

Alternative data where it's
needed the most.

Use case: Satellite Imagery -
North Africa

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ResearchGate

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332289781_Nightlight_Satellite_Imagery_as_a_Predictor_for_Economic_Activity_Use_Case_Tunisia

Nightlight Satellite Imagery as a Predictor for Economic Activity. Use Case: Tunisia

November 2018

DOI: [10.13140/RG.2.2.10913.66406](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.10913.66406)

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Overview

Stats

Comments

Citations

References (4)

Related research

Description and figures

Luminosity data has been observed to be an effective proxy for economic activity, especially in developing countries with poorer statistical systems (Chen 2010). In particular, statistical measures of nighttime lights are correlated with measured income and GDP per capita (Pinkovskiy 2014). In addition, measures of luminosity can also tell us about the access to electricity and the level of public goods provision in a given region (Michalopoulos 2012). Given that this data can be very objectively and consistently measured, has been gathered over such a long time-span, and can be measured at a very high level of geographical fineness (Henderson 2009), it is likely to be conducive to enhancing our understanding of economic activity in a given country. As Elvidge et al. put it, "Nighttime lights provide a useful proxy for development and have great potential for recording humanity's presence on the earth's surface and for measuring important variables such as annual growth rates for development" (Elvidge 2007). Finally, luminosity data has many useful data visualization purposes; maps of nighttime lights are both nice to look at and insightful.

