



RANDOM FORESTS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS TERSCHELLING

Random Forest:

Random Forests are a type of analysis in machine learning in which a large number of simpler operations called 'Decision Trees' are combined. The randomness refers to the way this analysis enables individual trees to differ (at random) which increases accuracy.

Artificial Intelligence:

Artificial intelligence is a branch of computer science that aims to create intelligent machines. Self-learning artificial agents typically excel in situations that can be perfectly simulated, like a board game, but struggle in real world applications where the model only approximates (navigating a self-driving car on a foggy road). In tasks that can be modeled well, an AI learns through auto-play and can typically develop successful strategies much faster than humans. Self-motivation is seen as another mayor challenge.

Machine Learning:

Is used sometimes because the term artificial intelligence is used extremely generally. Machine learning is closely related to (and often overlaps with) computational statistics. Its a field of computer science that gives computer systems the ability to "learn" (i.e., progressively improve performance on a specific task) with data, without being explicitly programmed. Based on data a machine can build up a 'world view' as artist Memo Atken calls it, which seems to parallel the notion of an 'Umwelt' in biological organisms.

Periscopedune:

Is a fictional place on the island of Terschelling that originates from the Captain Rob comicbook-series and serves as one of the nodes on the island within the IMRAMA programme. The Periscopedune has been adopted by Theun as the intellectual point of departure on the island for the RandomForests fieldwork session. Thematically the Periscopedune is associated with 'Vigilance', where the landscape is becoming a sensorscape looking back at us.

UNESCO natural world heritage criteria:

- "contains superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance"
- "is an outstanding example representing major stages of Earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features"
- "is an outstanding example representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems, and communities of plants and animals"
- "contains the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation"



Wadden Sea - Waddenzee (NL), Watten Meer (DE), Vadehavet (DK). See: [whc.unesco.org/Wadden Sea](http://whc.unesco.org/Wadden%20Sea).

The Wadden Sea is a transnational UNESCO World Heritage, type natural. The Dutch and German parts are enlisted in 2009, extended with the Danish part in 2014.

In het Dutch part the North Sea 'outside' the islands, is excluded, in The German and Danish part not, there the sea north of the islands is included in the World Heritage. All the islands are excluded, also the main German routes for sea traffic and the gas platform half way Harlingen and the island of Terschelling.

The UNESCO-description of 'oustanding universal value', is based on 3 criteria:

- the Wadden Sea is an unique example of geomorphological processes, large scale, long term (which seems to be rejected now).
- the production of biomass is one of the highest in de world: shellfish, fish, birds.
- teh Wadden Sea is an essential stopover, key site in the East Atlantic and African Eurasian flyways.
- the criterium (number 7) 'a landscape of outstanding beauty' is not at stake.

Wadden Islands

Formerly known as North Sea Islands. After realisation of the Closing Dyke (Afsluitdijk) in 1932, part of the Dutch Zuiderzee (South Sea) was renamed as Wadden Sea. The (Dutch) Nort Sea Islands became Wadden Sea Islands.

Wadden Land

The mainland (continent) near the Wadden Sea.

Wadden Aerea

The total geographical space of Wadden Sea, Wadden Islands, Wadden Land.

Natura 2000 Area

Parts of the Wadden Area are designated Natura 2000 Area, a European diploma. In the Netherlands a total of 156.

Intellectual geography

A wiki-like formula:

At its most basic and descriptive level, intellectual geography aims simply to map out the distribution of intellectual activity in space and time. For this purpose, a variety of data – from correspondence networks ... library or printers' catalogues ... professorial biographies, to travel diaries – can be aggregated to help localize intellectueel traditions spatially, establish the geographical scope of their influence, chart the media and routes (internet) through which they communicated with other centres, and plot their rise and fall relative to neighbours and competitors. Nowadays, the ambition to map the distribution of activities of artifical intelligence is part of this multidiciplinary branch of history orientated geography.