

Detecting Volcanoes on Venus via Classification

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Image Classification | LASSO Regression | Neural Network

I. INTRODUCTION. NASA spacecraft was launched off for a mission to Venus on May 4, 1989, the mission mapped surfaces of Venus and image recorded most 98% of Venus surface. The analysis of the images revealed that there are several volcanoes on Venus. This project aims to construct prediction model to identify whether a image contains volcanoes or not.

Data Source Information. The data was downloaded from Kaggle, which is originally from NASA's Magellan spacecraft database. (<https://www.kaggle.com/amantheroot/finding-volcanoes-on-venus/data>)

Data Description. 9734 images were captured by the spacecraft and converted to pixels (110 x 110, from 0 to 255), where every image is one row of 12100 columns (all the 110 rows of 110 columns). Images can contain more than one volcanoes or maybe none. The 9000+ images are separated to four datasets (file names : *train_images*, *train_labels*, *test_images*, and *test_labels*):

Image Dataset (*train_images* and *test_images*)
Train_images : 7000 images as train data with 12100 variables;

Test_images : 2734 images as test data with 12100 variables; All the variables (V1 to V12100) correspond to the pixel image, 110 pixels * 110 pixels = 12100 pixels.

Label Dataset (*train_labels* and *test_labels*) A summary of the variables in both *train_labels* and *test_label* datasets is listed down below:

1. *Volcano?* : If in the image there exists at least one volcano, the label is 1 (Yes). Otherwise, the label is 0 (No). (If *Volcano?* equals 0, the following three categories would be "NaN").
2. *Type* : 1 = definitely a volcano, 2 = probably, 3 = possibly, 4 = only a pit is visible
3. *Radius* : Is the radius of the volcano in the center of

the image, in pixels?

4. *Number Volcanoes* : The number of volcanoes in the image.

Literature Review. In Kaggle, there were 11 kernels regarding data analysis of this dataset, all using Python. The kernels included vivid data visualization and exploratory data. Most kernels focused on classification prediction on whether there are volcanoes or not. For this classification prediction, different methods have been used to construct prediction model, from simple models such as logistic regression, to advanced models such as Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) and VGG Neural Network for deep learning. Accuracy of models ranged from 84.1% to 97%.

Scientific Goal. For this project, we focus mainly on doing classification prediction on whether each image has a volcano or not. In addition, if the classification prediction goes well, we will also construct models to predict the number of volcanoes in the images. We aim in constructing different classification models and choosing the best model to predict whether there exists a volcano in each image. Identifying volcano through IT technology would increase the efficiency of space exploration and safety of the crews.

II. EXPLORATORY DATA. The first 6 observations of *train_labels*

#	Volcano.	Type	Radius	Number.Volcanoes
# 1	1	3	17.46	1
# 2	0	NaN	NaN	NaN
# 3	0	NaN	NaN	NaN
# 4	0	NaN	NaN	NaN
# 5	0	NaN	NaN	NaN
# 6	0	NaN	NaN	NaN

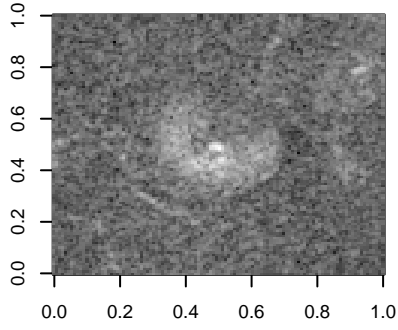


Fig. 1. Obs 10 Type: 1 Radius: 22.02 Number Volcanoes: 1

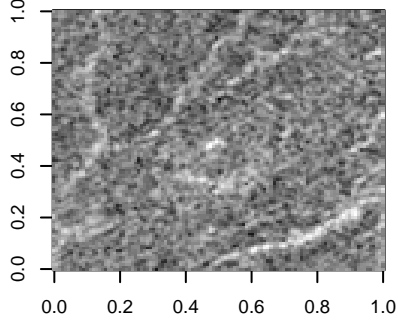


Fig. 2. Obs 39 Type: 2 Radius: 19.31 Number Volcanoes: 1

The first 6 observations of *test_labels*

#	Volcano.	Type	Radius	Number.Volcanoes
# 1	0	NaN	NaN	NaN
# 2	0	NaN	NaN	NaN
# 3	1	1	17.00	1
# 4	0	NaN	NaN	NaN
# 5	1	3	15.13	1
# 6	0	NaN	NaN	NaN

After exploring the datasets, we found only labels have NaNs. We have set the those values to 0, an insignificant value in our dataset.

Data Visualization. 6 observations are picked to demonstrate how the images got labeled. Figure 1 - 4 show how well the volcanoes can be seen from the images (*Type* : 1 = definitely a volcano, 2 = probably, 3 = possibly, 4 = only a pit is visible). Figure 5 contains 2 volcanoes, and Figure 6 contains no volcano at all. We can tell from the images that a bright white dot indicates a potential volcano, while the white dot might not be clear enough to see in the image, which means that it is hard to identify whether there is a volcano or not.

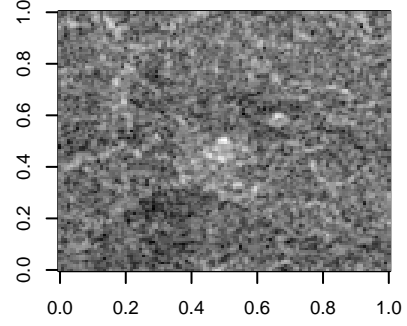


Fig. 3. Obs 1 Type: 3 Radius: 17.46 Number of Volcanoes: 1

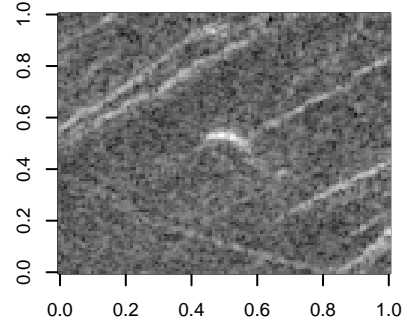


Fig. 4. Obs 30 Type: 4 Radius: 6.40 Number Volcanoes: 1

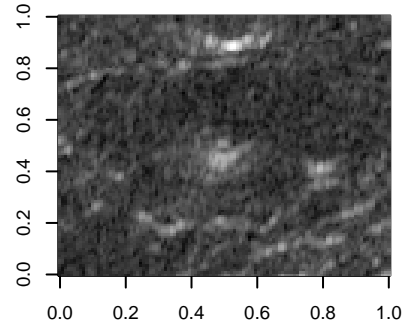


Fig. 5. Obs 289 Type: 1 Radius: 11.05 Number Volcanoes: 2

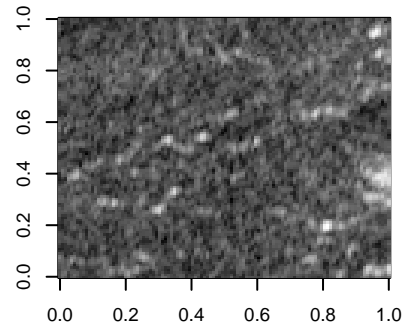
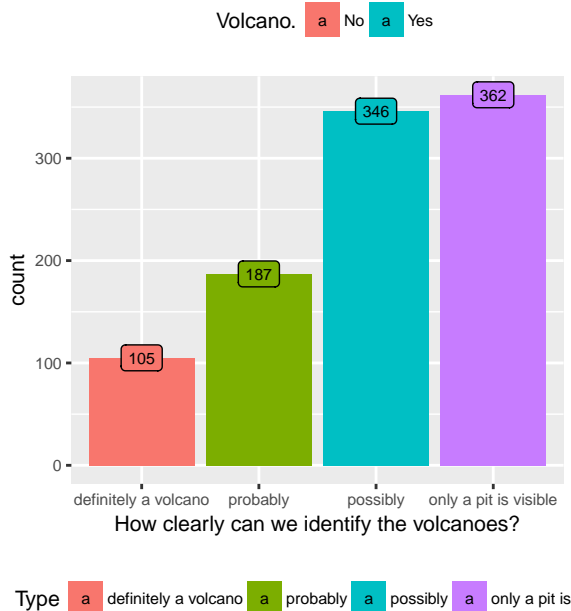
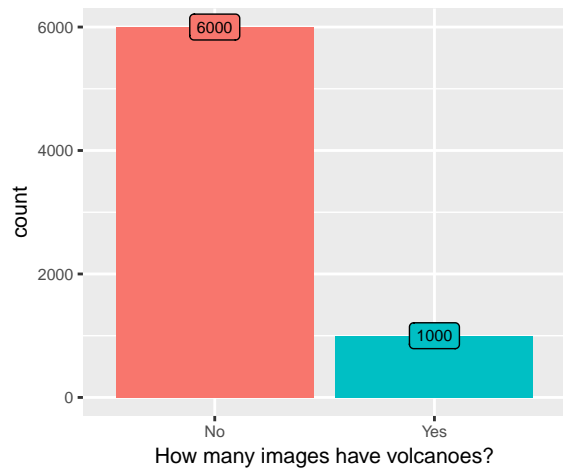


Fig. 6. Obs 2 No Volcano

Data Summary. To facilitate the analysis process and explore the data, we have summarized the data. The ggplot has been used to visualize the training set labels. The first figure shows that only 1000 images in the training dataset have volcanoes. The second figure shows that within 1000 images that have volcanoes, how clearly we can identify the volcanoes.



III. METHODOLOGY. Models we used:

Lasso Regression. To apply Lasso Regression, we first selected reasonable interval for tuning parameter λ by plotting cross-validation error, which gives us the interval $(-6.5, -5)$. Afterthat, we did the model selection by using `cv.glmnet` and use the “lambda.min” as final tuning parameter, which gives us 470 selected pixels. The prediction using those 470 pixels yielded a good start, a high prediction accuracy, for our following analysis.

Logistic Regression. Before applying logistic regression, we applied tow variable selection methods to reduce dimension. 400 pixels were selected by using Marginal Screening and 470 pixels were selected by using above Lasso Regression. Then, we applied logistic regression on those 400 and 470 pixels respectively. We then recorded their F1 score and AUC.

Neural Network. Neural Network was used in the project for seeking better classification results. The raw data `train_images` and `test_images` was converted into numeric variables and reshaped into 3D array with dimension $7000 \times 110 \times 110$ and $2734 \times 110 \times 110$ respectively. The pixels were shrinked from 0-255 to 0-1 by dividing each pixel by 255. The target label (Volcano?) was converted into categorical variable for classification. The neural network used several convolutional dense layers for classification. The neural network model yielded a satisfying classification result.

Variable selection methods we used:

Shrinking method (Lasso):. By applying Lasso Regression, we were able to shrink highly correlated pixels to 0 and only had important one left. With the tuning parameter λ 's interval we selected by examining the cv plot, we selected 470 important pixels and apply those to lasso and logistic regression respectively.

Marginal Screening:. To apply Marginal Screening, we use for loop to model each pixels with outcome by using `glm` function, logistic regression. After sorting the p values from smallest to largest, we selected the top 400 pixels. The reason why we select top 400 pixels is that, after trying different number of top pixels, we found 400 pixels gave us highest prediction error.

Variable selection methods comparison:. We originally only applied Marginal Screening to logistic regression. But after realizing Lasso helped us selected variables as well, we tried both methods on logistic regression.

By looking at the pixels' index, we found that the pixels selected by Marginal Screening focused between 4000-7000, which corresponds to the center of pictures; while pixels selected by lasso regression were more spread.

By applying those two different selection methods, we found the accuracy of Lasso selection is higher. Therefore, we may conclude that lasso' more spread pixels made more sense because Marginal Screening's centered selection might ignore some important pixels at the egdes.

IV. RESULT & CONCLUSION. Using

Table : Test dataset prediction result

Model	AUC	F1 Score
Neural Network	0.9629	0.9747
xgboost	0.9680	0.9628
Lasso	0.9347	0.9574
Logistic (Marginal Screening)	0.8429	0.9386
Logistic (Lasso Selection)	0.8672	0.9527

	No	Yes
No	2270	88
Yes	30	346