Simultaneous classification and location of deformation in SAR interferograms using deep learning

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Abstract

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With the evolution of InSAR into a tool for active hazard monitoring, through its ability to detect ground deformation with low latency, new methods are sought to quickly and automatically interpret the large number of interferograms that are created. In this work, we present a convolutional neural network (CNN) that is able to both classify the type of deformation, and to locate the deformation within an interferogram in a single step. We achieve this through building a “two headed model”, which is able to return both outputs after one forward pass of an interferogram though the network, and so does not require the use of a sliding window approach for localisation. We train our model by first creating a large dataset of synthetic interferograms which feature labels of both the type and location of any deformation, but also find that our model’s performance is improved through the inclusion of just a small amount of real data. When building models
of this type, it is common for some of the weights within the model to be transferred from other models designed for different problems. Consequently, we also investigate how to best organise interferograms such that the filters learned in models such as VGG16 are sensitive to the signals of interest in interferograms, but find that using different data in each of the three input channels significantly degrades performance when compared to the simple case of repeating (un)wrapped phase across each channel. This implies that the inclusion of supplementary data, which we expect should improve the ability to distinguish deformation from noise, requires training of a network from scratch.

**Keywords:** volcano monitoring, InSAR, CNN, convolutional neural network, neural network, VGG16,

1. **Introduction**

In recent years, work to extend volcano monitoring to all of the world’s ~1400 subaerial volcanoes has resulted in the application of several machine learning methods to ground deformation maps produced by interferometric RADAR satellites (InSAR). Work presented in Anantrasirichai et al. (2018, 2019a,b) and Valade et al. (2019) has used convolutional neural networks (CNNs) to determine if individual interferograms contain deformation, whilst work by Gaddes et al. (2018) has used blind signal separation methods to determine if a time series of interferograms show signs of unrest. However, in both of the examples detailed above, each algorithm demonstrates very limited knowledge of the diverse types of deformation that may be measured at volcanoes. The algorithm presented in Anantrasirichai et al. (2019a) assigns
all data containing deformation to one label, whilst the algorithm presented
in Gaddes et al. (2018) alerts users to changes in the signals present, but
does not identify the type of deformation present. Consequently, we seek to
improve upon these approaches by developing a CNN that is able to differen-
tiate between different types of deformation, and to detect the spatial extent
of it.

Detecting the spatial extent of an object is referred to as localisation in
machine learning parlance, and a variety of methods exist to perform it. For
the simple case in which only one classification driving object features in
an image, this is commonly approached using one of two methods. In the
first, the CNN is trained on relatively small images of the objects of interest
(e.g. 224 × 224), before the trained model is then used on larger images (e.g.
1000 × 500) that are subdivided into smaller patches of equal resolution to
the original training data. This approach is utilised in Anantrasirichai et al.
(2018), which avoids the potentially large computation cost of the repeated
forward passes by using the AlexNet CNN (Krizhevsky et al., 2012), which
requires relatively few operations to complete a forward pass through the
model (Canziani et al., 2016). Additionally, this approach has the limitation
that the CNN does not need to learn how to determine the location of the
object of interest, and at a more fundamental level, remains a classification
and not localisation model.

However, in the field of computer vision, CNNs have been developed that
are able to both classify an image as containing an object, and describe
the object’s location. The location of an object is either indicated through
encompassing it in a rectangle (e.g. Simonyan and Zisserman (2014); Redmon
et al. (2016) or, in more complex algorithms, indicating the exact outline of an object by identifying which pixels comprise it (e.g. He et al. (2017)). These approaches should provide more detailed information on the spatial extent of a signal of interest than a classification model that is repeatedly used on different areas of an image. Consequently, we endeavour to develop an algorithm that is able to both classify types of deformation, and localise it within an interferogram in one step. Figure 1 shows our initial division of deformation patterns into different classes, and can be considered similar to the WordNet hierarchy (Fellbaum, 1998) that underpins ImageNet (Deng et al., 2009).

When seeking to build a CNN to perform a classification or localisation problem, common approaches can be divided into one of three broad categories depending on the utilisation of pre-existing models. In the most fundamental case, a new model is designed before all the parameters within it are trained (e.g. Rauter and Winkler (2018)), but this approach has the risk of failing to utilise the successful applications of CNNs to other problems. Consequently, it is possible for the majority of the architecture of a model that is (or was) state of the art for a certain problem to be re-trained to solve the new problem. As many CNNs feature a fully connected network after the convolutional layers, it is common to retain the convolutional layers and design a new fully connected network that outputs the classes of interest. However, this approach still requires the training of a CNN that is likely to contain tens of millions of parameters, which will be both computationally expensive, and require a large volume of training data. AlexNet, a previously state-of-the-art image classification CNN, has 60 million parameters,
was trained on 1.2 million images, and even when implemented on GPUs took around one week to train (Krizhevsky et al., 2012). Therefore, a common approach termed transfer learning is to retain both the structure and weights of the initial convolutional layers, and to train only the last fully connected part of the network. This approach was successfully used by Anantrasirichai et al. (2018), who used the structure and weights of AlexNet but created their own fully connected classifier to output whether an interferogram contained deformation or not.

The weights learned in the convolutional filters of a CNN are of great importance to a network’s ability to detect features, as the filters must be sensitive to the patterns that these features present in an image. As networks such as AlexNet (Krizhevsky et al., 2012) and VGG16 (Simonyan and Zisserman, 2014) were originally developed to compete in the ImageNet competitions (Deng et al., 2009), the filters have been trained to detect the type of features present in natural images (e.g. photographs of a person, or car). When performing transfer learning, it is these filters that must be sensitive to the patterns presented in a deformation signal if the network is to correctly classify and locate it. However, as interferograms can be expressed in differing formats we also seek to explore which of these formats allows for the filters in models trained on natural images to excel.

2. Classification with different data formats

As the most common CNNs for computer vision are trained on images comprising of a channel for each of the red, green, and blue values for each pixel, other data that are to be used with the network must also be three
We propose a model that is able to classify interferograms as either containing only atmospheric signals, or as containing deformation due to inflating sills or opening dykes. As our proposed model will work with only data from one look angle, we envisage that deformation due to processes that could be modelled as a point pressure source (commonly referred to as a “Mogi” source (Mogi, 1958)) are likely to be incorporated in the inflating sill label. We do not present this hierarchy as complete, and envisage that future studies may add further subtrees, such as signals due to the cooling and contraction of emplaced lava flows.
channel. However, when considering an image of interferometric phase, these images contain only a single value for each pixel, and so consist of only one channel, and are analogous to a greyscale image. This difference in the number of channels can be circumvented through duplicating the one channel interferogram in each of the three input channels of a CNN, but in this section of our study we wish to determine if this approach can be improved upon.

When two SAR images are combined to form a single interferogram, the resulting image is a $2D$ array of complex numbers. Whilst the magnitude of each of these complex numbers relates to the underlying brightness and coherence of a given pixel, it is common for only the argument to be displayed, as these phase values can be used to infer ground movement. However, the phase values of an interferogram are wrapped in the range $[-\pi, \pi]$ as only the fractional part of the phase value can be measured, but this ambiguity can be estimated to produce an unwrapped interferogram (Chen and Zebker, 2001).

We postulate that in addition to the use of either wrapped or unwrapped data duplicated to fill three channels, the original complex numbers of an interferogram could be used in two channels, and so allow the network to use interferometric amplitude as an indicator of the reliability of the phase.

However, we can also consider external data to feed into the CNN. When a human observer interprets an interferogram, they are likely to use data such as a digital elevation model (DEM) as this can be used to help determine if a signal is due to deformation, or due to a topographically-correlated atmospheric phase screen (Bekaert et al., 2015). Consequently, we postulate that the inclusion of a DEM to our CNN will improve its performance, and seek to investigate this whilst varying the inputs across different channels.
To perform this analysis, we first synthesise a dataset of labelled interferograms. The collection of enough labelled data to train a CNN is commonly time consuming or expensive, and we find that the addition of localisation labels to our data makes it more time consuming than in previous studies. Additionally, due to the large number of data that are required to train CNNs and our expansion to classification of different types of deformation, procuring enough real data to do this may be not possible. Consequently, we perform this analysis using only synthetic data. Following the hierarchy proposed in Figure 1, we create interferograms that contain either no deformation, deformation due to an opening dyke, or deformation due to an inflating sill. We model the dykes and sills as approximately vertical and horizontal dislocations, respectively, with uniform opening in an elastic half space (Okada, 1985). For the set of sills, we randomly select strikes in the range $0 - 359^\circ$, dips in the range $0 - 5^\circ$, openings in the range $0.2 - 1$ m, depths in the range $1.5 - 3.5$ km, and widths and lengths in the range $2 - 6$ km. For the set of dykes, we randomly select strikes in the range $0 - 359^\circ$, dips in the range $75 - 90^\circ$, openings in the range $0.1 - 0.7$ m, top depths in the range $0 - 2$ km, bottom depths in the range $0 - 8$ km, and lengths in the range $0 - 10$ km. These deformation patterns are then combined with a topographically correlated atmospheric phase screen (APS), and a turbulent APS, which we discuss generating in more detail in Gaddes et al. (2018). We calculate the topographically correlated APS using the SRTM 90m DEM (Farr et al., 2007), and use the coastline information contained within the product to mask areas of water. We also synthesise areas of incoherence within our interferograms, which we mask in order for our synthetic interferograms to be
as similar as possible to the Sentinel-1 interferograms automatically created by the LiCSAR processor (González et al., 2016). Figure 2 shows the results of mixing these different elements to create our synthetic interferograms.

This process creates unwrapped data, which can be converted to wrapped data through finding modulo $2\pi$ of the unwrapped phase. However, to synthesise both the real and imaginary part of a complex interferogram requires knowledge of both the brightness of a pixel and its phase. To achieve this, we again use the SRTM DEM, and calculate the intensity of reflected electromagnetic radiation at the angles of incidence used by the Sentinel-1 satellites ($29.1 - 46.0^\circ$), before adding speckle noise, and calculating the interferometric amplitude between two images (i.e. the product of the two amplitudes).

As inputs to CNNs that are to be trained using transfer learning must be rescaled to the inputs used in the original training, we use only relative values in the range $(−1) - 1$ for the synthetic intensities. With knowledge of the modulus (relative intensity) and argument (wrapped phase) of each pixel of our synthetic interferogram, the real/imaginary components are simply the products of the modulus and cosine/sine of the argument, respectively.

Figure 3 shows five different ways we can represent an interferogram using the three channels available.

The CNN we build to classify the synthetic interferograms uses the five convolutional blocks of VGG16 (Simonyan and Zisserman, 2014), with our own fully connected network after this. This network was chosen as, when used in the field of computer vision for classifying natural images, it outperformed older models such as AlexNet (Simonyan and Zisserman, 2014), which is used in the algorithm presented in Anantrasirichai et al. (2018). When an
interferogram of shape \((224 \times 224 \times 3)\) is passed through the convolutional
layers of VGG16, it is transformed into a tensor of shape \((7 \times 7 \times 512)\). This
is then flattened to make a vector of size 25,088, before being passed through
fully connected layers of size 256, 128, and an output layer of size three (i.e.,
dyke, sill, or no deformation). To produce a set of outputs that can be used
as probabilities, we use a softmax activation for the last layer (Bridle, 1990),
but on the remaining layers we use rectified linear units (ReLus) to reduce
computation time (Agostinelli et al., 2014). As our model seeks to solve a
classification problem, we use categorical cross entropy for the loss function,
which we seek to reduce using the Nadam optimizer as this does not require
the choice of a learning rate (Dozat, 2016).

A common problem of CNNs that are used for classification can be over-
fitting of the training data, which results in a model that generalises to new
data poorly. We endeavour to limit this through the use of dropout (Sri-
vastava et al., 2014) before both the 256 and 128 neuron layers, as through
randomly removing some connections during each pass of the data through
our model, this method aims to ensure that our model is forced to learn
more robust representations of the training data. As we use synthetic data,
we are not limited by the usual cost of collecting labelled data, and therefore
are able to generate 20000 unique interferograms that are evenly distributed
between classes without the use of data augmentation.

Figure 4 shows the results of training five models with each of the data
formats previously discussed. The highest classification accuracy achieved is
\(~0.95\), which is achieved when the models are trained with either wrapped or
unwrapped data repeated across the three input channels. However, it should
be noted that the accuracy of the unwrapped phase model takes the full 20 epochs to achieve this performance, which contrasts with the wrapped phase model which shows little change after the eighth epoch. Inclusion of the DEM as the third channel appears to reduce classification accuracy, whilst very low accuracies are achieved in the real and imaginary channel case. We discuss these results in more detail in Section 4, but for the remainder of the paper we choose to work with data that is unwrapped and repeated across the three input channels. We choose this approach as no significant differences are seen between the classification accuracy ultimately achieved with either wrapped or unwrapped data, but the use of unwrapped data may allow for a model to be used with unwrapped time series, and so detect subtle signals produced by low strain rate processes. Additionally, a model that works with unwrapped data may also provide the opportunity to be expanded to locate and classify unwrapping errors automatically.

3. Classification and localisation

3.1. Using synthetic data

In the previous section, we demonstrated that, when using VGG16 with convolutional weights learned on ImageNet data, roughly optimal performance for classifying synthetic interferograms is achieved when either the wrapped or unwrapped phase is repeated across the three input channels. We choose to progress with only the unwrapped phase model, as the computational cost of unwrapping is often already met by automatic processing systems (e.g. LiCSAR, González et al. (2016)), and the development of models that use unwrapped phase may lead to benefits such as the ability to classify
Figure 2: An example of the constituent parts of seven synthetic interferograms. A third of these do not feature deformation (e.g. interferogram 5), a third feature deformation due to an inflating sill (e.g. 4), and a third feature deformation due to an opening dyke (e.g. 2). These signals are geocoded and areas of water masked, before being combined with a topographically correlated APS, and a turbulent APS. Areas of incoherence are also synthesised, and these are used to mask the combination of the three signals to create the final synthetic interferograms.
Figure 3: Organisation of an interferogram into three channel form. Columns one and two feature unwrapped data that is repeated, and in column two the DEM is included as the third channel. In column three the real and imaginary elements of the complex values of each pixel of an interferogram occupy channels one and two, whilst the DEM is included in the third. Columns three and four feature wrapped data that is repeated, and in column five the DEM is included as the third channel.
Figure 4: Accuracy of classifying validation data (10% of the total) during training using three channel data arranged in different formats. “u”: unwrapped data, “w”: wrapped data, “d”: DEM, “r” real component of interferogram, “i”: imaginary component of interferogram. Low accuracy is seen for the “rid” data, and in both the wrapped and unwrapped cases inclusion of the DEM in the third channel is seen to degrade classification accuracy. At the end of the 20 epochs of training, only a small difference is seen in accuracy between wrapped and unwrapped data, with both classifying ~95% of the validation data correctly, though the wrapped phase model is seen to achieve this level of accuracy more quickly (requiring only eight epochs of training).
and locate unwrapping errors. In this section, we build on the model used to perform classification by adding localisation output. We also endeavour to ascertain if the expense of collecting labelled data can be avoided entirely through the continued use of synthetic data when training our model.

We achieve both classification and localisation through dividing the fully connected section of our model to produce two distinct outputs. One output returns the class of the input data in the manner described in Section 2, whilst the second returns the location of any deformation within the scene. In machine learning parlance, models of this type are termed double headed, and we subsequently refer to either of the outputs and their corresponding preceding layers as either the classification head or localisation head. Figure 5 shows the structure of the two heads, and how they diverge after the output of the fifth block of VGG16 has been flattened. The localisation head is structured in a similar manner to the model described in Simonyan and Zisserman (2014), in which the model conveys the location of any deformation through outputting a column vector containing four values. Two of these values determine the centre of the deformation pattern and two display its horizontal and vertical extent. Together, these four values can be used to construct a box encompassing a deformation pattern.

However, we find that an acceptable level of localisation performance cannot be achieved with a fully connected network with the same complexity as the localisation head, and were required to increase both the number and size of layers in the localisation head’s fully connected network. To reduce the time taken to develop and test possible localisation heads, we perform what is termed “bottleneck learning” in machine learning literature. This
involves first computing the results from passing our entire dataset through the first five blocks of VGG16, before then training only the fully connected parts of our network (i.e. the two heads). This method is highly efficient as we do not generally wish to update the weights in the convolutional blocks of VGG16, yet passing the data through these blocks is computationally expensive. By passing the data through the convolutional blocks just once, we can then repeat only the relatively inexpensive passes of the data through the fully connected parts of our network as we update the weights contained within these layers. Experimentation finds that the simplest model capable of achieving good performance has five layers consisting of 2048, 1024, 512, 128, and 4 neurons.

When training our model, we use the mean squared error between the predicted location vector and the labelled location vector as our localisation loss function, which we seek to minimise. When using three arc second pixels (~90m) with a loss function of this type, a mean square error of 400 pixels would correspond to the localisation being incorrect by around $\sqrt{400} = 20$ pixels, or ~2km. However, when using a double headed network, training is complicated by the fact that the model’s overall loss is now a combination of the classification and localisation loss, which must be balanced using a hyperparameter commonly termed loss weighting. We experiment with this hyperparameter, and find that a value of 0.95 for the classification loss and 0.05 for the localisation loss provides a good balance between the two outputs. This value proves suitable as the localisation loss is significantly larger than the classification loss, but by weighting them unequally they then contribute to the overall loss approximately equally. In a similar manner to
the design of a localisation head, the time required for the repeated model
runs required to fine tune this hyperparameter is greatly reduced by first
computing bottleneck features.

Figure 6 shows the results of training our classification and localisation
model. During the training of our model, inspection of both the training
and validation loss does not show the characteristic minimum in validation
loss being passed, despite continued decrease in the training loss that is
indicative of a model that is overfitting. To improve the performance of our
network, we also seek to improve the filters learned within the convolutional
blocks, to better adapt them to our task. We perform this by changing
the style of learning after the 10th epoch, and switch from updating only
the fully connected layers, to also including the 5th convolutional block in
our updates. However, if we were to resume training the network with an
optimiser such as Nadam, which features an adaptive learning rate, only a
small number of initial steps at a high learning rate would quickly destroy the
finely tuned values in both the convolutional blocks of VGG16, and our fully
connected classification and localisation heads. We circumvent this through
switching the optimizer to stochastic gradient descent (SGD) and setting the
learning rate manually. However, as we are now updating the convolutional
blocks of VGG16, we cannot simply use the bottleneck features we previously
computed, and must instead perform the time consuming pass of the data
through VGG16 at each step. This complicates the search for an optimal
learning rate, but we find that a value of $1.5 \times 10^{-8}$ does not degrade the
performance already gained during training, but still allows for the validation
localisation loss to decrease from $\sim 800$ to $\sim 700$ pixels (i.e. a mean error of
∼2.6 km), and the classification accuracy to increase from ∼0.8 to ∼0.85.

Figure 7 shows the results of applying our trained classification and localisation model to a random selection of the testing data (i.e., data that the model were not exposed to during training). In the majority of cases, the classification can be seen to be accurate, and the localisation approximately correct. When considering the entire test set of data, the classification accuracy is 0.89, whilst the localisation loss is ∼700. It should be noted that we could also report the classification loss (0.31), but we believe this is less useful than the accuracy. However, in the localisation case, accuracy is not a meaningful measure of the fidelity of the output, as it is instead a regression problem in which we aim to approximate the correct values, which are continuous in nature. In a manner similar to that reported for the validation data, the localisation loss (mean squared error) of ∼700 pixels corresponds to a mean error of ∼2.6 km (when using three arc second pixels).

3.2. Application to real data

Whilst the model described in the previous section achieved good performance when classifying and locating deformation in synthetic interferograms, for use in automatic detection algorithms we require our CNN to work with Sentinel-1 data. These data are of particular importance for volcano monitoring, as the European Space Agency’s data policy ensures that Sentinel-1 data are available quickly and at no cost, whilst the low revisit times ensure that the majority of sub-aerial volcanoes are imaged at least every 12 days. To test our model with Sentinel-1 data, we apply our CNN to a collection of 52 interferograms for which we have performed the time consuming task of labelling both the class and location of deformation within them. However,
Figure 5: Structure of our classification and localisation CNN. Input interferograms are first passed through the first five convolutional blocks of VGG16 to transform them from size $224 \times 224 \times 3$ to size $7 \times 512$. These are flattened to create a large fully connected layer featuring 25088 neurons, which is connected to both the upper branch/head, which performs classification, and the lower branch/head, which performs localisation. We find the localisation problem more complex than classification, and consequentially our localisation branch/head features more layers, each with more neurons. The output of the localisation head is a vector of four values determining the position and size of the deformation, whilst the output of the classification head is a vector of three values that indicate the probability for each class, and sum to one.
Figure 6: Summary of training the two headed model with synthetic data. The upper plot shows the accuracy of the classification head, whilst the lower plot shows the loss function for the localisation head. After the ninth epoch (marked by the vertical dashed line) the optimizer is switched from Nesterov Adam (NADAM) to stochastic gradient descent (SGD) with a manually chosen learning rate, and the weights in the fifth convolutional block of VGG16 are unfrozen. This extra learning stage allows the localisation loss for the validation data to decrease from $\sim800$ to $\sim700$, and for the classification accuracy of the validation data to increase from $\sim0.80$ to $\sim0.85$. 
Figure 7: Results of our classification and localisation CNN on the (synthetic) testing data. Deformation units are centimetres, black class labels and location boxes were generated from the synthetic data and span areas with over 5 cm of deformation, whilst red depicts those predicted by the CNN. As the model outputs a probability for each label, these are included as decimals for each of the predicted classes. Inspection of the results shows that in all but one of the randomly chosen cases, the localisation is broadly correct, and the classification is correct. Interferogram 2, which is classified incorrectly, features a relatively strong turbulent APS (seen as the spatially correlated noise) and a deformation pattern that extends into an area of incoherence, which may explain the misclassification.
in some examples assigning a single class to a complex deformation pattern is difficult, and we instead assign what we deem the dominant class to be, whilst expecting that the network should assign some probability to other classes. This is most evident in interferograms seven, nine and ten of Figure 7 that span the 2015 eruption of Wolf Volcano (Galapagos, Ecuador), in which signals were attributed to both the deflation of a sill and the opening of a dyke (Novellis et al., 2017; Xu et al., 2016).

The interferograms used come from either a collection of time series that were created by the authors of this study, or by the LiCSAR automatic interferogram processor (https://comet.nerc.ac.uk/COMET-LiCS-portal/), and feature the volcanoes Campi Flegrei, Agung, Wolf, Sierra Negra, and Alcedo. We filtered the interferograms with a Goldstein filter (Goldstein and Werner, 1998), unwrapped using SNAPHU (Chen and Zebker, 2001), and masked pixels with an average coherence below 0.7. For the Galapagos volcanoes (Wolf, Sierra Negra, and Cerro Azul), deformation is visible in some of the 12 day interferograms, but the deformation signal at Campi Flegrei is more subtle, and we are required to manually create interferograms with temporal baselines of 24/36/48/60 days in order for the deformation to be visible in a single interferogram. The deformation signal at Agung was attributed to the opening of a dyke (Albino et al., 2019), but due to the short lived nature of this event, is only visible in a relatively small number of the “daisy chain” of short temporal baseline interferograms. To increase the number of interferograms available, we again produce a selection of 24/36/48/60 day interferograms that span the event.

Figure 8 shows the results of applying our trained classification and lo-
calisation model to a quasi-random selection of Sentinel-1 interferograms. Interferograms such as Interferogram 3 show a very clear inflation signal at Sierra Negra, and are correctly classified by the CNN, whilst the localisation is broadly correct. Other promising results include the labelling of the three Wolf coercptive interferograms (seven, nine and ten) as containing a sill, which is also localised well. However, some interferograms are poorly classified, such as the subtle signal seen in interferogram zero. The divergent nature of our CNN’s two heads also leads to outputs that show disagreement between them. Interferogram 11 demonstrates this, in which it is correctly classified as containing no deformation, but features an incorrect localisation output.

When considering the entire test set of real data, the classification accuracy is 0.65, whilst the localisation loss is $\sim 2017$. We discuss the results of this model more fully in Section 4, but in the following section we seek to improve the performance of our model through the inclusion of real data during the training stage.

3.3. Augmentation of training data with Sentinel-1 data

To increase the performance of our model further, we seek to incorporate real data into the training. We do this through revisiting the time series mentioned in the previous section, and labelling a further 173 interferograms which we use for training, whilst retaining the original set for further testing. It should be noted that the majority of these feature only atmospheric signals, and so are significantly less time consuming to label than those that feature deformation and require four localisation coordinates. However, 20000 synthetic interferograms were used to train the previous model, and the inclu-
Figure 8: Results of our classification and localisation CNN on our testing set of Sentinel-1 interferograms when the CNN has been trained on synthetic data only. The labelling convention is as per the previous figure (n.b. deformation is in centimetres), but labels in black were manually created. Inspection of these results show that they vary between both the label and localisation being broadly correct (e.g. 3, 10), the localisation correct but the label incorrect (e.g. 2), the label correct but the localisation incorrect (e.g. 6), and both the label and localisation incorrect (e.g. 4). Interferograms 0 – 1 feature Campi Flegrei, 2 features Agung, 3 – 5 feature Sierra Negra, 6 – 10 feature Wolf, and 11 features Cerro Azul.
sion of 173 new interferograms is unlikely to impact the model significantly as these could still be classified poorly with minimal increase in the loss function. We therefore apply data augmentation, which involves creating random flips, rotations, and translations of the interferograms to extend our set of real training data to feature 20000 unique, though often highly correlated, Sentinel-1 interferograms.

Figure 9 shows the results of applying our CNN to the same set of test interferograms used in Section 3.2. Inspection shows greatly improved localisation, with very small errors for interferograms zero, two and three. In this selection of interferograms, false positives are not seen (i.e. cases of “no deformation” that are labelled as dykes and sills), but several cases of false negatives are seen, such as interferograms 4, 7, 9, and 10 (i.e. cases of dykes and sills that are labelled as “no deformation”). The misclassification of interferogram 4 may be explained through the relatively low magnitude of the deformation signal (i.e. in contrast to interferogram 3), whilst interferograms 7, 9, and 10 feature complex signals that span the 2015 eruption of Wolf and were attributed to both changes in the volume of a sill, and propagation of magma to the surface (Xu et al., 2016). As the model was not trained on data that contained multiple deformation signals, the errors seen when this situation is encountered suggests that further work may be needed to incorporate more complex deformation patterns that better reflect the processes that occur at volcanoes.

Considering the entire real training dataset, performance has now increased, and the classification accuracy has risen to 0.83, whilst the localisation loss has decreased to 522. Table 1 compares the two models in a more
detailed manner by considering the classification accuracy and localisation loss for each class of interferogram.

4. Discussion

From the analysis performed in Section 2 we conclude that the incorporation of a DEM into our CNN could not be achieved through the relatively simple step of using it as one channel in multichannel data. This is likely because the weights in the first five convolutional blocks our model were transferred from VGG16 and, as VGG16 was trained using natural images, inputs which are broadly similar across all three channels are required. However, an approach where the weights within the convolutional blocks of a classification and localisation model were trained from scratch, may easily allow for the incorporation of extra data in the different input channels.

Should this approach not be feasible, information such as the DEM may be best incorporated through the use of a two input model, in which one set of convolutional filters are applied to the phase information, whilst a second is applied to the DEM. These two networks could then be merged at the fully connected stage, in much the same way as our fully connected model diverges into two outputs. Should this be successful, it may also provide a method to add further inputs to a model, such as those outputted by a weather model, which may reduce false positives due to occurrences such as a strong topographically correlated APS. However, training the weights of a model from scratch and exploring more complex multi-input model architectures remains beyond the remit of this study.

The results presented in Figure 8 show that a model trained only with
Figure 9: Results of our classification and localisation CNN on our testing set of Sentinel-1 interferograms after incorporating real data into the training. The labelling convention and interferograms are as per Figure 8. This model can be seen to outperform the CNN trained only on synthetic data, with improved classification and localisation. However, several errors remain; e.g., interferogram 4 features a comparatively subtle uplift signal in comparison to others that preceded the 2018 eruption of Sierra Negra and is classified as "no deformation" by the model, whilst the complex co-eruptive signal of interferogram 9 is not located or classified accurately.
| Classification Accuracy [0 – 1] | Synthetic | Synthetic and Real |
|---------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Dyke (3)                        | 0.00      | 0.67               |
| Sill (17)                       | 0.47      | 0.82               |
| No deformation (32)             | 0.81      | 0.84               |
| Combined (52)                   | 0.65      | 0.83               |

| Localisation Loss (pixels)      | Synthetic | Synthetic and Real |
|---------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Dyke (3)                        | 702       | 100                |
| Sill (17)                       | 3366      | 579                |
| No deformation (32)             | 1423      | 531                |
| Combined (52)                   | 2017      | 522                |

Table 1: Summary statistics for CNNs trained either with synthetic data, or with synthetic and real data. For both cases, the models can be seen to achieve good accuracy when classifying interferograms that contain either no deformation or deformation due to the inflation of a sill, but to misclassify interferograms that contain deformation due to an opening dyke (accuracies of 0.00 and 0.67). Significant reduction in localisation loss is also seen for interferograms that contain no deformation (1423 to 531 pixels²), suggesting that the inclusion of real data improves the model’s ability to refrain from interpreting atmospheric signals as the location of deformation.
synthetic data is able to classify and locate deformation signals in Sentinel-1 data. However, it is only successful in cases with particularly clear deformation patterns, and in cases with more subtle signals generally erroneously resorts to labelling these as not containing deformation. It is possible that both of these limitations may be overcome through the use of more realistic synthetic data. The generation of more realistic deformation patterns may be achieved through steps such as more intelligent sampling of the parameters used in the forward models used to generate the deformation patterns, the use of different types of deformation models such as penny-shaped cracks (Fialko et al., 2001), and the superposition of multiple deformation patterns in a single interferogram such as was observed prior to the 2005 eruption of Sierra Negra (Jónsson, 2009). The generation of more realistic atmospheric signals could be achieved through increasing the complexity of synthetic data, such as through the use of phase-elevation ratios that are non-linear or spatially variable, or through using data from different sources. Interferograms that image regions with little deformation could be used to increase the complexity of the set of “no deformation” data, or combined with synthetic deformation patterns to produce more complex semi-synthetic data.

The results presented in Figure 9 show the benefit of incorporating real data. However, much scope for improvement remains, with several classification and localisation errors visible in this figure. The majority of the localisation errors are either in cases in which the deformation signal is slight (e.g. interferogram four of Figure 9), or in interferograms that span the 2015 eruption of Wolf volcano. In the former case, it is natural for a threshold in the signal to noise ratio to exist below which a method is not able to identify
the signal of interest, and these interferograms appear to represent that. In the latter case, the interferograms in question contain complex deformation patterns due to both the opening of a dyke and the removal of magma from a sill below the caldera (Novellis et al., 2017), and the inclusion of either real or synthetic training data that contains multiple deformation patterns may alleviate this shortcoming.

The divergent nature of the two heads (classification and localisation) of our network also allows for discrepancies between their outputs. This is seen in interferogram 10 of Figure 9, in which the localisation head produces a broadly correct output, but the signal is incorrectly labelled as “no deformation”, although with a relatively low confidence. However, we postulate that it may be possible to avoid errors of this type by using more complex model architectures. Models such as YOLO (Redmon et al., 2016) produce bounding boxes and classifications in one step, and have the added bonus of being able to work with images that contain multiple signals. If successfully applied to interferograms, a model of this complexity may avoid the discrepancy errors we encounter, and be able to handle interferograms that contain multiple deformation patterns.

Our approach to localisation avoids the need for repeated classification using a sliding window approach, and allows for our network to reason using the entire image. Whilst this approach is beneficial in terms of advancing the state-of-the-art towards that of a human interpreter, one caveat remains in that building a network that is able to utilise large interferograms can be complex. In our model, we use pixels of three arc second size and, with an input size of $224 \times 224$, the resulting model is able to “see” an approximately
20km square around a volcano. If we wish to proceed at this resolution, our
model’s visual field could be increased through changing the input size to
around 400 × 400 which would not impact our ability to use VGG16’s filters
(or convolutional blocks), but would increase the size of the first layer of the
fully connected part of our network.

At present, an input with side length 224 is reduced to a feature map
with side length 7 (shown in Figure 5) which, combined with a depth of 512,
produces a flattened layer of size $7 \times 7 \times 512 = 25088$. However, doubling
the input side length would double the feature map side length, increasing
the flattened layer to a size of $14 \times 14 \times 512 = 100352$. Whist our model
contains millions of free parameters, connecting this layer to a subsequent
layer would produce a significant increase in the total, and is likely to require
either more ingenuity or more data to be trained successfully. Analysis of the
offsets of deformation patterns at volcanic centres by Ebmeier et al. (2018)
finds that 8% of signals are located more than 10km from a volcanic edifice,
and would therefore be missed by our current model. Future models that
wish to perform localisation using a global approach may therefore require
slight increases in size in order to capture all signals of interest.

5. Conclusion

We find that either wrapped or unwrapped data are approximately equally
suited for use with the weights of VGG16’s filters trained on ImageNet data,
whilst more complex use of the three channel format that these models sup-
port degrades performance. However, we expect this will not be the case if
the weights within VGG16’s filters are trained from scratch, as additional
data such as topography should help to separate deformation from noise.

We combine the five convolutional blocks of VGG16 with two fully connected networks to perform both classification and localisation, which allows our network to reason using the whole interferogram (i.e. avoiding a sliding window approach), and therefore move a step closer to interpreting InSAR data in a manner similar to a human expert. Additionally, our network is able to differentiate between several different forms of deformation.

To minimise the costly nature of labelling data, we initially train our model using only synthetic data. We find that our model generalises well to some cases of Sentinel-1 data, but errors remain in cases such as subtle deformation signals, or unusual atmospheric signals. We alleviate this problem through the inclusion of a small amount of real data during the training phase, and present a model that is able to both classify and locate deformation within ~50 interferograms of ~20km side length.

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