Landcover Classification using Satellite Data

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Introduction

Satellite data can be used to estimate the type of landcover at locations around the world. This approach can be an time and cost effective alternative to manually inspecting these locations in person. In this report, we will explore a data set containing satellite data and manually labeled landcover types for locations in Benin. We will use this data to build a model that predicts the landcover type at a location based on the satellite data.

Landcover types:

- 1. Built-up: Built-up areas, also known as urban areas, are regions where the landscape is dominated by human-made structures such as buildings, roads, and other infrastructure. These areas are characterized by high-density development and are typically associated with cities, towns, and other developed communities. Built-up areas include residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional land uses.
- 2. Cropland: Cropland refers to land that is used for the cultivation of crops. This landcover type includes fields used for growing a variety of crops such as grains, vegetables, fruits, and other agricultural products. Cropland can vary in size from small family farms to large-scale industrial agricultural operations.
- 3. Natural Forest: Natural forests are areas covered by trees and other vegetation that have developed through natural processes without significant human intervention. These forests play a crucial role in maintaining biodiversity, regulating climate, and providing habitat for wildlife. Natural forests can be found in a variety of climatic zones, from tropical rainforests to temperate and boreal forests.
- 4. Orchard: An orchard is a type of agricultural land where trees or shrubs are cultivated primarily for fruit production. Orchards are typically designed for intensive farming practices, focusing on high yields of specific fruit species such as apples, oranges, cherries, and nuts. These areas require careful management and maintenance to ensure healthy tree growth and abundant fruit production.

Data

The data labeled_points.Rdata contains data on blocks of land in Benin.

```
load('data/labeled_points.Rdata')
```

The file contains two data frames.

1. labeled. The object labeled has 400 locations (with unique identifier ID). The landcover type at each location has been manually labeled by a human. Each ID has a unique latitude (lat) and longitude (lon) and can be thought of as a pixel in an image.

```
head(labeled) %>%
as.data.frame()
```

```
## ID lat lon landcover
## 1 17394 11.17707 2.297213 builtup
```

```
## 2 15545 11.11946 2.853562 builtup

## 3 15722 11.12590 2.940327 builtup

## 4 15489 11.11835 2.854627 builtup

## 5 10946 10.98139 3.283267 builtup

## 6 5208 10.78519 2.806184 builtup

unique(labeled$landcover)
```

```
## [1] "builtup" "cropland" "natforest" "orchard"
```

We see that the four labels are builtup, cropland, natforest, and orchard.

- 2. labeled_train. The object labeled_train has 3 years of satellite imagery for each ID. Images were collected every 16 days, and the year, month, day, and date for each location are given in the data. These were all taken by the Landsat 7 satellite. The other columns are
 - ID. Unique identifier for the location, same as in labeled.
 - **B1 to B8.** These are 8 bands from the image, including a red band, green band, blue band, infrared band, etc. These measure the strength of the red, green, and blue wavelengths in an image as well as the strength of other wavelengths on the electromagnetic spectrum that are not visible to the human eye. You can find more information about these on the Landsat 7 page.
 - NDVI. Normalized Difference Vegetation Index. The NDVI is a common index used for summarizing satellite image data. According to its Wikipedia page, NDVI "is a simple graphical indicator that can be used to analyze remote sensing measurements, often from a space platform, assessing whether or not the target being observed contains live green vegetation." Note that the formula given on that page is

$$NDVI = \frac{NIR - Red}{NIR + Red}$$

The data we use contains both the NIR (near-infrared) and Red bands (bands 4 and 3, respectively, according to https://www.usgs.gov/landsat-missions/landsat-7).

- NDBI. Normal Difference Built-up Index. Similar to NDVI, but for detecting built-up areas.
- EVI. Enhanced Vegetation Index. Like NDVI, but performs better under some conditions.

```
labeled_train %>%
  as.data.frame() %>%
  head()
```

```
B5 B6_VCID_1 B6_VCID_2 B7 B8
     B1 B2 B3 B4
                                                               lon year month day
                                                      lat
## 1 66 60 73 68
                            146
                                      176 76 69 11.16359 3.413116 2017
                                                                             1
                                                                                 3
## 2 64 59 69 72
                            147
                                      178 72 69 11.16244 3.414022 2017
                                                                                 3
                                                                             1
## 3 66 60 74 70
                            148
                                      180 79 72 11.01509 3.416367 2017
                                                                                 3
## 4 69 63 85 75 113
                            151
                                      185 90 75 10.93011 3.553716 2017
                                                                             1
                                                                                 3
## 5 70 63 79 71 101
                            149
                                      182 83 73 10.93055 3.553230 2017
                                                                                 3
                                                                             1
## 6 62 55 66 68
                  83
                            148
                                      181 69 67 10.92047 3.486705 2017
                                                                                 3
                                                                             1
##
                   ID
                              NDVI
                                         NDBI
                                                      EVI
           date
## 1 2017-01-03 16993 -0.03546099 0.15527950 -1.0416667
## 2 2017-01-03 16894
                       0.02127660 0.10559006
## 3 2017-01-03 11728 -0.02777778 0.14110429 -0.5000000
                 9560 -0.06250000 0.20212766 -0.3649635
## 4 2017-01-03
## 5 2017-01-03
                 9574 -0.05333333 0.17441860 -0.9523810
                      0.01492537 0.09933775
## 6 2017-01-03
                 8938
```

These band values will be different depending on the landcover type.

The following are known relationships:

- NDVI is known to be a very good indicator of vegetation
- The band values show seasonal trends, since landcover can show seasonal changes (e.g. trees lose their leaves in the fall)

- The peaks and troughs can be shifted in time for different landcover types (different types of vegetation peak at different times).
- The difference between peaks and troughs can vary among landcover types.

Data Preparation

We first join our labeled and labeled_train data sets on ID.

```
labeled = labeled %>%
  select(ID, landcover)

d = labeled_train %>%
  left_join(labeled, by = 'ID')
```

Finally, let's add a column for vegetation called veg that is 1 if the landcover is natforest, orchard, or cropland, and 0 otherwise. We'll also add a column for built-up called builtup that is 1 if the landcover is builtup, and 0 otherwise. Thus, we are adding indicators for vegetation and built-up areas.

```
## Rows: 18,308
## Columns: 22
## $ B1
             <dbl> 66, 64, 66, 69, 70, 62, 64, 65, 67, 66, 63, 63, 69, 58, 60, ~
## $ B2
             <dbl> 60, 59, 60, 63, 63, 55, 60, 59, 57, 58, 55, 57, 63, 50, 49, ~
## $ B3
             <dbl> 73, 69, 74, 85, 79, 66, 79, 69, 68, 67, 64, 68, 81, 53, 58,
## $ B4
             <dbl> 68, 72, 70, 75, 71, 68, 72, 65, 64, 64, 65, 63, 72, 82, 84, ~
## $ B5
             <dbl> 93, 89, 93, 113, 101, 83, 100, 86, 88, 79, 78, 80, 97, 69, 7~
## $ B6_VCID_1 <dbl> 146, 147, 148, 151, 149, 148, 150, 149, 148, 149, 148, 150, ~
## $ B6_VCID_2 <dbl> 176, 178, 180, 185, 182, 181, 183, 182, 179, 181, 180, 182, ~
             <dbl> 76, 72, 79, 90, 83, 69, 87, 72, 76, 68, 64, 69, 78, 43, 45, ~
## $ B7
## $ B8
             <dbl> 69, 69, 72, 75, 73, 67, 74, 65, 66, 65, 63, 65, 77, 68, 72, ~
             <dbl> 11.16359, 11.16244, 11.01509, 10.93011, 10.93055, 10.92047,
## $ lat
## $ lon
             <dbl> 3.413116, 3.414022, 3.416367, 3.553716, 3.553230, 3.486705,
## $ year
             <int> 2017, 2017, 2017, 2017, 2017, 2017, 2017, 2017, 2017, 2017, 2017, 2017
## $ month
             ## $ day
## $ date
             <date> 2017-01-03, 2017-01-03, 2017-01-03, 2017-01-03, 2017-01-03,~
## $ ID
             <int> 16993, 16894, 11728, 9560, 9574, 8938, 8914, 12410, 12422, 9~
## $ NDVI
             <dbl> -0.035460993, 0.021276596, -0.027777778, -0.062500000, -0.05~
             <dbl> 0.15527950, 0.10559006, 0.14110429, 0.20212766, 0.17441860, ~
## $ NDBI
## $ EVI
             <dbl> -1.04166667, 1.07142857, -0.50000000, -0.36496350, -0.952380~
## $ landcover <chr> "builtup", "builtup", "builtup", "builtup", "builtup", "buil-
             <dbl> 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1,
## $ veg
## $ builtup
```

Vegetation and band values

Now we perform some data exploration to determine the relationship between vegetation and the band values. Also, we will look at the seasonality of the bands (i.e. which bands vary the most among landcover types).

Mean band values and vegetation

```
## Create a data set that is one row per location
## with mean(NDVI), mean(B7), and landcover type for each location
dm = d \% > \%
  group_by(ID) %>%
  summarise(
   B1
        = mean(B1, na.rm=T),
        = mean(B2, na.rm=T),
        = mean(B3, na.rm=T),
        = mean(B4, na.rm=T),
       = mean(B5, na.rm=T),
   B6_VCID_1 = mean(B6_VCID_1, na.rm=T),
   B6_VCID_2 = mean(B6_VCID_2, na.rm=T),
   B7 = mean(B7, na.rm=T),
   NDVI = mean(NDVI, na.rm=T),
   NDBI = mean(NDBI, na.rm=T),
   EVI = mean(EVI, na.rm=T),
   landcover = unique(landcover)) %>%
  ungroup() %>%
  mutate(veg = ifelse(landcover %in% c('natforest', 'orchard', 'cropland'),
                      1, 0),
         builtup = ifelse(landcover == 'builtup', 1, 0),
         EVI = ifelse(is.infinite(EVI), NA, EVI)) %>%
  as.data.frame()
## Inspect the resulting data frame
glimpse(dm)
## Rows: 400
## Columns: 15
## $ ID
               <int> 2043, 2069, 2095, 2100, 2114, 2118, 2164, 2181, 2402, 2404, ~
## $ B1
               <dbl> 80.43333, 83.48000, 90.95833, 87.91304, 85.92857, 85.92857, ~
## $ B2
               <dbl> 69.16667, 73.52000, 81.70833, 78.30435, 77.42857, 77.42857, ~
## $ B3
               <dbl> 73.43333, 78.92000, 95.04167, 87.82609, 91.89286, 91.89286, ~
               <dbl> 91.36667, 94.56000, 97.08333, 95.30435, 75.10714, 75.10714, ~
## $ B4
## $ B5
               <dbl> 79.00000, 87.12000, 111.33333, 102.04348, 93.03571, 93.03571~
## $ B6_VCID_1 <dbl> 130.1333, 131.3200, 130.7083, 131.4348, 139.0357, 139.0357, ~
## $ B6_VCID_2 <dbl> 147.7333, 150.0000, 148.8333, 149.8696, 164.2500, 164.2500, ~
## $ B7
               <dbl> 51.30000, 57.92000, 79.20833, 71.13043, 76.96429, 76.96429, ~
## $ NDVI
               <dbl> 0.150671964, 0.134296182, 0.047115152, 0.076682407, -0.09528~
## $ NDBI
               <dbl> -0.087057210, -0.048786083, 0.054766177, 0.028438968, 0.1067~
## $ EVI
               <dbl> -1.0751116, 1.1790665, -3.6038950, -0.2102671, -0.8309687, -~
## $ landcover <chr> "orchard", "orchard", "orchard", "orchard", "builtup", "buil~
```

We see there are 400 rows, one for each location, and that each row has ID, landcover type, and band values for the corresponding location.

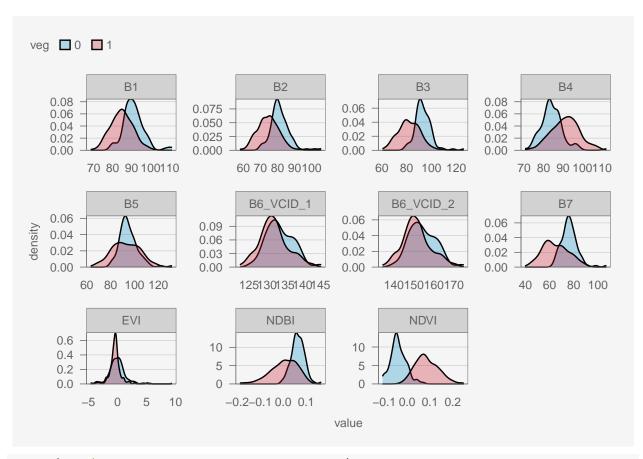
<dbl> 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, ~

Here is a summary of the mean band values for each landcover type.

\$ veg ## \$ builtup

```
dg = dm %>%
select(-landcover, -builtup) %>%
pivot_longer(cols = -c(ID, veg)) %>%
group_by(name, veg) %>%
```

```
summarise(mean = mean(value,
                       na.rm = T)) %>%
  mutate(mean = round(mean, 2),
        veg = paste0('veg', veg)) %>%
  pivot_wider(names_from = veg,
             values_from = mean) %>%
 mutate(diff = veg1 - veg0)
## `summarise()` has grouped output by 'name'. You can override using the
## `.groups` argument.
dg
## # A tibble: 11 x 4
## # Groups: name [11]
##
     name
               veg0
                             diff
                       veg1
##
      <chr>
                <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
                             -6.23
## 1 B1
                91.0 84.8
## 2 B2
                81.5
                       74.5 -7.05
## 3 B3
                93.4
                       82.0 -11.3
## 4 B4
                84.4
                       91.2
                              6.88
## 5 B5
                95.2 92.7
                              -2.42
## 6 B6_VCID_1 134. 132.
                              -1.70
## 7 B6_VCID_2 154.
                      151.
                              -2.98
## 8 B7
                76.4
                       65
                             -11.4
## 9 EVI
                -0.04 -0.39 -0.35
## 10 NDBI
                0.06 0
                              -0.06
## 11 NDVI
                -0.04
                       0.09 0.13
Histogram of all bands, separated by veg.
dg = dm \%
 select(-landcover, -builtup) %>%
 pivot_longer(cols = -c(ID, veg)) %>%
 mutate(veg = factor(veg))
head(dg)
g = ggplot(dg,
          aes(x = value,
              fill = veg)) +
  geom_density(alpha = 0.3) +
 facet_wrap(~name,
            scales = 'free')
g %>%
  pub(type = 'hist',
     facet = T,
     base_size = 9)
```



ggsave("img/density_plot_per_band.png", plot = g)

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 4
##
        ID veg name
                           value
##
     <int> <fct> <chr>
                           <dbl>
## 1 2043 1
                            80.4
                B1
## 2 2043 1
                 B2
                            69.2
## 3 2043 1
                ВЗ
                            73.4
## 4 2043 1
                В4
                            91.4
## 5
     2043 1
                В5
                            79
## 6 2043 1
                B6_VCID_1 130.
```

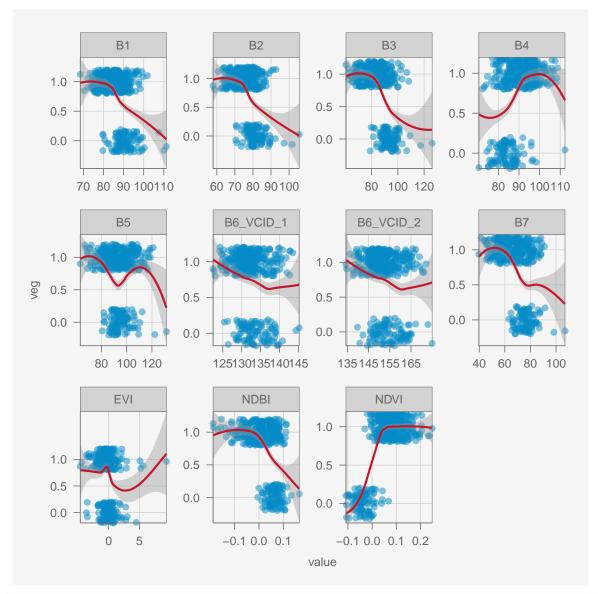
Saving 6.5 x 4.5 in image

Scatter plot of bands vs veg

```
scales = 'free')

g %>%

pub(type = 'scatter',
    facet = T,
    base_size = 9,
    ybreaks = c(0, 0.5, 1))
```

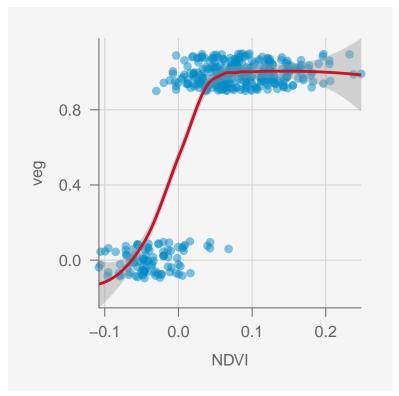


```
ggsave("img/scatter_plot_bands_vs_veg.png", plot = g)
```

It seems most band values have a logistic relationship with veg.

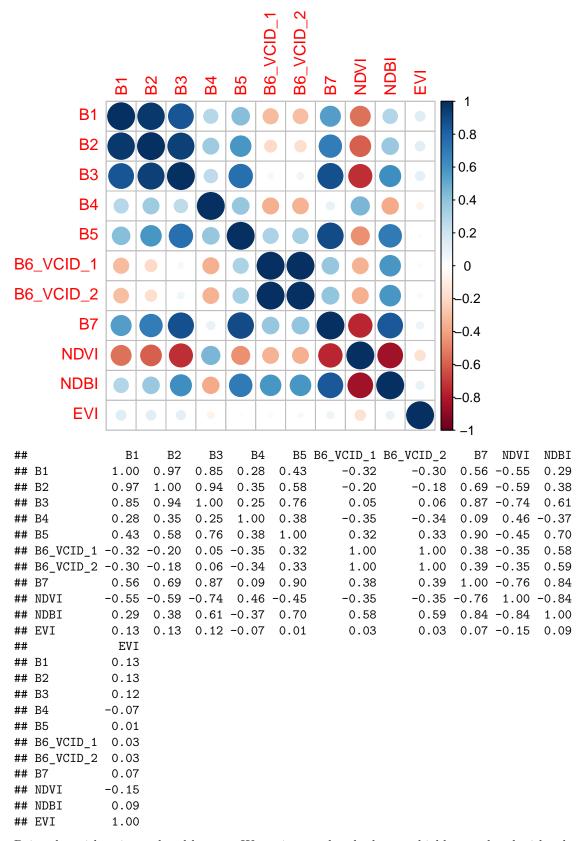
Let's have a closer look at NDVI vs veg, since we know that NDVI is a good indicator of vegetation.

```
width = 0,
alpha = 0.5,
color = pubblue) +
geom_smooth(color = pubred)
g %>% pub()
```



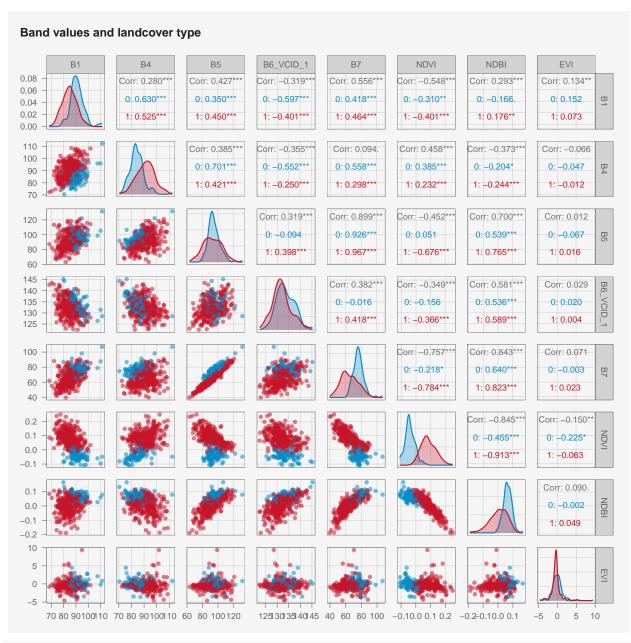
Corrplot of all bands

```
library(corrplot)
dcor = dm %>%
  select(-ID, -veg, -builtup, -landcover) %>%
  mutate(EVI = ifelse(is.infinite(EVI), NA, EVI)) %>%
  cor(use = 'pairwise.complete.obs')
dcor %>% round(2)
corrplot(dcor)
```



Pairs plot with points colored by veg. We omit some bands that are highly correlated with others to make the plot more readable.

```
library(GGally)
title = 'Band values and landcover type'
dg = dm \%
 mutate(veg = factor(veg))
bands = c('B1', \#'B2', 'B3',
 'B4', 'B5',
 'B6_VCID_1', #'B6_VCID_2',
 'B7', 'NDVI', 'NDBI', 'EVI')
g = ggpairs(dg,
           aes(color = veg,
               fill = veg,
               alpha = 0.1,
               shape = '20'),
            columns = bands,
           diag = list(continuous = pub.density)) +
 labs(title = title) +
 theme_pub(type = 'pairs',
           base_size = 8)
```



ggsave("img/pair_plot_bands.png", plot = g)

We can tell from this plot which variables or pairs of variables will likely help. If we focus on the line NDVI = 0, we can see that as NDBI and B7 increase the proportion of veg decreases. The "boundary line" between veg = 1 and veg = 0 looks like it has a negative slope, and there are more veg = 1 above that boundary line.

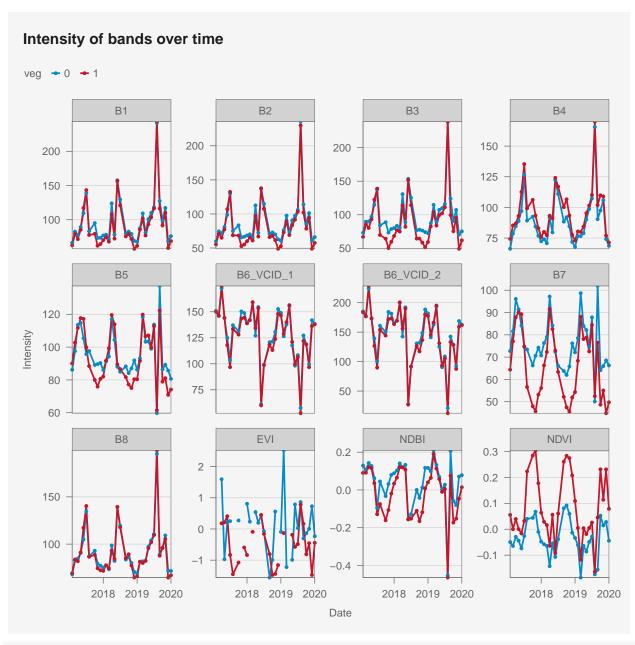
These observations will be confirmed when fitting some models.

Seasonality

Bands over time for veg = 1 and veg = 0.

```
dd = d %>%
filter(!is.infinite(EVI)) %>%
select(-lat, -lon, -landcover, -builtup) %>%
pivot_longer(cols = c(-ID, -veg, -year,
```

```
-month, -day, -date)) %>%
  mutate(year.mon = year+month/12) %>%
  group_by(veg,
           year.mon,
           name) %>%
  summarise(value = mean(value)) %>%
  mutate(veg = factor(veg))
head(dd)
title = "Intensity of bands over time"
g = ggplot(dd,
           aes(x = year.mon,
               y = value,
               color = veg))+
  geom_line(linewidth = .75)+
  geom_point(size = 1)+
  facet_wrap(~name,
            scales = 'free_y') +
  labs(title = title,
      x = 'Date',
       y = 'Intensity')
g %>%
   pub(type = 'line',
      facet = T,
      base_size = 10,
       xbreaks = c(2018, 2019, 2020),
       xlabels = as.character(c(2018, 2019, 2020)))
```



ggsave("img/line_plot_bands_over_time.png", plot = g)

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 4
## # Groups:
               veg, year.mon [1]
##
           year.mon name
                               value
                               <dbl>
     <fct>
              <dbl> <chr>
              2017. B1
                                66.4
## 1 0
##
  2 0
              2017. B2
                                59.9
## 3 0
              2017. B3
                                73.1
## 4 0
              2017. B4
                                66.3
              2017. B5
## 5 0
                                86.2
## 6 0
              2017. B6_VCID_1 151.
```

veg and mean NDVI

Observed proportion of 1s for different subsets of the predictor

Let's look at the proportion of veg for different subsets of NDVI.

We can bin our data using the function cut_interval.

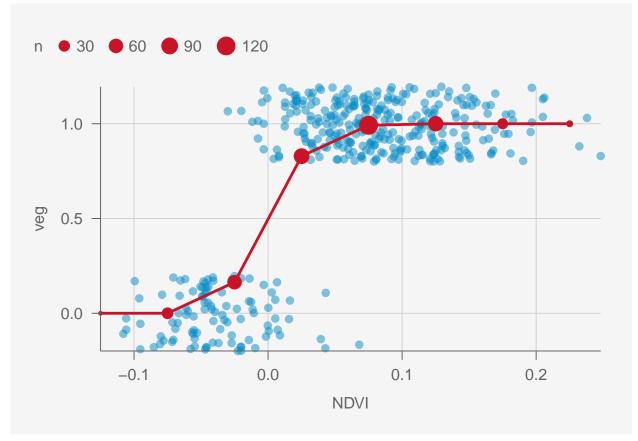
```
dm = dm \%
 mutate(bin = cut_interval(NDVI,
                             length = 0.05)
head(dd)
## # A tibble: 6 x 4
## # Groups:
               veg, year.mon [1]
     veg
           year.mon name
                               value
##
     <fct>
              <dbl> <chr>
                               <dbl>
## 1 0
              2017. B1
                                66.4
## 2 0
              2017. B2
                                59.9
## 3 0
              2017. B3
                                73.1
              2017. B4
## 4 0
                                66.3
              2017. B5
## 5 0
                                86.2
              2017. B6_VCID_1 151.
## 6 0
```

Let's check the counts of veg in each bin.

```
## # A tibble: 8 x 5
## # Groups:
                           `1`
##
                     `0`
     bin
                                   n
     <fct>
                  <int> <int> <int> <dbl>
## 1 [-0.15,-0.1]
                      3
                             0
                                   3 0
## 2 (-0.1,-0.05]
                     32
                             0
                                  32 0
## 3 (-0.05,0]
                                  61 0.164
                     51
                            10
## 4 (0,0.05]
                     13
                            63
                                  76 0.829
                                 123 0.992
## 5 (0.05,0.1]
                      1
                           122
## 6 (0.1,0.15]
                      0
                            72
                                  72 1
## 7 (0.15,0.2]
                      0
                            27
                                  27 1
## 8 (0.2,0.25]
                      0
                             6
                                   6 1
```

Let's plot these observed proportions on a scatter plot

```
geom_jitter(alpha = 0.5,
              height = 0.2,
              width = 0,
              color = pubblue) +
  geom_point(data = bin.means,
             aes(x = mid,
                 y = p,
                 size = n),
             color = pubred) +
  geom_line(data = bin.means,
            aes(x = mid,
                y = p),
            color = pubred)
g %>%
  pub(type = 'scatter',
      ybreaks = c(0, 0.5, 1))
```



Based on this plot, we can see that the proportion of veg is higher for higher values of NDVI. This is consistent with the fact that NDVI is a good indicator of vegetation. We also see that the relationship is not linear, but rather an S-shaped curve, so a logistic regression model might be a good choice for modeling this relationship.

Observed Proportion of 1s for different subsets of other predictors

Instead of looking at only NDVI, let's look at all of the band values and indexes. We could make a scatter plot for each statistic like we did for NDVI above, but it will be easier to reorganize the data and use facet_wrap

as we have done before. So we'll we use the long format of the data ds from above.

```
head(ds)
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 4
##
        ID
              veg name
                             value
##
     <int> <dbl> <chr>
                             <dbl>
## 1
      2043
                1 B1
                              80.4
## 2
      2043
                1 B2
                              69.2
## 3
      2043
                1 B3
                              73.4
## 4
      2043
                1 B4
                              91.4
## 5
      2043
                1 B5
                              79
## 6
      2043
                1 B6_VCID_1 130.
```

We now find the proportion of veg for each bin of each band value. Here, we specify 10 bins for every band, since it would be hard to find an ideal number of bins per band.

```
ds = ds \%
  group_by(name) %>%
  mutate(bin = cut interval(value, n=10))
head(ds)
## # A tibble: 6 x 5
## # Groups:
               name [6]
##
        ID
                            value bin
             veg name
                            <dbl> <fct>
##
     <int> <dbl> <chr>
## 1
      2043
               1 B1
                             80.4 (77,81.3]
      2043
## 2
               1 B2
                             69.2 (67.5,72.3]
      2043
               1 B3
                             73.4 (67.1,73.6]
## 3
## 4
      2043
               1 B4
                             91.4 (87.2,91.4]
      2043
                             79
                                  (76.9,83.7]
## 5
               1 B5
## 6
     2043
               1 B6_VCID_1 130.
                                  (129, 132]
dp = ds \%
  group_by(name, bin) %>%
  summarise(p = mean(veg),
            n = n()
## `summarise()` has grouped output by 'name'. You can override using the
```

```
## `.groups` argument.
head(dp)
```

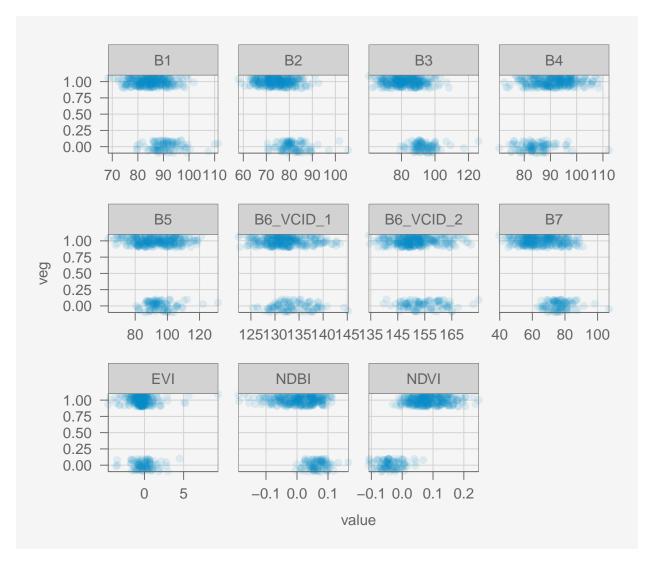
```
## # A tibble: 6 x 4
## # Groups:
                name [1]
##
     name bin
                                   n
     <chr> <fct>
##
                         <dbl>
## 1 B1
            [68.4,72.7] 1
## 2 B1
            (72.7,77]
                                  27
                         1
## 3 B1
            (77,81.3]
                                  56
                         0.929
## 4 B1
            (81.3,85.6] 0.946
                                  92
## 5 B1
            (85.6,89.9] 0.673
                                 104
## 6 B1
            (89.9,94.2] 0.557
                                  79
```

Let's find the midpoint of each interval, since we'll need that for plotting. Since we don't want to write down 11 different formulas using seq like we did above for NDVI to find the midpoints, we'll extract the left and right coordinates from the bin using regular expressions, and use those to compute the midpoint.

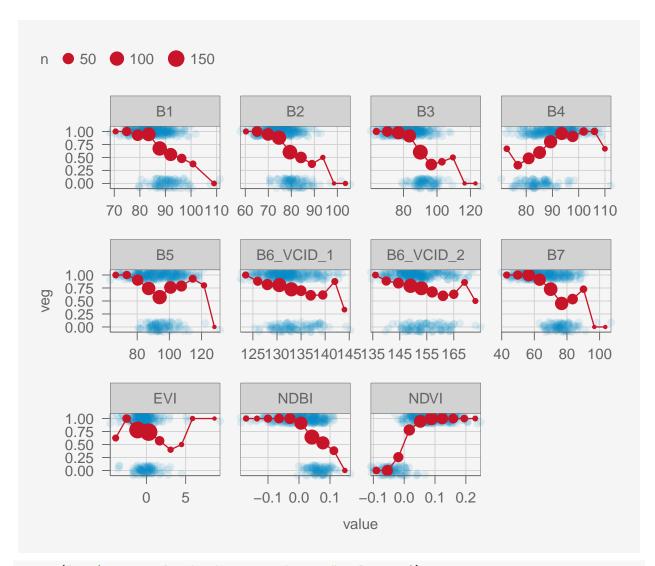
```
dp = dp \%
  mutate(left = gsub(',.+', '', bin),
        left = gsub('[(]|[[]', '', left),
         right = gsub('.+,|[]]', '', bin),
         left = as.numeric(left),
         right = as.numeric(right),
         mid
              = left/2 + right/2)
head(dp)
## # A tibble: 6 x 7
              name [1]
## # Groups:
##
     name bin
                                n left right
                          p
##
     <chr> <fct>
                       <dbl> <int> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
## 1 B1
           [68.4,72.7] 1
                                4
                                   68.4 72.7
                                               70.6
## 2 B1
                                   72.7 77
                                               74.8
           (72.7,77]
                               27
                       1
## 3 B1
           (77,81.3]
                       0.929
                               56
                                   77
                                          81.3 79.2
## 4 B1
           (81.3,85.6] 0.946
                               92
                                   81.3 85.6 83.4
## 5 B1
           (85.6,89.9] 0.673
                              104
                                   85.6 89.9 87.8
## 6 B1
           (89.9,94.2] 0.557
                               79 89.9 94.2 92.1
```

Let's now make a plot with the value of the stat on the horizontal axis, veg on the vertical axis, and let's use facet_wrap to make a different window for each stat.

We'll start with just the scatter plots.



Now let's add proportions.



ggsave("img/scatter_plot_bands_vs_veg_dot.png", plot = g2)

As we would expect, there is a positive relationship between NDVI and veg but a negative relationship between NDBI and veg. We can get a rough idea of the relative strength of these relationships as well by looking at the steepness of the curve. For example, NDVI appears to have a very strong relationship to B4 is less strong.

We also see that the S-shaped curve appears a lot, especially if you ignore the left and right extremes where there are few data points. We have sized the red dots using the number of observations in each subset, so the small red dots correspond to the subsets with very few data points.