

A photograph of a volcano erupting at night. The volcano is a dark, conical shape with a bright orange and yellow lava flow cascading down its left side. A plume of dark smoke or ash rises from the crater. The background is a dark, clear night sky.

VolcaNet

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Introduction

- Exploring interesting topics in the field of satellite images and machine learning
- Peters research background
- Original idea: forecasting of volcanic eruptions
- Due to time constraint: focusing on volcano monitoring
- Led us to review recent research, especially CNNs on **satellite imagery** for **volcanic activity detection**

Literature Review

- Amato, Eleonora, et al. "**A Deep convolutional neural network for detecting volcanic thermal anomalies from satellite images.**" Remote Sensing 15.15 (2023): 3718.
- Automatic detection algorithm to find **volcanic thermal anomalies in satellite images**
- Infrared data from different satellites (Data: 100/100)
- Transfer learning: **fine-tuned a pre-trained SqueezeNet CNN**

Dataset

- **Source:** European Space Agency's **Sentinel-2 mission**
- **Sentinel-2A, Sentinel-2B** (revisit frequency 5 days)
- Captures **high-resolution images of the Earth's surface**. Used to monitor forests, agriculture, water, and volcanoes.
- Focus on **specific image bands** from Sentinel-2:
 - **B8A** (near-infrared)
 - **B11** (shortwave infrared 1)
 - **B12** (shortwave infrared 2)
- Useful because **infrared light is very sensitive to heat and surface changes**
- Combining these bands as a **false color image**, we can highlight **hot spots** and **surface features** linked to volcanic activity

Dataset

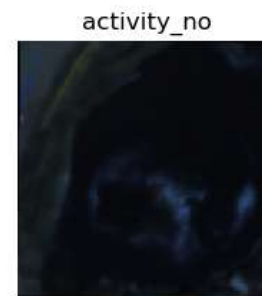
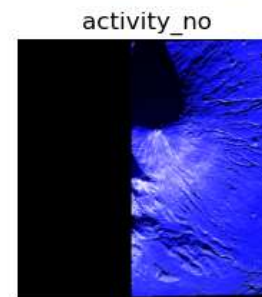
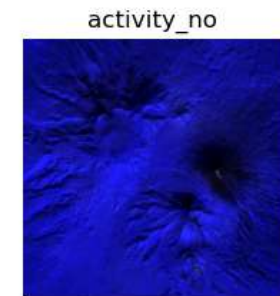
- **Approach - Create an own dataset:**

- Filter for volcanic eruptions from 2016 on (Smithsonian Institute)
- Get all images 365 days before and after eruption date from Google Earth Engine
- Sort images by hand in showing „volcanic activity“ and showing no „volcanic activity“
- Balancing data in 50/50 ratio
- Resulting in a dataset of 830 (415/415) images of 9 volcanoes
- Enlarging the original dataset by creating synthetic satellite images of both states by using common augmenting techniques (rotation, contrast/brightness adaption, blurring, ...) → 4150 images (2075/2075)

Dataset

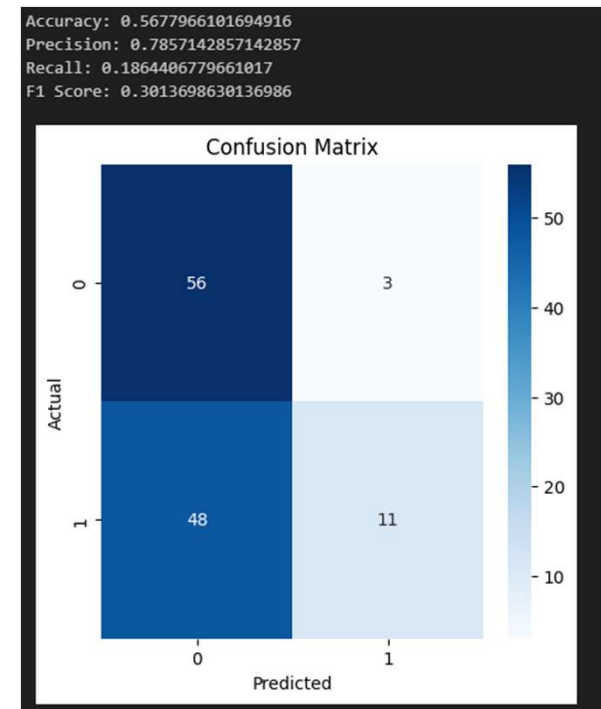
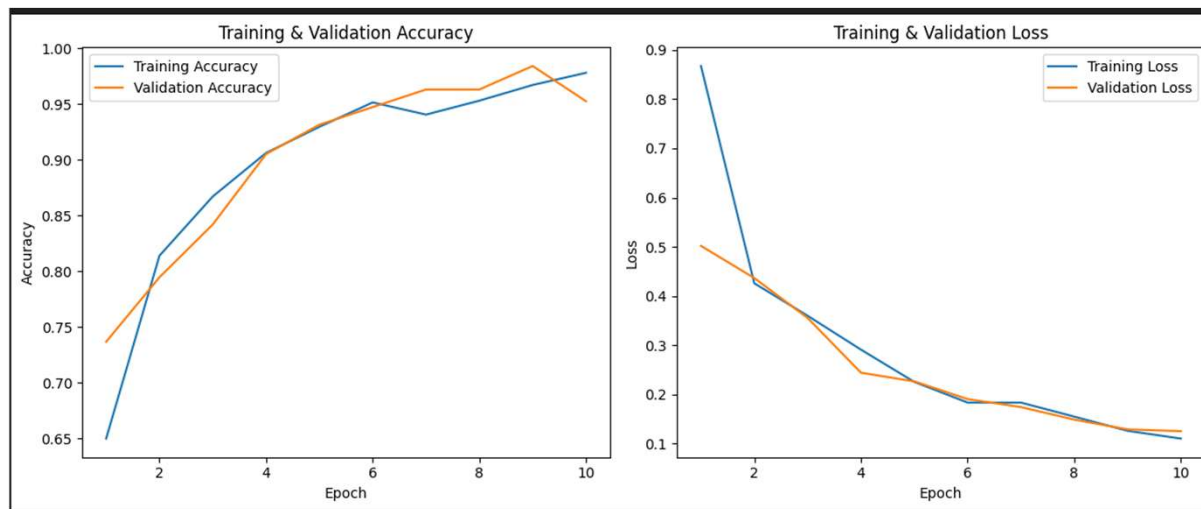
Volcanoes:

- Bezymianny
- Etna
- Home Reef
- Kilauea
- Mauna
- Mayon
- Merapi
- Popocatepetl
- Stromboli
- Barren Island (out-of-sample)



Baseline Model

- Small 1-layer CNN for the original data set (830 images)



Model Definition and Evaluation

Deep Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) on enlarged dataset

- **3 convolutional blocks (Conv2D) with increasing filter sizes (32 → 64 → 128)**
- Each Conv block is followed by **Batch Normalization** to stabilize training and **Max Pooling** to **reduce spatial dimensions**
- A Flatten layer to convert the 3D feature maps to a 1D vector
- A Dense layer with 128 units and Dropout (0.5) to reduce overfitting

```
model_synth = keras.Sequential([
    layers.Rescaling(1./255, input_shape=(IMG_SIZE[0], IMG_SIZE[1], 3)),

    layers.Conv2D(32, (3, 3), activation='relu'),
    layers.BatchNormalization(),
    layers.MaxPooling2D(),

    layers.Conv2D(64, (3, 3), activation='relu'),
    layers.BatchNormalization(),
    layers.MaxPooling2D(),

    layers.Conv2D(128, (3, 3), activation='relu'),
    layers.BatchNormalization(),
    layers.MaxPooling2D(),

    layers.Flatten(),

    layers.Dense(128, activation='relu'),
    layers.Dropout(0.5),

    layers.Dense(1, activation='sigmoid') # binary classification
])

model_synth.compile(
    optimizer=keras.optimizers.Adam(),
    loss='binary_crossentropy',
    metrics=['accuracy']
)
```

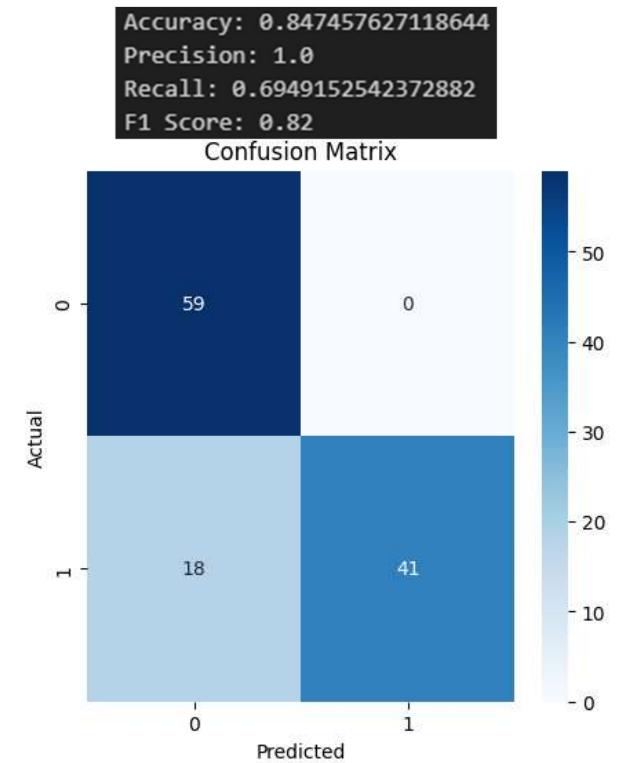
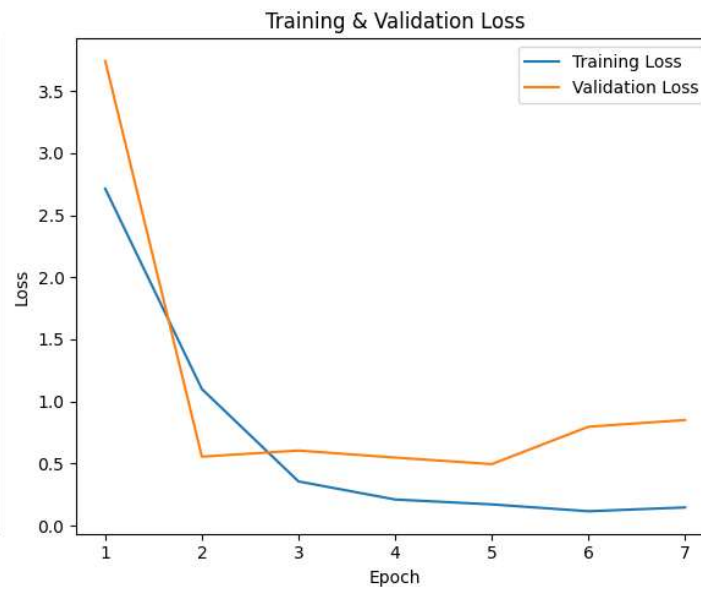
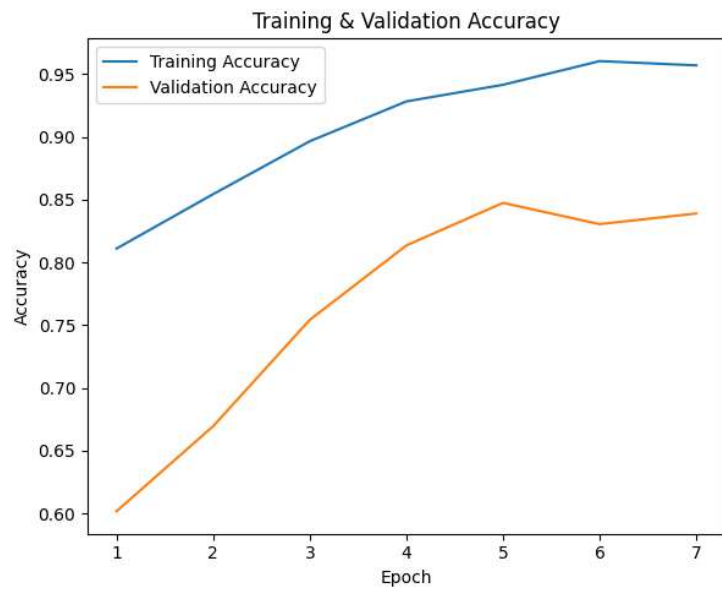

Model Definition and Evaluation

Transfer Learning: MobileNetV2 on enlarged dataset

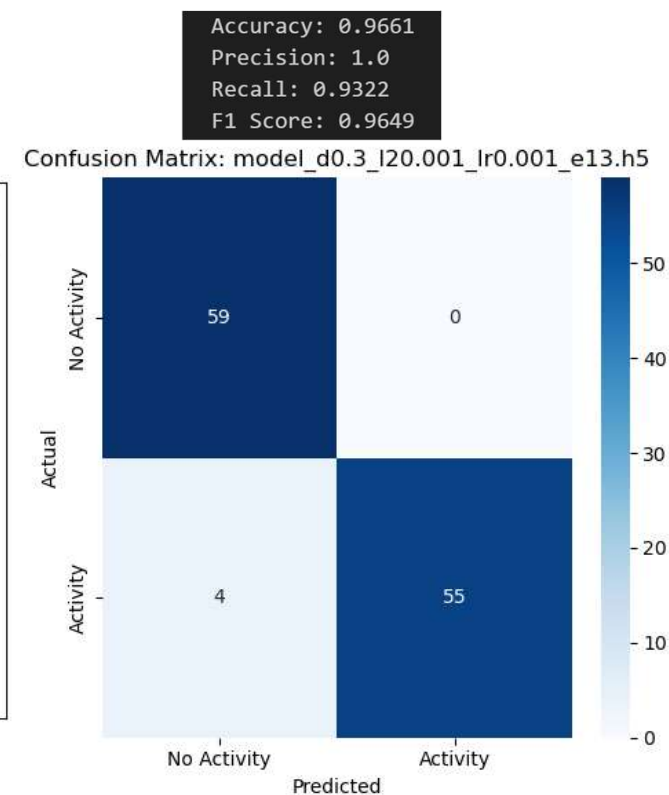
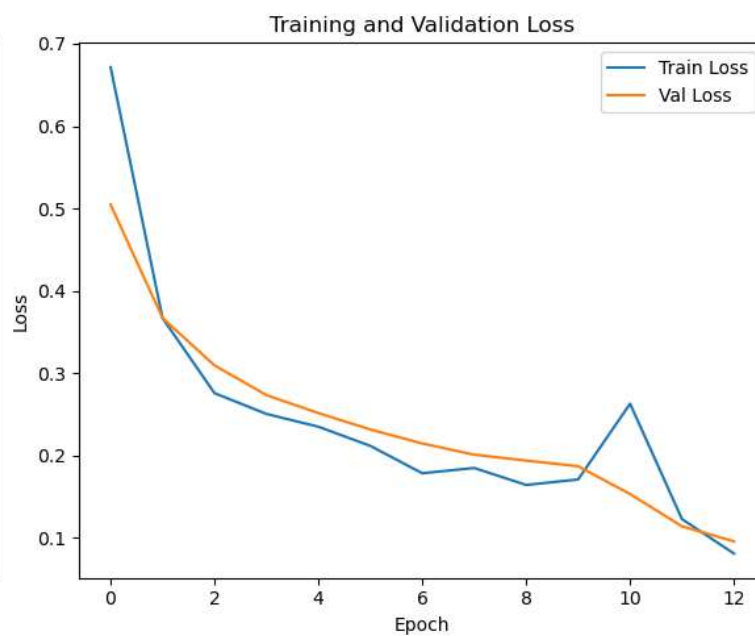
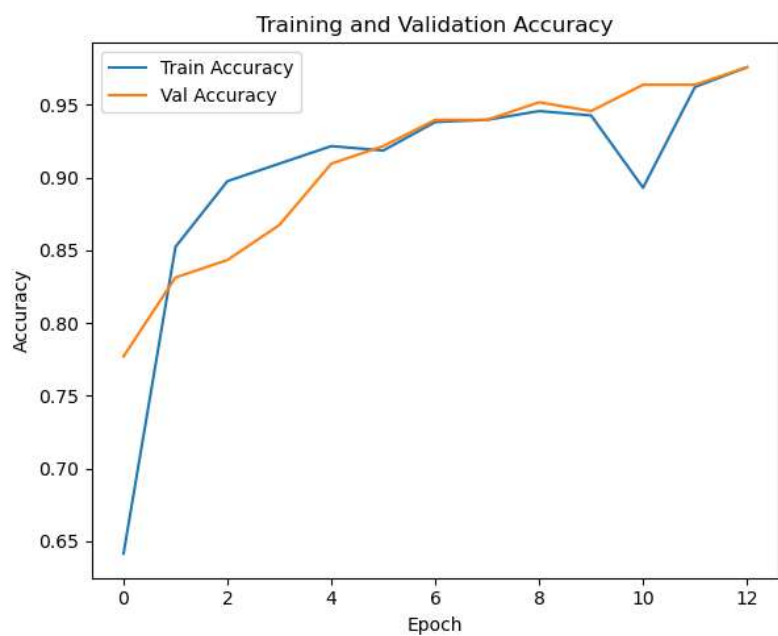
- **Pretrained Convolutional Neural Network** originally trained on **Images** (ImageNet)
- **GlobalAveragePooling2D** layer to compress the extracted features
- **Dropout layer** to reduce overfitting
- Final Dense layer with **sigmoid activation** for binary classification and **L2 regularization** (0.001) to further penalize overly complex weights

```
def build_model(dropout_rate, l2_strength):  
    base_model = tf.keras.applications.MobileNetV2(  
        include_top=False, input_shape=(224, 224, 3), weights='imagenet'  
    )  
    base_model.trainable = False  
  
    inputs = tf.keras.Input(shape=(224, 224, 3))  
    x = data_augmentation(inputs)  
    x = tf.keras.applications.mobilenet_v2.preprocess_input(x)  
    x = base_model(x, training=False)  
    x = layers.GlobalAveragePooling2D()(x)  
    x = layers.Dropout(dropout_rate)(x)  
    outputs = layers.Dense(1, activation='sigmoid',  
        kernel_regularizer=regularizers.l2(l2_strength))(x)  
  
    model = tf.keras.Model(inputs, outputs)  
    return model, base_model
```

Results - CNN



Results - MobileNet



Challenges and Errors

- Getting data
- Too less data
- Time

Conclusion and Future Work

- Fun work in a totally new research field with a lot of manual data collection
- Outlook: Extend approach to original idea by incorporating further measurement data from additional satellite sensors to expand and diversify the training dataset (SO₂, NDVI, Surface Temperature, ...)

