

Digital Grain Size

Version 2, Jan 2011

Quick start guide for MATLAB





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Applications

Places

System

17:00

File

Edit

View

History

Bookmarks

Tools

Help

http://sedimentology.usgs.gov/fundamentals/grain-size.html

Google

GOFF - General Co...

GOFF Internat...

Index - Outlook Re...

Sign in

GOFF users (Goo...

Physics on the Net


Google Calendar

TurkicPE MainPa...

Grain Size from Dig...

Grain - Conjugation ...

Bedform Sedimentology ripple



USGS
science for a changing world

Pacific Coastal & Marine Science Center

Bedform Sedimentology Site—ripples, dunes, and cross-bedding

Grain Size from Digital Images

Introduction

Hardware

Sample images

Publications

Computer code

Bedform Sedimentology Site

Home page

Grain Size from Digital Images of

Bedform

Bedforms & Cross-bedding in

Asymmetries

Forecasting Techniques,

Underlying Physics, and

Applications

Software for download

POHRC users

Research by Topic

Research by Location

Using Google Maps

Research by Project Year

POHRC Home Page

Search POHRC

Grain Size from Digital

Computer code

Rubin, D.H., 2004, A simple automated example of basic code for obtaining grain size from digital images of bedforms. *Journal of Sedimentary Research*, v. 74, p. 149-160. [[HTML PDF](#)]

Baerentzen, D., Rubin, D.H., and [Harris, E.C.](#) 2006. *Grain Size from Digital Images of Bedforms and Cross-Bedding in Asymmetries*. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, v. 111, p. 10001.


Warwick, J.A., Rubin, D.H., Ruggiero, J. 2006. *Grain Size from Digital Images of Bedforms and Cross-Bedding in Asymmetries*. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, v. 111, p. 10001.

The following files can be used to download the whole folder as a zip file:

- [code.zip](#)
- [code.zip](#)
- [code.zip](#)
- [code.zip](#)
- [code.zip](#)
- [code.zip](#)
- [code.zip](#)
- [code.zip](#)

Opening this file

We have chosen to open

 **code.zip**

which is a Zip archive

from [http://sedimentology.usgs.gov](#)

What should Firefox do with this file?

☐ Open with: **Archive Manager (default)**


☒ Save file

☐ Do this automatically for files like this from now on.


Cancel

Open


Save the zip file somewhere on your computer




code.zip



code.zip



code.zip



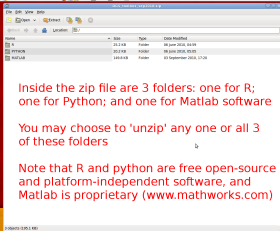
code.zip

Grain Size from Digital Images of Bedform

Done

Firefox 1.5.0-20050810

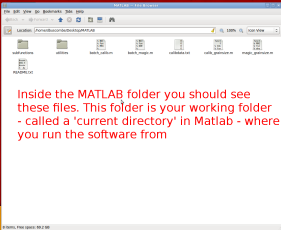
Bedform Sedimentology

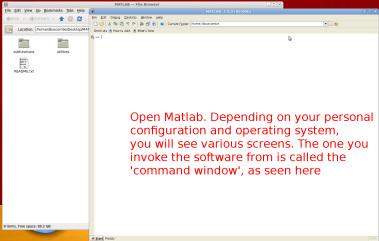


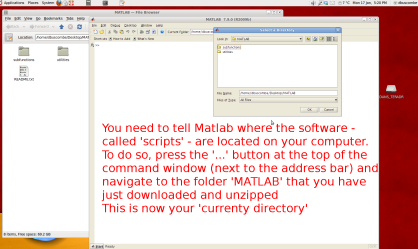
Inside the zip file are 3 folders: one for R;
one for Python; and one for Matlab software

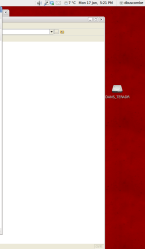
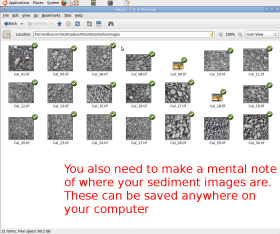
You may choose to 'unzip' any one or all 3 of these folders

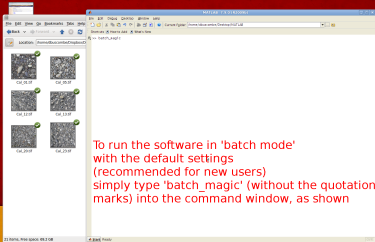
Note that R and python are free open-source and platform-independent software, and Matlab is proprietary (www.mathworks.com)

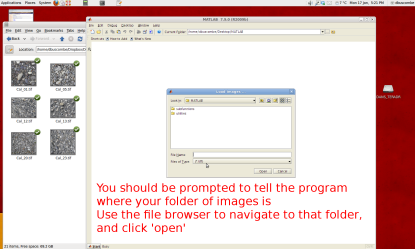




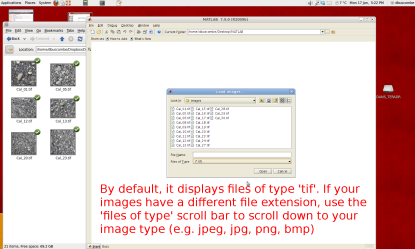


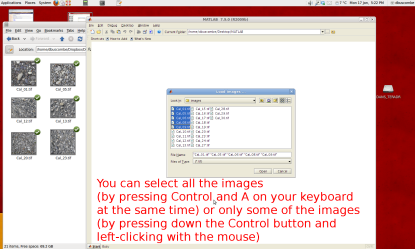






You should be prompted to tell the program
where your folder of images is
Use the file browser to navigate to that folder,
and click 'open'





Applications Places System

Matlab T3 (2020a)

File Edit View Command Window Help

Current Folder: /home/ibrahim/Downloads/GrainSizeLab

Running: 0 Ports: 0 Active: 0

```

reading image ...
calculated edge gradient-size = 62.8
reading image ...
image not square using the seaTiter algorithm (1000 pixels)
calculated edge gradient-size = 115
reading image ...
Calculated axes gradient-size = 70.4
reading image ...
image not square using the seaTiter algorithm (1000 pixels)
Calculated axes gradient-size = 138
reading image ...
image not square using the seaTiter algorithm (1000 pixels)
Calculated axes gradient-size = 113
as above

```

Name	Size	Type	Class	Attributes
Coordinate	1x1	double	cell	
Outputs	1x1		logical	
R	1x1	0	double	
Filter	1x1	0	double	
r	1x1	0	double	
regionsize	1x5	400	cell	
regionsize	1x40	0	double	
rm	1x1	0	double	
v	1x1	0	double	

When complete, type 'whos' (without quotes) into the command window. The grain size results are stored in a data structure called 'GrainSize'. The data within corresponds to the input images, which are in 'imaged_name'. Type these into the command window to view their contents

23 10/15/2020 10:00:00 AM

Applications Places System

MATLAB T3 (2020a)

File Edit View Go Breakpoints Help

Location: /home/iboucard/OneDrive/OneDrive

loading image ...
calculated each grain-size = 62.8
loading image ...
image not square using the sea/flat direction (1000 pixels)
calculated each grain-size = 115
loading image ...
calculated each grain-size = 73.4
loading image ...
image not square using the sea/flat direction (1000 pixels)
calculated each grain-size = 138
loading image ...
image not square using the sea/flat direction (1000 pixels)
calculated each grain-size = 113
as above

name	Size	Bytes	Class	Attributes
Coordinate	1x1	8460000	cell	
Outputs	1x1		logical	
R	1x1	8	double	
Filter	1x1	8	double	
v	1x1	8	double	
heightmap	1x5	400	cell	
heightmap	1x40	32	char	
res	1x1	8	double	
v	1x1	36	char	

as Coordinate

Coordinate =

[1x1 struct] [1x1 struct] [1x1 struct] [1x1 struct] [1x1 struct]

R > |

For example, typing 'GrainSize' will show you it's contents: here 5 images were analysed, so there are 5 data structures, 1 per image

23 10/14/2020 10:00:00 AM



Applications Places System

MATLAB T3 (2020a)

File Edit View Go Breakpoints Help

Current Folder C:\Users\blu\Documents\GrainSize

GrainSize (2) Results Data Results View

GrainSize (2) MeanGrainSize

ans =

62.1000

GrainSize (2)

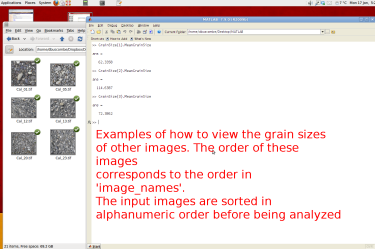
To access the grain size result for each image type GrainSize followed by the number image in curly brackets { }

There will be a few outputs: the one of immediate interest is 'MeanGrainSize'. See the README.txt for explanation of the other outputs

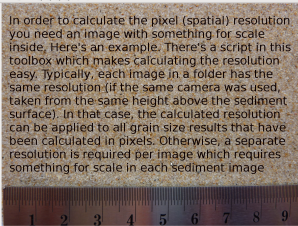
If you used 'batch_magic' with the default settings, this grain size will have units of length in pixels. To convert to millimetres (micrometres) this value in pixels must be multiplied by the pixel resolution in millimetres (micrometres) per pixel

23 MB RAM 100% Space 49.3 GB

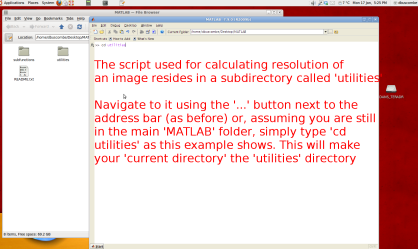
MatLab T3 (2020a) File Browser Images File Browser

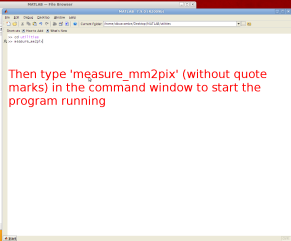


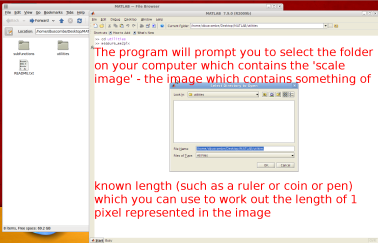
In order to calculate the pixel (spatial) resolution you need an image with something for scale inside. Here's an example. There's a script in this toolbox which makes calculating the resolution easy. Typically, each image in a folder has the same resolution (if the same camera was used, taken from the same height above the sediment surface). In that case, the calculated resolution can be applied to all grain size results that have been calculated in pixels. Otherwise, a separate resolution is required per image which requires something for scale in each sediment image

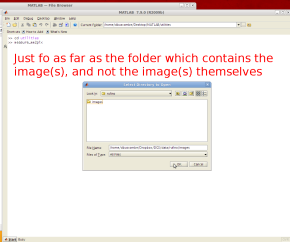


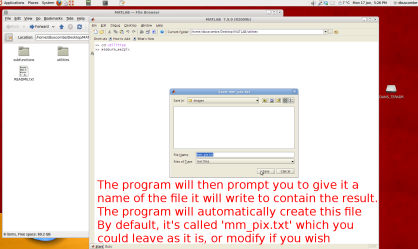
2560 x 1500 pixels 1:1.00 100% 1/2



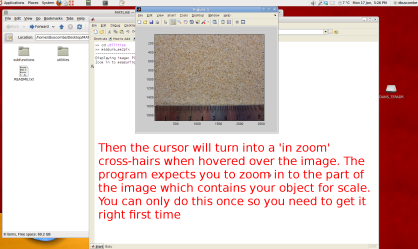








The program will then prompt you to give it a name of the file it will write to contain the result. The program will automatically create this file. By default, it's called 'mm_pix.txt' which you could leave as it is, or modify if you wish.



Then the cursor will turn into a 'in zoom' cross-hairs when hovered over the image. The program expects you to zoom in to the part of the image which contains your object for scale. You can only do this once so you need to get it right first time

Applications Places System

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Help

Location: /home/bucombe/Desktop/MATLAB

subfunctions utilities README.txt

8 items, Free space: 59.2 GB

MATLAB

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Help

Location: /home/bucombe/Desktop/MATLAB

subfunctions utilities README.txt

8 items, Free space: 59.2 GB

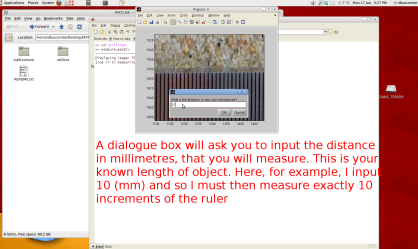
Figure 1

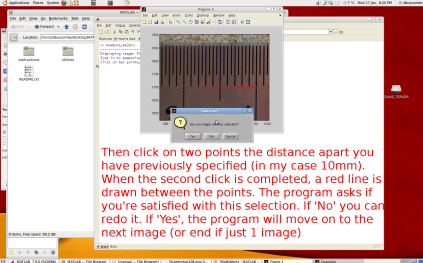
100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000

0 50 100 150 200 250 300 350 400 450 500 550 600 650 700 750 800 850 900 950 1000

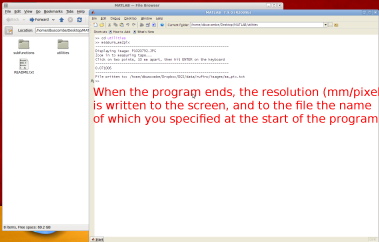
For example, here I've zoomed into the ruler. In this case I can measure a known distance in the image quite easily by choosing any number of millimetre increments. If, however, you have a coin or similar object, you need to zoom in to its full extent so you can measure across its entire measurable length

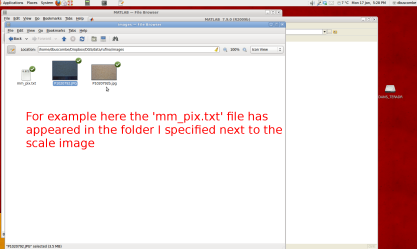
Open Save Print

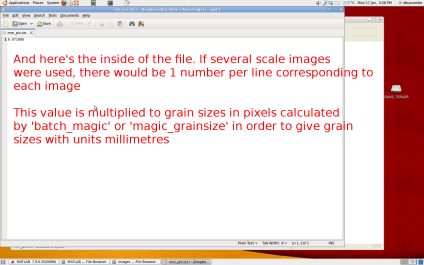




Then click on two points the distance apart you have previously specified (in my case 10mm). When the second click is completed, a red line is drawn between the points. The program asks if you're satisfied with this selection. If 'No' you can redo it. If 'Yes', the program will move on to the next image (or end if just 1 image)







And here's the inside of the file. If several scale images were used, there would be 1 number per line corresponding to each image

This value is multiplied to grain sizes in pixels calculated by 'batch_magic' or 'magic_grainsize' in order to give grain sizes with units millimetres

Feedback, Questions and Comments? Email Dan Buscombe:

daniel.buscombe@plymouth.ac.uk

Look out for version 3 featuring an automated statistical estimate of grain size standard deviation (sorting) - coming soon!

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