation*. Color composite  $RGB = 7-3-2$



Fig. 9: *Soil*. Color composite  $RGB = 7-3-2$

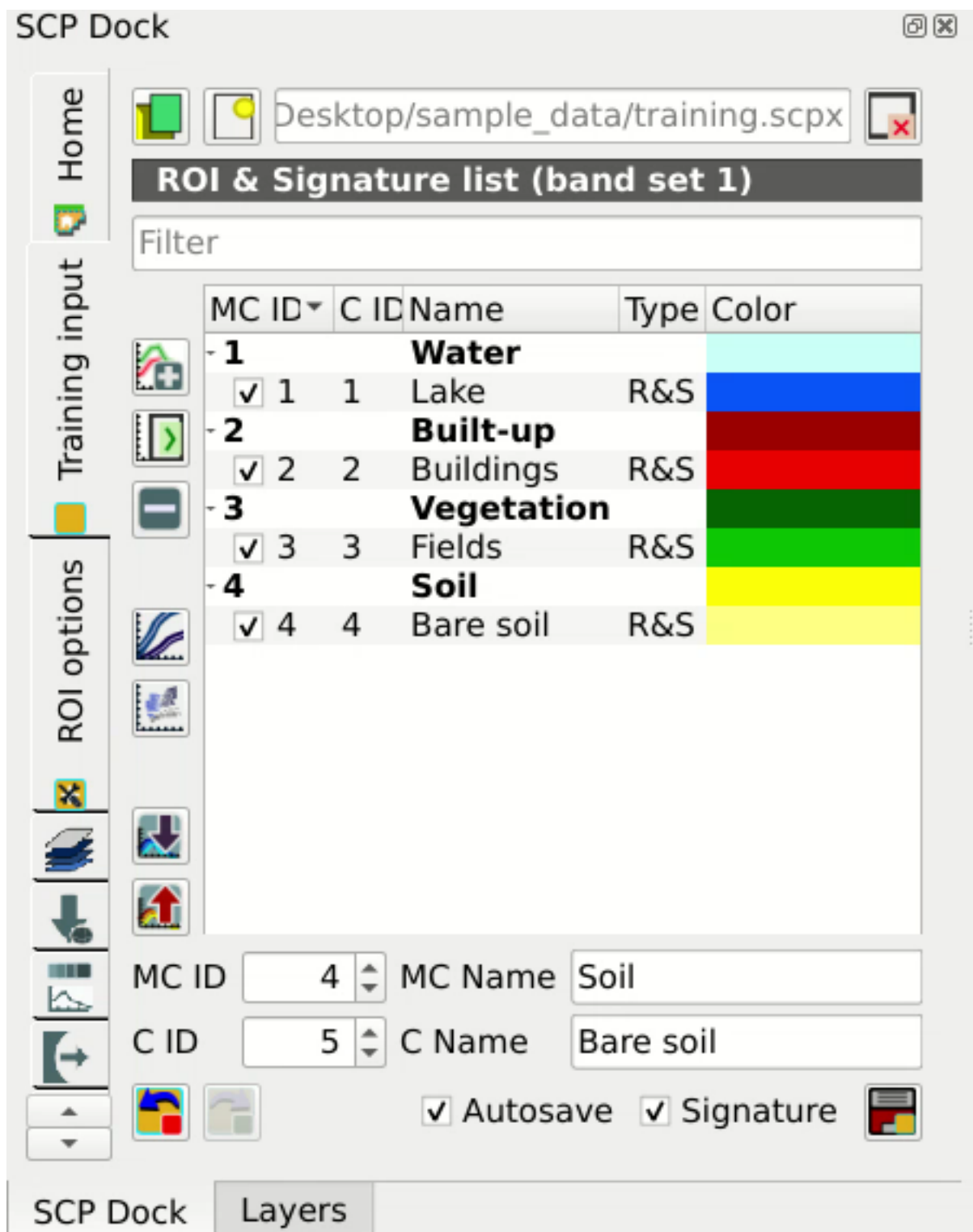


Fig. 10: Definition of class colors

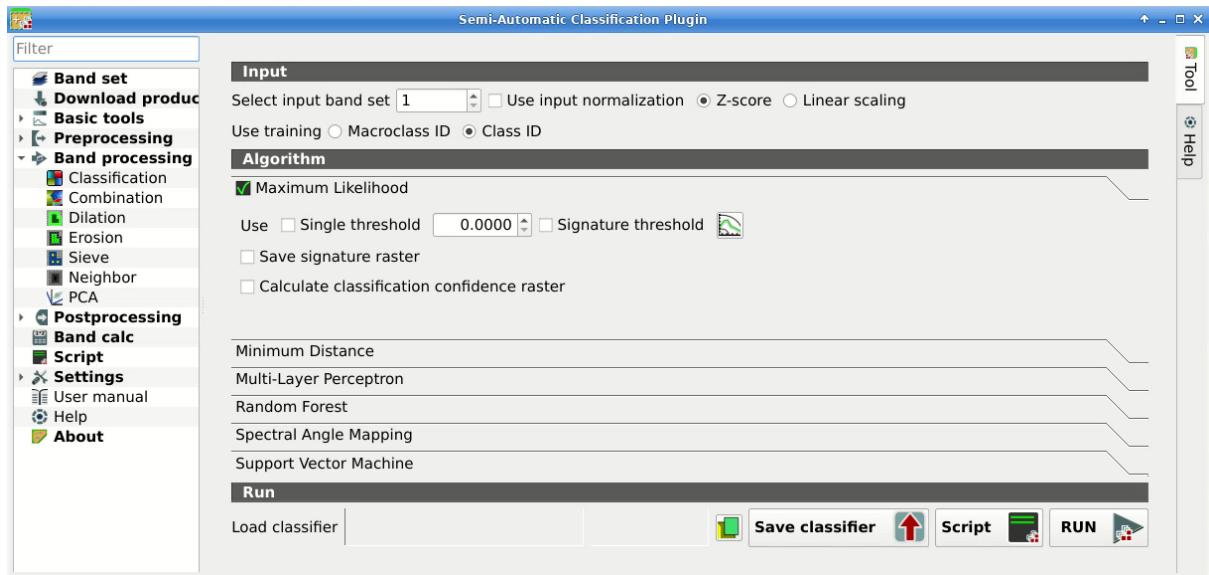


Fig. 11: Setting the algorithm and using C ID



Fig. 12: Classification preview displayed over the image using C ID



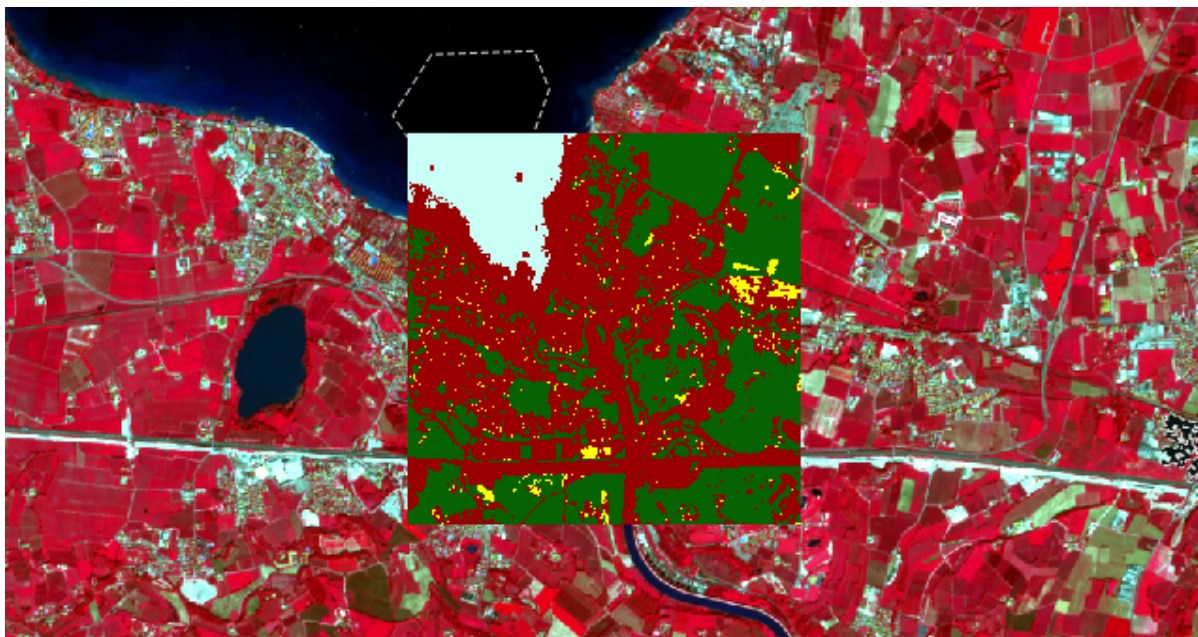



Fig. 13: *Classification preview displayed over the image using MC ID*

causes errors, it can be removed from the *Training input* with the button .

---

## Create the Classification Output

Assuming that the results of classification previews show a good agreement with the image (i.e. pixels are assigned to the correct class defined in the *ROI & Signature list* (Pag. 36)), we can perform the actual land cover classification of the whole image.

In *Classification* (Pag. 74) check ☒ *Use Macroclass ID*. Click the button *Run* (Pag. 83)  and define the path of the classification output, which is a raster file (.tif).

---

**Suggerimento:** If ☒ *Play sound when finished* is checked in *Calculation process* (Pag. 111) settings, a sound is played when the process is finished.

---

**Well done!** You have just performed your first land cover classification.

However, you can see that there are several classification errors, because the number of ROIs (spectral signatures) is insufficient.

In other tutorials we are going to learn about the download and preprocessing of bands, the classification algorithms, and the postprocessing of classifications.

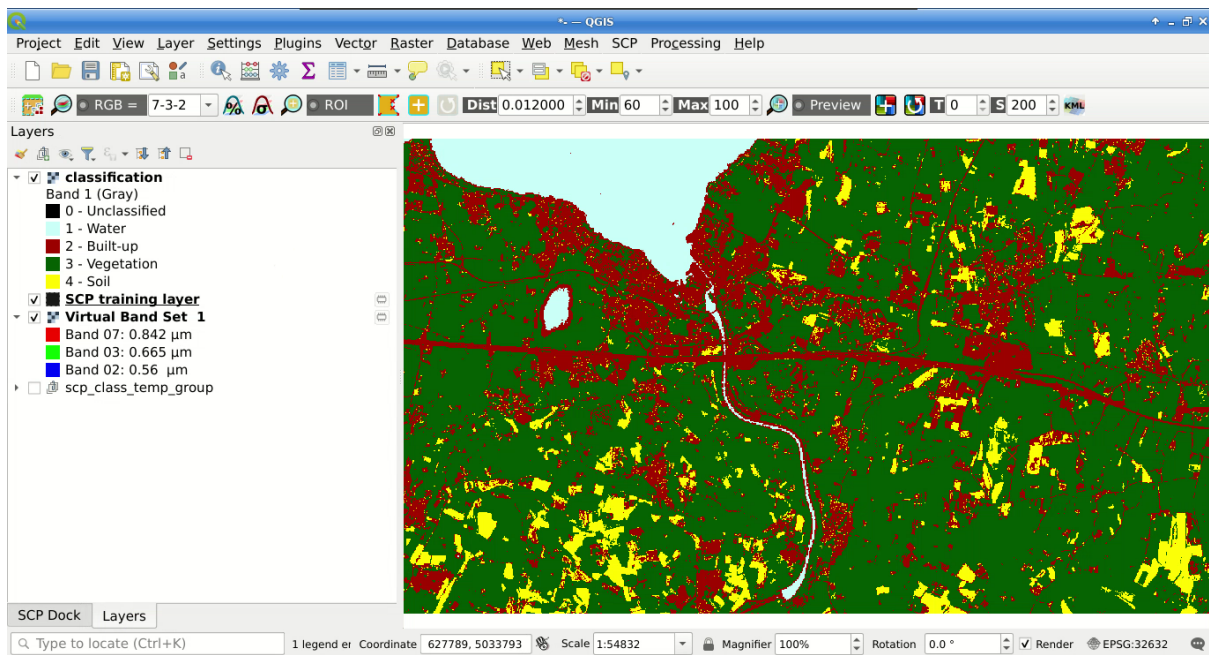


Fig. 14: Result of the land cover classification

- 1 - Water
- 2 - Built-up
- 3 - Vegetation
- 4 - Soil

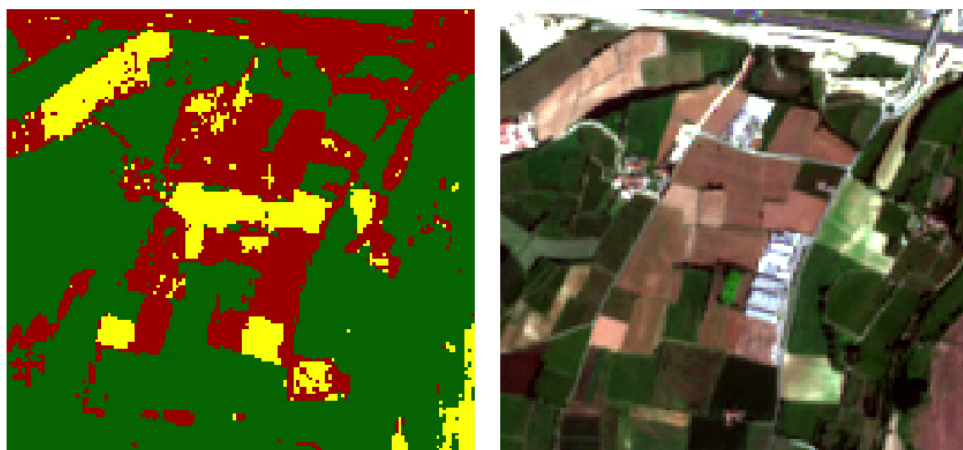


Fig. 15: Example of error: Soil classified as Built-up

## 5.2 Tutorial 2: Managing input bands, the Band set tab

The following is a basic tutorial about the *Band set* (Pag. 45) tab, which allows for managing input bands.

Following the video of the tutorial.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQXfBPke2J4>

## 5.3 Tutorial 3: Downloading free satellite images, the Download product tab

The following is a basic tutorial about the *Download products* (Pag. 48) tab, which allows for downloading free satellite images such as Landsat and Sentinel-2.

Following the video of the tutorial.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwL2f5Nrn3U>



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### Thematic Tutorials

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The following are thematic tutorials. Before these tutorials, it is recommended to read the *Basic Tutorials* (Pag. 157).



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Frequently Asked Questions

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If you have comments or questions please join the [Facebook group](#) .

Before asking, please check the official site [From GIS to Remote Sensing](#) and the following Frequently Asked Questions.

- *Plugin installation* (Pag. 176)
  - *How to install the plugin manually?* (Pag. 176)
  - *How to install the plugin from the official SCP repository?* (Pag. 176)
  - *Can I use the previous version 7 of SCP?* (Pag. 178)
- *Pre processing* (Pag. 180)
  - *Which image bands should I use for a semi-automatic classification?* (Pag. 180)
  - *Which Landsat bands can be converted to reflectance by the SCP?* (Pag. 181)
  - *Can I apply the conversion to Sentinel-2 images downloaded from the web?* (Pag. 181)
  - *Can I apply the conversion to Sentinel-2 L2A downloaded from the web?* (Pag. 181)
  - *Can I apply the Landsat conversion and DOS correction to clipped bands?* (Pag. 181)
  - *Can I apply the DOS correction to bands with black border (i.e. with NoData value)?* (Pag. 181)
  - *How to remove cloud cover from images?* (Pag. 181)
- *Processing* (Pag. 181)
  - *I get classification errors. How can I improve the accuracy?* (Pag. 181)
  - *Is it possible to use the same training input for multiple images?* (Pag. 182)
  - *What is the difference between classes and macroclasses?* (Pag. 182)
  - *Can I use SCP with images from drones or aerial photographs?* (Pag. 182)
  - *Why using only Landsat 8 band 10 in the estimation of surface temperature?* (Pag. 182)
  - *How can I speed up the processing?* (Pag. 182)
  - *How do I perform accuracy assessment and how to design the number of samples?* (Pag. 182)

- *Warnings* (Pag. 183)
  - *Warning [12]: The following signature will be excluded if using Maximum Likelihood. Why?* (Pag. 183)
- *Errors* (Pag. 183)
  - *How can I report an error?* (Pag. 183)
- *Various* (Pag. 185)
  - *What can I do with the SCP?* (Pag. 185)
  - *How to contribute to SCP* (Pag. 186)
  - *How can I translate this user manual to another language?* (Pag. 186)
  - *Where is the source code of SCP?* (Pag. 187)

## 7.1 Plugin installation

### 7.1.1 How to install the plugin manually?

The SCP can be installed manually (this can be useful when an internet connection is not available, or the installation is required on multiple computers), following a few steps:

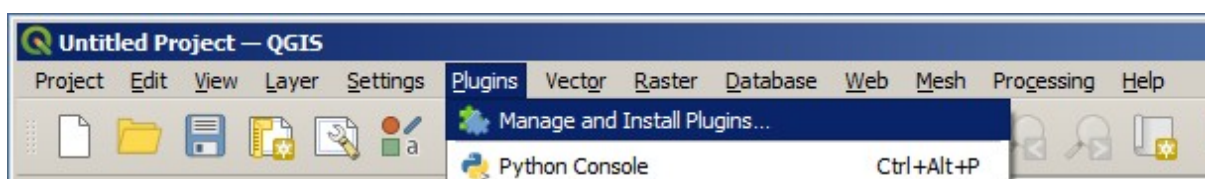
1. download the SCP zip archive from <https://github.com/semiautomaticgit/SemiAutomaticClassificationPlugin/archive/master.zip> ;
2. extract the content of the archive (several files such as COPYING.txt and folders such as ui) in a new folder named SemiAutomaticClassificationPlugin (without -master);
3. open the QGIS plugins directory (in Windows usually C:\Users\username\AppData\Roaming\QGIS\QGIS3\profiles\default\python\plugins, in Linux and Mac usually /home/username/.local/share/QGIS/QGIS3/profiles/default/python/plugins) and delete the folder SemiAutomaticClassificationPlugin if present;
4. copy the folder SemiAutomaticClassificationPlugin inside the QGIS plugins directory;
5. the plugin should be installed; start QGIS, open the Plugin Manager and be sure that Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin is checked.

### 7.1.2 How to install the plugin from the official SCP repository?

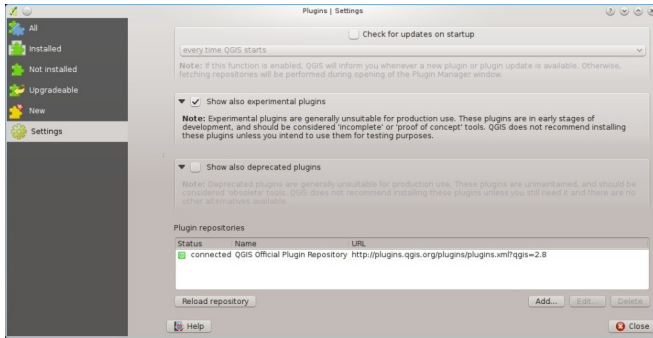
It is possible to install the SCP using the official repository. This repository allows for the installation of the latest version of SCP (master), in some cases also before the availability thereof in the QGIS repository. Therefore, this can be useful if you need a fix or a new function that is still not available in the QGIS repository. Moreover, the master version in the SCP repository can be installed along with the version available in the QGIS repository.

In order to install the SCP repository follow these steps:

- Run QGIS;
- From the main menu, select Plugins > Manage and Install Plugins;



- Click Settings then click the button Add;



- Inside the Repository details enter:

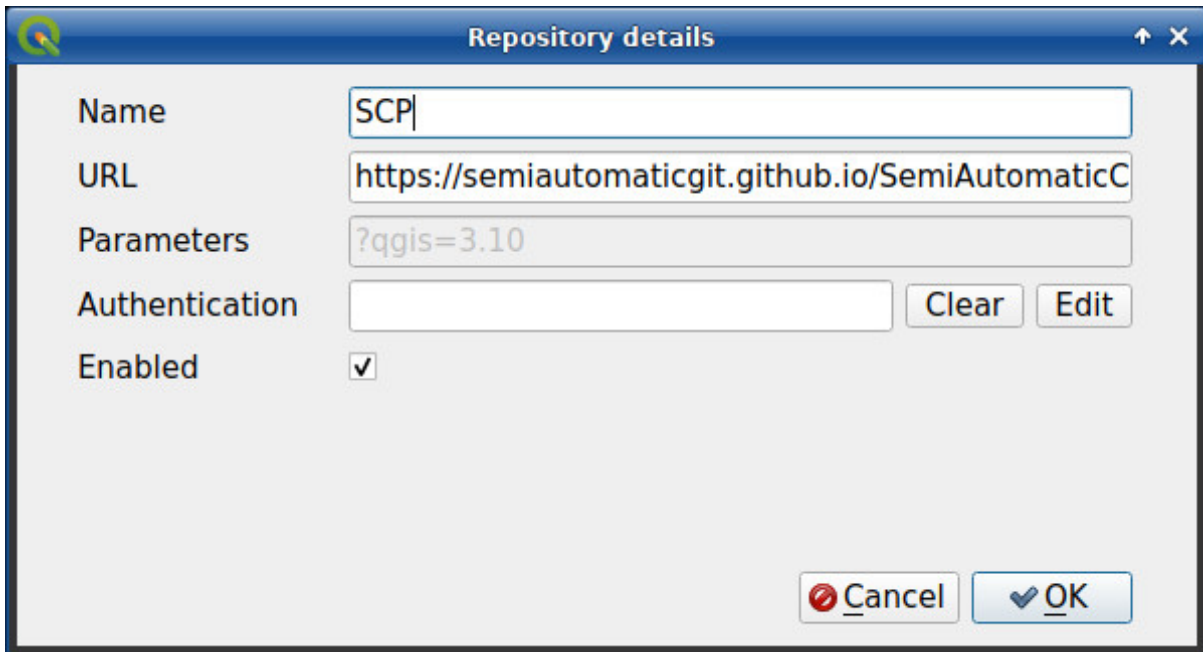
Name:

SCP

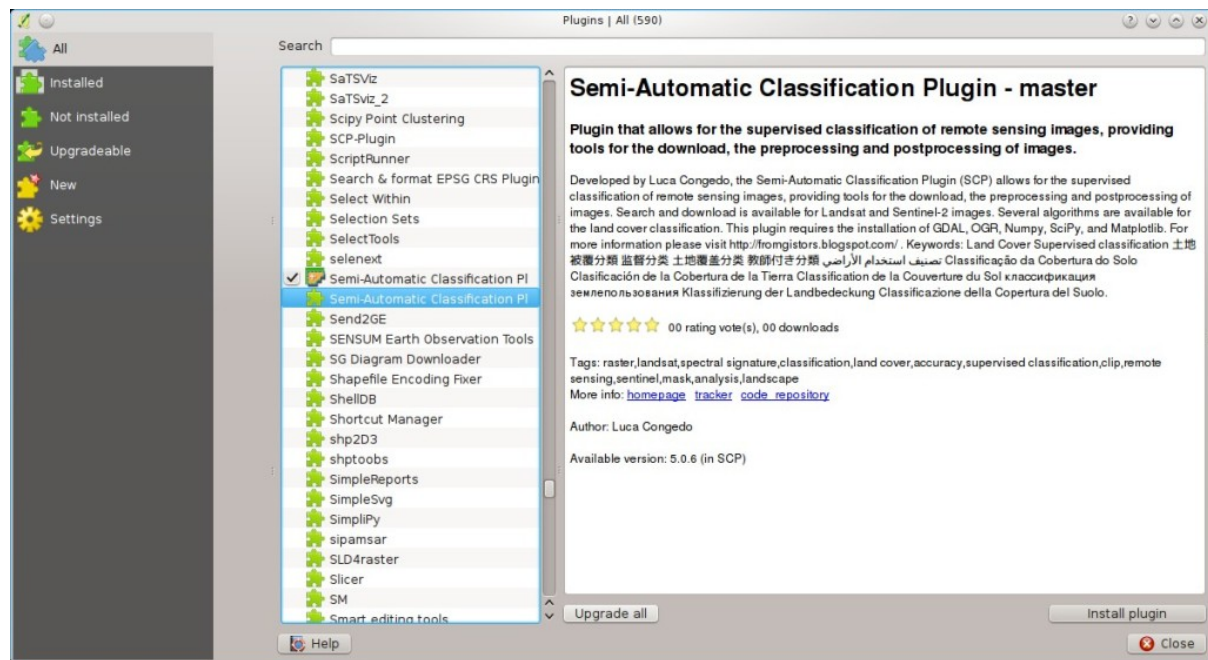
URL:

<https://semiautomaticgit.github.io/SemiAutomaticClassificationPlugin/repository.xml>

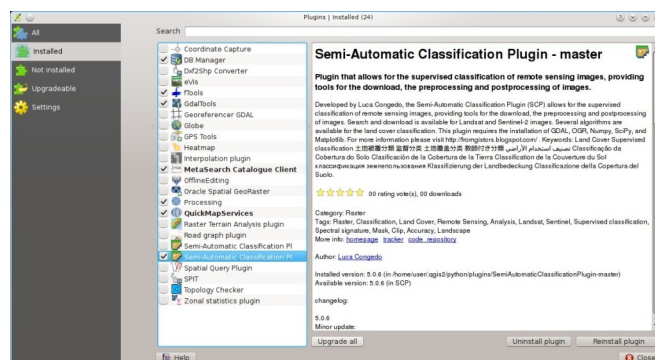
and click OK;



- After the repository update, the item Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin - master should be listed with the other plugins;



- From the menu All, select the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin - master and click the button Install plugin; the latest version of SCP should be automatically activated (ignore errors, the restart of QGIS could be necessary to complete the SCP installation); it is possible to deactivate the other SCP installed in the QGIS repository;

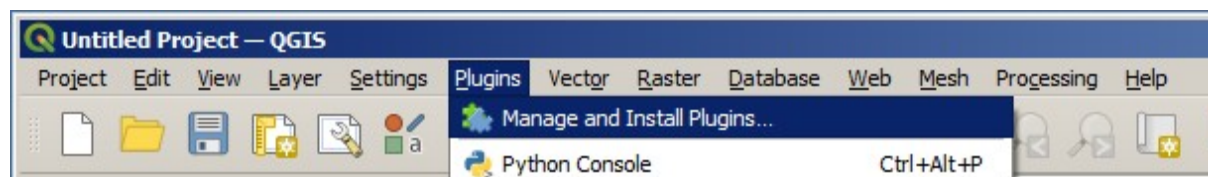


### 7.1.3 Can I use the previous version 7 of SCP?

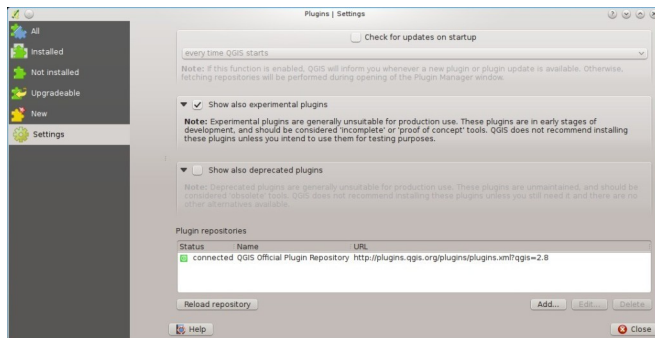
It is possible to install the previous version 7 of SCP using the official repository. Also, this version can be installed along with the SCP version 8.

In order to install the SCP repository follow these steps:

- Run QGIS;
- From the main menu, select Plugins > Manage and Install Plugins;



- Click Settings then click the button Add;



- Inside the Repository details enter:

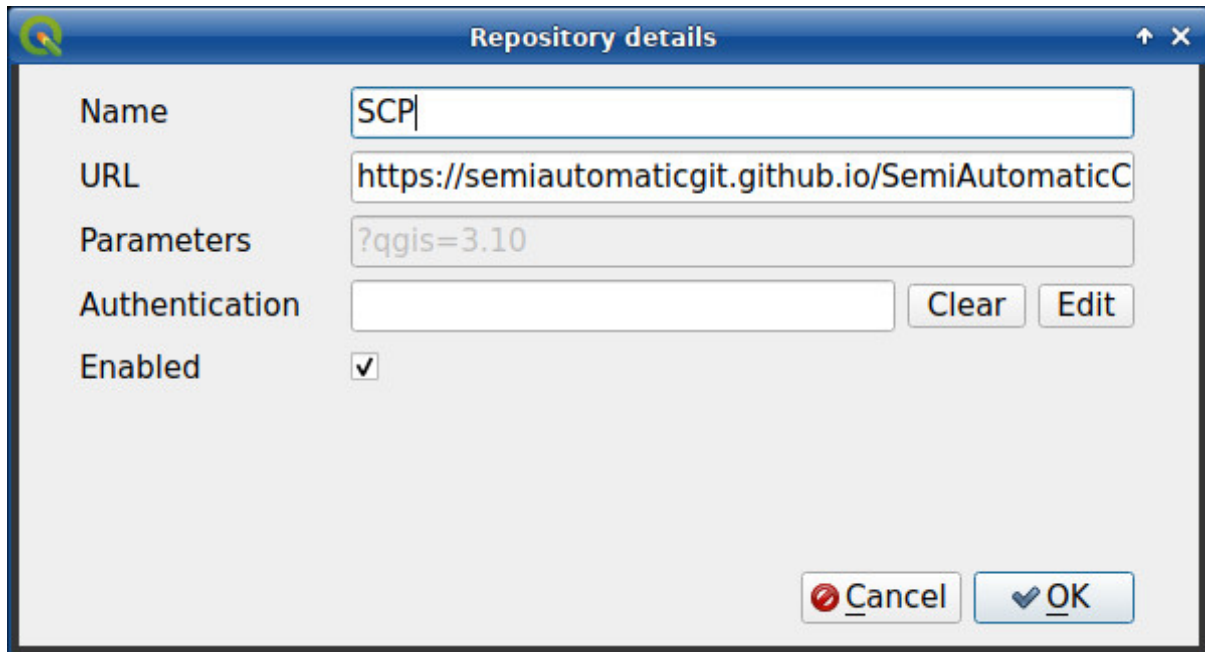
Name:

SCP

URL:

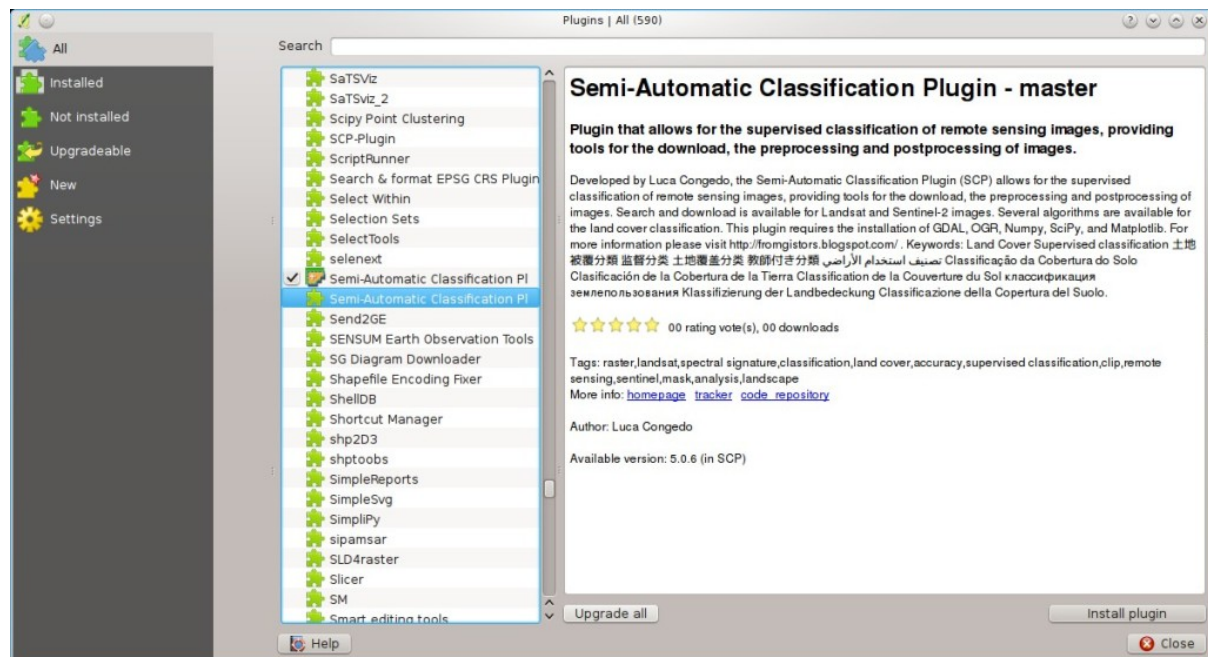
[https://semiautomaticgit.github.io/SemiAutomaticClassificationPlugin\\_v7/repository.xml](https://semiautomaticgit.github.io/SemiAutomaticClassificationPlugin_v7/repository.xml)

and click OK;

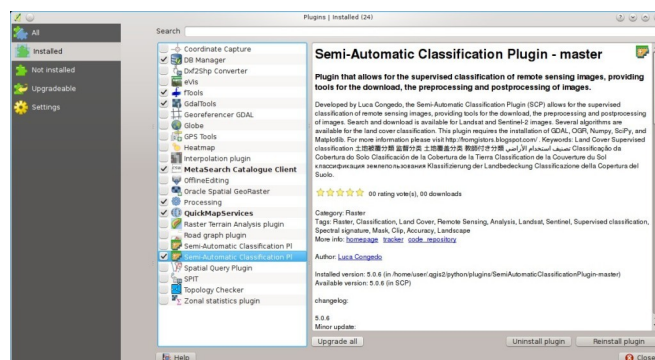


- After the repository update, the item Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin - master should be listed with the other plugins;





- From the menu All, select the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin - master and click the button Install plugin; the latest version of SCP should be automatically activated (ignore errors, the restart of QGIS could be necessary to complete the SCP installation); it is possible to deactivate the other SCP installed in the QGIS repository;



## 7.2 Pre processing

### 7.2.1 Which image bands should I use for a semi-automatic classification?

In general, it is preferable to avoid thermal infrared bands. If you are using Landsat 4, 5 or 7 you should select bands: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 avoiding band 6 that is thermal infrared; for Landsat 8 you should select bands: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Landsat 8 band 1 is generally avoided because it is very similar to the blue band and it is mainly used for coastal aerosol study. Landsat thermal infrared band is excluded from classifications because values are mainly related to object temperature.

For Sentinel-2 images you can use bands: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8A, 11, 12.



## 7.2.2 Which Landsat bands can be converted to reflectance by the SCP?

All Landsat 1, 2, and 3 MSS and Landsat 4, 5, 7, and 8 images downloaded from <http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/> and processed with the Level 1 Product Generation System (LPGS) can be converted to reflectance automatically by the SCP; products generated by the LPGS have a MTL file included that is required for the conversion.

## 7.2.3 Can I apply the conversion to Sentinel-2 images downloaded from the web?

Yes, you can convert also images downloaded from the web (actually the conversion is recommended). You should move all the bands (.jp2 files) and if available the .xml file whose name contains MDT\_SAFL1C in the same directory. Then select this directory in *Image conversion* (Pag. 64). Images are converted to reflectance.

## 7.2.4 Can I apply the conversion to Sentinel-2 L2A downloaded from the web?

Yes, you should move all the .jp2 files inside the same directory and rename the files with the band number in the ending of the name (e.g. from name\_02\_10m.jp2 to name\_02.jp2) Then select this directory in *Image conversion* (Pag. 64). Images are converted to reflectance.

## 7.2.5 Can I apply the Landsat conversion and DOS correction to clipped bands?

Yes, you can clip the images before the conversion to reflectance and then copy the MTL file (contained in the Landsat dataset) inside the directory with the clipped bands. If you want to apply the DOS correction (which is an image based technique) you should convert the original Landsat bands (the entire image) and then clip the conversion output (i.e. bands converted to reflectance).

## 7.2.6 Can I apply the DOS correction to bands with black border (i.e. with NoData value)?

If you want to apply the DOS correction to an entire band which has NoData values (the black border with value = 0) then you have to check the checkbox *Use value as NoData* and set the value to 0. This is because DOS is an image based technique, and NoData values must be excluded from the calculation.

## 7.2.7 How to remove cloud cover from images?

DOS1 correction does not remove clouds from the image. However, Landsat 8 images include Band 9 that identifies clouds (see this [NASA site](#)). You can use this band for the creation of a mask.

# 7.3 Processing

## 7.3.1 I get classification errors. How can I improve the accuracy?

Several materials have similar spectral signatures (e.g. soil and built-up, or forest and other types of dense low vegetation), which can cause classification errors if ROIs, and spectral signatures thereof, are not acquired correctly. In order to improve the results, you can try to collect more ROIs over these areas, in order to train the algorithm for these very similar areas, also, display the spectral signatures of these areas in *Spectral Signature Plot* (Pag. 113) to assess their similarity. You can also use a *Signature threshold* (Pag. 60) for these signatures in order to reduce the variability thereof (only pixels very similar to the input signatures will be classified).

### 7.3.2 Is it possible to use the same training input for multiple images?

Yes, it is possible if all the images have the same number of bands. However, if images are acquired in different months, land cover changes (especially of vegetation state) will affect the spectral signature (i.e. the same pixel has different spectral signature in different periods). Atmospheric effects could also affect the images differently. That could reduce classification accuracy. Therefore, it is suggested to collect always the ROIs and spectral signatures for every image.

### 7.3.3 What is the difference between classes and macroclasses?

Please see *Classes and Macroclasses* (Pag. 134).

### 7.3.4 Can I use SCP with images from drones or aerial photographs?

Yes, you can use them if they have at least 4 bands. With less than 4 bands, semi-automatic classification algorithms are unable to classify the land cover correctly. Alternative classification methods exist, such as object oriented classification, which is not implemented in SCP.

### 7.3.5 Why using only Landsat 8 band 10 in the estimation of surface temperature?

Several methods were developed for estimating surface temperature. The method described in the tutorial for temperature estimation requires only one band. Moreover, USGS recommends that users refrain from relying on Landsat 8 Band 11 data in quantitative analysis of the Thermal Infrared Sensor data (see [Changes to Thermal Infrared Sensor \(TIRS\) data by USGS](#)).

### 7.3.6 How can I speed up the processing?

In order to speed up the processing you should set the available RAM and the number of threads available in *System* (Pag. 110). *Available RAM (MB)* should be half of the system RAM (e.g. 1024MB if system has 2GB of RAM) or more if the system has a large amount of RAM (e.g. 10240MB if system has 16GB of RAM). *CPU threads* should be a value lower than the maximum number of system threads (e.g. if the system has 4 available threads set value 3).

Also, several tools allow for selecting the output format `.vrt` avoiding the time required to create a unique `.tif` raster (after multiprocessing), especially useful for large rasters.

### 7.3.7 How do I perform accuracy assessment and how to design the number of samples?

Accuracy assessment is described in [this tutorial](#).

Sample design is required to provide an adequate number of samples for each class, as described in «Olofsson, et al., 2014. Good practices for estimating area and assessing accuracy of land change. Remote Sensing of Environment, 148, 42 – 57».

The number of samples ( $N$ ) should be calculated as (Olofsson, et al., 2014):

$$N = \left( \sum_{i=1}^c (W_i - S_i) / S_o \right)^2$$

where:

- $W_i$  = mapped area proportion of class  $i$ ;
- $S_i$  = standard deviation of stratum  $i$ ;

- $S_o$  = expected standard deviation of overall accuracy;
- $c$  = total number of classes;

To stratify the sample we should conjecture user's accuracy and standard deviations of strata (Olofsson, et al., 2014). One can hypothesize that user's accuracy is lower and standard deviations  $S_i$  is higher for classes having low area proportion, but of course these values should be carefully evaluated.

This requires some conjectures about overall accuracy and user's accuracy of each class. We should base these conjectures on previous studies.

As starting values, we could assume  $S_o = 0.01$  and perform a rough accuracy assessment with random samples, and eventually calculate the  $S_i$  to perform the sampling design. Alternatively, one could start with  $S_i = 0.5$  for all the classes. Basically the higher is  $S_i$ , the larger is the number of samples for that class.

## 7.4 Warnings





### 7.4.1 Warning [12]: The following signature will be excluded if using Maximum Likelihood. Why?

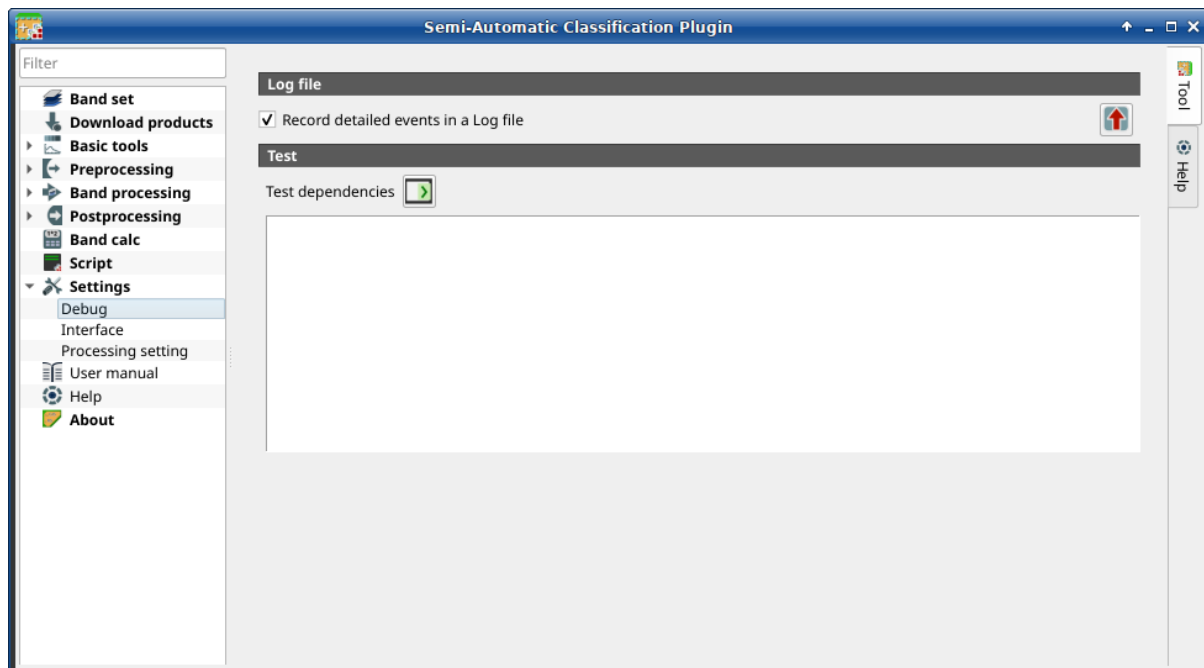
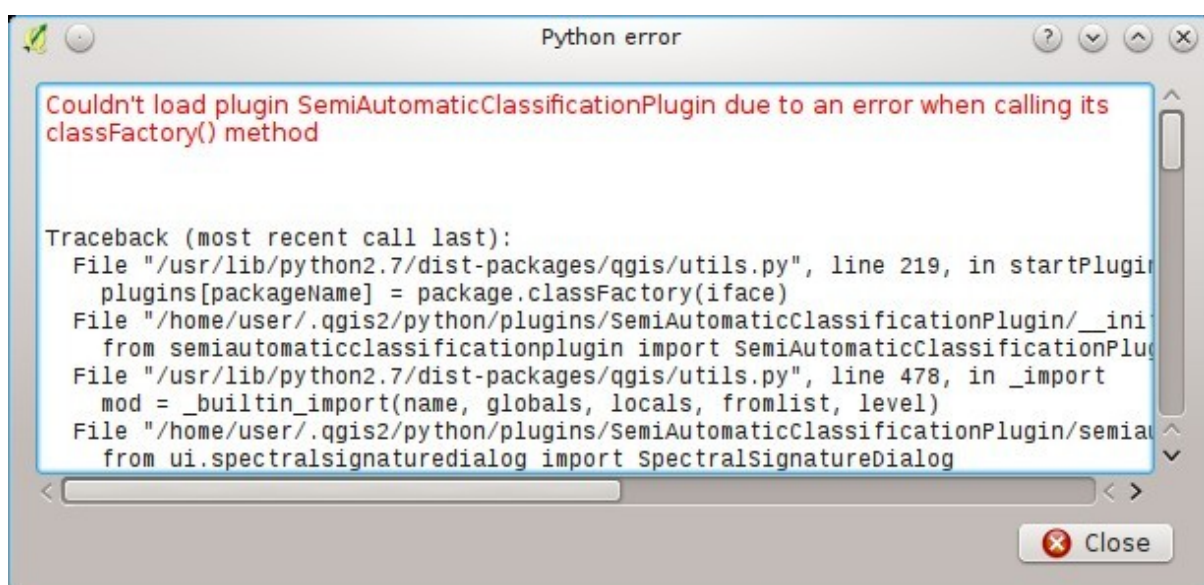
The ROI is too small (or too homogeneous) for the *Maximum Likelihood* (Pag. 137) algorithm because that ROI has a singular covariance matrix. You should create larger ROIs or don't use the Maximum Likelihood algorithm in the classification process.

## 7.5 Errors

### 7.5.1 How can I report an error?

If you found an error of the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin please follow these steps in order to collect the required information (log file):

1. close QGIS if already open;
2. open QGIS, open the Plugin tab *Debug* (Pag. 107) and check the checkbox  *Records detailed events in a log file* ;
3. click the button *Test dependencies*  in the tab *Debug* (Pag. 107) ;
4. **load the data in QGIS (or open a previously saved QGIS project) and repeat all the steps that cause the error in the Plugin;**
  - if the issue could be related to the image data, please use [this sample dataset](#) ;
5. if an error message appears (like the one in the following image), copy the whole content of the message in a text file;
6. open the tab *Debug* (Pag. 107) and uncheck the checkbox  *Records events in a log file*, then click the button  and save the **log file** (which is a text file containing information about the Plugin processes);
7. open the **log file** and copy the whole content of the file;
8. join the Facebook [group](#) , create a new post and copy the error message and the **log file** (or attach them).

Fig. 1: *Debug*Fig. 2: *Error message*

## 7.6 Various

### 7.6.1 What can I do with the SCP?

SCP allows for the **land cover classification** of remote sensing images through *Supervised Classification* (Pag. 133). You can produce a land cover raster using one of the *Classification Algorithms* (Pag. 135) available in SCP. These algorithms require spectral signatures or ROIs as input (for definitions please read *Brief Introduction to Remote Sensing* (Pag. 123)) that define the land cover classes to be identified in the image.

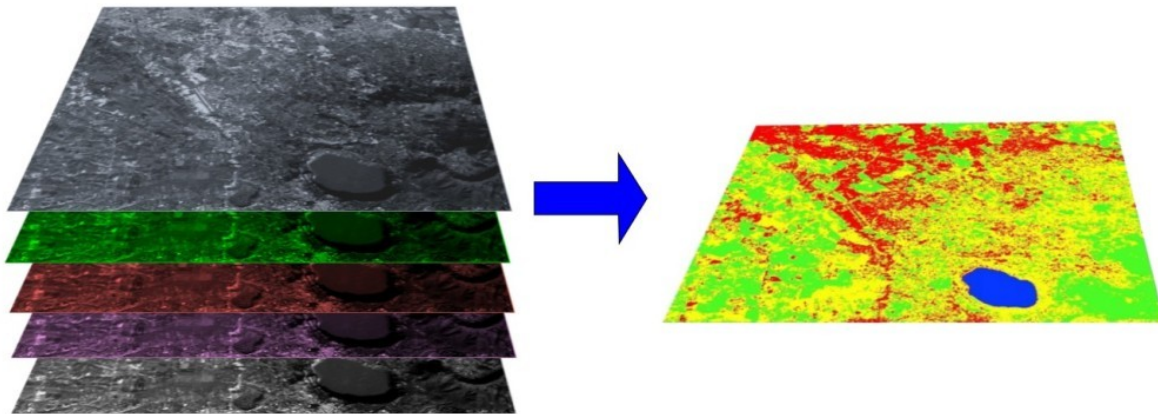


Fig. 3: A multispectral image processed to produce a land cover classification  
(Landsat image provided by USGS)

SCP can work with **multispectral images** acquired by satellites, airplanes, or drones. Also, SCP allows for the direct search and download of free images (see *Download products* (Pag. 48)). You cannot use orthophotos with less than 4 bands and LIDAR data with SCP.

**Input image** in SCP is called *Band set* (Pag. 45), which is used as input for the classification. SCP provides several tools for the *Preprocessing* (Pag. 62) of downloaded images, such as the conversion to reflectance and manipulation of bands.

The *Spectral Signature Plot* (Pag. 113) and *Scatter Plot* (Pag. 116) allow for the **analysis of spectral signatures and ROIs**. Also, several *Basic tools* (Pag. 53) are available for easing the ROI creation and editing spectral signatures.

**Raster calculation** is available through the seamless integration of the tool *Band calc* (Pag. 98) with bands in the *Band set* (Pag. 45), calculating mathematical expressions and spectral indices.

See the *Basic Tutorials* (Pag. 157) for more information and examples.

## 7.6.2 How to contribute to SCP

You can contribute to *SCP* by fixing and adding functionalities (see *Where is the source code of SCP?* (Pag. 187)), or translating the user manual (see *How can I translate this user manual to another language?* (Pag. 186)).

## 7.6.3 How can I translate this user manual to another language?

It is possible to easily translate the user manual to any language, because it is written in reStructuredText as markup language (using Sphinx). Therefore, your contribution is fundamental for the translation of the manual to your language. The following guide illustrates the main steps for the translation, which can be performed:

- using the free online service Transifex;
- using the gettext .po files.

Before translating, please [read this document](#) from the QGIS translation guide, which helps you understand the reStructuredText.

### Method 1. Translation using the free online service Transifex

This is probably the easiest way to translate the manual using an online service.

1. Join the Semi-automatic Classification Manual project

Go to the page <https://www.transifex.com/semi-automatic-classification/semi-automatic-classification-plugin-manual> and click the button **Help translate**. You can sign in using your Google or Facebook account, or with a free registration.

2. Select your language

Select your language and click the button **Join team**. If your language is not listed, click the button **Request language**.

3. Translation

There are several files to be translated, which refer to the sections of the SCP documentation. To translate the SCP interface you should select the file `semiautomaticclassificationplugin.ts`.

### Method 2. Translation using the gettext .po files

In order to use this method, you should be familiar with GitHub. This translation method allows for the translation of the PO files locally.

1. Download the translation files

Go to the GitHub project [https://github.com/semiautomaticgit/SemiAutomaticClassificationManual\\_v4/tree/master/locale](https://github.com/semiautomaticgit/SemiAutomaticClassificationManual_v4/tree/master/locale) and download the .po files of your language (you can add your language, if it is not listed), or you can fork the repository. Every file .po is a text file that refers to a section of the User Manual.

2. Edit the translation files

Now you can edit the .po files. It is convenient to edit those file using one of the following programs: for instance **Poedit** for Windows and Mac OS X, or **Gtranslator** for Linux or **OmegaT** (Java based) for Windows, Linux and Mac OS X. These editors allow for an easy translation of every sentence in the User Manual.

#### 7.6.4 Where is the source code of SCP?

The source code of SPC is available at the following link <https://github.com/semiautomaticgit/SemiAutomaticClassificationPlugin>