Quakes: A Predictive Analysis on Earthquakes near Mt. Fuji

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ABSTRACT

Mt. Fuji is the highest mountain in Japan and an active volcano. There are three clear planes of seismic activity near Mt. Fuji. The triple junction of tectonic activity is the Amurian plate (associated with the Eurasian tectonic plate), the Okhotsk plate (associated with the North American plate), and the Filipino plate along with the Japan Trench. The Hōei eruption of 1707 has an assumption of a correlated relationship between earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. A predictive analysis will be performed to determine what seismic activity could cause a potential catastrophic natural disaster to chance in the country of Japan.

BACKGROUND

Figure 1

Japan: Fuji, Mount

"**Mount Fuji**, Japanese **Fuji-san**, also spelled **Fujisan**, also called **Fujiyama** or **Fuji no Yama**,…" is the highest mountain in Japan in which it rises to 12,388 feet (or 3,776 meters) (Britannica). Mt. Fuji (for short) is located near the Pacific Ocean coast in the Yamanashi and Shizuoka *ken* prefectures of central Honshu, approximately 60 miles (or 100 kilometers) west of the Tokyo-Yokohama metropolitan area (Britannica). Mt. Fuji is not just a mountain but an active volcano, although, its last eruption occurred in 1707 (Britannica).

Figure 2

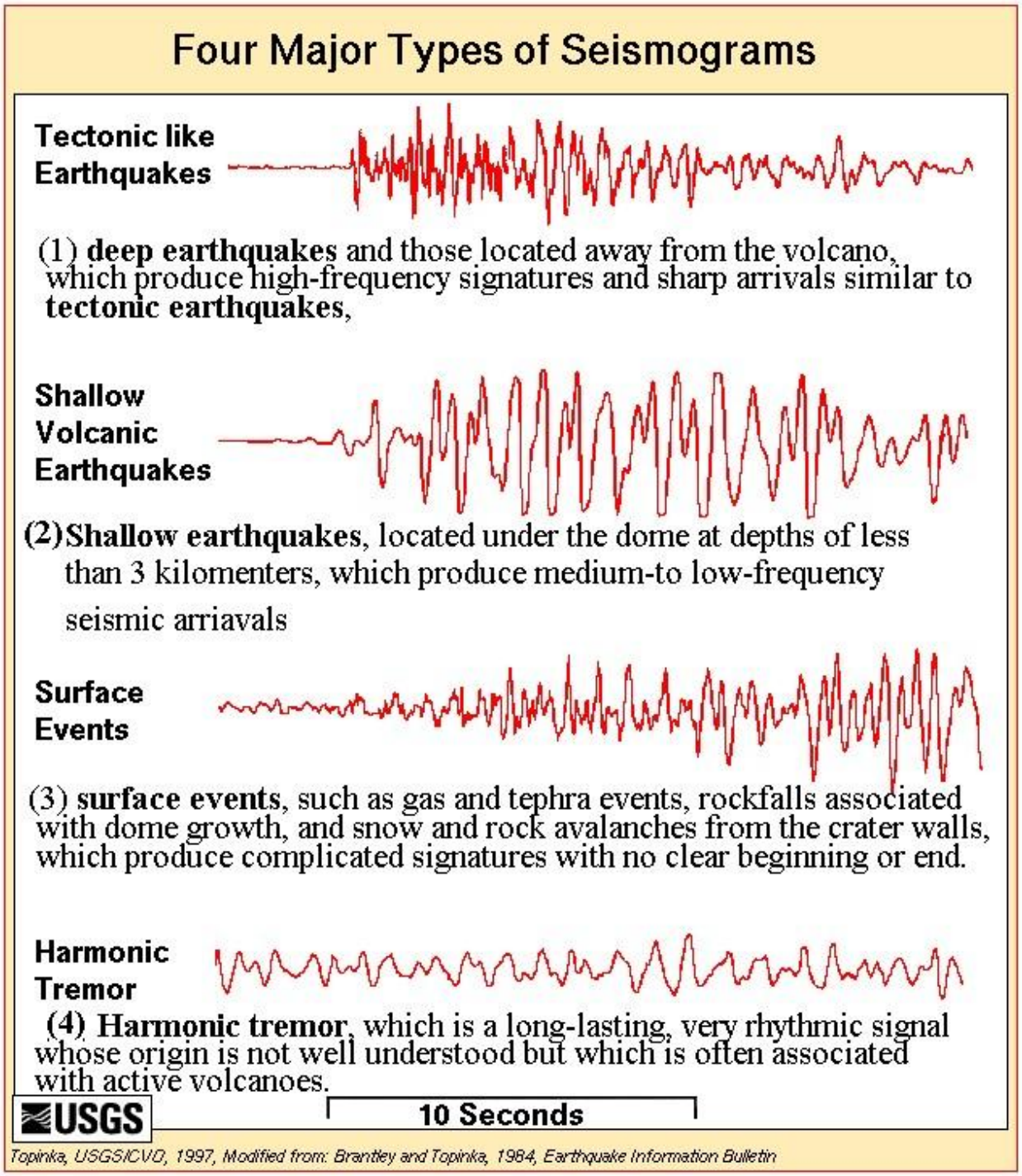
Mount Fuji

Mt. Fuji has a graceful conical form and from Japanese tradition, the volcano was formed in 286 BCE from an earthquake (Britannica). This brings us to a dire question: can earthquakes trigger volcanic eruptions? Based on the example of Mt Fuji's 1707 volcanic eruption (AKA Hōei), we

can assume the correlation between earthquakes and volcanic eruptions is possibly linked to one another.

Figure 3

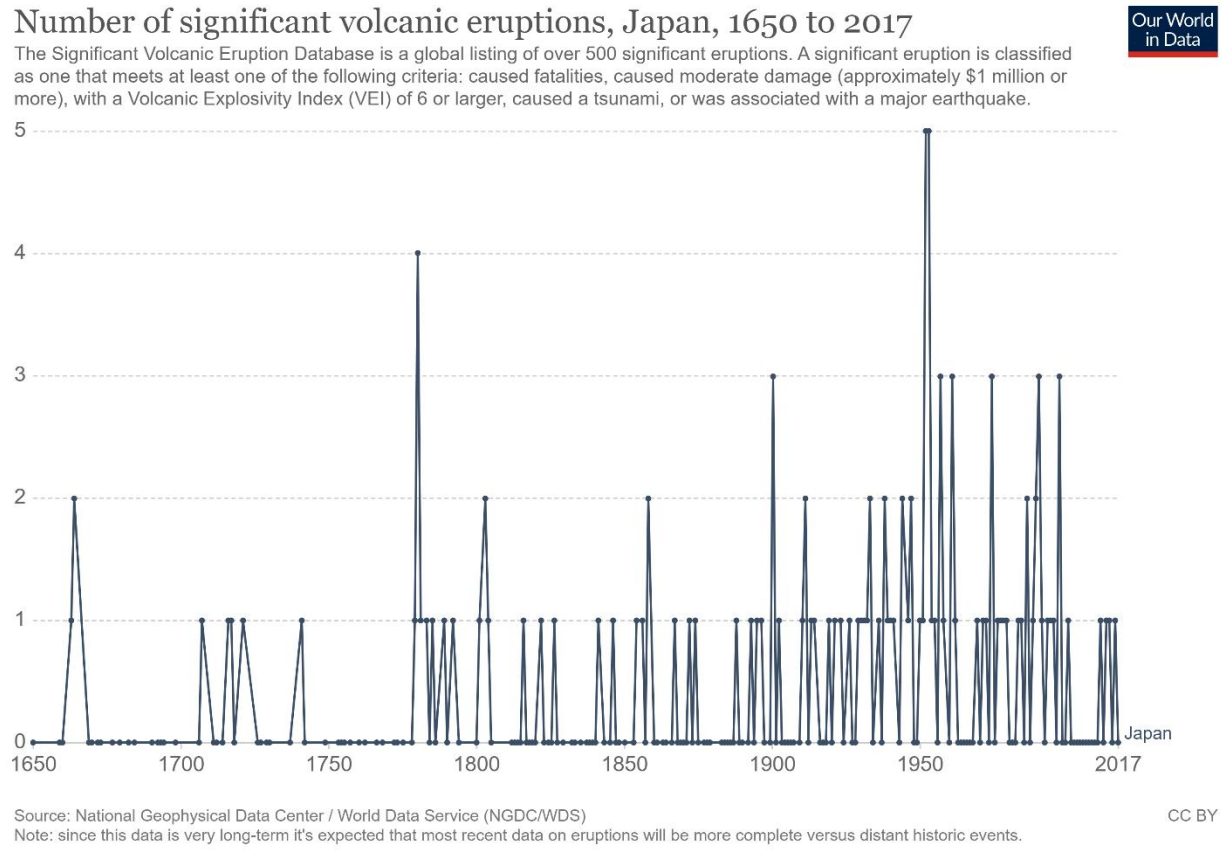
Four Major Types of Seismograms



The Hōei eruption was proceeded by an 8.6 magnitude (based off the Richter scale) earthquake and a tsunami followed right after the volcanic eruption (Oregon State University). Deferring to Figure 3, the Hōei falls under the harmonic tremor to detect earthquakes on the seismograph.

Figure 4

Number of significant volcanic eruptions, Japan, 1650 to 2017



Due to the long overdue eruption to befall Mt. Fuji, a predictive analysis should be performed to determine what seismic activity could cause a potential catastrophic natural disaster to chance in the country of Japan.

Table 1

quakes.csv dataset

A data frame with 1000 observations on 5 variables.

(Head)

	lat	long	depth	mag	stations
0	-20.42	181.62	562	4.8	41
1	-20.62	181.03	650	4.2	15
2	-26.00	184.10	42	5.4	43
3	-17.97	181.66	626	4.1	19
4	-20.42	181.96	649	4.0	11

- lat (Latitude of event)
- long (Longitude)
- depth (Depth in km)
- mag (Richter Magnitude)
- stations (Number of stations reporting)

The data set give the locations of 1000 seismic events of MB (magnitude based) > 4.0.

Business Questions

1) How does the depth from an earthquake relate to volcanic activity?
2) How does the magnitude from an earthquake relate to volcanic activity?
3) Can the latitude and longitude be used to predict seismic activity which in turn could predict volcanic activity?

Assumptions

I. Due to Mt. Fuji having two magma chambers, the shallow reaching 8 km while the deeper reaches 20 km, the depth of an earthquake as determined by USGS will fall more into a deeper earthquake which would result in a possible volcanic eruption (USGS).

II. With magnitudes not reaching its highest since 1707, based off the data for seismic activity from the year of 1964 and up, earthquakes in the mid-Richter scale will not contribute to volcanic eruptions (GitHub).

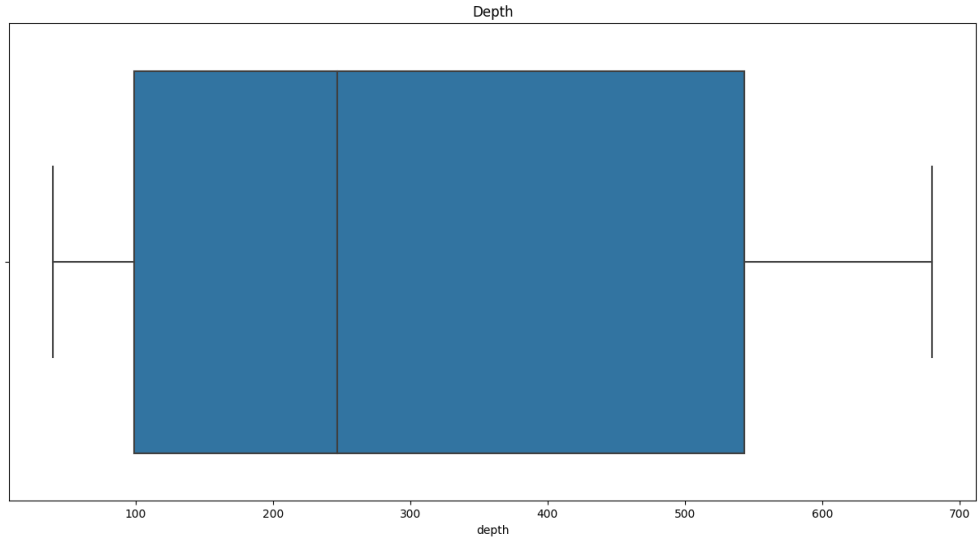
III. The latitude and longitude for Mt. Fuji is about 35° N and 138° E, with coordinates exact or close to the proximity to Mt. Fuji as well as near the tectonic activity that is underneath the active volcano, could potentially predict where an earthquake may strike resulting in a possible volcanic eruption.

METHODS

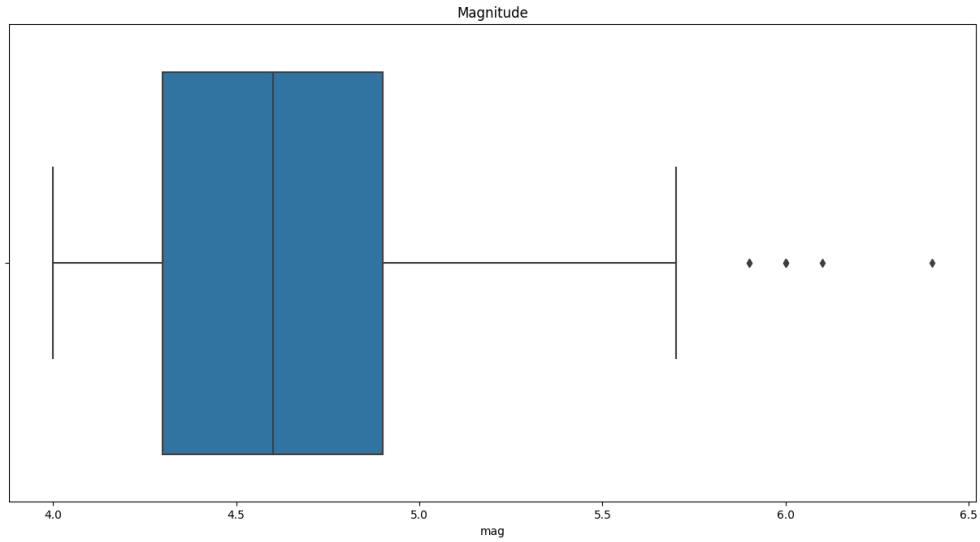
To perform this predictive analysis of whether seismic activity relates to volcanic eruptions, clustering models should be built on the depth and magnitude of an earthquake while a multiple, linear regression model should be built on latitude and longitude.

RESULTS

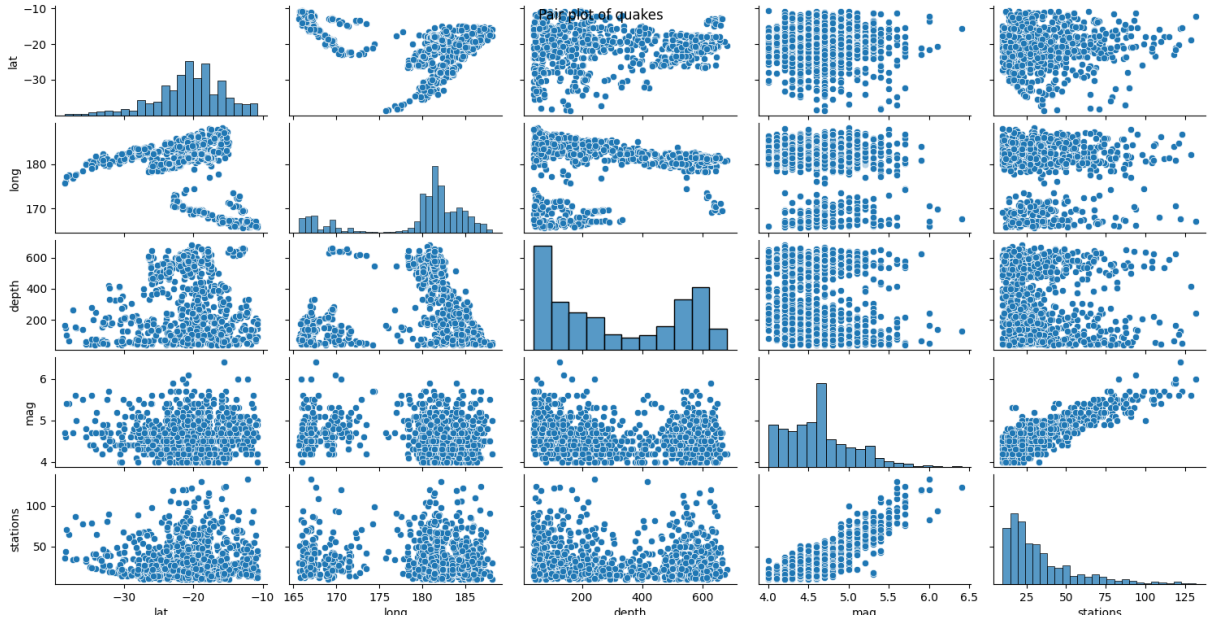
After building clustering models for depth and magnitude of an earthquake as well as a multiple, linear regression model for the latitude and longitude, a performance check on the models must be executed to deliberate whether seismic activity contributes to volcanic eruptions.



A box plot was made for the depth variable based off the quakes data set. There are no outliers which would showcase in the clustering model built that depth of an earthquake will tend to flock to about 250 km to where the final resultant based off the question: does the depth from an earthquake relate to volcanic activity, can be drawn to a positive correlation between the two.



A box plot was made for the magnitude variable based off the quakes data set. There are outliers which should still be included in the clustering model created. The box plot also showcases in the clustering model built that magnitude of an earthquake will tend to flock to about 4.7 on the Richter scale to where the final resultant based off the question: does the magnitude from an earthquake relate to volcanic activity, can be drawn to a non to little correlation between the two.



A pair plot was made for the variables of latitude and longitude based off the quakes data set. There are no outliers which would showcase in the multiple, linear regression model built that latitude and longitude of an earthquake will tend to flock to about the coordinates of Mt. Fuji to where the final resultant based off the question: can the latitude and longitude be used to predict seismic activity which in turn could predict volcanic activity, can be drawn to a correlation between the two.

CONCLUSION

Since the quakes.csv dataset is structurally formatted in a way where there is not much data preparation or wrangling that needs to be done, the more legwork will be building the models based off of the business questions proposed to the business problem which is: does seismic activity contribute to volcanic eruptions? Following the CRISP-DM process, after the models have been built, a performance check of whether the models are up to par for answering the business problem needs to be administered. Lastly, conclusions from the final results can be drawn but the only drawback to considering that seismic activity has a correlation with volcanic eruptions is due to the fact that the quakes.csv dataset has only data from 1964 and up, no data before that year.

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