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# **Relief Visualization Toolbox in Python**

**ZRC SAZU and University of Ljubljana**

**Mar 18, 2024**



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Relief Visualization Toolbox (RVT) was produced to help scientists visualize raster elevation model datasets. We have narrowed down the selection to include techniques that have proven to be effective for identification of small scale features. The default settings therefore assume working with high resolution digital elevation models derived from airborne laser scanning missions (lidar), however RVT methods can also be used for other purposes.

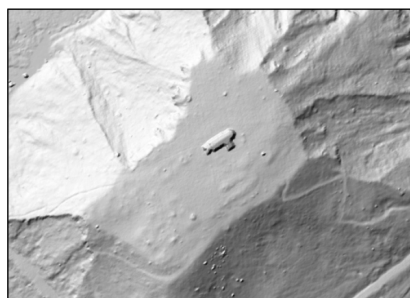
Sky-view factor, for example, can be efficiently used in numerous studies where digital elevation model visualizations and automatic feature extraction techniques are indispensable, e.g. in geography, archaeology, geomorphology, cartography, hydrology, glaciology, forestry and disaster management. It can even be used in engineering applications, such as predicting the availability of the GPS signal in urban areas.



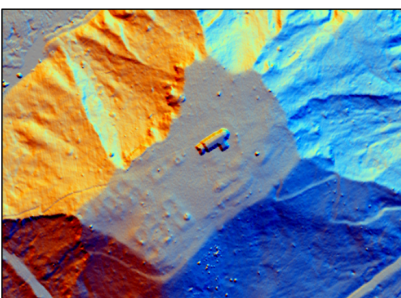
## RVT VISUALIZATION METHODS

Methods currently implemented are:

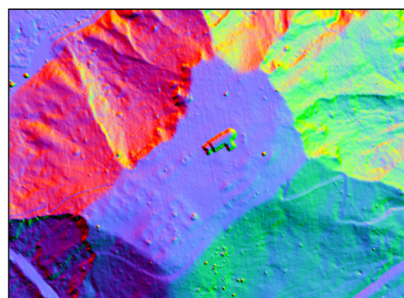
- hillshading
- hillshading from multiple directions
- slope gradient
- simple local relief model
- multi-scale relief model
- sky illumination
- sky-view factor (as developed by our team)
- anisotropic sky-view factor
- positive and negative openness
- local dominance



**hillshading**  
azimuth: 315°  
sun elevation: 35°



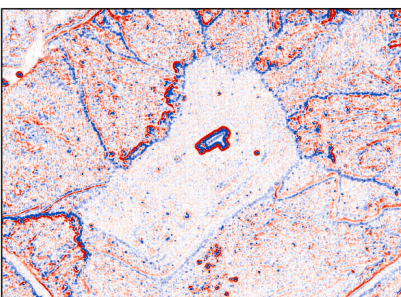
**hillshadings in 3 directions**  
R: 315°  
G: 15°  
B: 75°



**PCA of hillshadings**  
R: 1<sup>st</sup> component  
G: 2<sup>nd</sup> component  
B: 3<sup>rd</sup> component



**slope**  
0 50°



**local relief model**  
radius: 10 m  
-0.1 0.1



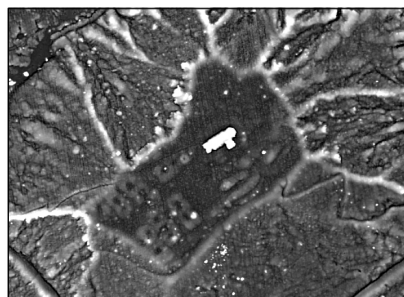
**sky-view factor**  
number of directions: 32  
search radius: 10 m  
0.55 1



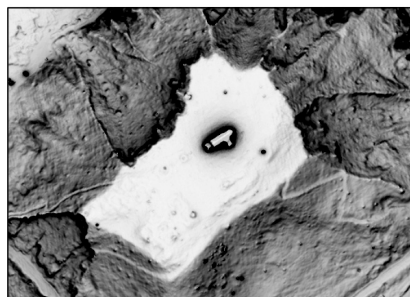
**anisotropic sky-view factor**  
number of directions: 32  
search radius: 10 m  
0.55 1



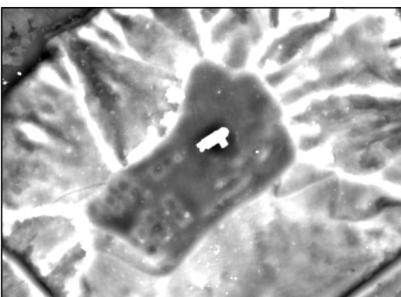
**positive openness**  
number of directions: 32  
search radius: 10 m  
60° 95°



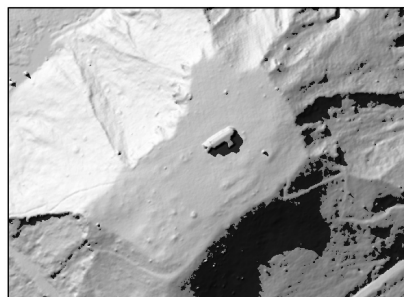
**negative openness**  
number of directions: 32  
search radius: 10 m  
60° 95°



**sky illumination model**  
model: overcast  
max. distance: 50 m  
0.45 0.59



**local dominance**  
search radius: 10-20 m  
0.5 1.8



**shadows on hillshading**  
azimuth: 315°  
sun elevation: 35°

Lidar data © Walks of peace in the Soča river foundation  
Average last and only returns per m<sup>2</sup> of a combined dataset: 11.2  
Spatial resolution of the DEM: 0.5 m

0 50 100 m



## REFERENCES

When using the tools, please cite:

- Kokalj, Ž., Somrak, M. 2019. [Why Not a Single Image? Combining Visualizations to Facilitate Fieldwork and On-Screen Mapping](#). *Remote Sensing* 11(7): 747.
- Zakšek, K., Oštir, K., Kokalj, Ž. 2011. [Sky-View Factor as a Relief Visualization Technique](#). *Remote Sensing* 3: 398-415.
- Kokalj, Ž., Zakšek, K., Oštir, K. 2011. [Application of Sky-View Factor for the Visualization of Historic Landscape Features in Lidar-Derived Relief Models](#). *Antiquity* 85, 327: 263-273.



## FURTHER READING

- Kokalj, Žiga, Ralf Hesse. 2017. [Airborne laser scanning raster data visualization: A Guide to Good Practice](#). Ljubljana: Založba ZRC. (a comparative guide describing each method)





## CONTRIBUTING

The project source code is available at [GitHub](#). Pull requests are welcome. For major changes, please open an issue first to discuss what you would like to change.

Please report any bugs and suggestions for improvements.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Development of RVT was part financed by the European Commission's Culture Programme through the ArchaeoLandscapes Europe project and by the Slovenian Research Agency core funding No. P2-0406, and by research projects No. J2-9251, No. J6-7085 and No. J6-9395.

Development of RVT QGIS plugin was part financed by PTS Consultancy via the UK Government Culture Recovery Fund.



## **LICENSE**

This project is licensed under the terms of the [Apache License](#).

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## **6.1 Installation**

RVT can be installed as a package for Python, where it can be used in Python scripts, Jupyter Notebooks and ArcGIS Pro.

RVT can also be installed as a set of custom raster functions for ArcGIS, and a plugin for QGIS.

You can also clone the repository ([GitHub rvt\\_py](#)).

### **6.1.1 Requirements**

Required libraries (specified versions have been tested, other versions may also work):

- numpy 1.19.2
- scipy 1.5.2
- gdal 3.0.2

We recommend using Python 3.6 or higher and a Conda environment (this works best with `gdal`).

---

## **CONTENTS**

### **Python installation**

#### **Conda**

The `rvt` package is available from the [Anaconda Cloud repository](#). Using Conda to install the `rvt` package will include all required libraries.

First [install Anaconda and Conda](#).

Then open Anaconda Prompt (Windows) or Terminal (MacOS) and run:

```
conda install -c rvt py rvt_py
```

### PyPI

Another option is to install the `rvt-py` package and required libraries using the [Python Package Index \(PyPI\)](#).

PyPI usually has problems installing `gdal`, so [install gdal first](#).

Then open Command Prompt (Windows) or Terminal (MacOS) and run:

```
pip install rvt-py
```

### ArcGIS installation

To use RVT in ArcGIS Pro, [download the ArcGIS Raster Functions repository](#) by selecting Code → Download ZIP.

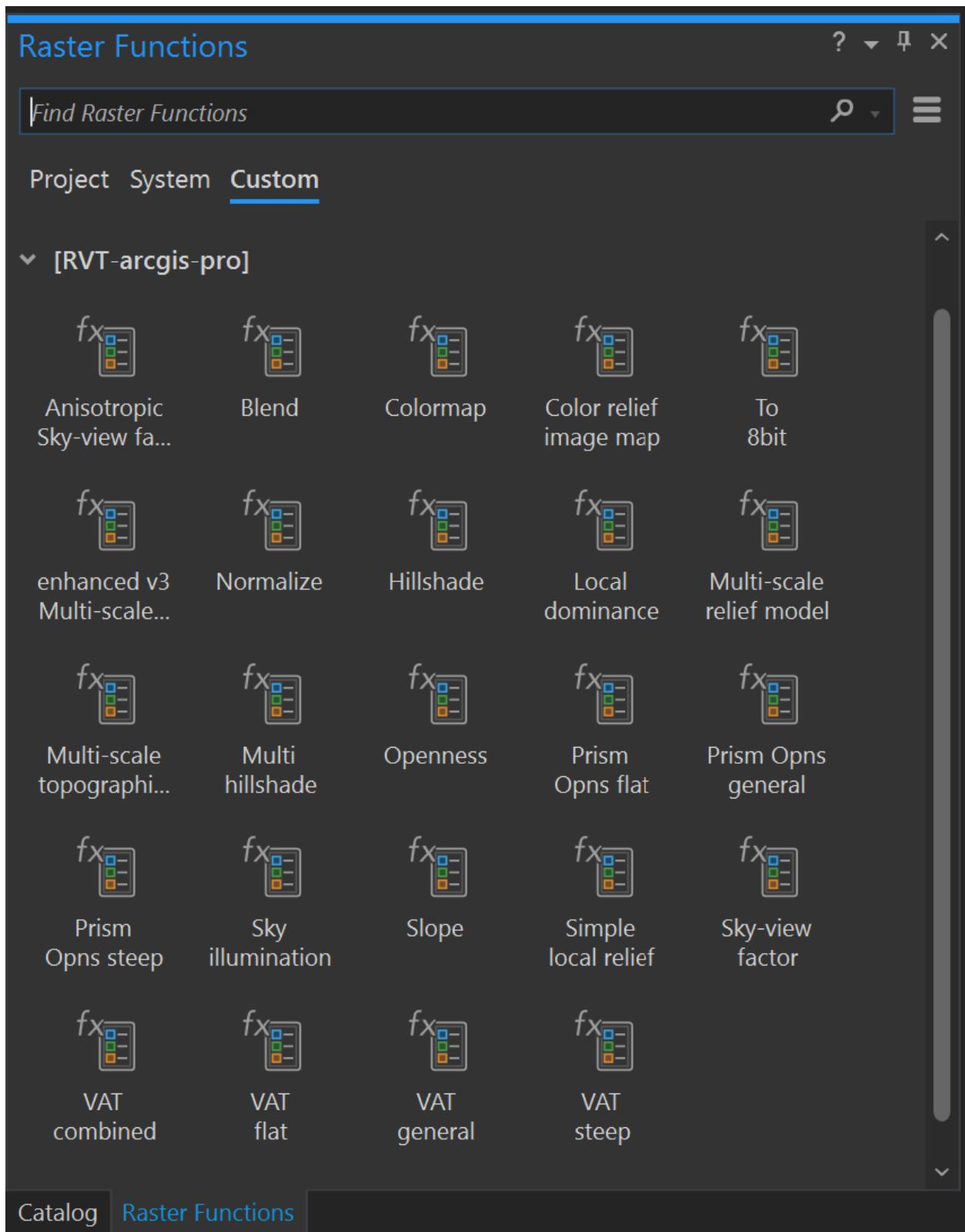
Unzip the downloaded repository folder and *rename* it to `rvt-arcgis-pro`, then copy the whole repository folder to:  
<ArcGIS Pro install path>/Resources/Raster/Functions/Custom

Usually the path is: `c:/Program Files/ArcGIS/Pro/Resources/Raster/Functions/Custom`

For ArcGIS Server use, copy the whole repository folder (`rvt-arcgis-pro`) to every federated server machine of your enterprise setup: <ArcGIS Server install path>/framework/runtime/ArcGIS/Resources/Raster/Functions/Custom

Open or restart ArcGIS Pro. Select Imagery → Raster Functions to open the Raster Functions pane.

In the Raster Functions pane, select the Custom tab to access the `rvt-arcgis-pro` group containing the raster functions.



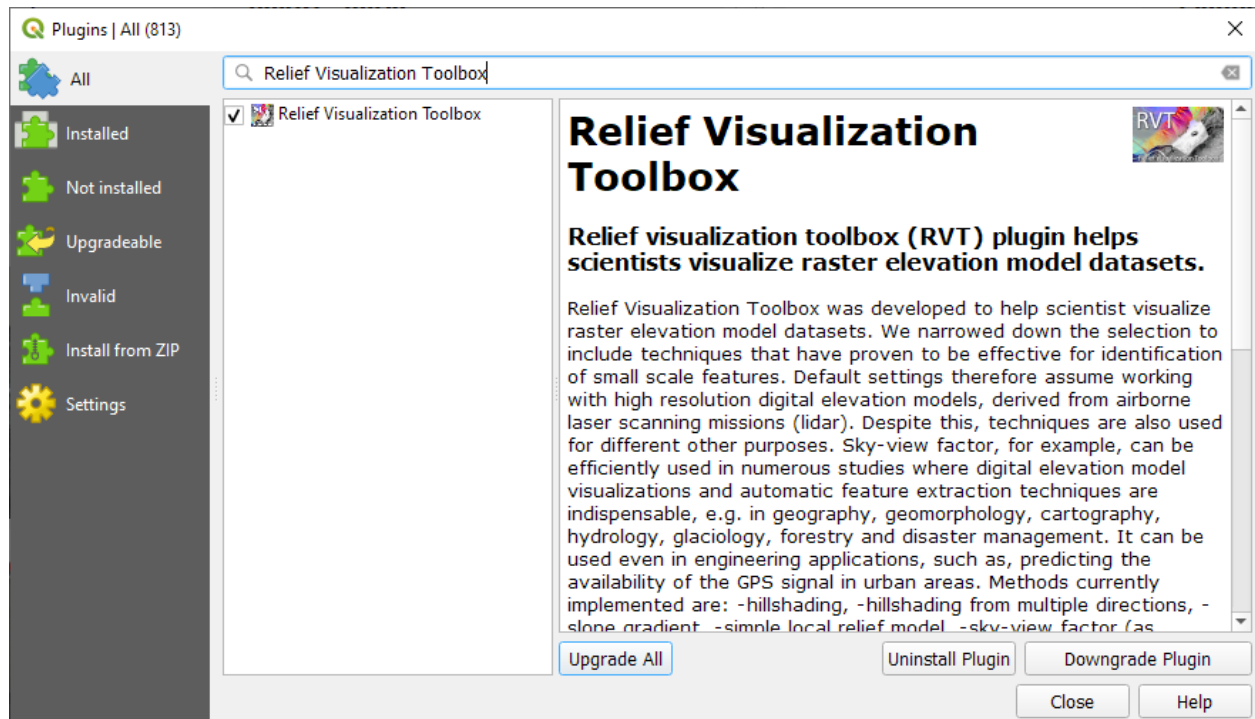
### QGIS installation

To use RVT in QGIS, first open QGIS and select Plugins → Manage and Install Plugins → All.

Search for RVT or Relief Visualization Toolbox and select Install Plugin.

Once the plugin is installed, it can be accessed from the Raster menu or by selecting the icon that will appear on the toolbar. All the visualization functions are also available as processing functions in the Processing toolbox.

The RVT QGIS plugin can also be downloaded from the [QGIS Python Plugins Repository](#).



## 6.2 Getting started

The `rvt` Python package contains three modules:

- **vis** (`rvt.vis`) for computing visualizations
- **blend** (`rvt.blend`) for blending visualizations together
- **default** (`rvt.default`) for defining default parameters with methods to compute and save visualization functions using set parameters

This section explains how to complete some basic visualisation tasks using these modules, as well as some information on how to choose which visualizations to use.

If you need some data to get started, a [small sample dataset](#) (2.43 MB) and a [larger sample dataset](#) (152 MB) are available for download.

**See also:**

For more detailed explanations of how to use `rvt` visit [RVT for Python](#)



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**Tip:** Carlos Carbajal has written an excellent two-part blog post on the use of RVT in Python and QGIS (in Spanish). You can check it out here: [Part 1](#) & [Part 2](#).

---

## CONTENTS

### 6.2.1 Reading and saving raster data

For reading raster data (DEMs) from files (GeoTIFFs) to a numpy array we suggest using the `rvt.default` module (which uses `gdal`). You can also use `rasterio`, `gdal` or any other module for reading and saving geo rasters.

---

#### Reading raster data

##### Example

To read a raster with `rvt.default`:

```
# import the module
import rvt.default

# change this to the path to your GeoTIFF
dem_path = r"C:/data/dem.tif"

# call the function rvt.default.get_raster_arr() to return a dictionary with keys:
#   array (contains numpy array of raster),
#   resolution (contains the tuple(x resolution, y resolution)),
#   no_data (contains the value of no_data)
dem_dict = rvt.default.get_raster_arr(dem_path)

# numpy array
dem_arr = dem_dict["array"]

# resolution tuple (x-direction resolution, y-direction resolution)
dem_resolution_tuple = dem_dict["resolution"]

# first element of the resolution tuple (the x-direction resolution)
dem_x_resolution = dem_resolution_tuple[0]

# second element of resolution tuple (the y-direction resolution)
dem_y_resolution = dem_resolution_tuple[1]

# the value of no_data stored in DEM
dem_no_data = dem_dict["no_data"]
```

### Saving raster data

#### Example

Let's say we wanted to use a DEM stored in `dem_path` to compute a hillshade (using `rvt.vis`) stored in `hillshade_arr`, and then save this hillshade visualization to `hillshade_path`:

```
# import the required modules
import rvt.default
import numpy as np

# call the function rvt.default.save_raster() and define the function parameters:
#   src_raster_path: source raster path (dem_path) to copy metadata,
#   out_raster_path: path to new file (visualization tif),
#   out_raster_arr: vizualization numpy array,
#   no_data: value of no_data (visualizations return no data as np.nan)
rvt.default.save_raster(
    src_raster_path=dem_path,
    out_raster_path=hillshade_path,
    out_raster_arr=hillshade_arr,
    no_data=np.nan
)
```

#### See also:

Find out more about defining default values in `rvt.default`.

## 6.2.2 Creating a visualization

Visualizations can be created with both the `rvt.vis` and `rvt.default` modules.

---

### Visualizations with `rvt.vis`

The module `rvt.vis` contains the `rvt` visualization functions.

Every function takes a DEM (as a 2D numpy array) with parameters, and outputs a visualization (as a 2D numpy array).

#### Example

Let's say we need to calculate a hillshade with sun azimuth 315° and sun elevation 35°:

```
# import the module
import rvt.vis

# read the DEM
# Follow the steps in `Reading raster data`

# call the rvt.vis.hillshade() function with its parameters
hillshade_arr = rvt.vis.hillshade(
    dem=dem_arr,
    sun_azimuth=315,
    sun_elevation=35,
    resolution_x=dem_x_resolution,
```

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```

    resolution_y=dem_y_resolution,
    no_data=dem_no_data
)

# save the visualization
# Follow the steps in `Saving raster data`

```

**See also:**

Find out more about visualization functions and their parameters in *rvt.vis*.

**Visualizations with `rvt.default` (beginner)**

For beginner Python users we suggest using `rvt.default` instead of `rvt.vis` to calculate and store visualizations.

As well as containing functions to read and save rasters, `rvt.default` also contains the class `DefaultValues()` where we can store our visualization functions parameters. We can call the methods of this class for saving and computing visualizations with those parameters (these methods use `rvt.vis` for computing visualizations).

**Example**

To calculate, get or save a hillshade using `rvt.default`:

```

# import the module
import rvt.default

# create a DefaultValues() class instance
default = rvt.default.DefaultValues()

# change hillshade parameters default values to our needs
# (they are attributes of DefaultValues(), their name starts with hs_)
default.hs_sun_el = 45
default.hs_sun_az = 300

# call the method default.get_hillshade() which uses the set parameters and
# returns the hillshade numpy array
hillshade_arr = default.get_hillshade(
    dem_arr=dem_arr,
    resolution_x=dem_x_resolution,
    resolution_y=dem_y_resolution,
    no_data=dem_no_data
)

# if we don't need the hillshade array and we just want to save the hillshade, we
# can directly call the default.save_hillshade() method. this method also uses the
# set hillshade parameters and saves the visualization as a GeoTIFF in dem_path
default.save_hillshade(
    dem_path=dem_path,
    save_float=True,
    save_8bit=True # to save the 8bit version of the result, set save_8bit=True
)

```

### Configuring visualization parameters

Parameters of a `DefaultValues()` instance can be saved to a JSON configuration file which can be edited. You can then load this file back and overwrite the attribute values (or visualization functions parameters).

#### Example

```
# import the module
import rvt.default

# create a DefaultValues() class instance
default = rvt.default.DefaultValues()

# change this path to where you would like to save the config file
config_json_path = r"C:/rvt_default_values.json"

# save set attributes values to a JSON configuration file
default.save_default_to_file(file_path=config_json_path)

# overwrite the DefaultValues() instance (default) attributes values
# from the config file
default.read_default_from_file(file_path=config_json_path)
```

### DefaultValues() class methods

The `DefaultValues()` class also contains the methods: `get_slope()`, `save_slope()`, `get_multi_hillshade()`, `save_multi_hillshade()`, `get_slrm()`, `save_slrm()`, `get_sky_view_factor()`, `save_sky_view_factor()`, `get_neg_opns()`, `save_neg_opns()`, `get_local_dominance()`, `save_local_dominance()`, `get_sky_illumination()`, `save_sky_illumination()`.

#### See also:

Find out more about the methods and attributes of the `DefaultValues()` class in [rvt.default](#).

## 6.2.3 Blending visualizations

You can blend manually or automatically.

**Manual blending** allows you to use visualizations that are not part of `rvt`. When blending manually you have to define each layer (visualization) in Python.

**Automatic blending** automatically computes `rvt` visualizations and blends them together according to a configuration JSON file, which can be edited.

The main class of the `rvt.blend` module for blending is `BlenderCombination`, which has the list attribute `layers` where instances of class `BlenderLayer` are stored. In `BlenderLayer` instances in `layers` we store a specific visualization and its parameters for blending.

The `BlenderCombination` class has the method `render_all_images()`, which blends together all `BlenderLayer` instances (visualizations) in the `BlenderCombination.layers` list and outputs the blended image.

You can blend as many layers as you want.

## Manual blending

### Example

Let's say we have already calculated the simple local relief model (slrm\_arr), slope (slope\_arr) and hillshade (hillshade\_arr), and now need to blend all the calculated visualizations together:

```
# import the module
import rvt.blend

# create the BlenderCombination() class instance which will hold the layers_
↳ (visualizations)
combination_manual = rvt.blend.BlenderCombination()

# call BlenderCombination.create_layer() to add a layer
# this creates a BlenderLayer instance and adds it to BlenderCombination.layers

# 1st layer
# add slrm layer with 2% perc cutoff on both sides, multiply blend mode and 25% opacity
combination_manual.create_layer(
    vis_method="Simple local relief model",
    normalization="perc",
    minimum=2,
    maximum=2,
    blend_mode="multiply",
    opacity=25,
    image=slrm_arr
)

# 2nd layer
# add slope layer with value stretch from 0 to 51, luminosity blend mode and 50% opacity
combination_manual.create_layer(
    vis_method="Slope gradient",
    normalization="value",
    minimum=0,
    maximum=51,
    blend_mode="luminosity",
    opacity=50,
    image=slope_arr
)

# 3rd layer
# add hillshade layer with value stretch from 0 to 1, normal blend mode and 100% opacity
combination_manual.create_layer(
    vis_method="Hillshade",
    normalization="value",
    minimum=0,
    maximum=1,
    blend_mode="normal",
    opacity=100,
    image=hillshade_arr
)

# if we want to save the blended image to a file, we need to add dem_path to the
```

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```
# combination (for metadata, geodata)
combination_manual.add_dem_path(dem_path=input_dem_path)

# blend them all together
# you can save the blend to GeoTIFF if save_render_path presented
# (and dem_path is added), otherwise it only returns array
render_arr = combination_manual.render_all_images(save_render_path=output_blend_path)
```

### Example

You can also let the BlenderCombination class automatically compute the visualization or give the path to a visualization.

If you **don't** provide the **image** parameter, and the vis\_method parameter is correct (an existing rvt.vis function), blender automatically calculates the visualization.

If you **don't** provide the **image** parameter, but **do** provide the **image\_path** parameter (if you provide both image will be used), blender will read the visualization from image\_path.

If you **don't** provide the **image** and **image\_path** parameters, you have to add an rvt.default.DefaultValues instance as a parameter to BlenderCombination.render\_all\_images(). Blender then takes the parameters set in this class when calculating specific visualizations. You also have to add dem array and its resolution.

The example below uses all three methods:

```
# import all required modules
import rvt.blend
import rvt.default

# create the BlenderCombination() class instance which will hold the layers_
↳(visualizations)
combination_manual = rvt.blend.BlenderCombination()

# we will let blender compute the slrm visualization. so, we need to create
# rvt.default.DefaultValues() and change the parameters for slrm. we will later
# add default to the combination_manual.render_all_images() method
default = rvt.default.DefaultValues()
default.slrn_rad_cell = 15

# 1st layer
# add slrm layer with 2% perc cutoff on both sides, multiply blend mode and 25% opacity
# image and image_path parameters both not provided, so slrm is calculated automatically
combination_manual.create_layer(
    vis_method="Simple local relief model",
    normalization="perc",
    minimum=2,
    maximum=2,
    blend_mode="multiply",
    opacity=25
)

# 2nd layer
# add slope layer with value stretch from 0 to 51, luminosity blend mode and 50% opacity
# image_path parameter provided to slope, so slope is read from file
combination_manual.create_layer(
```

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```

vis_method="Slope gradient",
normalization="value",
minimum=0,
maximum=51,
blend_mode="luminosity",
opacity=50,
image_path=slope_path
)

# 3rd layer
# add hillshade layer with value stretch from 0 to 1, normal blend mode and 100% opacity
# image parameter provided
combination_manual.create_layer(
    vis_method="Hillshade",
    normalization="value",
    minimum=0,
    maximum=1,
    blend_mode="normal",
    opacity=100,
    image=hillshade_arr
)

# we have to add dem array and resolution so that slrm can be computed
combination_manual.add_dem_arr(dem_arr=input_dem_arr, dem_resolution=resolution)

# blend them all together and add default where slrm parameters are defined
render_arr = combination_manual.render_all_images(default=default)

```

## Automatic blending

Automatic blending is blending from a configuration JSON file. You can create a JSON file and change it to suit your needs.

### Example

```

# import the module
import rvt.blend

# create the BlenderCombination() class
combination_auto = rvt.blend.BlenderCombination()

# to create the JSON blender combination configuration file example, change the
# path to where you wish to save the file
blender_combination_path = r"settings\blender_file_example.txt"
rvt.blend.create_blender_file_example(file_path=blender_combination_path)

# set the parameters of the visualizations you will be using
default = rvt.default.DefaultValues()
# for example default.hs_sun_el=40

```

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```
# read the JSON combination configuration file
combination_auto.read_from_file(file_path=blender_combination_path)

# needed when save_visualizations is True and save_render_path is not None
layers_auto.add_dem_path(input_dem_path)

# call the method render_all_images() and its parameters
# we can save a specific visualization (to dem_path directory) if we set the
# parameter `save_visualization` to True
layers_auto.render_all_images(
    default=default,
    save_visualizations=True,
    save_render_path=output_blend_path,
    save_float=True,
    save_8bit=True # set save_8bit=True if you also wish to save an 8bit version
)
```

**See also:**

Find out more about blending in *rvt.blend*.

### 6.2.4 Choosing a visualization

When choosing a visualization, it is recommended to always begin by looking at a hillshade of the area under investigation. Hillshading provides the most ‘natural’ visual appearance of the topography and can help you decide which other techniques could work well.

**See also:**







Find out more about the visualizations that RVT can produce in *List of visualizations*.

---



## By feature type

If you need some help to get started after trying a hillshade, consider the type of feature you're working with:

	mining pits	former field boundaries	burial mounds	terraces	hollow ways	ridge and furrow
						
shaded relief	-	-	+	0	0	-
slope	-	0	0	+	+	++
principal components analysis	-	-	+	0	+	++
trend removal and LRM	++	+	++	+	+	++
sky-view factor	++	+	0	++	++	++
openness	++	+	+	+	++	++
local dominance	++	++	++	+	++	++
cumulative visibility	-	-	+	0	+	0
accessibility	-	0	-	0	0	-
multi-scale integral invariants	+	+	0	+	+	+
Laplacian-of-Gaussian	+	+	++	+	+	++

- not suitable; 0 indistinct; + suitable; ++ very suitable

**Table 1: Suitability of visualisation techniques for representing selected archaeological topographical features.**

## By topography type

You can also try adding techniques from Table 2, in order from left to right, based on the topography of the area under investigation.

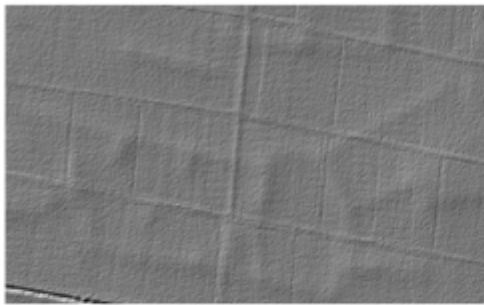
flat terrain	Shaded relief (sun elevation < 10°)	Trend removal / LRM (filter radius ~ 20 m)	Local dominance (radius 10-20 m)	Openness or MSII (radius 10 m)	
gentle slopes	Shaded relief (sun elevation ~ 30°)	Sky-view factor (radius ~ 10 m)	Trend removal / LRM (filter radius ~ 20 m)	Local dominance (radius 10-20 m)	Openness or MSII (radius 10 m)
moderate slopes	Shaded relief (sun elevation ~ 45°)	SVF [& LoG] (radius ~ 10 m)	Trend removal / LRM (filter radius ~ 20 m)	LD [& LoG] (radius 10-20 m)	Openness or MSII (radius 10 m)
complex topography	Shaded relief (sun elevation > 45°)	SVF [& LoG] (radius ~ 10 m)	LD [& LoG] (radius 10-20 m)	Openness or MSII (radius 10 m)	

**Table 2: Matrix for the suitability of visualisation techniques for selected archaeological relief features in different topographic settings.**

See below for visual examples of the methods suggested in Table 2.

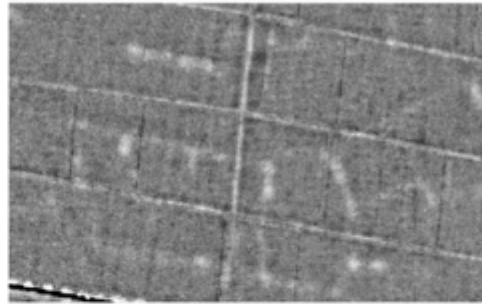
## Flat terrain

Flat terrain

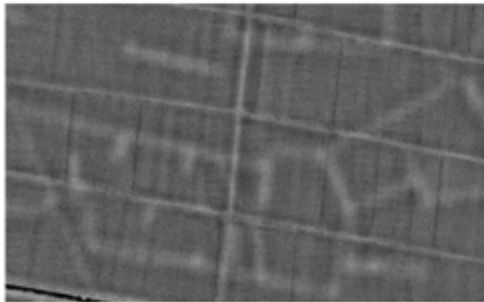


shaded relief  
(sun elevation  $< 10^\circ$ )

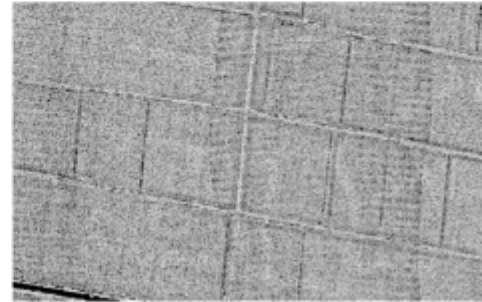
0 300 m



trend removal / LRM  
(filter radius  $\sim 20$  m)



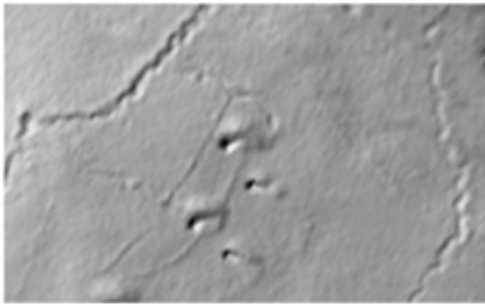
local dominance  
(radius 10-20 m)



openness or MSII  
(radius 10 m)

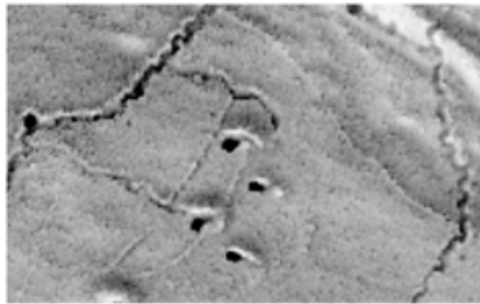
## Gentle slopes

Gentle slopes

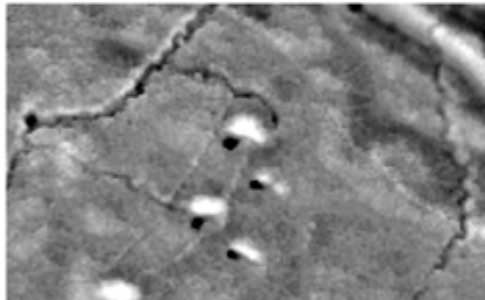


shaded relief  
(sun elevation ~ 30°)

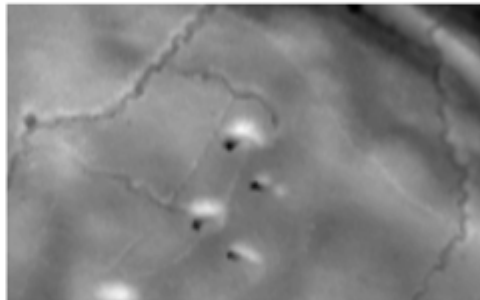
0 50 m



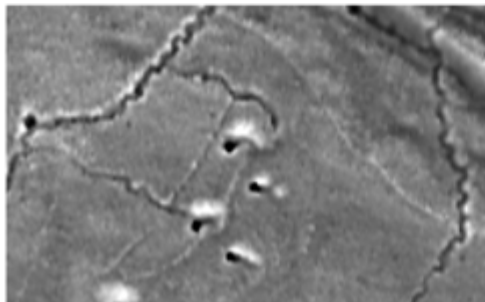
sky-view factor  
(radius ~ 10 m)



trend removal / LRM  
(filter radius ~ 20 m)



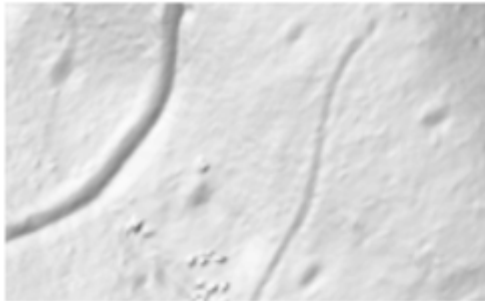
local dominance  
(radius 10-20 m)



openness or MSII  
(radius 10 m)

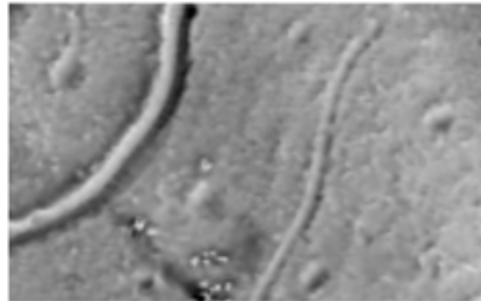
## Moderate slopes

### Moderate slopes

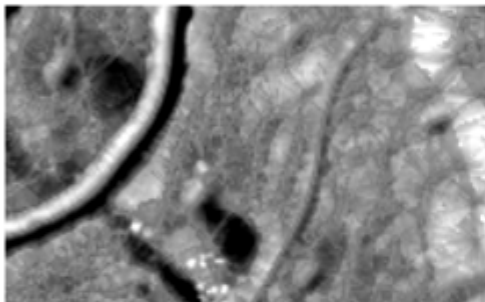


shaded relief  
[sun elevation ~ 45°]

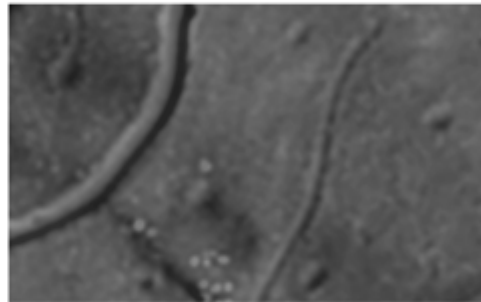
0 50 m



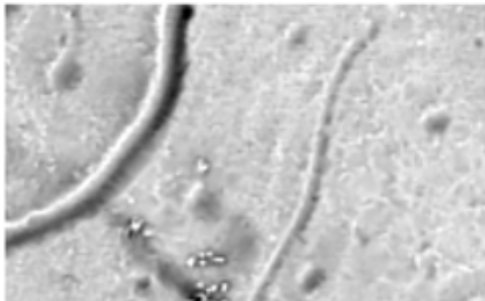
sky-view factor (& LoG)  
[radius ~ 10 m]



trend removal / LRM  
[filter radius ~ 20 m]

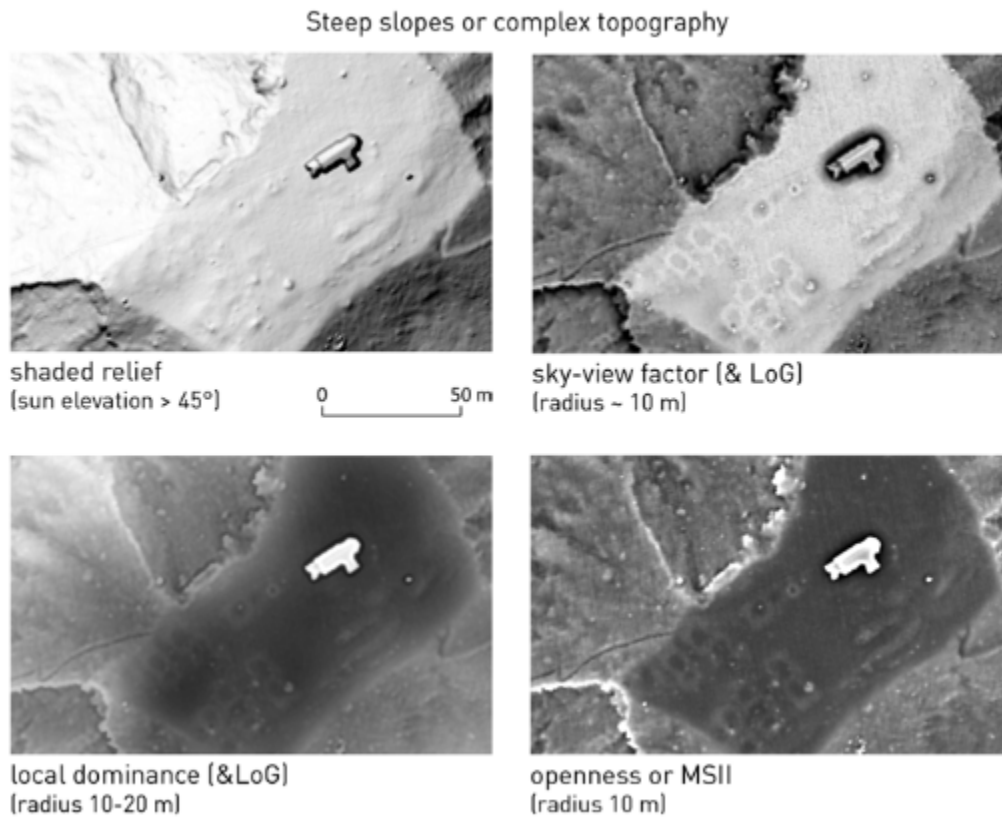


local dominance (&LoG)  
[radius 10-20 m]



openness or MSII  
[radius 10 m]

## Steep slopes or complex topography



### See also:

Find out more about choosing visualizations in Kokalj, Žiga, Ralf Hesse. 2017. [Airborne laser scanning raster data visualization: A Guide to Good Practice](#). Ljubljana: Založba ZRC.

## 6.3 List of visualizations

This section contains a list of the visualizations that RVT can produce with introductory descriptions.

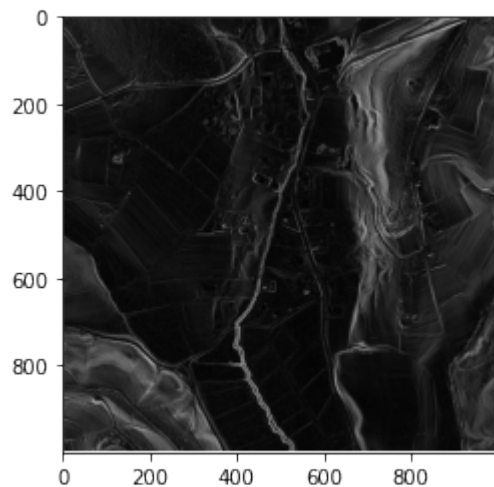
Unless otherwise referenced, the descriptions are simplified versions of the information available in Kokalj, Žiga, Ralf Hesse. 2017. [Airborne laser scanning raster data visualization: A Guide to Good Practice](#). Ljubljana: Založba ZRC.

### See also:

For example code showing how to create these visualizations visit [Example notebooks](#).

## CONTENTS

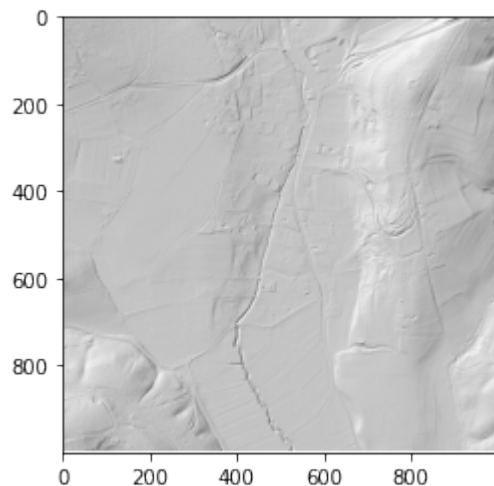
### 6.3.1 Slope



Slope (gradient) represents the maximum rate of change between each cell and its neighbours. It can be calculated either as percentage of slope or degree of slope. It is the first derivative of a DEM and is aspect independent.

Additional information is needed to distinguish between positive/convex (e.g. banks) and negative/concave (e.g. ditches) features, since slopes of the same gradient, regardless of rising or falling, are presented with the same colour.

### 6.3.2 Hillshading



Hillshading (also known as relief shading or shaded relief) provides the most ‘natural’, i.e. intuitively readable, visual impression of all techniques.

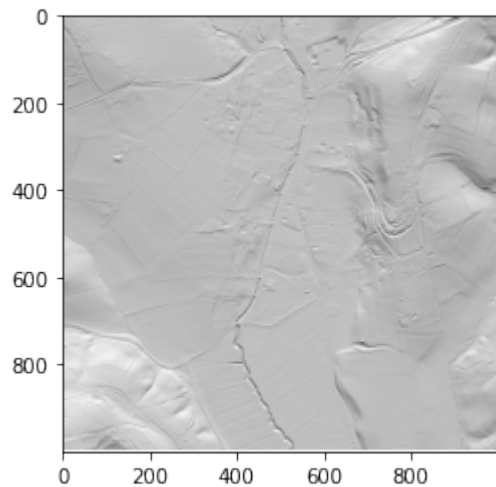
It has a basic assumption that the relief is a Lambertian surface (equally bright from all viewing directions) illuminated by direct light from a fictive light source at an infinitive distance. The light beam has a constant azimuth and elevation angle for the entire area.

Applying several illumination directions can help to avoid the drawbacks of shaded relief, such as poor representation of linear features parallel to illumination azimuth, low contrast in areas facing towards (homogeneously bright) or away from (homogeneously dark) the light source, as well as optical illusions (e.g. inverted relief).

While very low illumination elevation angles ( $< 10^\circ$ ) can and should be used to highlight low relief features in areas of low slopes and flat terrain, higher illumination elevation angles ( $> 35^\circ$ ) are required in steeper topography.

To investigate features on moderate to steep slopes, shaded relief should be used with (almost) vertical illumination to minimize saturated bright/dark areas on slopes facing towards/away from the illumination. In such cases, shaded relief images become similar to slope images, which can be a useful alternative in moderate to steep topography.

### Multiple direction hillshading



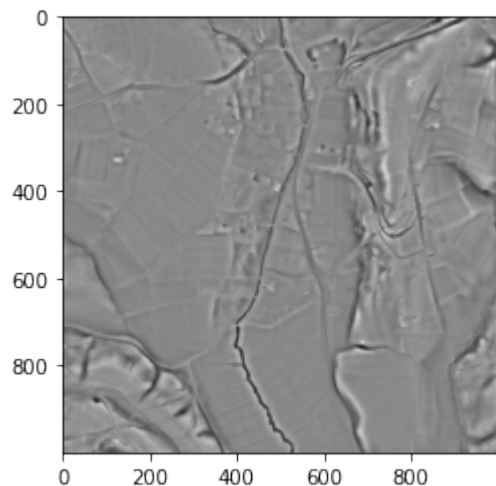
Producing multiple hillshading outputs by illuminating a surface from multiple directions enhances the visualization of topography.

Multi-directional hillshading reduces the need to compare multiple images, but the added complexity means they can be tricky to interpret. A step towards an improved understanding of the results is combining multiple shadings by considering only the mean, the maximum, or the range of values, for each pixel.

**See also:**

*Slope.*

### 6.3.3 Simple local relief model





Simple local relief models use a procedure called trend removal that separates local small-scale features from large-scale landscape forms.

When working with a DEM, the trend (i.e. the larger landscape forms) is represented by a smoothed (generalized) version of that DEM. Trend removal is then accomplished by subtracting the smoothed DEM from the original DEM. The resulting difference map contains only the local deviations from the overall landscape forms.

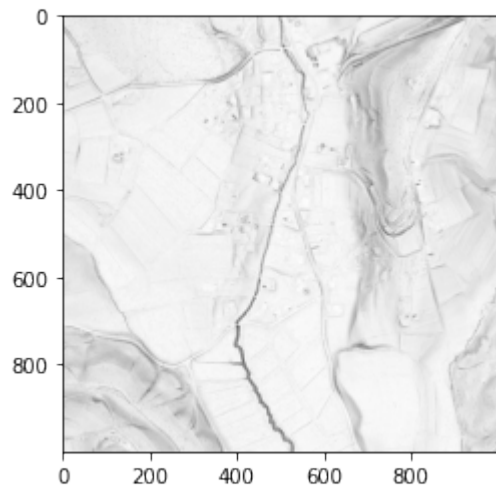
In areas with flat or very gentle to moderate topography, local relief model and local dominance are very helpful to highlight very low relief features such as former field boundaries or levelled burial mounds.

Local relief model and local dominance are interchangeable to a certain extent. Local relief model produces more realistic relative elevation values of relief anomalies. Local dominance retains a (limited) visual impression of the overall landscape forms as it produces higher values on slopes than on horizontal planes.

**See also:**

*Local dominance.*

### 6.3.4 Sky-view factor



Sky-view factor (SVF) can be used as an alternative method of relief shading in order to overcome the directional problems of hillshading (see also: openness).

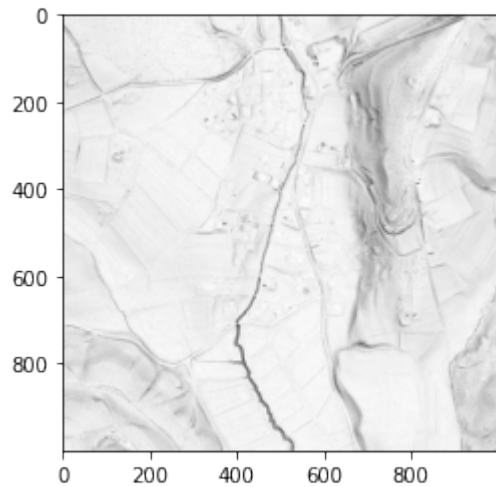
SVF represents the portion of the sky visible from a certain point. An imaginary light source illuminates the relief from the celestial hemisphere centred at the point being illuminated. It ignores any direction below the mathematical horizon (see also: openness). In contrast to shading techniques based on directional illumination, features visualized by SVF (or by openness) do not contain any horizontal displacements.

In areas of moderate to steep topography, sky-view factor works best to highlight surface depressions and features on slopes. Depending on the range of slopes in a given area under study, different histogram stretches may be necessary to avoid bright saturation in gentle topography and dark saturation on steep slopes.

In areas with flat or very gentle topography, sky-view factor is generally limited to the presentation of negative relief features (e.g. pits, ditches, quarries, erosion areas, dolines) and becomes very sensitive to DEM noise. A good general rule is to use a histogram stretch of 0.65 to 1.0 for diverse terrain and 0.9 to 1.0 for very flat terrain.



### Anisotropic sky-view factor



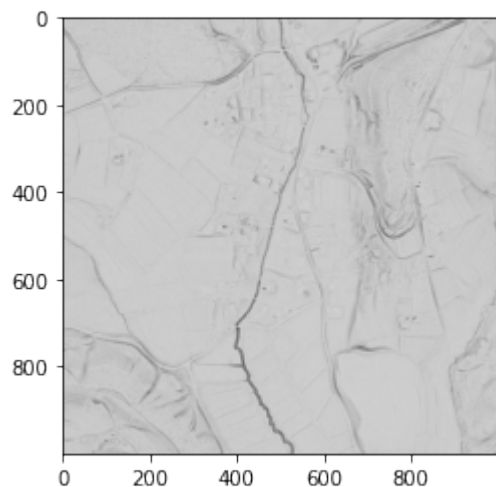
Anisotropic (directional) SVF assumes that the sky is brighter in some directions than in others. The brightness can depend on the azimuth and solar distance from the imaginary light source. This brings back some of the ‘plasticity’ of hill shading and gives better details on very flat areas.

**See also:**

*Openness.*

## 6.3.5 Openness

### Positive openness

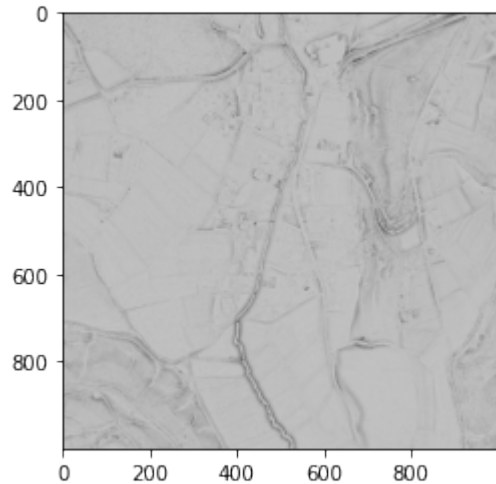


Openness is another proxy for relief shading (see also: sky-view factor). The method is based on estimating the mean horizon elevation angle within a defined search radius. The mean value of all zenith angles gives positive openness, while the mean nadir value gives negative openness.

Openness considers the whole sphere for calculation, not just the celestial hemisphere as SVF does. The result of this is a much ‘flatter’ image, devoid of general topography—a kind of trend-removed image. As the visual impression of the general topography is lost, interpretation becomes a bit trickier.

However, openness has big advantage for automatic feature detection because ‘signatures’ of features are more homogeneous because they are the same irrespectively of their location on a plane or slope.

### Negative openness



Negative openness is not the inverse of positive openness and it provides additional information. While positive openness highlights topographic convexities (e.g. ridges between hollow ways and rims of bomb craters), negative openness emphasizes the lowest parts of concavities, (e.g. the actual hollow ways, the lowest parts of gorges and the lower edges of cliffs).

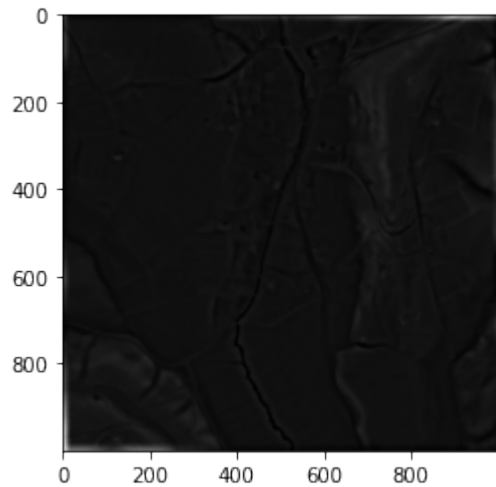
For consistent readability, it is recommended that negative openness is displayed with inverted greyscale (i.e. darker for higher values), so that concave features are always presented by dark tones.

Positive and negative openness are very useful to highlight positive and negative relief features, respectively. As openness removes the visual impression of overall landscape forms, it is not affected by saturation due to gentle or steep slopes and may be used in a varied topography. Because of the ability to differentially highlight positive and negative relief features, it is particularly suitable for targeted detection of these features.

#### See also:

*Sky-view factor.*

### 6.3.6 Local dominance



Local dominance is based on computing how dominant an observer standing on each pixel would be for a local surrounding area.

Dominance is the average steepness of the angle at which the observer looks down at the surrounding land surface. It is higher for points on local elevations as well as on slopes and lower for points in local depressions.

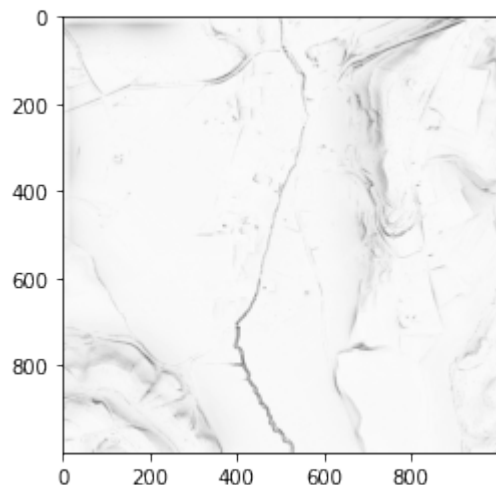
In areas with flat or very gentle to moderate topography, local dominance and local relief model are very helpful to highlight very low relief features such as former field boundaries or levelled burial mounds. Local dominance also delivers very good results for topographic depressions such as dolines, mining traces, or hollow ways.

Local relief model and local dominance are interchangeable to a certain extent. Local relief model produces more realistic relative elevation values of relief anomalies. Local dominance retains a (limited) visual impression of the overall landscape forms as it produces higher values on slopes than on horizontal planes.

**See also:**

*Simple local relief model.*

### 6.3.7 Sky illumination

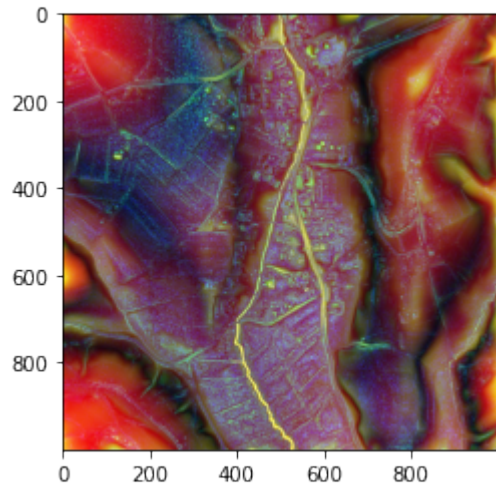


Sky illumination models quantitatively represent natural luminance of the sky under various atmospheric conditions. Uniform and overcast sky models are implemented as they both disregard directional shadowing effects. More details in shadows can be seen using the overcast sky model.

Calculations last much longer than for other visualizations especially with large maximum shadow modelling distance.

Source: [Relief Visualization Toolbox ver. 2.2.1 Manual](#)

### 6.3.8 Multi-scale topographic position



A multi-scale topographic position (MSTP) visualization is an effective means of visualising and interpreting the multi-scale topographic character of a landscape.

MSTP simultaneously summarizes the relative topographic position of sites across three defined ranges of spatial scales (local, meso, and broad).

The density of topographic information in an MSTP visualization is very high; on par with or exceeding that of commonly used methods such as hillshading.

Some practice is required to train the eye to recognize colors as the summation of relative topographic position across three scale ranges, rather than, for example, as the raw elevation observed in a DEM.

Source: [Lindsay, Cockburn & Russell \(2015\), An integral image approach to performing multi-scale topographic position analysis](#)

## 6.4 RVT for Python

The `rvt` Python package contains three modules:

- **vis** (`rvt.vis`) for computing visualizations
- **blend** (`rvt.blend`) for blending visualizations together
- **default** (`rvt.default`) for defining default parameters with methods to compute and save visualization functions using set parameters

This section contains full documentation of each of the `rvt` modules.

Two notebooks with examples for using the `rvt.vis` and `rvt.default` modules can be found in [Example notebooks](#).

**See also:**

For beginner-friendly explanations of how to use `rvt` visit [Getting started](#)

**CONTENTS****6.4.1 rvt.vis**

Relief Visualization Toolbox – Visualization Functions

Contains functions for computing the visualizations.

`rvt.vis.byte_scale(data, c_min=None, c_max=None, high=255, low=0, no_data=None)`

Remade old scipy function. Byte scales an array (image). Linear scale.

Byte scaling means converting the input image to uint8 dtype and scaling the range to (low, high) (default 0-255).

**Parameters**

- **data** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Input data (visualization) as 2D or multi-D numpy array.
- **c\_min** (*int or float*) – Scalar, Bias scaling of small values. Default is `data.min()`.
- **c\_max** (*int or float*) – Scalar, Bias scaling of large values. Default is `data.max()`.
- **high** (*int*) – Scalar, Scale max value to *high*. Default is 255.
- **low** (*int*) – Scalar, Scale min value to *low*. Default is 0.
- **no\_data** (*int or float*) – Value that represents no\_data, it is changed to `np.nan`.

**Returns**

**img\_array** – The byte-scaled array.

**Return type**

uint8 *numpy.ndarray*

`rvt.vis.slope_aspect(dem, resolution_x=1, resolution_y=1, output_units='radian', ve_factor=1, no_data=None)`

Procedure can return terrain slope and aspect in radian units (default) or in alternative units (if specified). Available alternative units are 'degree' and 'percent'. Slope is defined as 0 for horizontal plane and  $\pi/2$  for vertical plane. Aspect is defined as geographic azimuth: clockwise increasing, 0 or  $2\pi$  for the North direction.

0

**270 90**

180

Currently applied finite difference method.

**Parameters**

- **dem** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Input digital elevation model as 2D numpy array.
- **resolution\_x** (*int*) – DEM resolution in X direction.
- **resolution\_y** (*int*) – DEM resolution in Y direction.
- **output\_units** (*str*) – Output units, you can choose between: percent, degree, radian. Default value is radian.

- **ve\_factor** (*int or float*) – Vertical exaggeration factor.
- **no\_data** (*int or float*) – Value that represents no\_data, all pixels with this value are changed to np.nan. Only has to be specified if a numerical value is used for nodata (e.g. -9999).

### Returns

**dict\_out** – Returns {"slope": slope\_out, "aspect": aspect\_out}; slope\_out, slope gradient : 2D numpy array (numpy.ndarray) of slope; aspect\_out, aspect : 2D numpy array (numpy.ndarray) of aspect.

### Return type

dict

`rvt.vis.roll_fill_nans(dem, shift, axis)`

Uses numpy.roll() function to roll array, then checks element-wise if new array has NaN value, but there was a numerical value in the source array, then use the original value instead of NaN. It is equivalent to edge padding.

<https://numpy.org/doc/stable/reference/generated/numpy.roll.html#numpy.roll>

`rvt.vis.hillshade(dem, resolution_x, resolution_y, sun_azimuth=315, sun_elevation=35, slope=None, aspect=None, ve_factor=1, no_data=None)`

Compute hillshade.

### Parameters

- **dem** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Input digital elevation model as 2D numpy array.
- **resolution\_x** (*int*) – DEM resolution in X direction.
- **resolution\_y** (*int*) – DEM resolution in Y direction.
- **sun\_azimuth** (*int or float*) – Solar azimuth angle (clockwise from North) in degrees.
- **sun\_elevation** (*int or float*) – Solar vertical angle (above the horizon) in degrees.
- **slope** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Slope arr in radians if you don't input it, it is calculated.
- **aspect** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Aspect arr in radians if you don't input it, it is calculated.
- **ve\_factor** (*int or float*) – Vertical exaggeration factor.
- **no\_data** (*int or float*) – Value that represents no\_data, all pixels with this value are changed to np.nan.

### Returns

**hillshade\_out** – Result hillshade 2D numpy array.

### Return type

numpy.ndarray

`rvt.vis.multi_hillshade(dem, resolution_x, resolution_y, nr_directions=16, sun_elevation=35, slope=None, aspect=None, ve_factor=1, no_data=None)`

Calculates hillshades from multiple directions.

### Parameters

- **dem** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Input digital elevation model as 2D numpy array.
- **resolution\_x** (*int*) – DEM resolution in X direction.
- **resolution\_y** (*int*) – DEM resolution in Y direction.
- **nr\_directions** (*int*) – Number of solar azimuth angles (clockwise from North).
- **sun\_elevation** (*int or float*) – Solar vertical angle (above the horizon) in degrees.

- **slope** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Slope in radians if you don't input it, it is calculated.
- **aspect** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Aspect in radians if you don't input it, it is calculated.
- **ve\_factor** (*int or float*) – Vertical exaggeration factor.
- **no\_data** (*int or float*) – Value that represents no\_data, all pixels with this value are changed to np.nan .

**Returns**

**multi\_hillshade\_out** – Result multiple direction hillshade multidimensional (nr\_directions=dimensions) numpy array.

**Return type**

numpy.ndarray

`rvt.vis.mean_filter(dem, kernel_radius)`

Applies mean filter (low pass filter) on DEM. Kernel radius is in pixels. Kernel size is  $2 * \text{kernel\_radius} + 1$ . It uses matrix shifting (roll) instead of convolutional approach (works faster). It returns mean filtered dem as numpy.ndarray (2D numpy array).

`rvt.vis.slrn(dem, radius_cell=20, ve_factor=1, no_data=None)`

Calculates Simple local relief model.

**Parameters**

- **dem** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Input digital elevation model as 2D numpy array.
- **radius\_cell** (*int*) – Radius for trend assessment in pixels.
- **ve\_factor** (*int or float*) – Vertical exaggeration factor.
- **no\_data** (*int or float*) – Value that represents no\_data, all pixels with this value are changed to np.nan .

**Returns**

**slrn\_out** – Simple local relief model 2D numpy array.

**Return type**

numpy.ndarray

`rvt.vis.horizon_shift_vector(num_directions=16, radius_pixels=10, min_radius=1)`

Calculates Sky-View determination movements.

**Parameters**

- **num\_directions** (*int*) – Number of directions as input.
- **radius\_pixels** (*int*) – Radius to consider in pixels (not in meters).
- **min\_radius** (*int*) – Radius to start searching for horizon in pixels (not in meters).

**Returns**

**shift** –

**Dict with keys corresponding to the directions of search azimuths rounded to 1 decimal number**

- **for each key, a subdict contains a key “shift”:**  
values for this key is a list of tuples prepared for np.roll - shift along lines and columns
- **the second key is “distance”:**  
values for this key is a list of search radius used for the computation of the elevation angle

### Return type

dict

```
rvt.vis.sky_view_factor_compute(height_arr, radius_max=10, radius_min=1, num_directions=16,
                                compute_svf=True, compute_opns=False, compute_asvf=False,
                                a_main_direction=315.0, a_poly_level=4, a_min_weight=0.4)
```

Calculates horizon based visualizations: Sky-view factor, Anisotropic SVF and Openness.

SVF processing is using search radius, that looks at values beyond the edge of an array. Consider using a buffered array as an input, with the buffer size equal to the radius\_max. To prevent erosion of the edge, function applies mirrored padding in all four directions, however, this means that edge values are “averaged over half of the hemisphere”. Similarly, the edges of the dataset (i.e. areas with NaN values), will be considered as fully open (SVF angle 0, Openness angle -90).

Input array should use np.nan as nodata value.

### Parameters

- **height\_arr** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Elevation (DEM) as 2D numpy array.
- **radius\_max** (*int*) – Maximal search radius in pixels/cells (not in meters).
- **radius\_min** (*int*) – Minimal search radius in pixels/cells (not in meters), for noise reduction.
- **num\_directions** (*int*) – Number of directions as input.
- **compute\_svf** (*bool*) – If true it computes and outputs svf.
- **compute\_asvf** (*bool*) – If true it computes and outputs asvf.
- **compute\_opns** (*bool*) – If true it computes and outputs opns.
- **a\_main\_direction** (*int or float*) – Main direction of anisotropy.
- **a\_poly\_level** (*int*) – Level of polynomial that determines the anisotropy.
- **a\_min\_weight** (*float*) –

#### Weight to consider anisotropy:

0 - low anisotropy, 1 - high anisotropy (no illumination from the direction opposite the main direction)

### Returns

**dict\_out** – Return {“svf”: svf\_out, “asvf”: asvf\_out, “opns”: opns\_out}; svf\_out, skyview factor : 2D numpy array (*numpy.ndarray*) of skyview factor; asvf\_out, anisotropic skyview factor : 2D numpy array (*numpy.ndarray*) of anisotropic skyview factor; opns\_out, openness : 2D numpy array (*numpy.ndarray*) openness (elevation angle of horizon).

### Return type

dictionary

```
rvt.vis.sky_view_factor(dem, resolution, compute_svf=True, compute_opns=False, compute_asvf=False,
                        svf_n_dir=16, svf_r_max=10, svf_noise=0, asvf_dir=315, asvf_level=1,
                        ve_factor=1, no_data=None)
```

Prepare the data, call sky\_view\_factor\_compute, reformat and return back 2D arrays.

### Parameters

- **dem** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Input digital elevation model as 2D numpy array.
- **compute\_svf** (*bool*) – Compute SVF (True) or not (False).
- **compute\_opns** (*bool*) – Compute OPENNESS (True) or not (False).



- **resolution** (*float*) – Pixel resolution.
- **svf\_n\_dir** (*int*) – Number of directions.
- **svf\_r\_max** (*int*) – Maximal search radius in pixels.
- **svf\_noise** (*int*) – The level of noise remove (0-don't remove, 1-low, 2-med, 3-high).
- **compute\_asvf** (*bool*) – Compute anisotropic SVF (True) or not (False).
- **asvf\_level** (*int*) – Level of anisotropy, 1-low, 2-high.
- **asvf\_dir** (*int or float*) – Direction of anisotropy.
- **ve\_factor** (*int or float*) – Vertical exaggeration factor.
- **no\_data** (*int or float*) – Value that represents no\_data, all pixels with this value are changed to np.nan. Use this parameter when nodata is not np.nan.

**Returns**

**dict\_out** – Return {"svf": svf\_out, "asvf": asvf\_out, "opns": opns\_out}; svf\_out, skyview factor : 2D numpy array (numpy.ndarray) of skyview factor; asvf\_out, anisotropic skyview factor : 2D numpy array (numpy.ndarray) of anisotropic skyview factor; opns\_out, openness : 2D numpy array (numpy.ndarray) openness (elevation angle of horizon).

**Return type**

dictionary

`rvt.vis.local_dominance(dem, min_rad=10, max_rad=20, rad_inc=1, angular_res=15, observer_height=1.7, ve_factor=1, no_data=None)`

Compute Local Dominance dem visualization. Adapted from original version that is part of the Lidar Visualisation Toolbox LiVT developed by Ralf Hesse.

**Parameters**

- **dem** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Input digital elevation model as 2D numpy array.
- **min\_rad** (*int*) – Minimum radial distance (in pixels) at which the algorithm starts with visualization computation.
- **max\_rad** (*int*) – Maximum radial distance (in pixels) at which the algorithm ends with visualization computation.
- **rad\_inc** (*int*) – Radial distance steps in pixels.
- **angular\_res** (*int*) – Angular step for determination of number of angular directions.
- **observer\_height** (*int or float*) – Height at which we observe the terrain.
- **ve\_factor** (*int or float*) – Vertical exaggeration factor.
- **no\_data** (*int or float*) – Value that represents no\_data, all pixels with this value are changed to np.nan .

**Returns**

**local\_dom\_out** – 2D numpy array of local dominance

**Return type**

numpy.ndarray

`rvt.vis.horizon_generate_coarse_dem(dem_fine, pyramid_scale, conv_from, conv_to, max_radius)`

`rvt.vis.horizon_generate_pyramids(dem, num_directions=4, max_fine_radius=100, max_pyramid_radius=7, pyramid_scale=3)`

```
rvt.vis.sky_illumination(dem, resolution, sky_model='overcast', compute_shadow=False,  
                        shadow_horizon_only=False, max_fine_radius=100, num_directions=32,  
                        shadow_az=315, shadow_el=35, ve_factor=1, no_data=None)
```

Compute topographic corrections for sky illumination.

### Parameters

- **dem** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Input digital elevation model as 2D numpy array.
- **resolution** (*float*) – DEM pixel size.
- **sky\_model** (*str*) – Sky model, it can be ‘overcast’ or ‘uniform’.
- **compute\_shadow** (*bool*) – If True it computes and adds shadow.
- **shadow\_horizon\_only** (*bool*) – Returns dict {“shadow”: shadow, “horizon”: horizon}
- **max\_fine\_radius** (*int*) – Max shadow modeling distance in pixels.
- **num\_directions** (*int*) – Number of directions to search for horizon.
- **shadow\_az** (*int or float*) – Shadow azimuth.
- **shadow\_el** (*int or float*) – Shadow elevation.
- **ve\_factor** (*int or float*) – Vertical exaggeration factor.
- **no\_data** (*int or float*) – Value that represents no\_data, all pixels with this value are changed to np.nan .

### Returns

**sky\_illumination** – 2D numpy result array of Sky illumination.

### Return type

*numpy.ndarray*

```
rvt.vis.shadow_horizon(dem, resolution, shadow_az=315, shadow_el=35, ve_factor=1, no_data=None)
```

Compute shadow and horizon.

### Parameters

- **dem** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Input digital elevation model as 2D numpy array.
- **resolution** (*float*) – DEM pixel size.
- **shadow\_az** (*int or float*) – Shadow azimuth.
- **shadow\_el** (*int or float*) – Shadow elevation.
- **ve\_factor** (*int or float*) – Vertical exaggeration factor.
- **no\_data** (*int or float*) – Value that represents no\_data, all pixels with this value are changed to np.nan .

### Returns

**dict\_out** – Returns {“shadow”: shadow, “horizon”: horizon}; shadow : 2D binary numpy array (*numpy.ndarray*) of shadows; horizon; 2D numpy array (*numpy.ndarray*) of horizon.

### Return type

*dict*

```
rvt.vis.msrm(dem, resolution, feature_min, feature_max, scaling_factor, ve_factor=1, no_data=None)
```

Compute Multi-scale relief model (MSRM).

### Parameters

- **dem** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Input digital elevation model as 2D numpy array.

- **resolution** (*float*) – DEM pixel size.
- **feature\_min** (*float*) – Minimum size of the feature you want to detect in meters.
- **feature\_max** (*float*) – Maximum size of the feature you want to detect in meters.
- **scaling\_factor** (*int*) – Scaling factor, if larger than 1 it provides larger range of MSRM values (increase contrast and visibility), but could result in a loss of sensitivity for intermediate sized features.
- **ve\_factor** (*int or float*) – Vertical exaggeration factor.
- **no\_data** (*int or float*) – Value that represents no\_data, all pixels with this value are changed to np.nan .

**Returns**

**msrm\_out** – 2D numpy result array of Multi-scale relief model.

**Return type**

numpy.ndarray

`rvt.vis.integral_image(dem, data_type=<class 'numpy.float64'>)`

Calculates integral image (summed-area table), where origin is left upper corner.

**Parameters**

- **dem** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Input digital elevation model as 2D numpy array.
- **data\_type** (*np.\_\_class\_\_*) – dtype as numpy data type class (np.float64, np.int8, etc.)

**Returns**

**msrm\_out** – Cumulative sum of the elements along each axis of a 2D array.

**Return type**

numpy.ndarray

**References**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Summed-area\\_table](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Summed-area_table)

**Examples**

In: `print(integral_image(np.array([[7, 4, 7, 2], ... [6, 9, 9, 5], ... [6, 6, 7, 6]])))`

Out: `[[ 7. 11. 18. 20.]`  
`[13. 26. 42. 49.] [19. 38. 61. 74.]]`

`rvt.vis.topographic_dev(dem, dem_i_nr_pixels, dem_i1, dem_i2, kernel_radius)`

Calculates topographic DEV - Deviation from mean elevation.  $DEV(D) = (z_0 - z_{mD}) / sD$ . Where D is radius of kernel,  $z_0$  is center pixel value,  $z_{mD}$  is mean of all kernel values,  $sD$  is standard deviation of kernel.

**Parameters**

- **dem** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Input digital elevation model as 2D numpy array.
- **dem\_i\_nr\_pixels** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Summed area table (integral image) of number of pixels.
- **dem\_i1** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Summed area table (integral image) of dem.
- **dem\_i2** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Summed area table (integral image) of dem squared ( $dem^{**2}$ ).
- **kernel\_radius** (*int*) – Kernel radius (D).

### Returns

**dev\_out** – 2D numpy result array of topographic DEV - Deviation from mean elevation.

### Return type

numpy.ndarray

`rvt.vis.max_elevation_deviation(dem, minimum_radius, maximum_radius, step)`

Calculates maximum deviation from mean elevation, dev\_max (Maximum Deviation from mean elevation) for each grid cell in a digital elevation model (DEM) across a range specified spatial scales.

### Parameters

- **dem** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Input digital elevation model as 2D numpy array.
- **minimum\_radius** (*int*) – Minimum radius to calculate DEV (topographic\_dev).
- **maximum\_radius** (*int*) – Maximum radius to calculate DEV (topographic\_dev).
- **step** (*int*) – Step from minimum to maximum radius to calc DEV (topographic\_dev).

### Returns

**dev\_out** – 2D numpy result array of maxDEV - Maximum Deviation from mean elevation.

### Return type

numpy.ndarray

`rvt.vis.mstp(dem, local_scale=(3, 21, 2), meso_scale=(23, 203, 18), broad_scale=(223, 2023, 180), lightness=1.2, ve_factor=1, no_data=None)`

Compute Multi-scale topographic position (MSTP).

### Parameters

- **dem** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Input digital elevation model as 2D numpy array.
- **local\_scale** (*tuple(int, int, int)*) – Input local scale minimum radius (local\_scale[0]), maximum radius (local\_scale[1]), step (local\_scale[2]).
- **meso\_scale** (*tuple(int, int, int)*) – Input meso scale minimum radius (meso\_scale[0]), maximum radius (meso\_scale[1]), step (meso\_scale[2]).
- **broad\_scale** (*tuple(int, int, int)*) – Input broad scale minimum radius (broad\_scale[0]), maximum radius (broad\_scale[1]), step (broad\_scale[2]).
- **lightness** (*float*) – Lightness of image.
- **ve\_factor** (*int or float*) – Vertical exaggeration factor.
- **no\_data** (*int or float*) – Value that represents no\_data, all pixels with this value are changed to np.nan .

### Returns

**msrm\_out** – 3D numpy RGB result array of Multi-scale topographic position.

### Return type

numpy.ndarray

`rvt.vis.fill_where_nan(dem, method='idw')`

Replaces np.nan values, with interpolation (extrapolation).

### Parameters

- **dem** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Input digital elevation model as 2D numpy array.

- **method** (*{'linear\_row', 'idw\_r\_p', 'kd\_tree', 'nearest\_neighbour'}*) – ‘linear\_row’, Linear row interpolation, array is flattened and then linear interpolation is performed. This method is fast but very inaccurate. ‘idw\_r\_p’, Inverse Distance Weighting interpolation. If you only input idw it will take default parameters (r=20, p=2). You can also input interpolation radius (r) and power (p) for weights. (Example: idw\_5\_2 means radius = 5, power = 2.) ‘kd\_tree’, K-D Tree interpolation. ‘nearest\_neighbour’, Nearest neighbour interpolation.

## 6.4.2 rvt.blend

Relief Visualization Toolbox – Visualization Functions

Contains classes and methods for blending.

`rvt.blend.create_blender_file_example(file_path=None)`

Create blender .json file example (can be changed and read). Example is VAT - Archaeological combination

```
class rvt.blend.BlenderLayer(vis_method=None, normalization='value', minimum=None, maximum=None,
                             blend_mode='normal', opacity=100, colormap=None,
                             min_colormap_cut=None, max_colormap_cut=None, image=None,
                             image_path=None)
```

Bases: object

Class which define layer for blending. BlenderLayer is basic element in BlenderCombination.layers list.

**vis**

Visualization method.

**Type**

str

**normalization**

Normalization type, could be “Value” or “Percent”.

**Type**

str

**min**

Normalization minimum.

**Type**

float

**max**

Normalization maximum.

**Type**

float

**opacity**

Image (visualization) opacity.

**Type**

integer

**colormap**

Colormap form matplotlib (<https://matplotlib.org/3.3.2/tutorials/colors/colormaps.html>).

**Type**

str

**min\_colormap\_cut**

What lower part of colormap to cut to select part of colormap. Valid values are between 0 and 1, if 0.2 it cuts off (deletes) 20% of lower colors in colormap. If None cut is not applied.

**Type**

float

**max\_colormap\_cut**

What upper part of colormap to cut to select part of colormap. Valid values are between 0 and 1, if 0.8 it cuts off (deletes) 20% of upper colors in colormap. If None cut is not applied.

**Type**

float

**image\_path**

Path to DEM. Doesn't matter if image is not None. Leave None if you would like for blender to compute it.

**Type**

str

**image**

Visualization raster. Leave None if you would like for blender to compute it.

**Type**

numpy.array (2D)

**check\_data()**

Check Attributes

**class** rvt.blend.BlenderCombination(*dem\_arr=None, dem\_resolution=None, dem\_path=None*)

Bases: object

Class for storing layers (rasters, parameters for blending) and rendering(blending) into blended raster.

**dem\_arr**

Array with DEM data, needed for calculating visualization functions in memory.

**Type**

np.array (2D)

**dem\_path**

Path to DEM, needed for calculating visualization functions and saving them.

**Type**

str

**name**

Name of BlenderCombination combination.

**Type**

str

**layers**

List of BlenderLayer instances which will be blended together.

**Type**

[*BlenderLayer*]

**add\_dem\_arr**(*dem\_arr*, *dem\_resolution*)

Add or change *dem\_arr* attribute and its resolution *dem\_resolution* attribute.

**add\_dem\_path**(*dem\_path*)

Add or change *dem\_path* attribute.

**create\_layer**(*vis\_method=None*, *normalization='value'*, *minimum=None*, *maximum=None*,  
*blend\_mode='normal'*, *opacity=100*, *colormap=None*, *min\_colormap\_cut=None*,  
*max\_colormap\_cut=None*, *image=None*, *image\_path=None*)

Create *BlenderLayer* and adds it to *layers* attribute.

**add\_layer**(*layer: BlenderLayer*)

Add *BlenderLayer* instance to *layers* attribute.

**remove\_all\_layers**()

Empties *layers* attribute.

**layers\_info**()

**read\_from\_file**(*file\_path*)

Reads class attributes from .json file.

**read\_from\_json**(*json\_data*)

Fill class attributes with json data.

**save\_to\_file**(*file\_path*)

Save *layers* (manually) to .json file. Parameters *image* and *image\_path* in each layer have to be *None*, visualization has to be correct!

**to\_json**()

Outputs class attributes as json.

**check\_data**()

**render\_all\_images**(*default=None*, *save\_visualizations=False*, *save\_render\_path=None*, *save\_float=True*,  
*save\_8bit=False*, *no\_data=None*)

Render all layers and returns blended image. If specific layer (*BlenderLayer*) in *layers* has *image* (is not *None*), method uses this image, if *image* is *None* and layer has *image\_path* method reads image from path. If both *image* and *image\_path* are *None* method calculates visualization. If *save\_visualization* is *True* method needs *dem\_path* and saves each visualization (if it doesn't exists) in directory of *dem\_path*, else (*save\_visualization=False*) method needs *dem\_arr*, *dem\_resolution* and calculates each visualization simultaneously (in memory). Be careful *save\_visualisation* applies only if specific *BlenderLayer* *image* and *image\_path* are *None*. Parameter *no\_data* changes all pixels with this values to *np.nan*, if *save\_visualizations* is *True* it is not needed.

**create\_log\_file**(*dem\_path*, *combination\_name*, *render\_path*, *default: DefaultValues*,  
*terrain\_sett\_name=None*, *custom\_dir=None*, *computation\_time=None*)

Creates log file in *custom\_dir*, if *custom\_dir=None* it creates it in *dem* directory (*dem\_path*).

**rvt.blend.compare\_2\_combinations**(*combination1: BlenderCombination*, *combination2:*  
*BlenderCombination*)

**class rvt.blend.BlenderCombinations**

Bases: *object*

Class for storing combinations.

### **combinations**

List of BlenderCombination instances.

#### **Type**

[*BlenderCombination*]

**add\_combination**(*combination*: *BlenderCombination*, *name*=None)

Adds combination if parameter name not None it renames combination.

**remove\_all\_combinations**()

Removes all combinations from self.combinations.

**select\_combination\_by\_name**(*name*)

Select first combination where self.combinations.BlenderCombination.name = name.

**remove\_combination\_by\_name**(*name*)

Removes all combinations where self.combinations.BlenderCombination.name = name. If combinations list is empty function returns 0, else 1.

**read\_from\_file**(*file\_path*)

Reads combinations from .json file.

**save\_to\_file**(*file\_path*)

Saves combination to .json file.

**combination\_in\_combinations**(*input\_combination*: *BlenderCombination*)

If input\_combination (BlenderCombination) has same attributes as one of the combinations (self), method returns name of the combination (from combinations). If there is no equal one it returns None.

**combinations\_names**()

Returns list of combinations names.

**class** rvt.blend.TerrainSettings

Bases: object

Terrain settings for GUI.

**read\_from\_file**(*file\_path*)

Reads combinations from .json file.

**read\_from\_json**(*json\_data*)

Reads json dict and fills self attributes.

**apply\_terrain**(*default*: *DefaultValues*, *combination*: *BlenderCombination*)

It overwrites default (DefaultValues) and combination (BlenderCombination), with self values that are not None.

**class** rvt.blend.TerrainsSettings

Bases: object

Multiple Terrain settings.

**read\_from\_file**(*file\_path*)

Reads combinations from .json file.

**select\_terrain\_settings\_by\_name**(*name*)

Select first combination where self.combinations.BlenderCombination.name = name.



```
rvt.blend.color_relief_image_map(dem, resolution, default: ~rvt.default.DefaultValues =
                                <rvt.default.DefaultValues object>, colormap='OrRd',
                                min_colormap_cut=0, max_colormap_cut=1, no_data=None)
```

RVT Color relief image map (CRIM) Blending combination where layers are: 1st: Openness positive - Openness negative, overlay, 50% opacity 2nd: Openness positive - Openness negative, luminosity, 50% opacity 3rd: Slope gradient, colored with matplotlib colormap

#### Parameters

- **dem** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Input digital elevation model as 2D numpy array.
- **resolution** (*float*) – DEM pixel size.
- **default** (*rvt.default.DefaultValues*) – Default values for visualization functions.
- **colormap** (*str*) – Colormap form matplotlib (<https://matplotlib.org/3.3.2/tutorials/colors/colormaps.html>).
- **min\_colormap\_cut** (*float*) – What lower part of colormap to cut. Between 0 and 1, if 0.2 it cuts off (deletes) 20% of lower colors in colormap. If None cut is not applied.
- **max\_colormap\_cut** (*float*) – What upper part of colormap to cut. Between 0 and 1, if 0.8 it cuts off (deletes) 20% of upper colors in colormap. If None cut is not applied.
- **no\_data** (*int or float*) – Value that represents no\_data, all pixels with this value are changed to np.nan .

#### Returns

**crim\_out** – 2D numpy result array of Color relief image map.

#### Return type

*numpy.ndarray*

```
rvt.blend.e3mstp(dem, resolution, default: ~rvt.default.DefaultValues = <rvt.default.DefaultValues object>,
                 no_data=None)
```

RVT enhanced version 3 Multi-scale topographic position (e3MSTP) Blending combination where layers are: 1st: Simple local relief model (SLRM), screen, 25% opacity 2nd: Color relief image map where cmap=Reds\_r(0.5-1) (CRIM\_Reds\_r), soft\_light, 70% opacity 3rd: Multi-scale topographic position (MSTP)

#### Parameters

- **dem** (*numpy.ndarray*) – Input digital elevation model as 2D numpy array.
- **resolution** (*float*) – DEM pixel size.
- **default** (*rvt.default.DefaultValues*) – Default values for visualization functions.
- **no\_data** (*int or float*) – Value that represents no\_data, all pixels with this value are changed to np.nan .

#### Returns

**crim\_out** – 2D numpy result array of Color relief image map.

#### Return type

*numpy.ndarray*

### 6.4.3 rvt.default

Relief Visualization Toolbox – Visualization Functions

Contains all default values for visualisation functions, which can be changed. Allows computing from rvt.visualization with using defined default values and saving output rasters with default names (dependent on default values).

```
class rvt.default.RVTVisualization(value, names=None, *values, module=None, qualname=None,  
                                   type=None, start=1, boundary=None)
```

Bases: Enum

**SLOPE** = 'slp'

**HILLSHADE** = 'hs'

**SHADOW** = 'shd'

**MULTI\_HILLSHADE** = 'mhs'

**SIMPLE\_LOCAL\_RELIEF\_MODEL** = 'slrm'

**SKY\_VIEW\_FACTOR** = 'svf'

**ANISOTROPIC\_SKY\_VIEW\_FACTOR** = 'asvf'

**POSITIVE\_OPENNESS** = 'pos\_opns'

**NEGATIVE\_OPENNESS** = 'neg\_opns'

**SKY\_ILLUMINATION** = 'sim'

**LOCAL\_DOMINANCE** = 'ld'

**MULTI\_SCALE\_RELIEF\_MODEL** = 'msrm'

**MULTI\_SCALE\_TOPOGRAPHIC\_POSITION** = 'mstp'

```
class rvt.default.DefaultValues
```

Bases: object

Class which define layer for blending. BlenderLayer is basic element in BlenderCombination.layers list.

**overwrite**

When saving visualisation functions and file already exists, if 0 it doesn't compute it, if 1 it overwrites it.

**Type**

bool

**ve\_factor**

For all visualization functions. Vertical exaggeration.

**Type**

float

**slp\_compute**

If compute Slope. Parameter for GUIs.

**Type**

bool

**slp\_output\_units**

Slope. Output units [radian, degree, percent].

**Type**

str

**hs\_compute**

If compute Hillshade. Parameter for GUIs.

**Type**

bool

**hs\_sun\_az**

Hillshade. Solar azimuth angle (clockwise from North) in degrees.

**Type**

int

**hs\_sun\_el**

Hillshade. Solar vertical angle (above the horizon) in degrees.

**Type**

int

**hs\_shadow**

Hillshade. If 1 (True) computes binary shadow raster, if 0 (False) it doesn't.

**Type**

bool

**mhs\_compute**

If compute Multi directional hillshade. Parameter for GUIs.

**Type**

bool

**mhs\_nr\_dir**

Multi directional hillshade. Number of solar azimuth angles (clockwise from North).

**Type**

int

**mhs\_sun\_el**

Multi directional hillshade. Solar vertical angle (above the horizon) in degrees.

**Type**

int

**slrm\_compute**

If compute Simple local relief model. Parameter for GUIs.

**Type**

bool

**slrm\_rad\_cell**

Simple local relief model. Radius for trend assessment in pixels.

**Type**

int

**svf\_compute**

If compute Sky-View Factor. Parameter for GUIs.

**Type**  
bool

**svf\_n\_dir**

Sky-View Factor (Anisotropic Sky-View Factor, Openness). Number of directions.

**Type**  
int

**svf\_r\_max**

Sky-View Factor (Anisotropic Sky-View Factor, Openness). Maximal search radius in pixels.

**Type**  
int

**svf\_noise**

Sky-View Factor (Anisotropic Sky-View Factor, Openness). The level of noise remove [0-don't remove, 1-low, 2-med , 3-high].

**Type**  
int

**asvf\_compute**

If compute Anisotropic Sky-View Factor. Parameter for GUIs.

**Type**  
bool

**asvf\_dir**

Anisotropic Sky-View Factor. Direction of anisotropy in degrees.

**Type**  
int

**asvf\_level**

Anisotropic Sky-View Factor. Level of anisotropy [1-low, 2-high].

**Type**  
int

**pos\_opns\_compute**

If compute Positive Openness. Parameter for GUIs.

**Type**  
bool

**neg\_opns\_compute**

If compute Negative Openness. Parameter for GUIs.

**Type**  
bool

**sim\_compute**

If compute Sky illumination. Parameter for GUIs.

**Type**  
bool

**sim\_sky\_mod**

Sky illumination. Sky model [overcast, uniform].

**Type**

str

**sim\_compute\_shadow**

Sky illumination. If 1 it computes shadows, if 0 it doesn't.

**Type**

bool

**sim\_nr\_dir**

Sky illumination. Number of directions.

**Type**

int

**sim\_shadow\_dist**

Sky illumination. Max shadow modeling distance in pixels.

**Type**

int

**sim\_shadow\_az**

Sky illumination. Shadow azimuth in degrees.

**Type**

int

**sim\_shadow\_el**

Sky illumination. Shadow elevation in degrees.

**Type**

int

**ld\_compute**

If compute Local dominance. Parameter for GUIs.

**Type**

bool

**ld\_min\_rad**

Local dominance. Minimum radial distance (in pixels) at which the algorithm starts with visualization computation.

**Type**

int

**ld\_max\_rad**

Local dominance. Maximum radial distance (in pixels) at which the algorithm ends with visualization computation.

**Type**

int

**ld\_rad\_inc**

Local dominance. Radial distance steps in pixels.

**Type**

int

### **ld\_anglr\_res**

Local dominance. Angular step for determination of number of angular directions.

**Type**

int

### **ld\_observer\_h**

Local dominance. Height at which we observe the terrain.

**Type**

float

### **msrm\_compute**

If compute Multi-scale relief model. Parameter for GUIs.

**Type**

bool

### **msrm\_feature\_min**

Minimum size of the feature you want to detect in meters.

**Type**

float

### **msrm\_feature\_max**

Maximum size of the feature you want to detect in meters.

**Type**

float

### **msrm\_scaling\_factor**

Scaling factor.

**Type**

int

### **mstp\_compute**

If compute Multi-scale topographic position (MSTP).

**Type**

bool

### **mstp\_local\_scale**

Local scale minimum radius, maximum radius and step in pixels to calculate maximum mean deviation from elevation. All have to be integers!

**Type**

tuple(min\_radius, max\_radius, step)

### **mstp\_meso\_scale**

Meso scale minimum radius, maximum radius and step in pixels to calculate maximum mean deviation from elevation. All have to be integers!

**Type**

tuple(min\_radius, max\_radius, step)

### **mstp\_broad\_scale**

Broad scale minimum radius, maximum radius and step in pixels to calculate maximum mean deviation from elevation. All have to be integers!

**Type**  
tuple(min\_radius, max\_radius, step)

**mstp\_lightness**

Lightness of image.

**Type**  
float

**slp\_save\_float**

Slope. If 1 (True) it saves float, if 0 (False) it doesn't.

**Type**  
bool

**hs\_save\_float**

Hillshade. If 1 (True) it saves float, if 0 (False) it doesn't.

**Type**  
bool

**mhs\_save\_float**

Multi hillshade. If 1 (True) it saves float, if 0 (False) it doesn't.

**Type**  
bool

**slrm\_save\_float**

Simplified local relief model. If 1 (True) it saves float, if 0 (False) it doesn't.

**Type**  
bool

**svf\_save\_float**

Sky-view factor (asvf, pos\_opns). If 1 (True) it saves float, if 0 (False) it doesn't.

**Type**  
bool

**neg\_opns\_save\_float**

Negative openness. If 1 (True) it saves float, if 0 (False) it doesn't.

**Type**  
bool

**sim\_save\_float**

Sky illumination. If 1 (True) it saves float, if 0 (False) it doesn't.

**Type**  
bool

**ld\_save\_float**

Local dominance. If 1 (True) it saves float, if 0 (False) it doesn't.

**Type**  
bool

**msrm\_save\_float**

Multi-scale relief model. If 1 (True) it saves float, if 0 (False) it doesn't.

**Type**  
bool

### **slp\_save\_8bit**

Slope. If 1 (True) it saves 8bit, if 0 (False) it doesn't.

**Type**  
bool

### **hs\_save\_8bit**

Hillshade. If 1 (True) it saves 8bit, if 0 (False) it doesn't.

**Type**  
bool

### **mhs\_save\_8bit**

Multi hillshade. If 1 (True) it saves 8bit, if 0 (False) it doesn't.

**Type**  
bool

### **slrm\_save\_8bit**

Simplified local relief model. If 1 (True) it saves 8bit, if 0 (False) it doesn't.

**Type**  
bool

### **svf\_save\_8bit**

Sky-view factor (asvf, pos\_opns). If 1 (True) it saves 8bit, if 0 (False) it doesn't.

**Type**  
bool

### **neg\_opns\_save\_8bit**

Negative openness. If 1 (True) it saves 8bit, if 0 (False) it doesn't.

**Type**  
bool

### **sim\_save\_8bit**

Sky illumination. If 1 (True) it saves 8bit, if 0 (False) it doesn't.

**Type**  
bool

### **ld\_save\_8bit**

local dominance. If 1 (True) it saves 8bit, if 0 (False) it doesn't.

**Type**  
bool

### **msrm\_save\_8bit**

Multi-scale relief model. If 1 (True) it saves 8bit, if 0 (False) it doesn't.

**Type**  
bool

### **slp\_bytscl**

Slope, bytescale (0-255) for 8bit raster. Mode can be 'value' (linear stretch) or 'percent' (histogram equalization, cut-off). Values min and max define stretch/cut-off borders.

**Type**  
tuple(mode, min, max)



**hs\_bytscl**

Hillshade, linear stretch, bytescale (0-255) for 8bit raster. Mode can be 'value' or 'percent' (cut-off units). Values min and max define stretch borders (in mode units).

**Type**

tuple(mode, min, max)

**mhs\_bytscl**

Multi directional hillshade, linear stretch, bytescale (0-255) for 8bit raster. Mode can be 'value' or 'percent' (cut-off units). Values min and max define stretch borders (in mode units).

**Type**

tuple(mode, min, max)

**slrm\_bytscl**

Simplified local relief model, linear stretch, bytescale (0-255) for 8bit raster. Mode can be 'value' or 'percent' (cut-off units). Values min and max define stretch borders (in mode units).

**Type**

tuple(mode, min, max)

**svf\_bytscl**

Sky-view factor, linear stretch, bytescale (0-255) for 8bit raster. Mode can be 'value' or 'percent' (cut-off units). Values min and max define stretch borders (in mode units).

**Type**

tuple(mode, min, max)

**asvf\_bytscl**

Anisotropic Sky-view factor, linear stretch, bytescale (0-255) for 8bit raster. Mode can be 'value' or 'percent' (cut-off units). Values min and max define stretch borders (in mode units).

**Type**

tuple(mode, min, max)

**pos\_opns\_bytscl**

Positive Openness, linear stretch, bytescale (0-255) for 8bit raster. Mode can be 'value' or 'percent' (cut-off units). Values min and max define stretch borders (in mode units).

**Type**

tuple(mode, min, max)

**neg\_opns\_bytscl**

Negative Openness, linear stretch, bytescale (0-255) for 8bit raster. Mode can be 'value' or 'percent' (cut-off units). Values min and max define stretch borders (in mode units).

**Type**

tuple(mode, min, max)

**sim\_bytscl**

Sky illumination, linear stretch, bytescale (0-255) for 8bit raster. Mode can be 'value' or 'percent' (cut-off units). Values min and max define stretch borders (in mode units).

**Type**

tuple(mode, min, max)

**ld\_bytscl**

Local dominance, linear stretch, bytescale (0-255) for 8bit raster. Mode can be 'value' or 'percent' (cut-off units). Values min and max define stretch borders (in mode units).

**Type**

tuple(mode, min, max)

**msrm\_bytscl**

Multi-scale relief model, linear stretch, bytescale (0-255) for 8bit raster. Mode can be 'value' or 'percent' (cut-off units). Values min and max define stretch borders (in mode units).

**Type**

tuple(mode, min, max)

**tile\_size\_limit**

If array size bigger than tile\_size\_limit it uses saving tile by tile (rvt.tile module).

**Type**

int

**tile\_size**

Size of single tile when saving tile by tile.

**Type**

tuple(x\_size, y\_size)

**save\_default\_to\_file(file\_path=None)**

Saves default attributes into .json file.

**read\_default\_from\_file(file\_path)**

Reads default attributes from file.

**get\_shadow\_file\_name(dem\_path)**

Returns shadow name, with added hillshade parameters (hs\_sun\_azi == shadow azimuth, hs\_sun\_el == shadow\_elevation).

**get\_shadow\_path(dem\_path)**

Returns path to Shadow. Generates shadow name (uses default attributes and dem name from dem\_path) and adds dem directory (dem\_path) to it.

**get\_hillshade\_file\_name(dem\_path, bit8=False)**

Returns Hillshade name, dem name (from dem\_path) with added hillshade parameters. If bit8 it returns 8bit file name.

**get\_hillshade\_path(dem\_path, bit8=False)**

Returns path to Hillshade. Generates hillshade name (uses default attributes and dem name from dem\_path) and adds dem directory (dem\_path) to it. If bit8 it returns 8bit file path.

**get\_slope\_file\_name(dem\_path, bit8=False)**

Returns Slope name, dem name (from dem\_path) with added slope parameters. If bit8 it returns 8bit file name.

**get\_slope\_path(dem\_path, bit8=False)**

Returns path to slope. Generates slope name and adds dem directory (dem\_path) to it. If bit8 it returns 8bit file path.

**get\_multi\_hillshade\_file\_name(dem\_path, bit8=False)**

Returns Multiple directions hillshade name, dem name (from dem\_path) with added multi hillshade parameters. If bit8 it returns 8bit file name.

**get\_multi\_hillshade\_path(dem\_path, bit8=False)**

Returns path to Multiple directions hillshade. Generates multi hillshade name (uses default attributes and dem name from dem\_path) and adds dem directory (dem\_path) to it. If bit8 it returns 8bit file path.

**get\_slrm\_file\_name**(*dem\_path*, *bit8=False*)

Returns Simple local relief model name, dem name (from *dem\_path*) with added slrm parameters. If *bit8* it returns 8bit file name.

**get\_slrm\_path**(*dem\_path*, *bit8=False*)

Returns path to Simple local relief model. Generates slrm name (uses default attributes and dem name from *dem\_path*) and adds dem directory (*dem\_path*) to it. If *bit8* it returns 8bit file path.

**get\_svf\_file\_name**(*dem\_path*, *bit8=False*)

Returns Sky-view factor name, dem name (from *dem\_path*) with added svf parameters. If *bit8* it returns 8bit file name.

**get\_svf\_path**(*dem\_path*, *bit8=False*)

Returns path to Sky-view factor. Generates svf name (uses default attributes and dem name from *dem\_path*) and adds dem directory (*dem\_path*) to it. If *bit8* it returns 8bit file path.

**get\_asvf\_file\_name**(*dem\_path*, *bit8=False*)

Returns Anisotropic Sky-view factor name, dem name (from *dem\_path*) with added asvf parameters. If *bit8* it returns 8bit file name.

**get\_asvf\_path**(*dem\_path*, *bit8=False*)

Returns path to Anisotropic Sky-view factor. Generates asvf name (uses default attributes and dem name from *dem\_path*) and adds dem directory (*dem\_path*) to it. If *bit8* it returns 8bit file path.

**get\_opns\_file\_name**(*dem\_path*, *bit8=False*)

Returns Positive Openness name, dem name (from *dem\_path*) with added pos opns parameters. If *bit8* it returns 8bit file name.

**get\_opns\_path**(*dem\_path*, *bit8=False*)

Returns path to Positive Openness. Generates pos opns name (uses default attributes and dem name from *dem\_path*) and adds dem directory (*dem\_path*) to it. If *bit8* it returns 8bit file path.

**get\_neg\_opns\_file\_name**(*dem\_path*, *bit8=False*)

Returns Negative Openness name, dem name (from *dem\_path*) with added neg opns parameters. If *bit8* it returns 8bit file name.

**get\_neg\_opns\_path**(*dem\_path*, *bit8=False*)

Returns path to Negative Openness. Generates pos neg name (uses default attributes and dem name from *dem\_path*) and adds dem directory (*dem\_path*) to it. If *bit8* it returns 8bit file path.

**get\_sky\_illumination\_file\_name**(*dem\_path*, *bit8=False*)

Returns Sky illumination name, dem name (from *dem\_path*) with added sim parameters. If *bit8* it returns 8bit file name.

**get\_sky\_illumination\_path**(*dem\_path*, *bit8=False*)

Returns path to Sky illumination. Generates sim name (uses default attributes and dem name from *dem\_path*) and adds dem directory (*dem\_path*) to it. If *bit8* it returns 8bit file path.

**get\_local\_dominance\_file\_name**(*dem\_path*, *bit8=False*)

Returns Local dominance name, dem name (from *dem\_path*) with added ld parameters. If *bit8* it returns 8bit file name.

**get\_local\_dominance\_path**(*dem\_path*, *bit8=False*)

Returns path to Local dominance. Generates ld name (uses default attributes and dem name from *dem\_path*) and adds dem directory (*dem\_path*) to it. If *bit8* it returns 8bit file path.

**get\_msrn\_file\_name**(*dem\_path*, *bit8=False*)

Returns Multi-scale relief model name, dem name (from *dem\_path*) with added msrn parameters. If *bit8* it returns 8bit file name.

**get\_msrn\_path**(*dem\_path*, *bit8=False*)

Returns path to Multi-scale relief model. Generates msrn name (uses default attributes and dem name from *dem\_path*) and adds dem directory (*dem\_path*) to it. If *bit8* it returns 8bit file path.

**get\_mstp\_file\_name**(*dem\_path*, *bit8=False*)

Returns Multi-scale topographic position name, dem name (from *dem\_path*) with added mstp parameters. If *bit8* it returns 8bit file name.

**get\_mstp\_path**(*dem\_path*, *bit8=False*)

**get\_visualization\_file\_name**(*rvt\_visualization: RVTVisualization*, *dem\_path: Path*, *path\_8bit: bool*)  
→ str

“Return visualization path.

**get\_visualization\_path**(*rvt\_visualization: RVTVisualization*, *dem\_path: Path*, *output\_dir\_path: Path*, *path\_8bit: bool*) → Path

“Return visualization path.

**float\_to\_8bit**(*float\_arr: array*, *visualization: RVTVisualization*, *x\_res: float = None*, *y\_res: float = None*, *no\_data: float | None = None*)

Converts (byte scale) float visualization to 8bit. Resolution (*x\_res*, *y\_res*) and *no\_data* needed only for multiple directions hillshade! Method first normalize then byte scale (0-255).

**get\_slope**(*dem\_arr*, *resolution\_x*, *resolution\_y*, *no\_data=None*)

**save\_slope**(*dem\_path*, *custom\_dir=None*, *save\_float=None*, *save\_8bit=None*)

Calculates and saves Slope from dem (*dem\_path*) with default parameters. If *custom\_dir* is None it saves in dem directory else in *custom\_dir*. If path to file already exists we can overwrite file (*overwrite=0*) or not (*overwrite=1*). If *save\_float* is True method creates Gtiff with real values, if *save\_8bit* is True method creates GTiff with bytescaled values (0-255).

**get\_shadow**(*dem\_arr*, *resolution*, *no\_data=None*)

**get\_hillshade**(*dem\_arr*, *resolution\_x*, *resolution\_y*, *no\_data=None*)

**save\_hillshade**(*dem\_path*, *custom\_dir=None*, *save\_float=None*, *save\_8bit=None*, *save\_shadow=None*)

Calculates and saves Hillshade from dem (*dem\_path*) with default parameters. If *custom\_dir* is None it saves in dem directory else in *custom\_dir*. If path to file already exists we can overwrite file (*overwrite=1*) or not (*overwrite=0*). If *save\_float* is True method creates Gtiff with real values, if *save\_8bit* is True method creates GTiff with bytescaled values (0-255).

**get\_multi\_hillshade**(*dem\_arr*, *resolution\_x*, *resolution\_y*, *no\_data=None*)

**save\_multi\_hillshade**(*dem\_path*, *custom\_dir=None*, *save\_float=None*, *save\_8bit=None*)

Calculates and saves Multidirectional hillshade from dem (*dem\_path*) with default parameters. If *custom\_dir* is None it saves in dem directory else in *custom\_dir*. If path to file already exists we can overwrite file (*overwrite=1*) or not (*overwrite=0*). If *save\_float* is True method creates Gtiff with real values, if *save\_8bit* is True method creates GTiff with bytescaled values (0-255).

**get\_slrm**(*dem\_arr*, *no\_data=None*)

**save\_slrm**(*dem\_path*, *custom\_dir=None*, *save\_float=None*, *save\_8bit=None*)

Calculates and saves Simple local relief model from dem (*dem\_path*) with default parameters. If *custom\_dir* is None it saves in dem directory else in *custom\_dir*. If path to file already exists we can overwrite file (*overwrite=1*) or not (*overwrite=0*). If *save\_float* is True method creates Gtiff with real values, if *save\_8bit* is True method creates GTiff with bytescaled values (0-255).

**get\_sky\_view\_factor**(*dem\_arr*, *resolution*, *compute\_svf=True*, *compute\_asvf=False*,  
*compute\_opns=False*, *no\_data=None*)

**save\_sky\_view\_factor**(*dem\_path*, *save\_svf=True*, *save\_asvf=False*, *save\_opns=False*, *custom\_dir=None*,  
*save\_float=None*, *save\_8bit=None*)

Calculates and saves Sky-view factor(*save\_svf=True*), Anisotropic Sky-view factor(*save\_asvf=True*) and Positive Openness(*save\_opns=True*) from dem (*dem\_path*) with default parameters. If *custom\_dir* is None it saves in dem directory else in *custom\_dir*. If path to file already exists we can overwrite file (*overwrite=1*) or not (*overwrite=0*). If *save\_float* is True method creates Gtiff with real values, if *save\_8bit* is True method creates GTiff with bytescaled values (0-255).

**get\_neg\_opns**(*dem\_arr*, *resolution*, *no\_data=None*)

**save\_neg\_opns**(*dem\_path*, *custom\_dir=None*, *save\_float=None*, *save\_8bit=None*)

Calculates and saves Negative Openness from dem (*dem\_path*) with default parameters. If *custom\_dir* is None it saves in dem directory else in *custom\_dir*. If path to file already exists we can overwrite file (*overwrite=1*) or not (*overwrite=0*). If *save\_float* is True method creates Gtiff with real values, if *save\_8bit* is True method creates GTiff with bytescaled values (0-255).

**get\_sky\_illumination**(*dem\_arr*, *resolution*, *no\_data=None*)

**save\_sky\_illumination**(*dem\_path*, *custom\_dir=None*, *save\_float=None*, *save\_8bit=None*)

Calculates and saves Sky illumination from dem (*dem\_path*) with default parameters. If *custom\_dir* is None it saves in dem directory else in *custom\_dir*. If path to file already exists we can overwrite file (*overwrite=1*) or not (*overwrite=0*). If *save\_float* is True method creates Gtiff with real values, if *save\_8bit* is True method creates GTiff with bytescaled values (0-255).

**get\_local\_dominance**(*dem\_arr*, *no\_data=None*)

**save\_local\_dominance**(*dem\_path*, *custom\_dir=None*, *save\_float=None*, *save\_8bit=None*)

Calculates and saves Local dominance from dem (*dem\_path*) with default parameters. If *custom\_dir* is None it saves in dem directory else in *custom\_dir*. If path to file already exists we can overwrite file (*overwrite=1*) or not (*overwrite=0*). If *save\_float* is True method creates Gtiff with real values, if *save\_8bit* is True method creates GTiff with bytescaled values (0-255).

**get\_msrm**(*dem\_arr*, *resolution*, *no\_data=None*)

**save\_msrm**(*dem\_path*, *custom\_dir=None*, *save\_float=None*, *save\_8bit=None*)

Calculates and saves Multi-scale relief model from dem (*dem\_path*) with default parameters. If *custom\_dir* is None it saves in dem directory else in *custom\_dir*. If path to file already exists we can overwrite file (*overwrite=1*) or not (*overwrite=0*). If *save\_float* is True method creates Gtiff with real values, if *save\_8bit* is True method creates GTiff with bytescaled values (0-255).

**get\_mstp**(*dem\_arr*, *no\_data=None*)

**save\_mstp**(*dem\_path*, *custom\_dir=None*, *save\_float=None*, *save\_8bit=None*)

Calculates and saves Multi-scale topographic position from dem (*dem\_path*) with default parameters. If *custom\_dir* is None it saves in dem directory else in *custom\_dir*. If path to file already exists we can overwrite file (*overwrite=1*) or not (*overwrite=0*).

**save\_visualizations**(*dem\_path*, *custom\_dir=None*)

Save all visualizations where self.'visualization'\_compute = True also saves float where self.'visualization'\_save\_float = True and 8bit where self.'visualization'\_save\_8bit = True. In the end method creates log file.

**calculate\_visualization**(*visualization: RVTVisualization*, *dem: array*, *resolution\_x: float*, *resolution\_y: float*, *no\_data: float | None = None*, *save\_float: bool = True*, *save\_8bit: bool = False*) → Tuple[array, array] | None

**create\_log\_file**(*dem\_path*, *custom\_dir=None*, *compute\_time=None*)

Creates log file in custom\_dir, if custom\_dir=None it creates it in dem directory (dem\_path). Be aware, all default parameters have to be right! Parameter compute\_time is in seconds.

**rvt.default.get\_raster\_arr**(*raster\_path*)

Reads raster from raster\_path and returns its array(value) and resolution.

### Parameters

**raster\_path** (*str*) – Path to raster

### Returns

**dict\_out** – Returns {"array": array, "resolution": (x\_res, y\_res), "no\_data": no\_data} : dict("array": np.array, "resolution": tuple(float, float), "no\_data": float). Returns dictionary with keys: array, resolution and no\_data. Key resolution is tuple where first element is x resolution and second is y resolution. Key no\_data represent value of no data.

### Return type

dict

**rvt.default.get\_raster\_size**(*raster\_path*, *band=1*)

Opens raster path and returns selected band size.

### Parameters

- **raster\_path** (*str*) – Path to raster.
- **band** (*int*) – Selected band number.

### Return type

tuple(x\_size, y\_size)

**rvt.default.save\_raster**(*src\_raster\_path*, *out\_raster\_path*, *out\_raster\_arr: ndarray*, *no\_data=None*, *e\_type=6*)

Saves raster array (out\_raster\_arr) to out\_raster\_path (GTiff), using src\_raster\_path information.

### Parameters

- **src\_raster\_path** (*str*) – Path to source raster.
- **out\_raster\_path** (*str*) – Path to new file, where to save raster (GTiff).
- **out\_raster\_arr** (*np.array (2D - one band, 3D - multiple bands)*) – Array with raster data.
- **no\_data** (*float*) – Value that represents no data pixels.
- **e\_type** (*GDALDataType*) – [https://gdal.org/api/raster\\_c\\_api.html#\\_CPPv412GDALDataType](https://gdal.org/api/raster_c_api.html#_CPPv412GDALDataType), (GDT\_Float32 = 6, GDT\_UInt8 = 1, ...)

## 6.5 RVT for ArcGIS Pro

RVT can be used in ArcGIS Pro as a set of custom raster functions.

As described in the [ArcGIS Pro documentation](#):

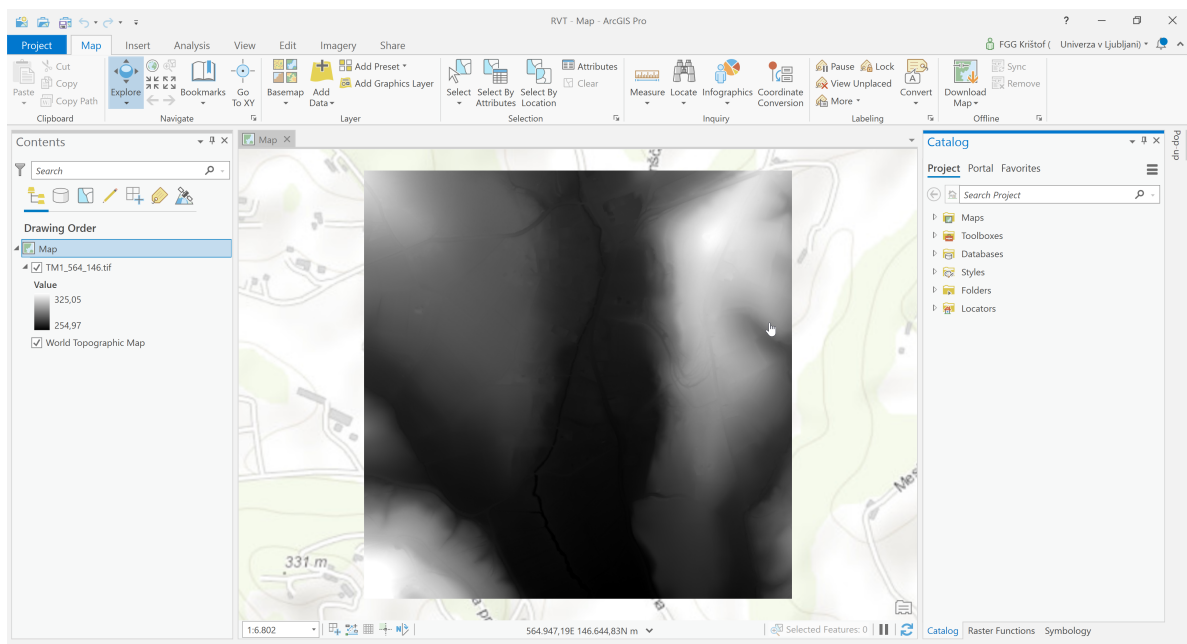
Raster functions are operations that apply processing directly to the pixels of imagery and raster datasets, as opposed to geoprocessing tools, which write out a new raster to disk. Calculations are applied to the pixels of the original data as displayed, so only pixels that are visible on your screen are processed. As you zoom and/or pan around, the calculations are performed on the fly. Because no intermediate datasets are created, processes can be applied quickly, as opposed to the time it would take to create a processed file on disk.

**See also:**

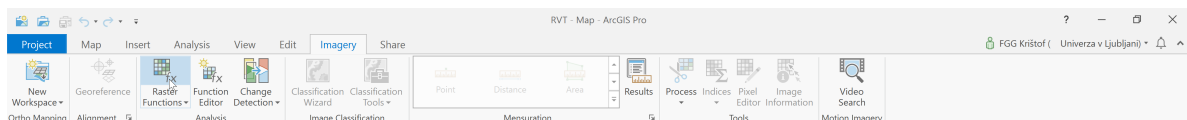
Find out how to install RVT for ArcGIS in [ArcGIS installation](#).

### 6.5.1 Setting up

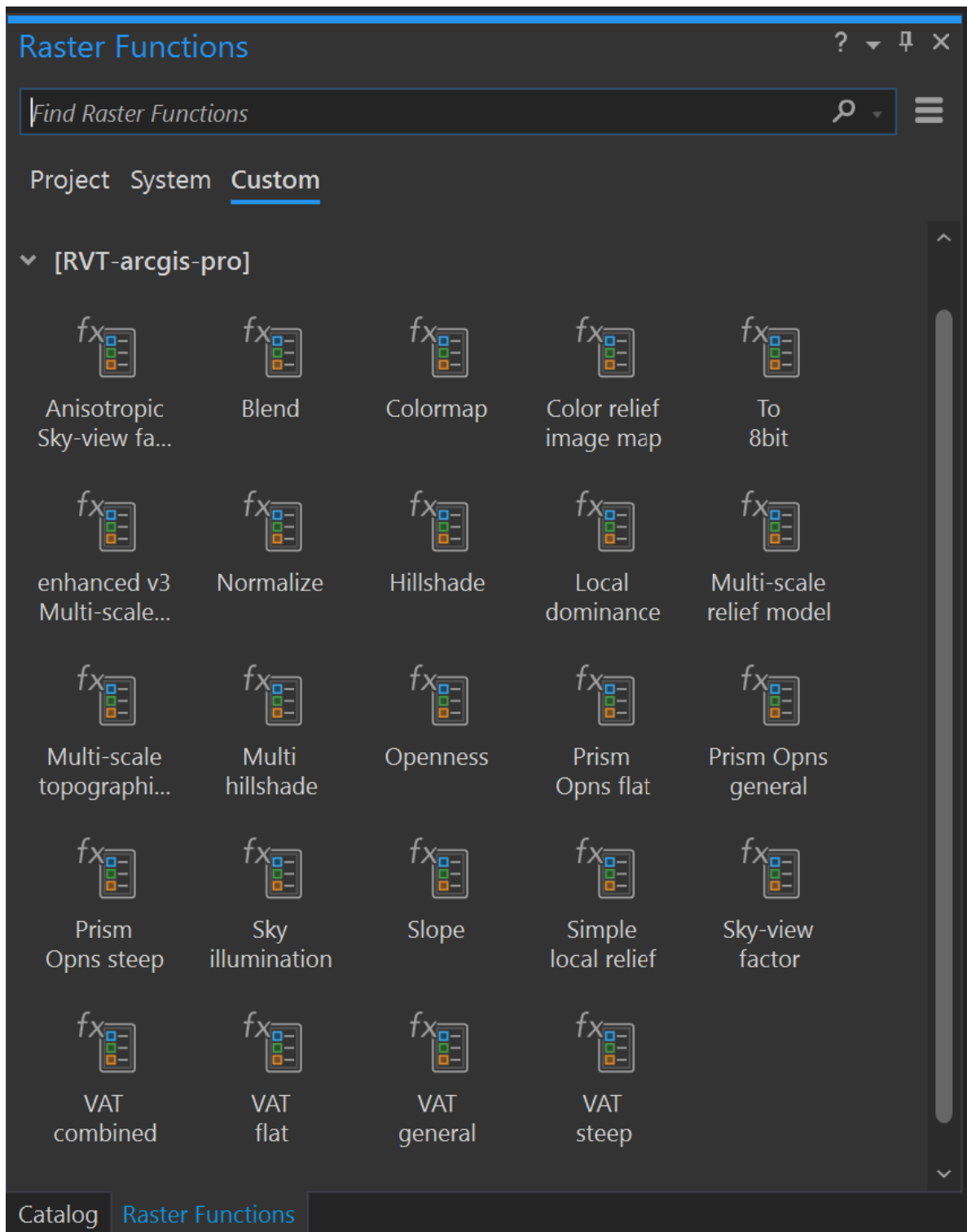
1. Start ArcGIS Pro, open a project, and add a DEM layer.



2. Select Imagery → Raster Functions.



3. Select Custom and open the group rvt-arcgis-pro.





## 6.5.2 Computing visualizations

1. Select the appropriate function, e.g. `svf`, specify the processing parameters and select `Create new layer` (or `Save As`).

# Raster Functions

?

▾

🔍

✕

⬅️

svf Properties

General

Parameters

Input Raster

TM1\_564\_146.tif

▾

📁

Number of directions

16

Max radius

10

Noise removal

0-don't remove

▾

Create new layer ▾

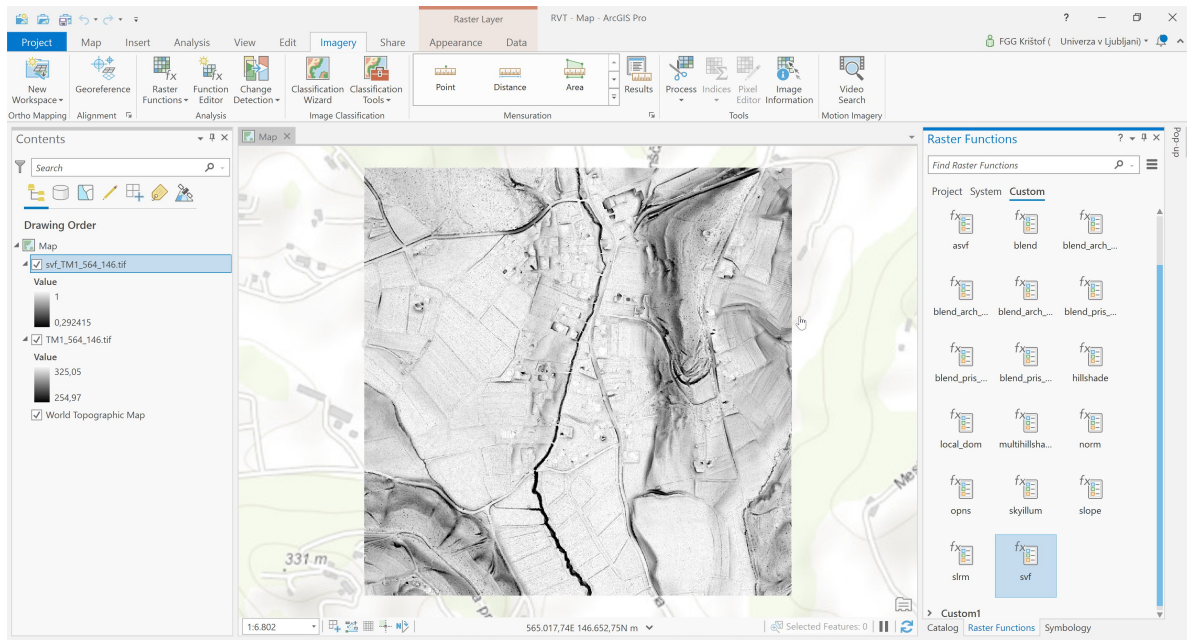
Cancel

Catalog

Raster Functions

Symbology

2. The visualization is computed and displayed as a layer in the main window.



### 6.5.3 Using the blender

1. The blender in ArcGIS is slightly different from the blender in the QGIS plugin and the Python package. The same blend mode options exist, but only two raster layers can be blended at one time.

Use the blender in the same way as a visualization function, by specifying the processing parameters and selecting Save As.

## 6.6 RVT for QGIS

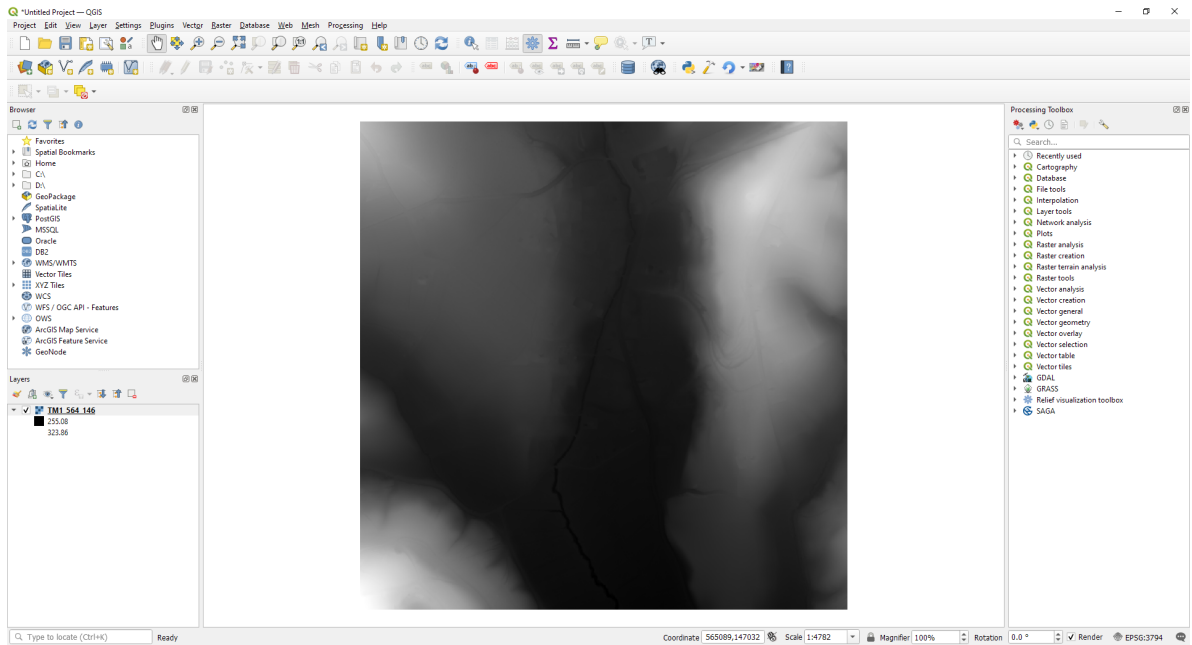
The RVT QGIS plugin uses the core RVT Python package. The plugin interface offers a user-friendly way to access all the functionality of the Python package.

**See also:**

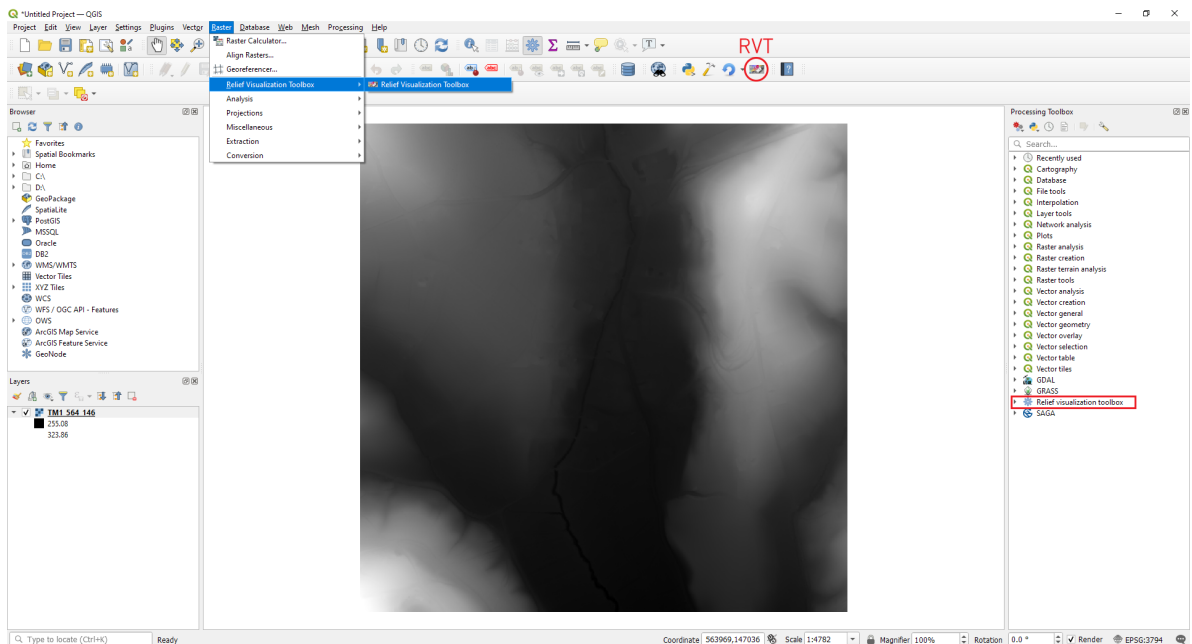
Find out how to install RVT for QGIS in [QGIS installation](#).

### 6.6.1 Setting up

1. Open a DEM file to be visualized.



2. Select Raster → Relief Visualization Toolbox or the RVT icon in the toolbar.



## 6.6.2 Computing visualizations

1. Select the DEM in List of currently selected files:, then select the Visualizations tab. In the Visualization tab select preferred visualizations and set their parameters (options).

**Relief Visualization Toolbox**

**List of currently selected files:** About

TM1\_564\_146

☒ Add to QGIS ☒ Overwrite ☒ Save to raster location Save to

☒ Fill no-data (holes) ☐ Keep original no-data

**Visualizations** **Blender**

Vertical exaggeration factor: 1.0

☒ **Hillshade**

Sun azimuth [deg]: 315 Sun elevation [deg]: 35 ☐ Shadow modeling (binary) ☒ float ☒ 8 bit

☒ **Hillshade from multiple directions**

Number of directions: 16 Sun elevation [deg]: 35 ☒ float ☒ 8 bit

☒ **Slope gradient**

Output unit: degree ☒ float ☒ 8 bit

☒ **Simple local relief model**

Radius for trend assesment [pixels]: 20 ☒ float ☒ 8 bit

☒ **Multi-scale relief model**

Feature minimum [meters]: 1.0 Feature maximum [meters]: 5.0 Scaling factor: 3 ☒ float ☒ 8 bit

☒ **Sky-View Factor**

Search radius [pixels]: 10 Number of search directions: 16 Level of noise removal: low ☐ Remove noise ☒ float ☒ 8 bit

☒ **Anisotropic Sky-View Factor (set parameters in Sky-View Factor)**

Level of anisotropy: low Main direction of anisotropy [deg]: 315

☒ **Openess - Positive (set parameters in Sky-View Factor)**

☒ **Openess - Negative (set parameters in Sky-View Factor)**

☒ **Sky illumination**

Max. shadow modelling distance [pixels]: 100 Sky model: overcast Number search of directions: 32 ☒ float ☒ 8 bit

☒ **Local dominance**

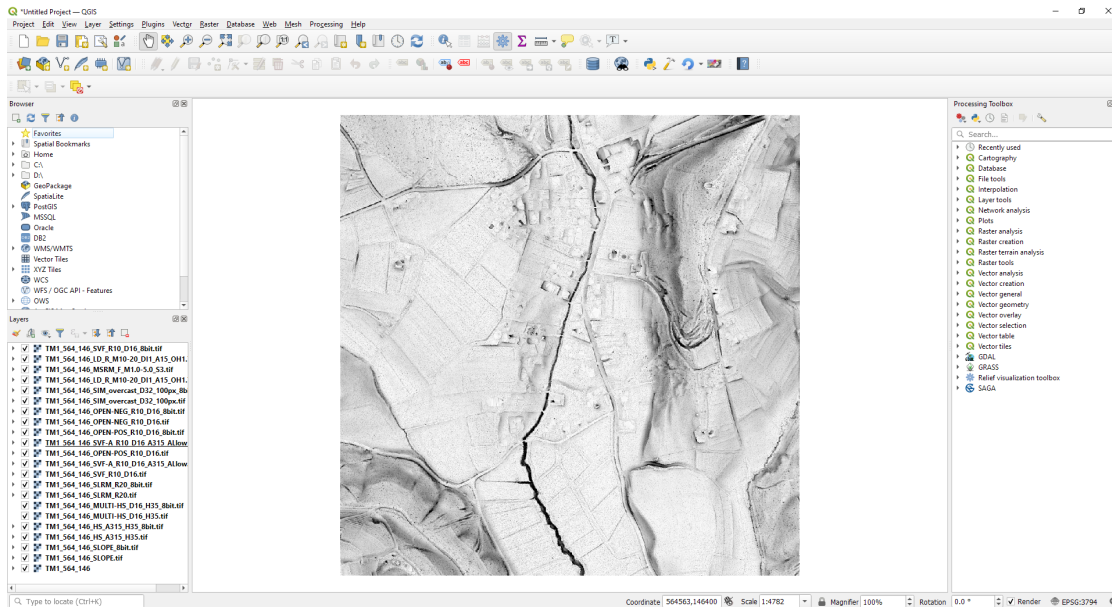
Minimum radius [pixels]: 10 Maximum radius [pixels]: 20 ☒ float ☒ 8 bit

Start Close Select all Select none

2. Select **Start** to calculate the visualizations.

The visualizations are stored as GeoTIFFs in the same folder as the input file, or to a custom location (if the **Save to raster location** check box is unchecked, and the **Save to directory** is set).

Visualizations are also added to the main window of QGIS if the **Add to QGIS** check box is checked. If the **Overwrite** check box is checked, the program overwrites any existing visualization files.



See also:

Find out more about visualizations and their parameters in [rvt.vis](#).

### 6.6.3 Using the blender

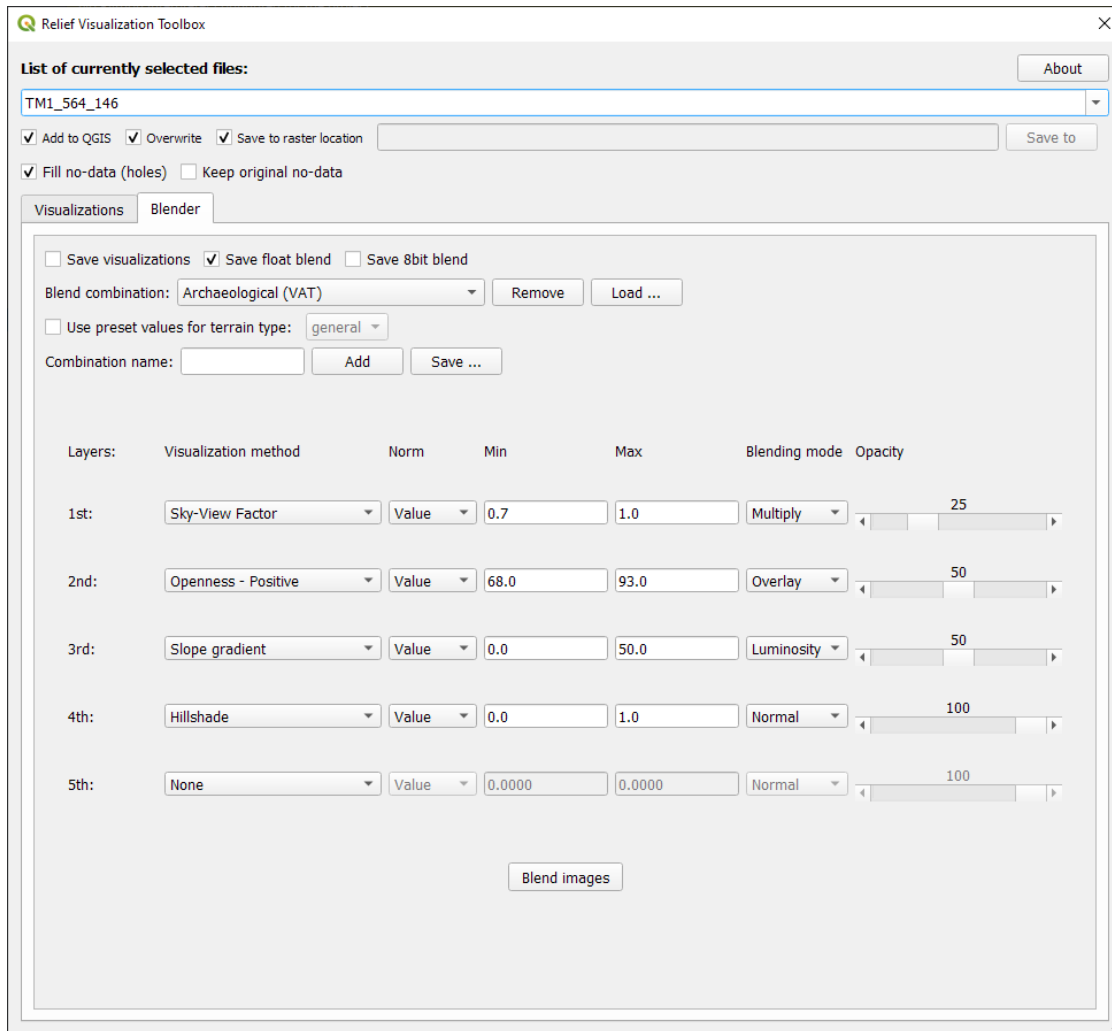
1. Chose a DEM in List of currently selected files:, then choose the Blender tab. In the Blender tab select your Blend combination: or build your own in layers.

You can add your own custom combination to the list. Write a name in the Combination name text field and select Add. To remove it, just select it in the (Blend combination list) and select Remove.

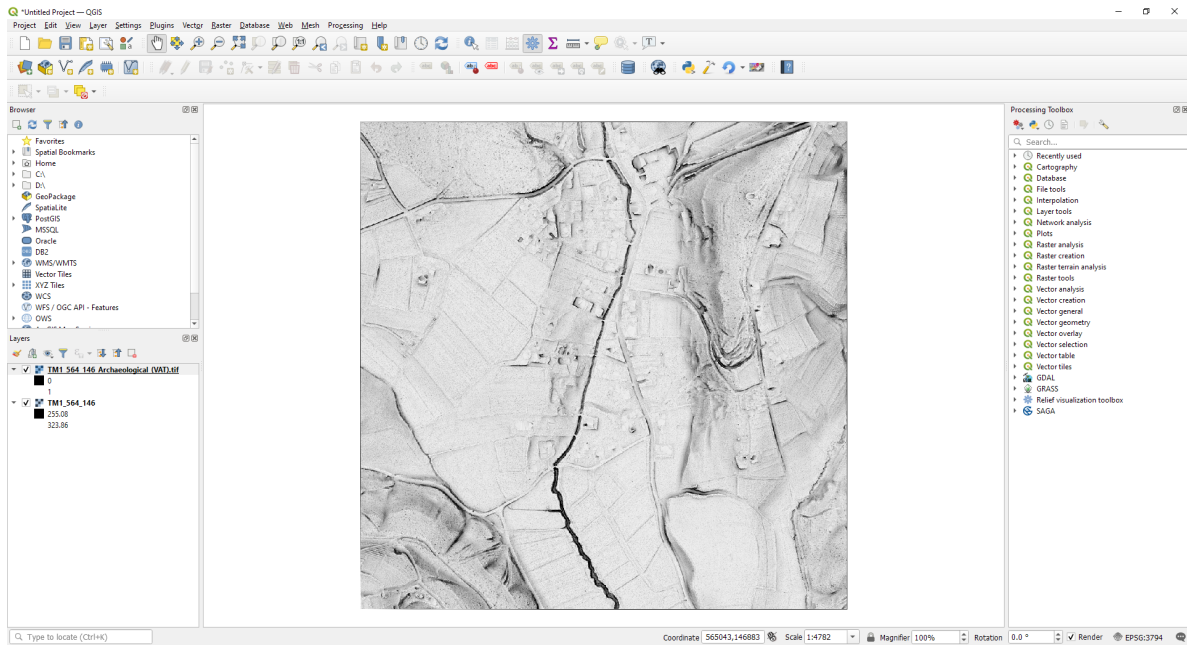
You can also save a specific combination to a JSON file (if you want to share it, for example). To do this, input its name (in the Combination name text field) and select Save ... (then select the location and name of the file).

Saved JSON combinations can be added by selecting the Load ... button (select file). You can change the parameters for each visualization method in the blend combination in the Visualizations tab.

If you check the Use preset values for terrain type it applies the selected terrain type settings (this changes the normalization min and max, and visualizations parameters). If you check Save visualizations, all the visualization parameters used in the blender combination will be saved.



1. Select **Blend images** to calculate the blended (fused, combined) image.

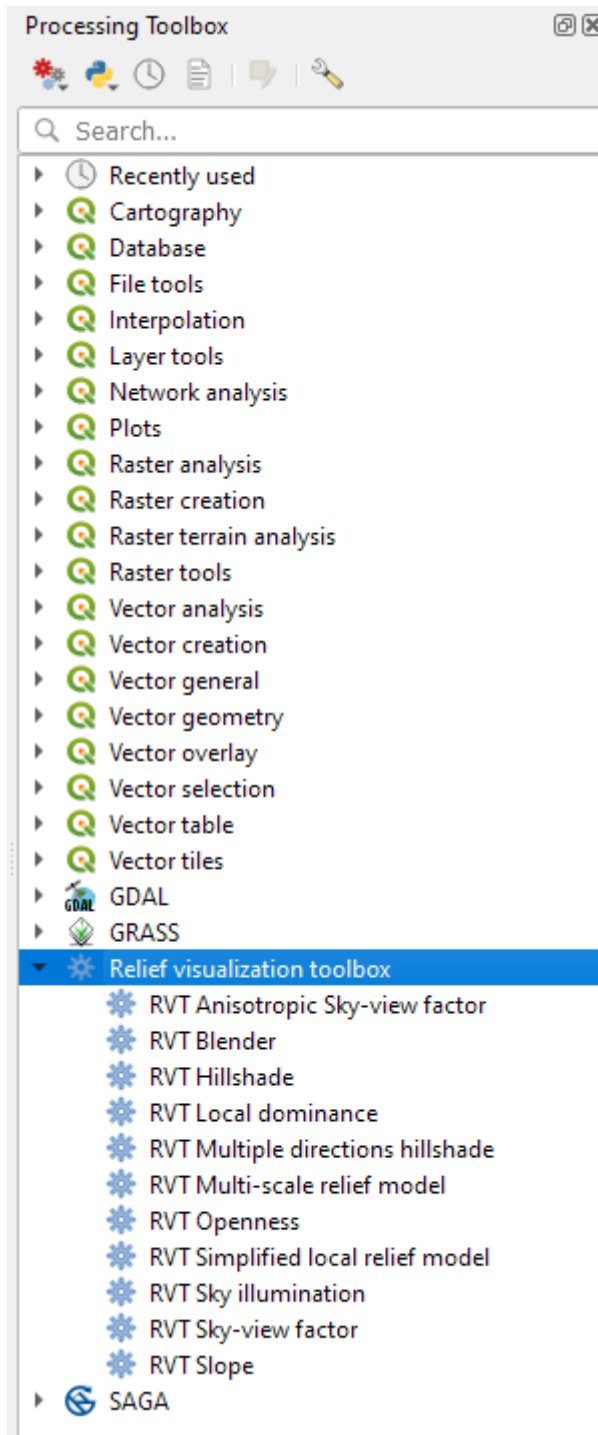


The blended image is stored as a GeoTIFF in the same folder as the input file or to a custom location (if **Save to raster location** check box is unchecked and a directory is set in the text field next to it).

### 6.6.4 Using the processing functions

1. Go to the **Processing Toolbox** → **Relief visualization toolbox** to access all the RVT visualization functions.





## 6.7 Example notebooks

This section contains example code for using the `rvt.vis` and `rvt.default` modules in two Jupyter Notebooks.

Both notebooks are available in the [examples folder in the repository](#) .

---

### CONTENTS

#### 6.7.1 RVT vis module

This example notebook shows how to create visualizations with the `rvt.vis` module.

##### Before you start

You'll need a DEM to work through this notebook.

Download the test data from [Getting started](#), or have some of your own data ready to work with.

Save your data in a directory called `test_data`. You'll need to set a path to this test data in cell [2].

---

First, let's import the required modules.

To load the DEM file into a numpy array and to store visualizations back to GeoTIFF, we will be using `rvt.default` module (which is based on the Python `gdal` library).

You can also use `rasterio`, `gdal` or any other Python library.

```
[1]: import rvt.vis # fro calculating visualizations
import rvt.default # for loading/saving rasters
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt # to plot visualizations
```

In the `test_data` directory is a file called "TM1\_564\_146.tif". This will be our test DEM, from which we will be calculating visualizations.

Define a string with the path to this file (`input_dem_path`).

```
[2]: dem_path = r"../test_data/TM1_564_146.tif"
```

This module has the function `get_raster_arr()` which reads a raster from a raster path and returns a dictionary with the keys "array", "resolution" and "no\_data":

- "array" is the numpy array of the raster
- "resolution" is a tuple representing the raster's size in pixels, where the first element is the pixel size in x direction and the second is in y direction.
- "no\_data" is the value which represents noData in the raster (array).

```
[3]: dict_dem = rvt.default.get_raster_arr(dem_path)
dem_arr = dict_dem["array"] # numpy array of DEM
dem_resolution = dict_dem["resolution"]
dem_res_x = dem_resolution[0] # resolution in X direction
dem_res_y = dem_resolution[1] # resolution in Y direction
```

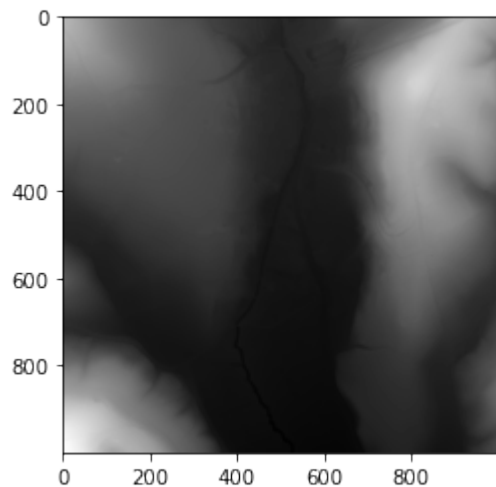
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```
dem_no_data = dict_dem["no_data"]
```

```
plt.imshow(dem_arr, cmap='gray')
```

```
[3]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x1923a694108>
```



## Visualization functions

All of the visualization functions take a DEM array as an input parameter.

They also take some parameters which are specific for each visualization, as well as common parameters: - `ve_factor` (vertical exaggeration factor, multiply factor) - `no_data` (value that represents no\_data, every function replace all no\_data value in array with `np.nan`)

The `no_data` parameter is represented as `np.nan`. Before every visualization function starts computing a visualization it changes `no_data` to `np.nan`.

Some visualization functions return a dictionary which contains the numpy array of visualization, some return the numpy array of visualization directly.

## Slope

To calculate slope use the `rvt.vis.slope_aspect()` function.

This function takes the parameters:

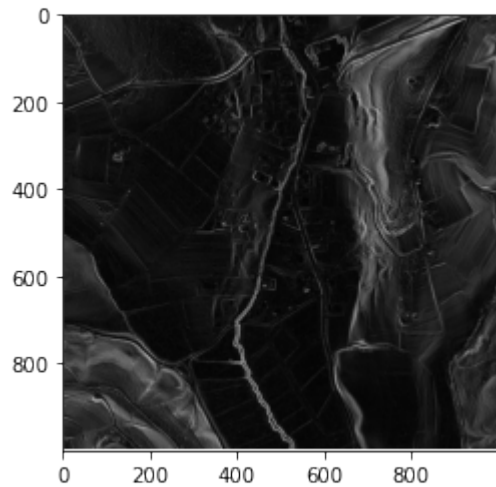
- `dem`
- `resolution_x`
- `resolution_y`
- `output_units` (can be: percent, degree, radian)
- `ve_factor`
- `no_data`.

This function outputs a dictionary with the keys “slope” and “aspect”. Each key contains a numpy array.

```
[4]: dict_slope_aspect = rvt.vis.slope_aspect(dem=dem_arr, resolution_x=dem_res_x, resolution_
      ↪y=dem_res_y,
      output_units="degree", ve_factor=1, no_data=dem_
      ↪no_data)
      slope_arr = dict_slope_aspect["slope"]

      plt.imshow(slope_arr, cmap='gray')
```

```
[4]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x1923ca44048>
```



To save the visualization use the `rvt.default.save_raster()` function.

This function takes the parameters:

- `src_raster_path` (dem path to copy geodata)
- `out_raster_path` (visualization path)
- `out_raster_arr` (visualization numpy array)
- `no_data` (how is no data stored, all the visualizations `no_data` is stored as `np.nan`)
- `e_type` (GDALDataType, for example 6 is for float32 and 1 is for uint8)

```
[5]: slope_path = r"../test_data/TM1_564_146_slope.tif"
      rvt.default.save_raster(src_raster_path=dem_path, out_raster_path=slope_path, out_raster_
      ↪arr=slope_arr, no_data=np.nan,
      e_type=6)
```

### Hillshade

To calculate a hillshade use the `rvt.vis.hillshade()` function.

This function takes the parameters:

- `dem`
- `resolution_x`
- `resolution_y`
- `sun_azimuth`

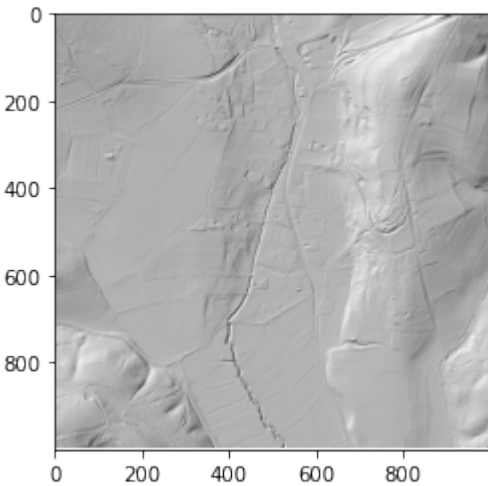
- sun\_elevation
- ve\_factor
- no\_data.

This function outputs a numpy array of the hillshade.

```
[6]: sun_azimuth = 315 # Solar azimuth angle (clockwise from North) in degrees
      sun_elevation = 45 # Solar vertical angle (above the horizon) in degrees
      hillshade_arr = rvt.vis.hillshade(dem=dem_arr, resolution_x=dem_res_x, resolution_y=dem_
      ↪ res_y,
      sun_azimuth=sun_azimuth, sun_elevation=sun_elevation,
      ↪ ve_factor=1)

      plt.imshow(hillshade_arr, cmap='gray')
```

```
[6]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x1923cebfb8>
```



```
[7]: hillshade_path = r"../test_data/TM1_564_146_hillshade.tif"
      rvt.default.save_raster(src_raster_path=dem_path, out_raster_path=hillshade_path, out_
      ↪ raster_arr=hillshade_arr, no_data=np.nan,
      e_type=6)
```

### Multiple direction hillshade

To calculate a multiple direction hillshade use the `rvt.vis.multi_hillshade()` function.

This function takes the parameters:

- dem
- resolution\_x
- resolution\_y
- nr\_directions
- sun\_elevation
- ve\_factor

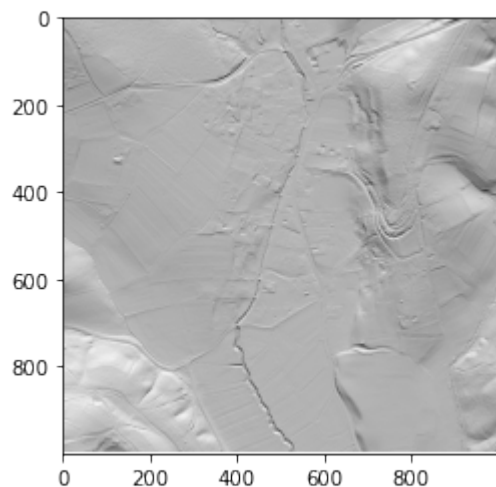
- no\_data

This function outputs a 3D numpy array, where the first dimension represents each direction (nr\_directions), e.g. arr[0] is the first direction. To calculate multiple directions hillshade use rvt.vis.multi\_hillshade() function. Parameters are: dem, resolution\_x, resolution\_y, nr\_directions, sun\_elevation, ve\_factor, no\_data. Function outputs 3D numpy array (where first dimension represents each direction (nr\_directions), for example arr[0] is first direction).

```
[8]: nr_directions = 16 # Number of solar azimuth angles (clockwise from North) (number of
    ↪ directions, number of bands)
    sun_elevation = 45 # Solar vertical angle (above the horizon) in degrees
    multi_hillshade_arr = rvt.vis.multi_hillshade(dem=dem_arr, resolution_x=dem_res_x,
    ↪ resolution_y=dem_res_y,
    nr_directions=nr_directions, sun_
    ↪ elevation=sun_elevation, ve_factor=1,
    no_data=dem_no_data)

    plt.imshow(multi_hillshade_arr[0], cmap='gray') # plot first direction where solar
    ↪ azimuth = 22.5 (360/16=22.5)
```

```
[8]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x1923d3221c8>
```



When saving multiple direction hillshade array, each direction (solar azimuth) will be saved in one band.

```
[9]: multi_hillshade_path = r"../test_data/TM1_564_146_multi_hillshade.tif"
    rvt.default.save_raster(src_raster_path=dem_path, out_raster_path=multi_hillshade_path,
    ↪ out_raster_arr=multi_hillshade_arr,
    no_data=np.nan, e_type=6)
```

### Simple Local Relief Model (SLRM)

To calculate a Simple Local Relief Model (SLRM) use the rvt.vis.slrn() function.

This function takes the parameters:

- dem
- radius\_cell
- ve\_factor

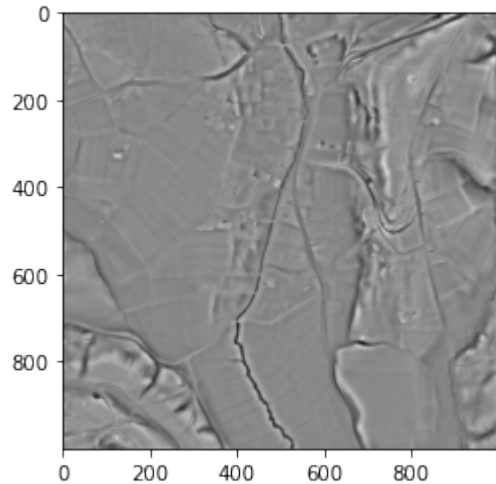
- no\_data.

This function returns a numpy array of the SLRM.

```
[10]: radius_cell = 15 # radius to consider in pixels (not in meters)
slrm_arr = rvt.vis.slrn(dem=dem_arr, radius_cell=radius_cell, ve_factor=1, no_data=dem_
↪no_data)

plt.imshow(slrn_arr, cmap='gray')
```

```
[10]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x1923db59308>
```



```
[11]: slrm_path = r"../test_data/TM1_564_146_slrm.tif"
rvt.default.save_raster(src_raster_path=dem_path, out_raster_path=slrm_path, out_raster_
↪arr=slrm_arr,
no_data=np.nan, e_type=6)
```

### Multi-Scale Relief Model (MSRM)

To calculate a Multi-Scale Relief Model (MSRM) use the `rvt.vis.msrm()` function.

This function takes the parameters:

- dem
- resolution
- feature\_min
- feature\_max
- scaling\_factor
- ve\_factor
- no\_data.

This function returns a numpy array of the MSRM.

```
[12]: feature_min = 1 # minimum size of the feature you want to detect in meters
feature_max = 5 # maximum size of the feature you want to detect in meters
```

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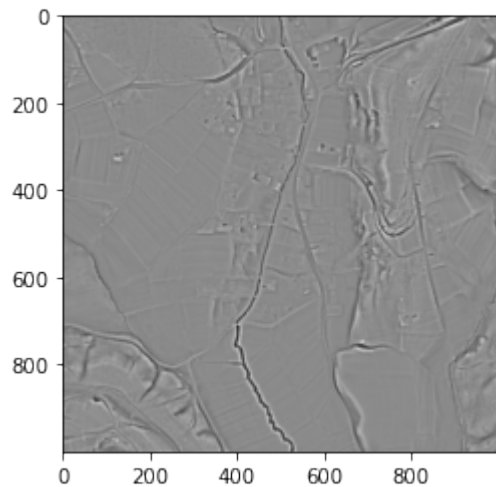
```

scaling_factor = 3 # scaling factor
msrm_arr = rvt.vis.msrm(dem=dem_arr, resolution=dem_res_x, feature_min=feature_min,
    ↪ feature_max=feature_max,
                        scaling_factor=scaling_factor, ve_factor=1, no_data=dem_no_data)

plt.imshow(msrm_arr, cmap='gray')

```

[12]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x1923dbbaf88>



```

[13]: msrm_path = r"../test_data/TM1_564_146_msrm.tif"
rvt.default.save_raster(src_raster_path=dem_path, out_raster_path=msrm_path, out_raster_
    ↪ arr=msrm_arr,
                        no_data=np.nan, e_type=6)

```

### Sky-view factor, anisotropic sky-view factor & positive openness

Sky-view factor, anisotropic sky-view factor and positive openness are all calculated with the same function: `rvt.vis.sky_view_factor()`.

This function takes the parameters:

- dem
- resolution
- compute\_svf (bool, if true it computes sky-view factor)
- compute\_asvf (bool, if true it computes anisotropic svf)
- compute\_opns (bool, if true it computes positive openness)
- svf\_n\_dir (number of directions)
- svf\_r\_max (maximal search radius in pixels)
- svf\_noise (level of noise remove (0-don't remove, 1-low, 2-med, 3-high))
- asvf\_level (level of anisotropy, 1-low, 2-high)
- asvf\_dir (direction of anisotropy), ve\_factor, no\_data.



This function outputs a dictionary with the keys:

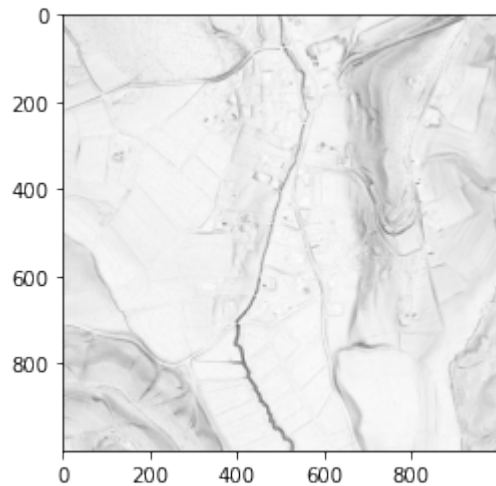
- “svf” (if compute\_svf is true)
- “asvf” (if compute\_asvf is true)
- “opns” (if compute\_opns is true)

Each key contains a numpy array of the visualization.

```
[14]: # svf, sky-view factor parameters which also applies to asvf and opns
svf_n_dir = 16 # number of directions
svf_r_max = 10 # max search radius in pixels
svf_noise = 0 # level of noise remove (0-don't remove, 1-low, 2-med, 3-high)
# asvf, anisotropic svf parameters
asvf_level = 1 # level of anisotropy (1-low, 2-high)
asvf_dir = 315 # direction of anisotropy in degrees
dict_svf = rvt.vis.sky_view_factor(dem=dem_arr, resolution=dem_res_x, compute_svf=True,
    ↪ compute_asvf=True, compute_opns=True,
                                svf_n_dir=svf_n_dir, svf_r_max=svf_r_max, svf_
    ↪ noise=svf_noise,
                                asvf_level=asvf_level, asvf_dir=asvf_dir,
                                no_data=dem_no_data)
svf_arr = dict_svf["svf"] # sky-view factor
asvf_arr = dict_svf["asvf"] # anisotropic sky-view factor
opns_arr = dict_svf["opns"] # positive openness
```

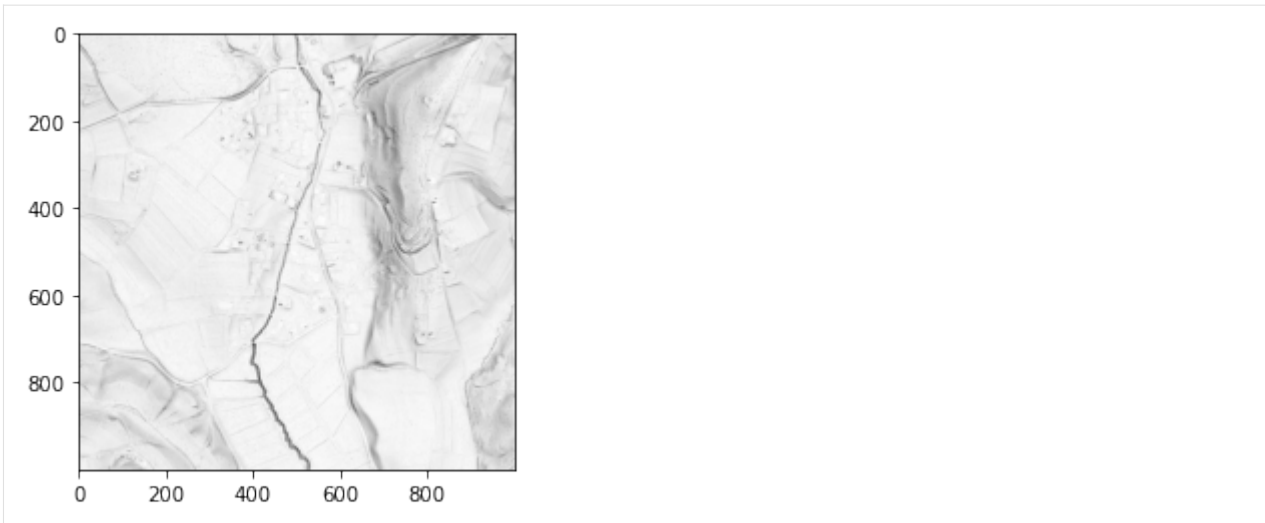
```
[15]: plt.imshow(svf_arr, cmap='gray')
```

```
[15]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x1923dc318c8>
```



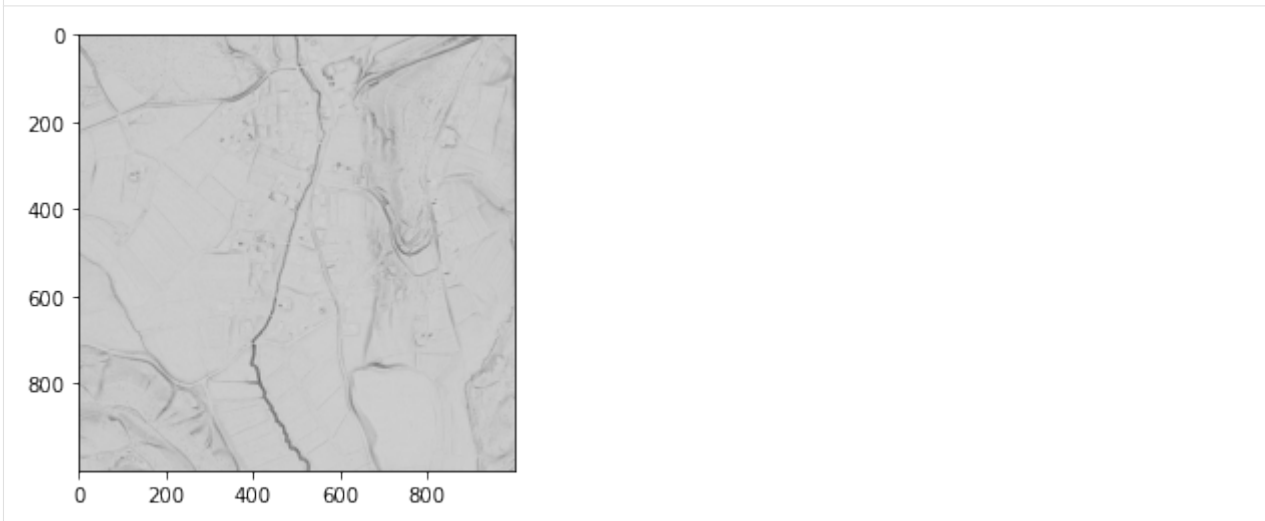
```
[16]: plt.imshow(asvf_arr, cmap='gray')
```

```
[16]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x1923dca7488>
```



```
[17]: plt.imshow(opns_arr, cmap="gray")
```

```
[17]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x1923dd16cc8>
```



To save:

```
[18]: svf_path = r"../test_data/TM1_564_146_svf.tif"
      rvt.default.save_raster(src_raster_path=dem_path, out_raster_path=svf_path, out_raster_
      ↪ arr=svf_arr,
      no_data=np.nan, e_type=6)
      asvf_path = r"../test_data/TM1_564_146_asvf.tif"
      rvt.default.save_raster(src_raster_path=dem_path, out_raster_path=asvf_path, out_raster_
      ↪ arr=asvf_arr,
      no_data=np.nan, e_type=6)
      opns_path = r"../test_data/TM1_564_146_pos_opns.tif"
      rvt.default.save_raster(src_raster_path=dem_path, out_raster_path=opns_path, out_raster_
      ↪ arr=opns_arr,
      no_data=np.nan, e_type=6)
```

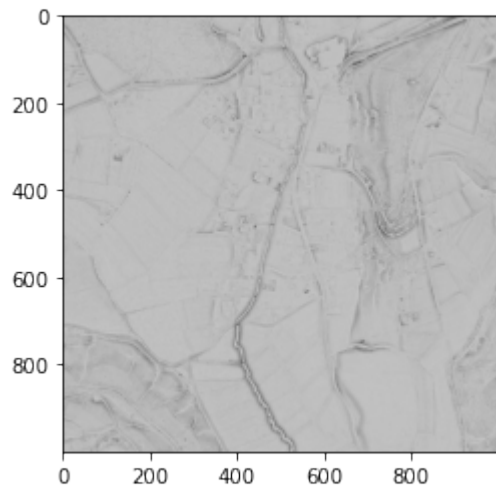
## Negative openness

Negative openness is calculated the same as positive openness, but we have to multiply the input DEM by -1.

```
[19]: # svf, sky-view factor parameters which also applies to asvf and opns
svf_n_dir = 16 # number of directions
svf_r_max = 10 # max search radius in pixels
svf_noise = 0 # level of noise remove (0-don't remove, 1-low, 2-med, 3-high)
dem_arr_neg_opns = dem_arr * -1 # dem * -1 for neg opns
# we don't need to calculate svf and asvf (compute_svf=False, compute_asvf=False)
dict_svf = rvt.vis.sky_view_factor(dem=dem_arr_neg_opns, resolution=dem_res_x, compute_
↪svf=False, compute_asvf=False, compute_opns=True,
                                svf_n_dir=svf_n_dir, svf_r_max=svf_r_max, svf_
↪noise=svf_noise,
                                no_data=dem_no_data)
neg_opns_arr = dict_svf["opns"]

plt.imshow(neg_opns_arr, cmap='gray')
```

```
[19]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x1924343f308>
```



```
[20]: neg_opns_path = r"../test_data/TM1_564_146_neg_opns.tif"
rvt.default.save_raster(src_raster_path=dem_path, out_raster_path=neg_opns_path, out_
↪raster_arr=neg_opns_arr,
                        no_data=np.nan, e_type=6)
```

## Local dominance

To calculate local dominance use the `rvt.vis.local_dominance()` function.

This function takes the parameters:

- dem
- min\_rad (minimum radial distance (in pixels) at which the algorithm starts with visualization computation)
- max\_rad (maximum radial distance (in pixels) at which the algorithm starts with visualization computation)
- rad\_inc (radial distance steps in pixels)

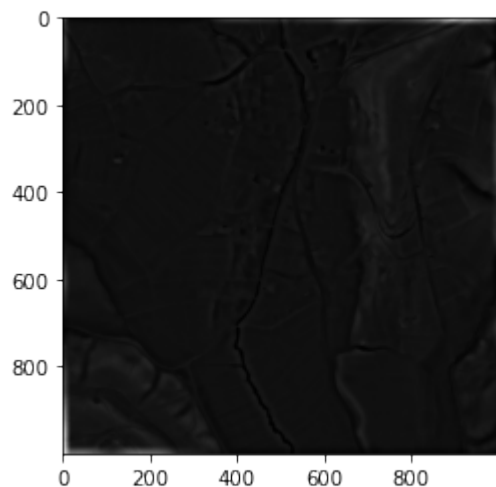
- angular\_res (angular step for determination of number of angular directions)
- observer\_height (height at which we observe the terrain)
- ve\_factor
- no\_data.

This function outputs a numpy array of local dominance.

```
[21]: min_rad = 10 # minimum radial distance
max_rad = 20 # maximum radial distance
rad_inc = 1 # radial distance steps in pixels
angular_res = 15 # angular step for determination of number of angular directions
observer_height = 1.7 # height at which we observe the terrain
local_dom_arr = rvt.vis.local_dominance(dem=dem_arr, min_rad=min_rad, max_rad=max_rad,
↪rad_inc=rad_inc, angular_res=angular_res,
                                     observer_height=observer_height, ve_factor=1,
                                     no_data=dem_no_data)

plt.imshow(local_dom_arr, cmap='gray')
```

```
[21]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x192434a0dc8>
```



```
[22]: local_dom_path = r"../test_data/TM1_564_146_local_dominance.tif"
rvt.default.save_raster(src_raster_path=dem_path, out_raster_path=local_dom_path, out_
↪raster_arr=local_dom_arr,
                        no_data=np.nan, e_type=6)
```

### Sky illumination

To calculate sky illumination use the `rvt.vis.sky_illumination()` function.

This function takes the parameters:

- dem
- resolution
- sky\_model (“overcast” or “uniform”)

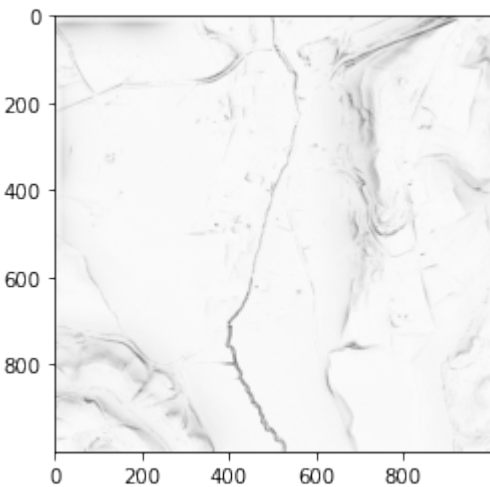
- `compute_shadow` (boolean if true it adds shadow)
- `max_fine_radius` (max shadow modeling distance in pixels)
- `num_directions` (number of directions to search for horizon)
- `shadow_az` (shadow azimuth if `compute_shadow` is true)
- `shadow_el` (shadow elevation if `compute_shadow` is true)
- `ve_factor`
- `no_data`.

This function outputs the numpy array of sky illumination.

```
[23]: sky_model = "overcast" # could also be uniform
max_fine_radius = 100
num_directions = 32
compute_shadow = True
shadow_az = 315
shadow_el = 35
sky_illum_arr = rvt.vis.sky_illumination(dem=dem_arr, resolution=dem_res_x, sky_
↪model=sky_model,
                                max_fine_radius=max_fine_radius, num_
↪directions=num_directions,
                                shadow_az=shadow_az, shadow_el=shadow_el, ve_
↪factor=1,
                                no_data=dem_no_data)

plt.imshow(sky_illum_arr, cmap='gray')
```

```
[23]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x192435189c8>
```



```
[24]: sky_illum_path = r"../test_data/TM1_564_146_sky_illumination.tif"
rvt.default.save_raster(src_raster_path=dem_path, out_raster_path=sky_illum_path, out_
↪raster_arr=sky_illum_arr,
                        no_data=np.nan, e_type=6)
```

## Multi-Scale Topographic Position (MSTP)

To calculate Multi-Scale Topographic Position (MSTP) use the `rvt.vis.mstp()` function.

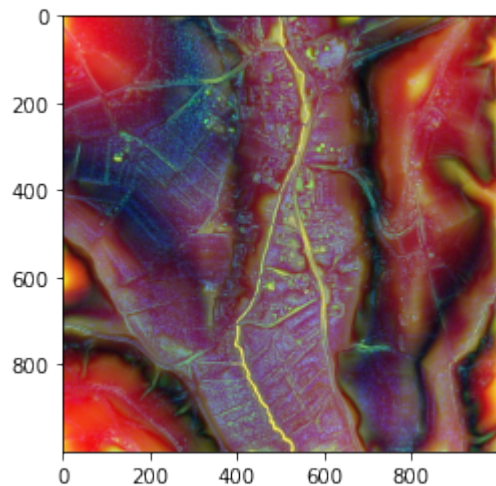
This function takes the parameters: - `dem` - local\_scale (tuple where first element is local scale min, second is local scale max and third is local scale step) - meso scale (tuple of min, max, step for meso scale) - broad scale (tuple of min, max, step for broad scale) - `lightness` (parameter to control visualization lightness) - `ve_factor` - `no_data`

This function outputs a 3D RGB 8bit numpy array of MSTP.

```
[25]: local_scale=(1, 5, 1) # min, max, step
      meso_scale=(5, 50, 5) # min, max, step
      broad_scale=(50, 500, 50) # min, max, step
      lightness=1.2 # best results from 0.8 to 1.6
      mstp_arr = rvt.vis.mstp(dem=dem_arr, local_scale=local_scale, meso_scale=meso_scale,
                             broad_scale=broad_scale, lightness=lightness, ve_factor=1, no_
                             ↪data=dem_no_data)

      # to show image in matplotlib we have to normalize visualization and rearrange it
      # import blend_func module which contain function for normalization
      import rvt.blend_func
      # normalize visualization from 0-255 to 0-1
      mstp_float_arr = rvt.blend_func.normalize_lin(image=mstp_arr, minimum=0, maximum=255)
      # rearrange visualization from np.array([r, g, b]) to form that is supported by
      ↪matplotlib and display it
      plt.imshow(np.dstack((mstp_float_arr[0], mstp_float_arr[1], mstp_float_arr[2])))
```

```
[25]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x1924359db88>
```



```
[26]: mstp_path = r"../test_data/TM1_564_146_MSTP.tif"
      rvt.default.save_raster(src_raster_path=dem_path, out_raster_path=mstp_path, out_raster_
      ↪arr=mstp_arr,
                               no_data=np.nan, e_type=1) # e_type has to be 1 because
      ↪visualization is 8-bit (0-255)
```

## 6.7.2 RVT default module

This example notebook shows how the `rvt.default` module can quickly calculate or save any rvt visualization.

This notebook is suitable for beginner python users.

### Before you start

You'll need a DEM to work through this notebook.

Download the test data from [Getting started](#), or have some of your own data ready to work with.

Save your data in a directory called `test_data`. You'll need to set a path to this test data in cell [2].

### Working with visualization parameters

To calculate a visualization we need to use visualization parameters (e.g. hillshade sun azimuth).

The default module has the `rvt.default.DefaultValues()` class. All visualization parameters are stored as **attributes** of this class.

This class also contains **methods** to calculate the numpy array of a specific visualization, or to calculate and save a specific visualization as a GeoTIFF. All methods use class attributes (or set parameters).

For **get** methods we need the DEM numpy array, for **save** methods we need the DEM path.

If you call a save method for a specific visualization (e.g. `default.save_hillshade()`) it will be saved in the DEM directory (`dem_path`). To change the output directory, input the output directory as a string in `custom_dir` (save methods parameter).

Save methods also have two boolean parameters: `save_float` and `save_8bit`. If `save_float` is True, the method will save the visualization as float. If `save_8bit` is True, the method will bytescale visualization (0-255) and save it. Both can be True, if you want to save both.

Ok, let's import the required modules:

```
[1]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import rvt.default
```

To get the visualization array we need to input the DEM numpy array.

We will use the default module function `get_raster_arr()` to read it.

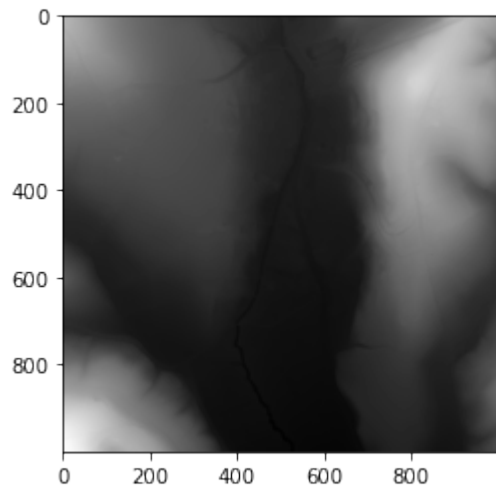
```
[2]: dem_path = r"../test_data/TM1_564_146.tif" # set path to your dem
```

```
[3]: dict_dem = rvt.default.get_raster_arr(dem_path)
```

```
[4]: dem_arr = dict_dem["array"] # numpy array of DEM
dem_resolution = dict_dem["resolution"]
dem_res_x = dem_resolution[0] # resolution in X direction
dem_res_y = dem_resolution[1] # resolution in Y direction
dem_no_data = dict_dem["no_data"]

plt.imshow(dem_arr, cmap='gray') # show DEM
```

```
[4]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x17d9c68c888>
```



Create `rvt.default.DefaultValues()` class:

```
[5]: default = rvt.default.DefaultValues() # we created instance of class and stored it in_
      ↪ default variable
```

### Slope

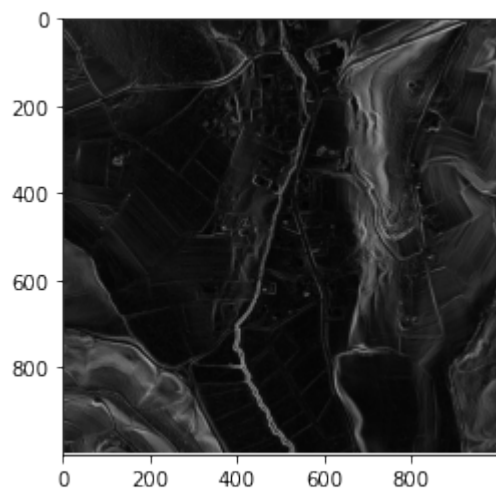
Set parameters:

```
[6]: default.slp_output_units = "degree"
```

Calculate numpy array:

```
[7]: slope_arr = default.get_slope(dem_arr=dem_arr, resolution_x=dem_res_x, resolution_y=dem_
      ↪ res_y)
      plt.imshow(slope_arr, cmap='gray')
```

```
[7]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x17d9d656c08>
```





Calculate and save as GeoTIFF in DEM directory:

```
[8]: default.save_slope(dem_path=dem_path, custom_dir=None, save_float=True, save_8bit=True)
```

```
[8]: 1
```

## Hillshade

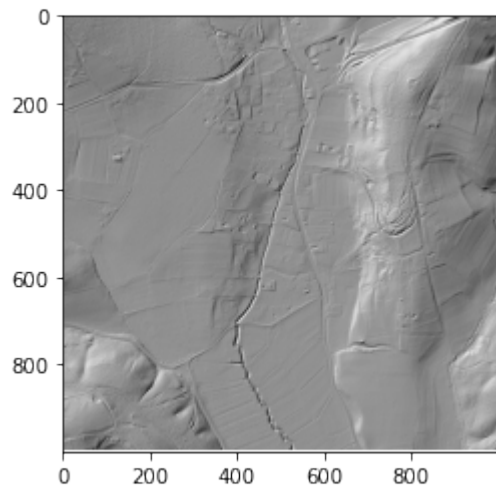
Set parameters:

```
[9]: default.hs_sun_el = 35
     default.hs_sun_az = 315
```

Calculate numpy array:

```
[10]: hillshade_arr = default.get_hillshade(dem_arr=dem_arr, resolution_x=dem_res_x,
      ↪ resolution_y=dem_res_y)
     plt.imshow(hillshade_arr, cmap='gray')
```

```
[10]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x17d9dacb988>
```



Calculate and save as GeoTIFF in DEM directory:

```
[11]: default.save_hillshade(dem_path=dem_path, custom_dir=None, save_float=True, save_
      ↪ 8bit=True)
```

```
[11]: 1
```

## Multiple directions hillshade

Set parameters:

```
[12]: default.mhs_nr_dir = 16
     default.mhs_sun_el = 35
```

Calculate numpy array:

```
[13]: mhs_arr = default.get_multi_hillshade(dem_arr=dem_arr, resolution_x=dem_res_x,
      ↪ resolution_y=dem_res_y)
```

Calculate and save as GeoTIFF in DEM directory:

```
[14]: default.save_multi_hillshade(dem_path=dem_path, custom_dir=None, save_float=True, save_
      ↪ 8bit=True)
```

```
[14]: 1
```

### Simple Local Relief Model (SLRM)

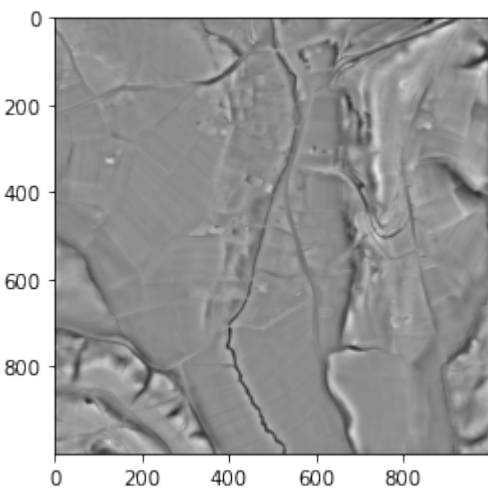
Set parameters:

```
[15]: default.slr_rad_cell = 20
```

Calculate numpy array:

```
[16]: slrm_arr = default.get_slrm(dem_arr=dem_arr)
      plt.imshow(slr_arr, cmap='gray')
```

```
[16]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x17d9e2f6808>
```



Calculate and save as GeoTIFF in DEM directory:

```
[17]: default.save_slrm(dem_path=dem_path, custom_dir=None, save_float=True, save_8bit=True)
```

```
[17]: 1
```

## Multi-Scale Relief Model (MSRM)

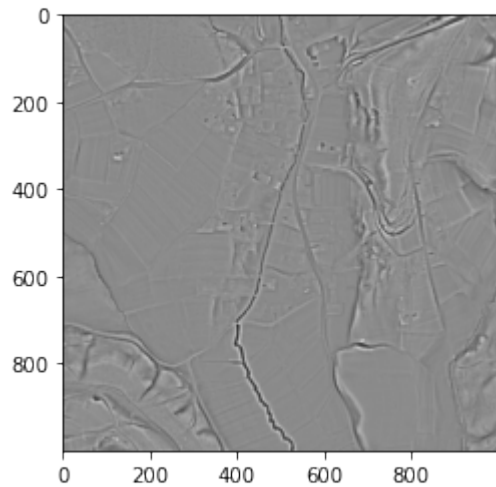
Set parameters:

```
[18]: default.msrn_feature_min = 1
      default.msrn_feature_max = 5
      default.msrn_scaling_factor = 3
```

Calculate numpy array:

```
[19]: msrm_arr = default.get_msrn(dem_arr=dem_arr, resolution=dem_res_x)
      plt.imshow(msrm_arr, cmap='gray')
```

```
[19]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x17d9e74b688>
```



Calculate and save as GeoTIFF in DEM directory:

```
[20]: default.save_msrn(dem_path=dem_path, custom_dir=None, save_float=True, save_8bit=True)
```

```
[20]: 1
```

## Sky-view factor, Anisotropic sky-view factor, Positive openness

Set parameters:

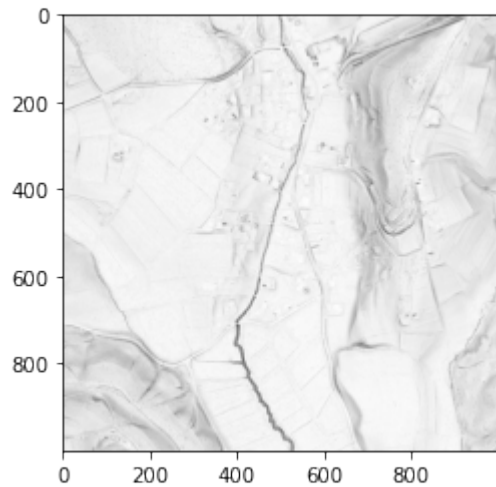
```
[21]: # parameters for all three
      default.svf_n_dir = 16
      default.svf_r_max = 10
      default.svf_noise = 0
      # parameters for asvf
      default.asvf_dir = 315
      default.asvf_level = 1
```

Calculate numpy array:

```
[22]: svf_asvf_opns_dict = default.get_sky_view_factor(dem_arr=dem_arr, resolution=dem_res_x,
                                                         compute_svf=True, compute_asvf=True,
                                                         ↪compute_opns=True)
```

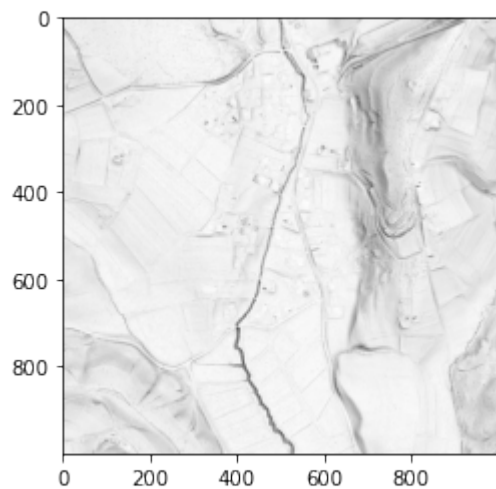
```
[23]: svf_arr = svf_asvf_opns_dict["svf"]  
plt.imshow(svf_arr, cmap='gray')
```

```
[23]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x17d9e7d0ac8>
```



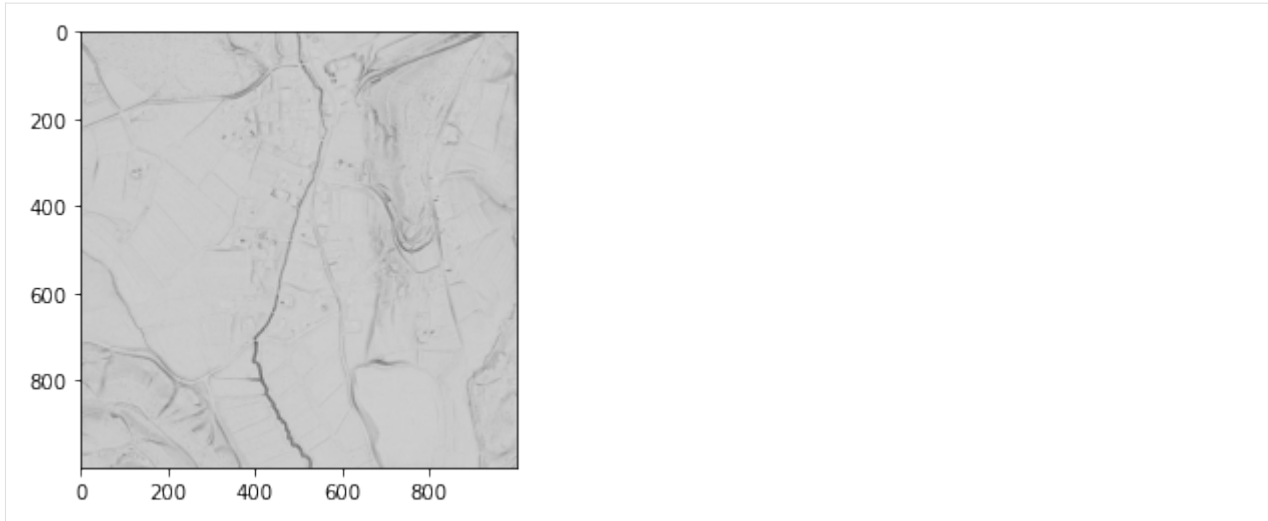
```
[24]: asvf_arr = svf_asvf_opns_dict["asvf"]  
plt.imshow(asvf_arr, cmap='gray')
```

```
[24]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x17d9e8334c8>
```



```
[25]: opns_arr = svf_asvf_opns_dict["opns"]  
plt.imshow(opns_arr, cmap='gray')
```

```
[25]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x17d9e8b4a08>
```



Calculate and save as GeoTIFF in DEM directory:

```
[26]: default.save_sky_view_factor(dem_path=dem_path, save_svf=True, save_asvf=True, save_
    ↪ opns=True,
                                     custom_dir=None, save_float=True, save_8bit=True)
```

```
[26]: 1
```

### Negative openness

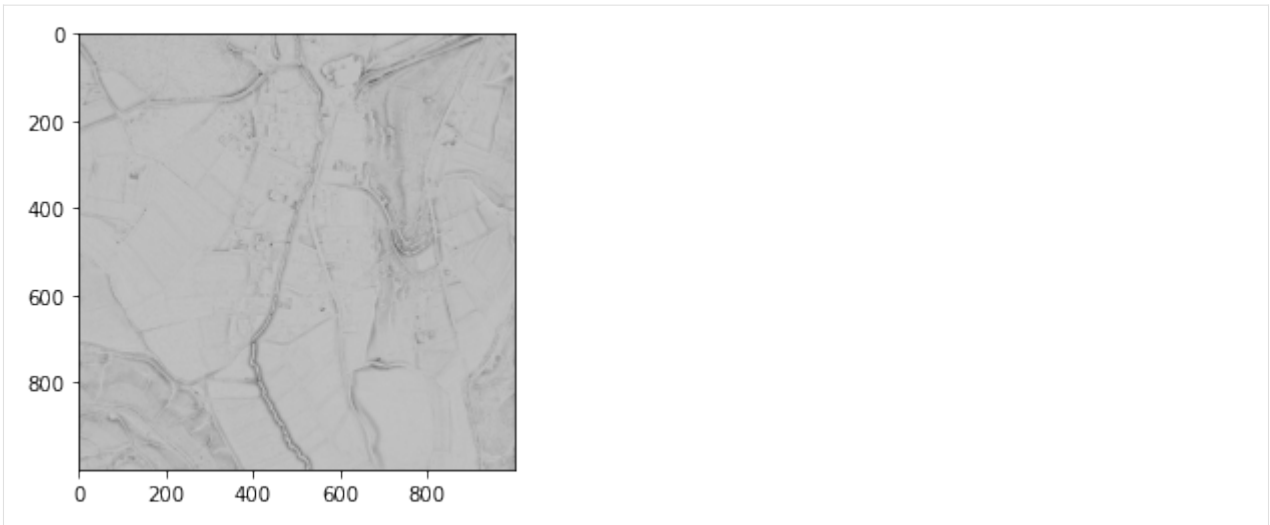
Set parameters (svf\_parameters):

```
[27]: default.svf_n_dir = 16
      default.svf_r_max = 10
      default.svf_noise = 0
```

Calculate numpy array:

```
[28]: neg_opns_arr = default.get_neg_opns(dem_arr=dem_arr, resolution=dem_res_x)
      plt.imshow(neg_opns_arr, cmap='gray')
```

```
[28]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x17d9e91d1c8>
```



Calculate and save as GeoTIFF in DEM directory:

```
[29]: default.save_neg_opns(dem_path=dem_path, custom_dir=None, save_float=True, save_
      ↪ 8bit=True)
```

```
[29]: 1
```

### Local dominance

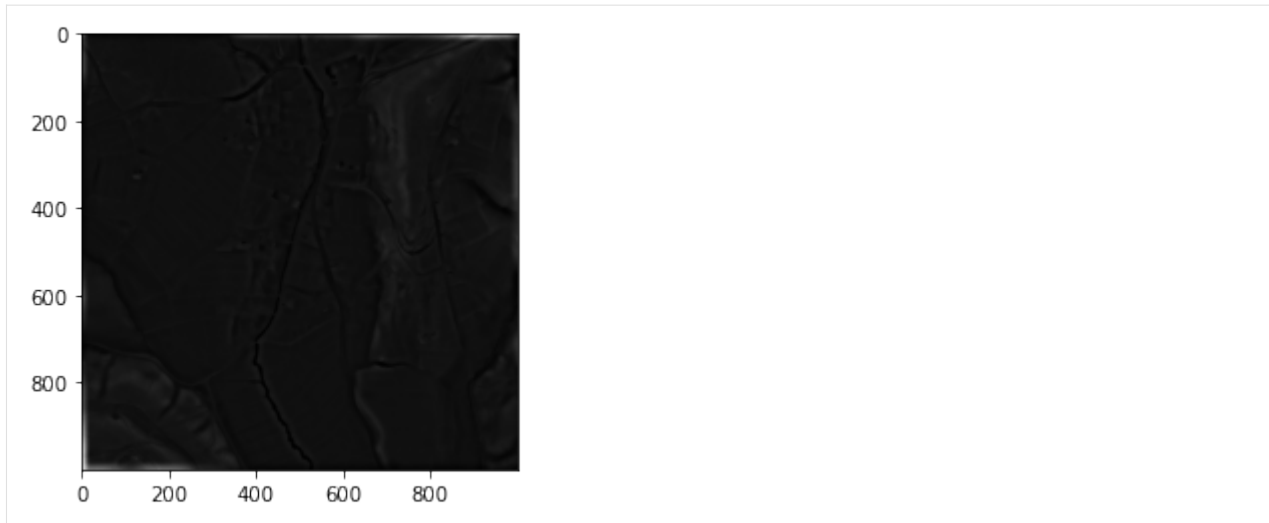
Set parameters:

```
[30]: default.ld_min_rad = 10
      default.ld_max_rad = 20
      default.ld_rad_inc = 1
      default.ld_anglr_res = 15
      default.ld_observer_h = 1.7
```

Calculate numpy array:

```
[31]: local_dom_arr = default.get_local_dominance(dem_arr=dem_arr)
      plt.imshow(local_dom_arr, cmap='gray')
```

```
[31]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x17da0cd0f88>
```



Calculate and save as GeoTIFF in DEM directory:

```
[32]: default.save_local_dominance(dem_path=dem_path, custom_dir=None, save_float=True, save_
      ↪ 8bit=True)
```

```
[32]: 1
```

### Sky illumination

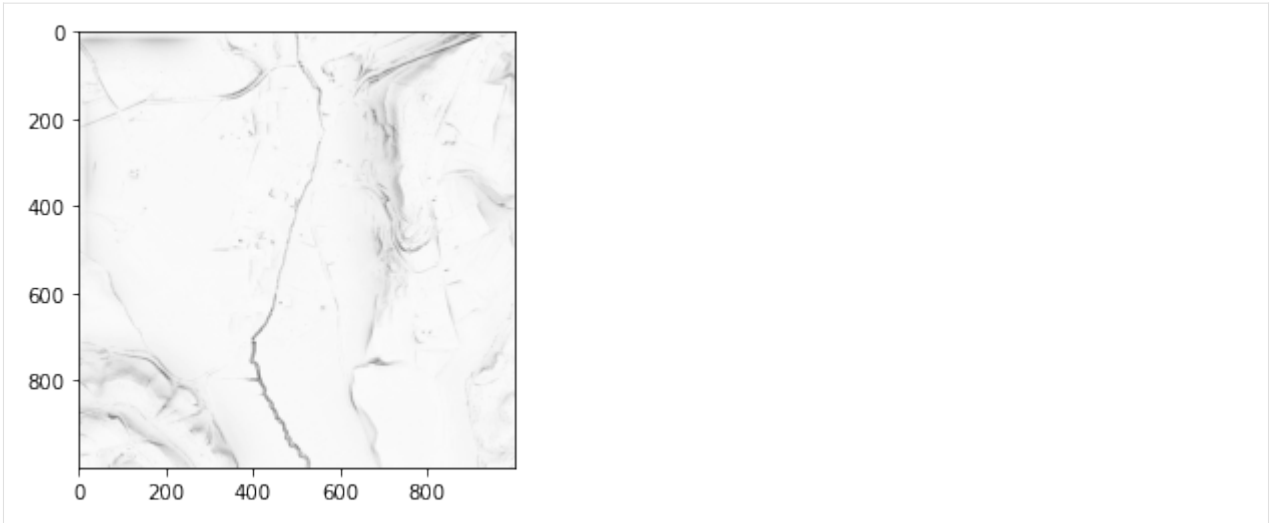
Set parameters:

```
[33]: default.sim_sky_mod = "overcast"
      default.sim_compute_shadow = 0
      default.sim_shadow_dist = 100
      default.sim_nr_dir = 32
      default.sim_shadow_az = 315
      default.sim_shadow_el = 35
```

Calculate numpy array:

```
[34]: sky_illum_arr = default.get_sky_illumination(dem_arr=dem_arr, resolution=dem_res_x)
      plt.imshow(sky_illum_arr, cmap='gray')
```

```
[34]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x17da0f84e88>
```



Calculate and save as GeoTIFF in DEM directory:

```
[35]: default.save_sky_illumination(dem_path=dem_path, custom_dir=None, save_float=True, save_
      ↪ 8bit=True)
```

```
[35]: 1
```

### Multi-Scale Topographic Position (MSTP)

Set parameters:

```
[36]: default.mstp_local_scale = (1, 5, 1)
      default.mstp_meso_scale = (5, 50, 5)
      default.mstp_broad_scale = (50, 500, 50)
      default.mstp_lightness = 1.2
```

Calculate numpy array:

```
[37]: mstp_arr = default.get_mstp(dem_arr=dem_arr)
```

Calculate and save as GeoTIFF in DEM directory:

```
[38]: default.save_mstp(dem_path=dem_path, custom_dir=None)
```

```
[38]: 1
```

## 6.8 Release history

### 6.8.1 Python package release history

#### UNRELEASED

##### 2.2.1

- Fixed bug in blending.



RELEASE

May 23, 2023

### **2.2.0**

- Added 1 pixel edge padding before the calculation of hillshade and slope, to avoid no data edge in the final results.
- Added float option for MSTP visualization.
- Changed default parameters of MSTP visualization.
- Changed nodata handling when calculating slope visualization. When calculating slope in the specific pixel if any of neighbour pixels are nodata use middle value in the calculation instead.

RELEASE

May 22, 2023

### **2.1.0**

- Changed 8bit (bytescale) parameters of some visualizations (all changed to value mode, to avoid tiling effect when using tile module).
- Float to 8bit bug fix.

RELEASE

March 6, 2022

### **2.0.0**

- Module multiproc.py replaced with tile.py.

RELEASE

February 5, 2022

### **1.0.0**

- Added soft light blending mode.
- Added Color Relief Image Map (CRIM) blending combination visualization.
- Added enhance Multi-Scale Topographic Position (e3MSTP) blending combination visualization.
- Fixed luminosity blending bug.
- Fixed summed area table algorithm (used in SLRM, MSRM, MSTP) no data bug.

RELEASE

September 14, 2021

### 1.0.0a11

- Blending with Multiple directions hillshade bug fixed. Now MHS 8-bit is used.
- Fixed SVF, ASVF, OPNS file name, added noise remove parameter in the output name.

PRE-RELEASE

May 20, 2021

### 1.0.0a10

- Added fill no data methods (IDW, Nearest neighbor, K-D Tree)
- Fixed Negative Openness 8bit image (reverted colors).
- Added Multi-scale topographic position (MSTP)

PRE-RELEASE

Apr 16, 2021

### 1.0.0a9

PRE-RELEASE

Mar 9, 2021

### 1.0.0a8

PRE-RELEASE

Jan 29, 2021

### 1.0.0a7

PRE-RELEASE

Jan 19, 2021

### 1.0.0a6

PRE-RELEASE

Jan 11, 2021

### **1.0.0a5**

PRE-RELEASE

Jan 10, 2021

### **1.0.0a4**

PRE-RELEASE

Jan 8, 2021

### **1.0.0a3**

PRE-RELEASE

Jan 8, 2021

### **1.0.0a2**

PRE-RELEASE

Jan 8, 2021

### **1.0.0a1**

PRE-RELEASE

Jan 8, 2021

## **6.8.2 QGIS plugin release history**

### **v0.9.6**

- Use rvt-py v2.2.1.

### **v0.9.5**

- Use rvt-py v2.2.0.

### **v0.9.4**

- Fixed paths to processing functions.

### v0.9.3

- Added MSTP float and 8bit option.

### v0.9.2

- Try to install scipy if it doesn't exist.
- Added processing functions for filling no-data.

### v0.9.1

- Added 1 pixel edge padding before the calculation of hillshade and slope, to avoid no data edge in the final results.

### v0.9.0

- Added tiling module, visualizations on huge rasters are now calculated tile by tile.
- Changed bytescale to 8bit parameters of all the visualizations to value mode (value ranges are different on each tile, this is why percent mode is not suitable).

### v0.8.1

- Hillshade negative values set to 0.
- Changed vertical exaggeration factor limit from [-1000, 1000] to [-10000, 10000].

### v0.8.0

- Luminosity blending bug fix.
- Added soft light blending mode.
- Added enhanced Multi-Scale Topographic Position (e3MSTP).
- Fixed summed area table (used in MSTP, SLRM, MSRM) bug when DEM contains nodata.
- Removed fill no-data option from visualizations (is still available under Other tab).

### v0.7.1

- Buttons “Select all” and “Select none” to select/deselect all DEMs.

### v0.7.0

- Enabled qgis\_process command line utility.

**v0.6.4**

- Blending with Multiple directions hillshade bug fixed. Now MHS 8-bit is used.
- Fixed SVF, ASVF, OPNS file name, added noise remove parameter in the output name.
- Added Multi-scale topographic position (MSTP) processing algorithm (function).

**v0.6.3**

- Negative-Openness 8bit reversed colors bug fix.
- Added Multi-scale topographic position (MSTP) visualization.

**v0.6.2.1**

- Changed RVT QGIS plugin documentation link in About.

**v0.6.2**

- Added fill no-data methods (Inverse Distance Weighting, K-D Tree, Nearest Neighbour).

**v0.6.1**

- Multi-scale relief model fixed and added back. Sky illumination is still not working as it should (will be fixed soon). Read the Docs sites (RVT python library `rvt_py`, RVT QGIS plugin, RVT ArcGIS raster fn) were merged into one.

**v0.5.3**

- Multi-scale relief model and Sky illumination visualizations temporarily removed, because they don't work as they should. They will be fixed soon.

**v0.5.2**

- 8-bit no data values changed from 0 to 255 (white).
- Added from `osgeo` import `gdal` to default module.

**v0.5.1**

- Blender tab Blend images button position changed.

### v0.5.0

- Added Other tab where you can cut-off raster values, normalize raster and change raster to 8 bit.
- Plugin saves all output raster files as LZW compressed GeoTIFFs (previously it was saving without compression).

## 6.9 Bibliography

RVT has been used in a variety of applications, from archaeology to urban heat island modelling, landscape recognition and analysis, and ceramic imaging.

Here is a list of journal articles that originated from the Scopus database. If you have used RVT and your publication is not listed, please contact us.

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