

Simultaneous classification and location of volcanic deformation in SAR interferograms using deep learning and the VolcNet database

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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 through 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, and we release the Python3 code for this as a package named SyInterferoPy. We find that our model’s performance is improved through the inclusion of just a small amount of augmented real Sentinel-1 data, and retrain our model accordingly. We also release this set of labelled training data as a database named VolcNet. 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 wrapped and unwrapped 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, CNN, InSAR, VGG16, VolcNet, SyInterferoPy

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 synthetic aperture radar (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,

8 whilst time series have been used by Gaddes et al. (2018) to detect signs of
9 unrest and by Sun et al. (2020) to detect subtle deformation signals. How-
10 ever, in both of the examples detailed above, each algorithm demonstrates
11 very limited knowledge of the diverse types of deformation that may be mea-
12 sured at volcanoes. The algorithm presented in Anantrasirichai et al. (2019a)
13 assigns all data containing deformation to one label, whilst the algorithm pre-
14 sented in Gaddes et al. (2018) alerts users to changes in the signals present,
15 but does not identify the type of deformation present. Consequently, we seek
16 to improve upon these approaches by developing a CNN that is able to dif-
17 ferentiate between different types of deformation, and to detect the spatial
18 extent of it.

19 Figure 1A shows the hierarchy of computer vision object/signal identification
20 methods. The algorithm presented in Anantrasirichai et al. (2018) contains a
21 model that performs classification and, by breaking larger images into smaller
22 tiles that are each classified, the algorithm as a whole is able to perform lo-
23 calisation. This approach has the limitation that the deep learning model
24 used in this algorithm does not need to learn how to determine the location
25 or size of the object (or signal) of interest, and at a more fundamental level,
26 remains a classification and not localisation model. However, in the field of
27 computer vision, CNNs have been developed that are able to perform both
28 classification and localisation on images that contain either single or multiple
29 objects. The location of an object is either indicated through encompassing it
30 in a rectangle (e.g. localisation or object detection, Simonyan and Zisserman
31 (2014); Redmon et al. (2016)) or, in more complex algorithms, indicating
32 the exact outline of an object by identifying which pixels comprise it (e.g.

33 instance segmentation, He et al. (2017)). These approaches should provide
34 more detailed information on the spatial extent of a signal of interest than a
35 classification model that is repeatedly used on different areas of the represen-
36 tation. Consequently, we endeavour to advance the state of the art through
37 developing a CNN that is able to both localise deformation within an in-
38 terferogram, and to classify different types of deformation (the hierarchy of
39 which we show in Figure 1B).

40 When constructing a CNN to perform both classification and localisation
41 with data derived from SAR satellites, a new CNN could be designed before
42 all the parameters within it are trained. However, this approach has the risk
43 of failing to utilise the successful applications of CNNs to other computer
44 vision problems. When reviewing methods aimed at incorporating previous
45 successful models, the two disparate parts of a CNN must be considered.
46 An example CNN is shown in Figure 1C, in which the convolutional part
47 comprises of filters that are convolved across an image to extract deep repre-
48 sentations, whilst downsampling is performed simultaneously to reduce the
49 spatial extent of an image. In the case of the example network show in in
50 Figure 1C, a three channel (colour) image of size $(224 \times 224 \times 3)$ pixels is
51 transformed into a spatially smaller but deep $(7 \times 7 \times 512)$ representation
52 by this process. In the second part, this 3D representation is flattened into
53 a vector (which in this example would be of size $(7 \times 7 \times 512 = 25088)$),
54 before a traditional neural network comprising of interconnected neurons is
55 used to create the desired model outputs. The size of the last layer of this
56 second part is dependent on features such as the number of different classes
57 present in the data and, in this example case with two neurons in the last

58 layer, would be used in a case in which there were only two different classes.
59 Consequently, when using an existing model on a new problem, any change in
60 the number or type of output classes will require changing the fully connected
61 part of the network. Therefore, it is common to retain the convolutional lay-
62 ers (i.e. part one of the model) and design a new fully connected network (i.e.
63 part two of the model) that outputs the classes required by the new problem.
64 However, this approach still requires the training of a CNN that is likely to
65 contain tens of millions of parameters, which will be both computationally
66 expensive, and require a large volume of training data. AlexNet, a previously
67 state-of-the-art image classification CNN (named after one of the designers,
68 Alex Krizhevsky), has 60 million parameters, was trained on 1.2 million im-
69 ages, and even when implemented on GPUs took around one week to train
70 (Krizhevsky et al., 2012). Therefore, a common approach termed transfer
71 learning is to retain both the structure and weights of the initial convolu-
72 tional layers, and to train only the fully connected part of the network. This
73 approach was successfully used by Anantrasirichai et al. (2018), who used
74 the structure and weights of AlexNet, but created their own fully connected
75 classifier to output whether an interferogram contained deformation or not.

76 The weights learned in the convolutional filters of a CNN are of great impor-
77 tance to a network’s ability to detect features, as the filters must be sensitive
78 to the patterns that these features present in an image. As networks such
79 as AlexNet (Krizhevsky et al., 2012) and VGG16 (Simonyan and Zisserman
80 (2014), named after the University of Oxford Visual Geometry Group) were
81 originally developed to compete in the ImageNet competitions (Deng et al.,
82 2009), the filters have been trained to detect the type of features present in

83 natural images (e.g. photographs of a person, or car). When performing
84 transfer learning, it is these filters that must be sensitive to the patterns
85 presented in a deformation signal if the network is to correctly classify and
86 locate it. However, as interferograms can be expressed in differing formats
87 we also seek to explore which of these formats allows for the filters in models
88 trained on natural images to excel.

89 **2. Classification with different data formats**

90 As the most common CNNs for computer vision are trained on images com-
91 prising of a channel for each of the red, green, and blue values for each pixel,
92 other data that are to be used with the network must also be three channel.
93 However, when considering an image of interferometric phase, these images
94 contain only a single value for each pixel, and so consist of only one channel,
95 and are analogous to a greyscale image. This difference in the number of
96 channels can be circumvented through duplicating the one channel interfer-
97 ogram in each of the three input channels of a CNN, but in this section of
98 our study we wish to determine if this approach can be improved upon.

99 When two SAR images are combined to form a single interferogram, the
100 resulting image is a $2D$ array of complex numbers (Hanssen, 2001). Whilst
101 the magnitude of each of these complex numbers relates to the underlying
102 brightness and coherence of a given pixel, it is common for only the argument
103 to be displayed, as these phase values can be used to infer ground movement.
104 However, the phase values of an interferogram are wrapped in the range
105 $[-\pi, \pi]$ as only the fractional part of the phase value can be measured, but

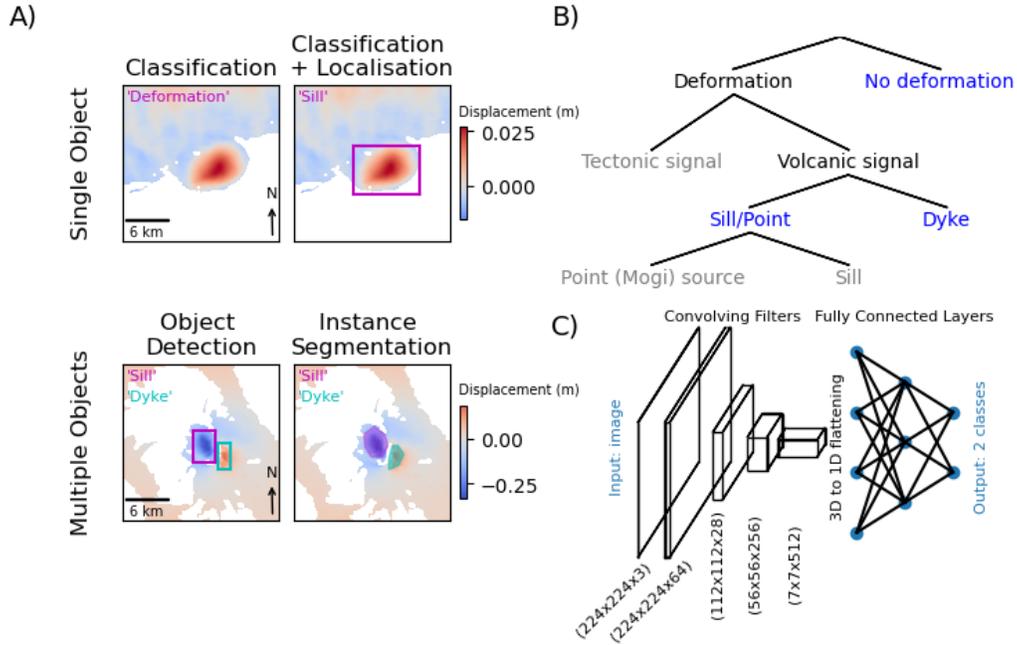


Figure 1: A) Introduction to the hierarchy of computer vision object/signal identification methods. The upper and lower rows show 12 day descending Sentinel-1 interferograms of Sierra Negra and Wolf volcano (Galapagos Archipelago, Ecuador), respectively. The Sierra Negra interferogram contains only one signal (an inflating sill), whilst the Wolf interferogram contains two signals (a deflating sill and an opening dyke). B) Proposed hierarchy for signals of interest in interferograms at volcanic centres. We propose a model that is able to classify interferograms into one of the three classes shown in blue: "no deformation", "Dyke", and "Sill/Point". We envisage that future studies may add further classes which we mark in grey, such as those that differentiate between sills and point sources. C) Overview of a traditional convolutional neural network (CNN), showing how convolving filters and downsampling create a small but deep representation of an image ($(224 \times 224 \times 3)$ to $(7 \times 7 \times 512)$), which is then flattened and passed through a traditional neural network.

106 this ambiguity can be estimated to produce an unwrapped interferogram
107 (Chen and Zebker, 2001). We postulate that in addition to the use of either
108 wrapped or unwrapped data duplicated to fill three channels, the original
109 complex numbers of an interferogram could be used in two channels, and
110 so allow the network to use interferometric amplitude as an indicator of the
111 reliability of the phase.

112 However, we can also consider external data to feed into the CNN. When
113 a human observer interprets an interferogram, they are likely to use data
114 such as a digital elevation model (DEM) as this can be used to help deter-
115 mine if a signal is due to deformation, or due to a topographically-correlated
116 atmospheric phase screen. This problem is of particular importance at stra-
117 tovolcanoes, as the cones typical of these volcanoes can be several kilometres
118 high, and therefore be capable of creating large and spatially stationary sig-
119 nals in interferograms. The body of literature that covers the application of
120 InSAR to volcanic deformation is replete with studies that consider which of
121 the two mechanisms are responsible for the observed signals, and examples
122 include Beauducel et al. (2000); Rémy et al. (2015); Yip et al. (2019). When
123 considering previous attempts at the automatic detection of deformation sig-
124 nals in Sentinel-1 interferograms, Anantrasirichai et al. (2019a) also reported
125 that many of the false positives recovered by their algorithm were caused
126 by signals correlated with topography. Consequently, we postulate that the
127 inclusion of a DEM in the inputs to our CNN will improve its ability to
128 differentiate between deformation signals and atmospheric signals that are
129 correlated with topography, and therefore seek to investigate its use as an
130 input into a multichannel model.

131 To perform this analysis, we first synthesise a dataset of labelled interfero-
132 grams. To achieve this, we have created an open source Python3 package
133 named SyInterferoPy, which we make freely available to the community via
134 GitHub: <https://github.com/matthew-gaddes/SyInterferoPy>. The col-
135 lection of enough labelled data to train a CNN is commonly time consuming
136 or expensive, and we find that the addition of localisation labels to our data
137 makes it more time consuming than in previous studies. Additionally, due to
138 the large number of data that are required to train CNNs and our expansion
139 to classification of different types of deformation, procuring enough real data
140 to do this may be not possible. Consequently, we perform this analysis using
141 only synthetic data. Following the hierarchy proposed in Figure 1B, we cre-
142 ate interferograms that contain either no deformation, deformation due to an
143 opening dyke, or deformation due to a sill or point source. These sources were
144 chosen after reviewing the database of volcanic deformation events measured
145 using InSAR in Biggs et al. (2014) as we believe they cover the majority of the
146 observed signals that are of importance for volcano monitoring (i.e. we disre-
147 gard signals due to processes such as the cooling of lava flows). We model the
148 dykes as vertical dislocations with uniform opening in an elastic half space
149 (Okada, 1985) with strikes in the range $[0, 359^\circ]$, dips in the range $[75, 90^\circ]$,
150 openings in the range $[0.1, 0.7]$ m, top depths in the range $[0, 2]$ km, bottom
151 depths in the range $[0, 8]$ km, and lengths in the range $[0, 10]$ km. We model
152 the sill/point sources as horizontal dislocations with uniform opening in an
153 elastic half space (Okada, 1985) with strikes in the range $[0, 359^\circ]$, dips in the
154 range $[0, 5^\circ]$, openings in the range $[0.2, 1]$ m, depths in the range $[1.5, 3.5]$
155 km, and widths and lengths in the range $[2, 6]$ km. It should be noted that

156 our proposed hierarchy of volcanic deformation signals also includes processes
157 that could be modelled as a point pressure source (commonly referred to as
158 a “Mogi” source (Mogi, 1958)) within the sill/point category, but given that
159 we do not envisage that a deep learning model using satellite data from only
160 one look angle (i.e. ascending or descending) would be able to differentiate
161 between these two models, we generate our synthetic data using only one of
162 them for simplicity.

163 These deformation patterns are then combined with a topographically cor-
164 related atmospheric phase screen (APS), and a turbulent APS, which we
165 discuss generating in more detail in Gaddes et al. (2018). We calculate the
166 topographically correlated APS using the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission
167 (SRTM) 90m DEM (Farr et al., 2007), and use the coastline information con-
168 tained within the product to mask areas of water. We also synthesise areas
169 of incoherence within our interferograms, which we mask in order for our
170 synthetic interferograms to be as similar as possible to the Sentinel-1 inter-
171 ferograms automatically created by the LiCSAR processor (Lazecký et al.,
172 2020). Figure 2 shows the results of mixing these different elements to cre-
173 ate our synthetic interferograms, and the range of sizes of deforming regions
174 that the different deformation model parameters produce (e.g. Interferogram
175 2 versus Interferogram 3).

176 This process creates unwrapped data, which can be converted to wrapped
177 data through finding modulo 2π of the unwrapped phase. However, to syn-
178 thesise both the real and imaginary part of a complex interferogram requires
179 knowledge of both the brightness of a pixel and its phase. To achieve this, we
180 again use the SRTM DEM, and calculate the intensity of reflected electro-

181 magnetic radiation at the angles of incidence used by the Sentinel-1 satellites
182 ($29.1 - 46.0^\circ$), before adding speckle noise, and calculating the interferomet-
183 ric amplitude between two images (i.e. the product of the two amplitudes).
184 As inputs to CNNs that are to be trained using transfer learning must be
185 rescaled to the inputs used in the original training data, we use only relative
186 values in the range $[(-1), -1]$ for the synthetic intensities. With knowledge of
187 the modulus (relative intensity) and argument (wrapped phase) of each pixel
188 of our synthetic interferogram, the real/imaginary components are simply
189 the products of the modulus and cosine/sine of the argument, respectively.
190 Figure 3 shows five different ways we can represent an interferogram using
191 the three channels available.

192 The CNN we build to classify the synthetic interferograms uses the five con-
193 volutional blocks of VGG16 (Simonyan and Zisserman, 2014), with our own
194 fully connected network after this. This network was chosen as, when used
195 in the field of computer vision for classifying natural images, it outperformed
196 older models such as AlexNet (Simonyan and Zisserman, 2014), which is used
197 in the algorithm presented in Anantrasirichai et al. (2018). Figure 4B shows
198 an overview of the model, in which interferograms of shape $(224 \times 224 \times 3)$ are
199 passed through the five convolutional blocks of VGG16 to create a tensor of
200 shape $(7 \times 7 \times 512)$. This is flattened to make a vector of size 25,088, before
201 being passed through fully connected layers of size 256, 128, and an output
202 layer of size three (i.e., dyke, sill/point, or no deformation). The localisa-
203 tion output shown in the figure is not used in our preliminary exploration
204 of which channel format to use (Section 2), but is used in Section 3. To
205 produce a set of outputs that can be used as probabilities, we use a softmax

206 activation for the last layer (Bridle, 1990), but on the remaining layers we
207 use rectified linear units (ReLus) to reduce computation time (Agostinelli
208 et al., 2014). As our model seeks to solve a classification problem, we use
209 categorical cross entropy for the loss function, which we seek to reduce using
210 the Nadam optimizer as this does not require the choice of a learning rate
211 (Dozat, 2016).

212 To train the model using the five different types of synthetic data, we perform
213 what is termed “bottleneck learning” in machine learning literature (e.g. Yu
214 and Seltzer (2011)). This is shown in Figure 4A, and comprises of first
215 computing the results from passing our entire dataset through the first five
216 blocks of VGG16, before then training only the fully connected parts of our
217 network (i.e. the classification output). This method is highly efficient as
218 we do not generally wish to update the weights in the convolutional blocks
219 of VGG16, yet passing the data through these blocks is computationally
220 expensive. By passing the data through the convolutional blocks just once,
221 we can then repeat only the relatively inexpensive passes of the data through
222 the fully connected parts of our network as we update the weights contained
223 within these layers.

224 A common problem of CNNs that are used for classification can be overfitting
225 of the training data, which results in a model that generalises to new data
226 poorly (Krizhevsky et al., 2012). We endeavour to limit this through the
227 use of dropout (Srivastava et al., 2014) before both the 256 and 128 neuron
228 layers, as through randomly removing some connections during each pass
229 of the data through our model, this method aims to ensure that our model
230 is forced to learn more robust representations of the training data. As we

231 use synthetic data, we are not limited by the usual cost of collecting labelled
232 data, and therefore are able to generate 20000 unique interferograms that are
233 evenly distributed between classes without the use of data augmentation.

234 Figure 5 shows the results of training five models with each of the data
235 formats previously discussed. The highest classification accuracy achieved is
236 ~ 0.95 , which is achieved when the models are trained with either wrapped or
237 unwrapped data repeated across the three input channels. However, it should
238 be noted that the accuracy of the unwrapped phase model takes the full 20
239 epochs to achieve this performance, which contrasts with the wrapped phase
240 model which shows little change after the eighth epoch. Inclusion of the
241 DEM as the third channel appears to reduce classification accuracy, whilst
242 very low accuracies are achieved in the real and imaginary channel case. We
243 discuss these results in more detail in Section 4, but for the remainder of the
244 paper we choose to work with data that is unwrapped and repeated across the
245 three input channels. We choose this approach as no significant differences
246 are seen between the classification accuracy ultimately achieved with either
247 wrapped or unwrapped data, but the use of unwrapped data may allow for
248 a model to be used with unwrapped time series, and so detect subtle signals
249 produced by low strain rate processes. Additionally, a model that works with
250 unwrapped data may also provide the opportunity to be expanded to locate
251 and classify unwrapping errors automatically.

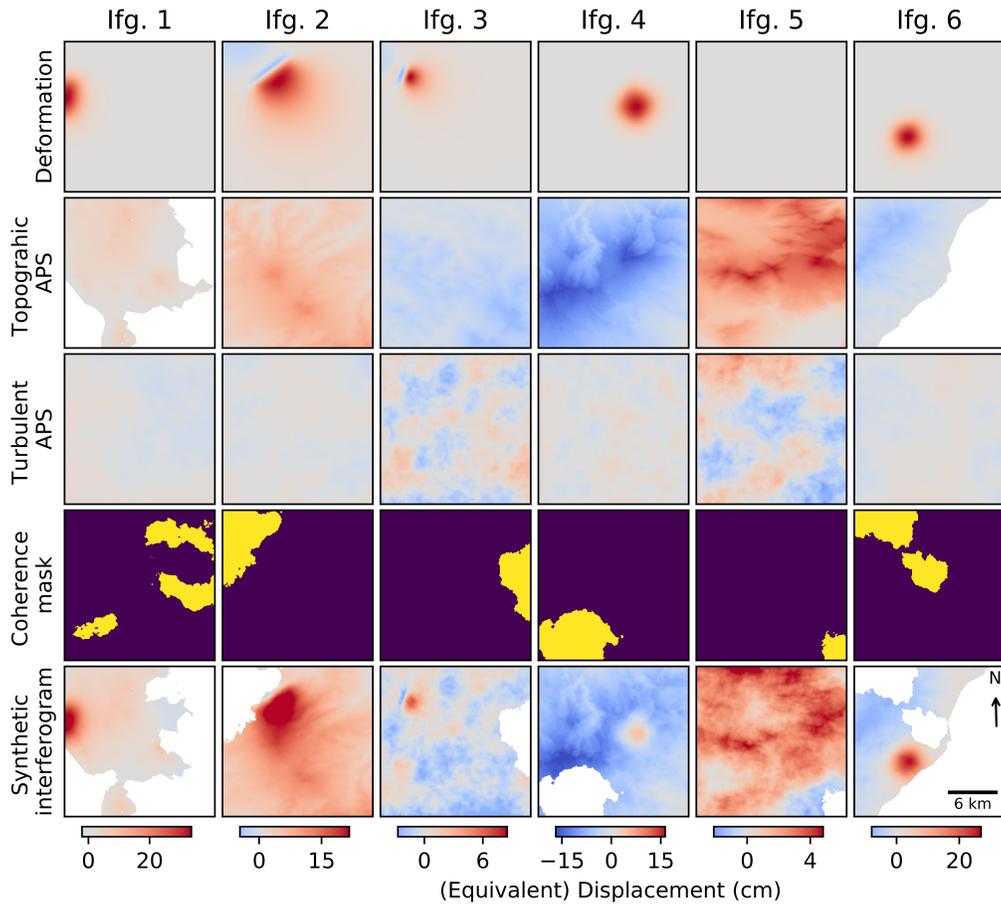


Figure 2: An example of the constituent parts of seven synthetic interferograms. Interferogram 5 does not feature deformation, interferograms 1, 4, and 6 feature deformation due to an sill/point source, and interferograms 2 – 3 feature deformation due to an opening dyke. These signals are geocoded and 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.

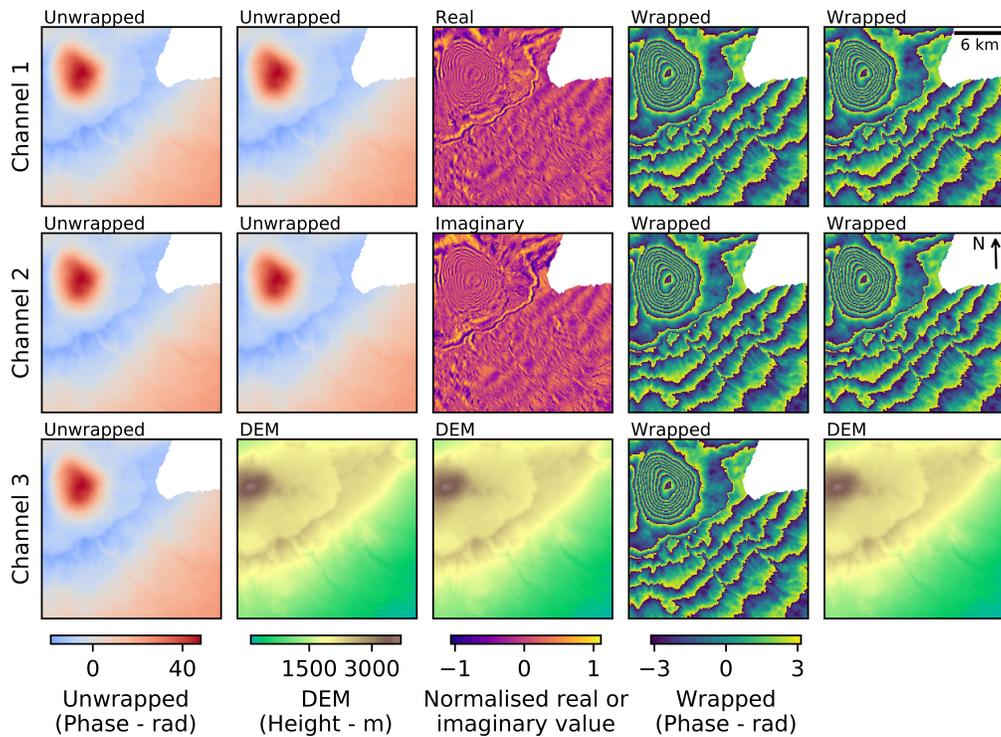


Figure 3: Organisation of an interferogram into three channel form. Columns one and two feature unwrapped data that is repeated, and in column two the DEM is included as the third channel. In column three the real and imaginary elements of the complex values of each pixel of an interferogram occupy channels 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.

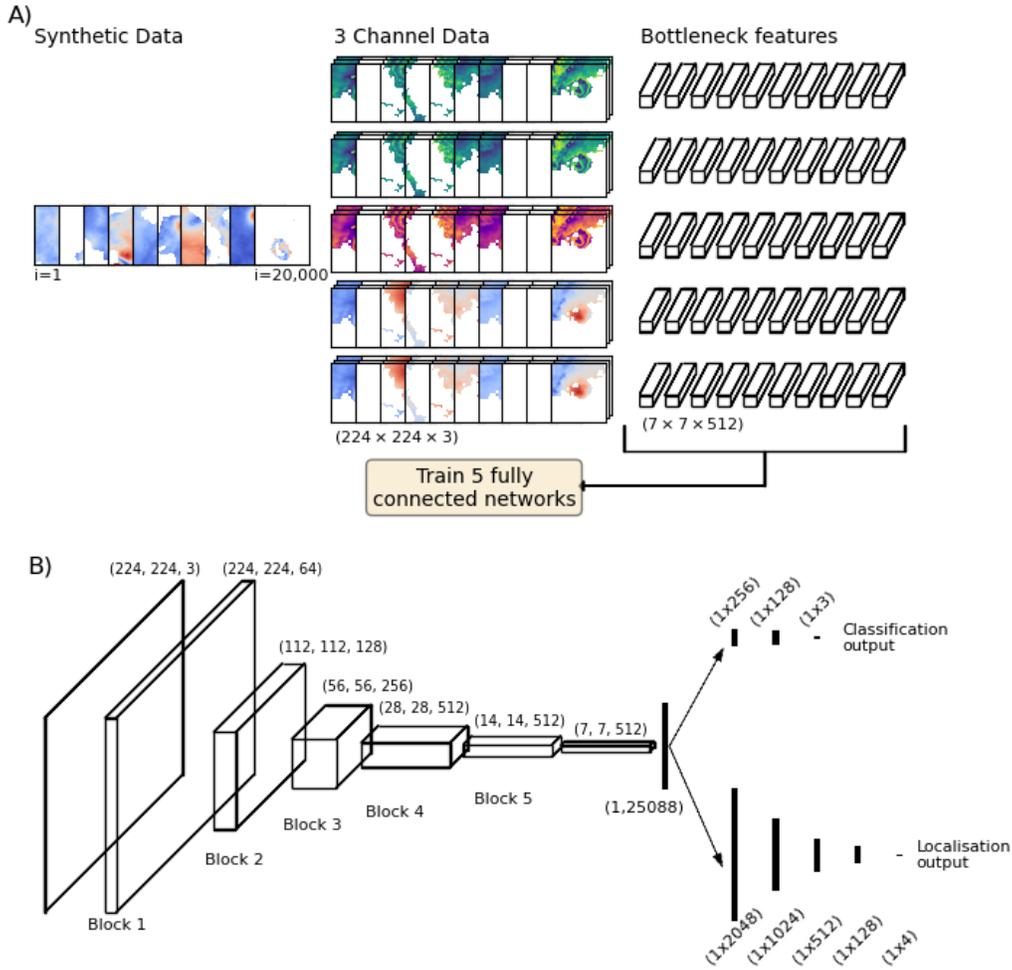


Figure 4: A) Overview of our approach to creating a dataset of synthetic interferograms, arranging these into the five different three channel formats, computing the bottleneck features for each piece of data, and training the fully connected layers of a CNN B)Structure of our classification and localisation 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 (7×512) . 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.

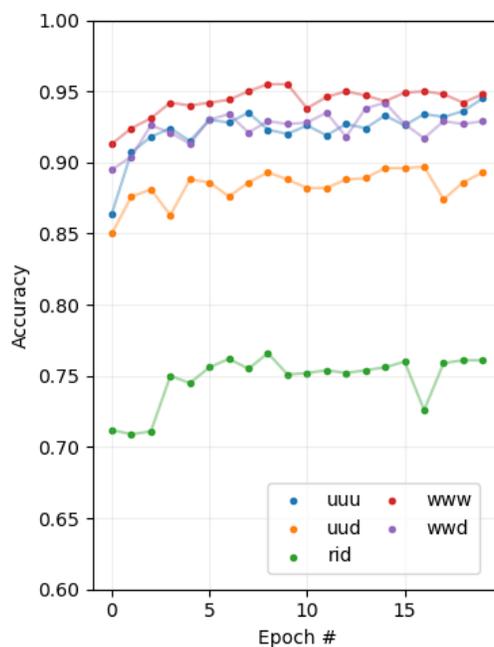


Figure 5: Accuracy of classifying validation data (10% of the total) during training using three channel data arranged in different formats. “u”: unwrapped data, “w”: wrapped data, “d”: DEM, “r” real component of interferogram, “i”: imaginary component of interferogram. Low accuracy is seen for the “rid” 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).

252 3. Classification and localisation

253 3.1. Using synthetic data

254 In the previous section, we demonstrated that, when using VGG16 with con-
255 volutional weights learned on ImageNet data, roughly optimal performance
256 for classifying synthetic interferograms is achieved when either the wrapped
257 or unwrapped phase is repeated across the three input channels. We choose
258 to progress with only the unwrapped phase model, as the computational
259 cost of unwrapping is often already met by automatic processing systems
260 (e.g. LiCSAR, Lazecký et al. (2020)), and the development of models that
261 use unwrapped phase may lead to benefits such as the ability to classify and
262 locate unwrapping errors. In this section, we build on the model used to
263 perform classification by adding localisation output. We also endeavour to
264 ascertain if the expense of collecting labelled data can be avoided entirely
265 through the continued use of synthetic data when training our model.

266 We achieve both classification and localisation through dividing the fully
267 connected section of our model to produce two distinct outputs. One output
268 returns the class of the input data in the manner described in Section 2, whilst
269 the second returns the location and size of any deformation within the scene.
270 In machine learning parlance, models of this type are termed double headed,
271 and we subsequently refer to either of the outputs and their corresponding
272 preceding layers as either the classification head or localisation head. Figure
273 4B shows the structure of the two heads, and how they diverge after the
274 output of the fifth block of VGG16 has been flattened. The localisation head
275 is structured in a similar manner to the model described in Simonyan and

276 Zisserman (2014), in which the model conveys the location of any deformation
277 through outputting a column vector containing four values. Two of these
278 values determine the centre of the deformation pattern and two display its
279 horizontal and vertical extent. Together, these four values can be used to
280 construct a box encompassing a deformation pattern. However, we find that
281 an acceptable level of localisation performance cannot be achieved with a fully
282 connected network with the same complexity as the classification head, and
283 were required to increase both the number and size of layers in the localisation
284 head’s fully connected network. Experimentation finds that the simplest
285 model capable of achieving good performance has five layers consisting of
286 2048, 1024, 512, 128, and 4 neurons.

287 We use the mean squared error between the predicted location vector and
288 the labelled location vector as our localisation loss function, which we seek to
289 minimise. When using three arc second pixels ($\sim 90\text{m}$) with a loss function
290 of this type, a mean square error of 400 pixels would correspond to the
291 localisation being incorrect by around $\sqrt{400} = 20$ pixels, or $\sim 2\text{km}$. However,
292 when using a double headed network, training is complicated by the fact
293 that the model’s overall loss is now a combination of the classification and
294 localisation loss, which must be balanced using a hyperparameter commonly
295 termed loss weighting. We experiment with this hyperparameter, and find
296 that a value of 0.95 for the classification loss and 0.05 for the localisation
297 loss provides a good balance between the two outputs. This value proves
298 suitable as the localisation loss is significantly larger than the classification
299 loss, but by weighting them unequally they then contribute to the overall
300 loss approximately equally.

301 An overview of how we trained our model is provided in Figure 6A, but it
302 should be noted that in this step we use only synthetic data. To train our
303 model computationally efficiently, we again employ bottleneck learning, but
304 to improve the performance of our network, we also seek to improve the
305 filters learned within the convolutional blocks. We perform this by changing
306 the style of learning after the 10th epoch, and switch from updating only
307 the fully connected layers, to also including the 5th convolutional block in
308 our updates. However, in contrast to the computationally cheap process of
309 passing only the bottleneck features through the fully connected part of the
310 network, we must now pass the images through both the convolutional and
311 fully connected part of the network. Care is also required with the learning
312 rate when starting the new style of training after the 10th epoch, as too
313 large a learning rate would quickly destroy the finely tuned values in both
314 the convolutional blocks of VGG16, and our fully connected classification
315 and localisation heads. We circumvent this through switching the optimizer
316 to stochastic gradient descent (SGD) and setting the learning rate manually.
317 We find that a value of 1.5×10^{-8} does not degrade the performance already
318 gained during training, but still allows for the validation localisation loss
319 to decrease from ~ 800 to ~ 700 pixels (i.e. a mean error of ~ 2.6 km), and
320 the classification accuracy to increase from ~ 0.8 to ~ 0.85 . This increase in
321 model performance is shown in Figure 6B.

322 Figure 7 shows the results of applying our trained classification and localisa-
323 tion model to a random selection of the testing data (i.e., 10% of the data,
324 to which the model was not exposed to during training). In the majority
325 of cases, the classification can be seen to be accurate, and the localisation

326 approximately correct. When considering the entire test set of data (i.e. not
327 just the subset shown in Figure 7), the classification accuracy is 0.89, whilst
328 the localisation loss is ~ 700 . It should be noted that we could also report the
329 classification loss (0.31), but we believe this is less useful than the accuracy.
330 However, in the localisation case, accuracy is not a meaningful measure of
331 the fidelity of the output, as it is instead a regression problem in which we
332 aim to approximate the correct values, which are continuous in nature. In a
333 manner similar to that reported for the validation data, the localisation loss
334 (mean squared error) of ~ 700 pixels corresponds to a mean error of ~ 2.6 km
335 (when using three arc second pixels).

336 *3.2. Application to real data*

337 Whilst the model described in the previous section achieved good perfor-
338 mance when classifying and locating deformation in synthetic interferograms,
339 for use in automatic detection algorithms we require our CNN to work with
340 Sentinel-1 data. These data are of particular importance for volcano moni-
341 toring, as the European Space Agency’s data policy ensures that Sentinel-1
342 data are available quickly and at no cost, whilst the low revisit times ensure
343 that the majority of sub-aerial volcanoes are imaged at least every 12 days.
344 To test our model with Sentinel-1 data, we apply our CNN to a collection of
345 52 interferograms for which we have performed the time consuming task of
346 labelling both the class and location of deformation within them. However,
347 in some examples assigning a single class to a complex deformation pattern
348 is difficult, and we instead assign what we deem the dominant class to be,
349 whilst expecting that the network should assign some probability to other

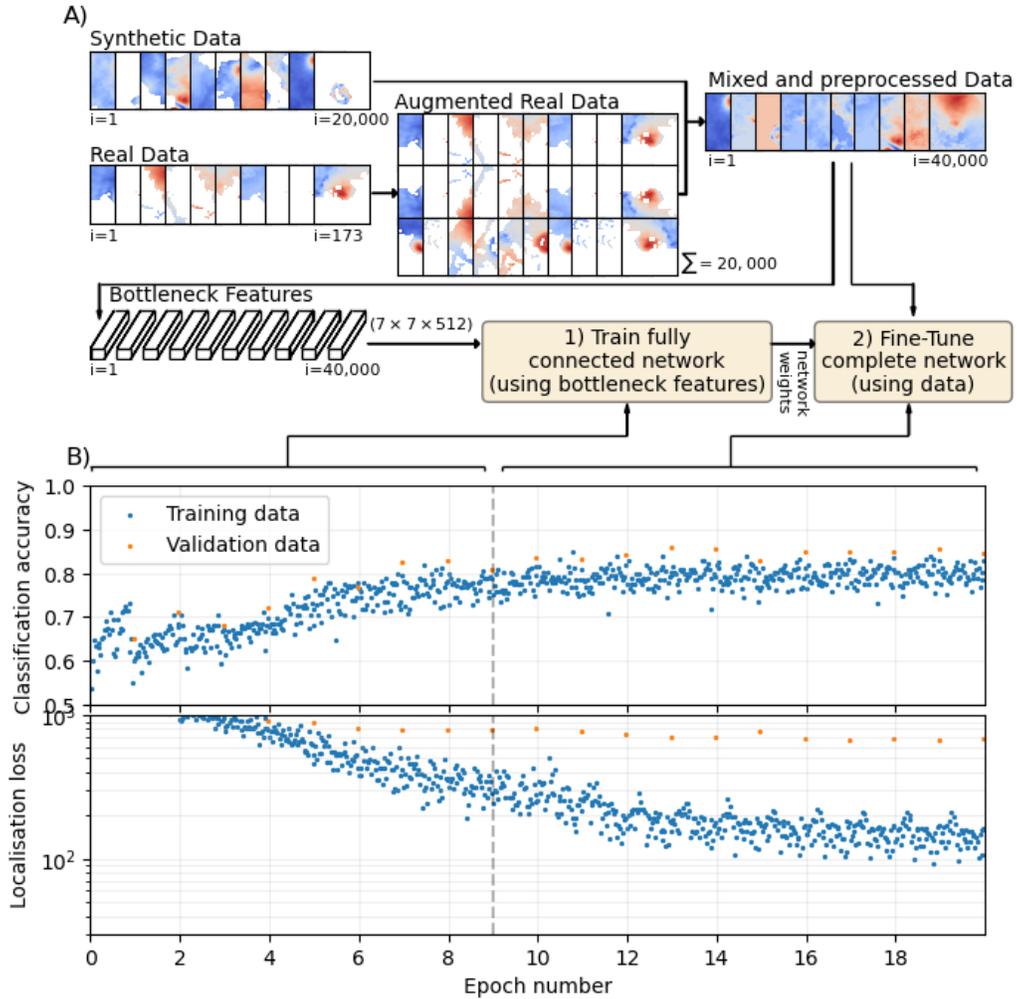


Figure 6: A) Overview of our approach to training our model, in which bottleneck features are used to train only the fully connected network, before the original data are used to fine tune the 5th convolutional block and the fully connected network B) Summary of training the two headed model with synthetic data. The upper plot shows the accuracy of the classification head, whilst the lower plot shows the loss function for the localisation head. To the left of the vertical dashed line bottleneck learning occurred, and to the right traditional learning occurred. This extra learning stage allows the localisation loss for the validation data to decrease from ~ 800 to ~ 700 , and for the classification accuracy of the validation data to increase from ~ 0.80 to ~ 0.85 .

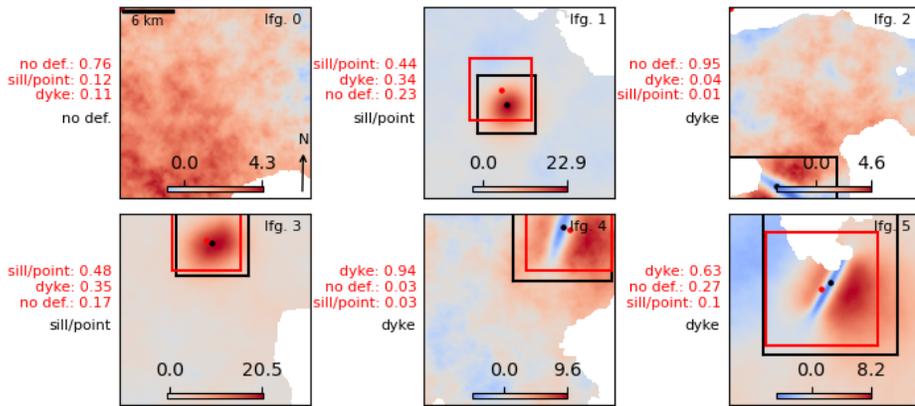


Figure 7: Results of our classification and localisation CNN on the (synthetic) testing data. Deformation units are centimetres, black class labels and location boxes were generated from the synthetic data and encompass all areas with over 5 cm of deformation, whilst red depicts those predicted by the 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.

350 classes. This is most evident in interferograms seven, nine and ten of Figure 8
351 that span the 2015 eruption of Wolf Volcano (Galapagos, Ecuador), in which
352 signals were attributed to both the deflation of a sill and the opening of a
353 dyke (Novellis et al., 2017; Xu et al., 2016).

354 The interferograms used come from either a collection of time series that were
355 created by the authors of this study, or by the LiCSAR automatic interfero-
356 gram processor (<https://comet.nerc.ac.uk/COMET-LiCS-portal/>), and fea-
357 ture the volcanoes Campi Flegrei, Agung, Wolf, Sierra Negra, and Alcedo.
358 We filtered the interferograms with a Goldstein filter (Goldstein and Werner,
359 1998), unwrapped using SNAPHU (Chen and Zebker, 2001), and masked pix-
360 els with an average coherence below 0.7. For the Galapagos volcanoes (Wolf,
361 Sierra Negra, and Cerro Azul), deformation is visible in some of the 12 day
362 interferograms, but the deformation signal at Campi Flegrei is more sub-
363 tle, and we are required to manually create interferograms with temporal
364 baselines of 24/36/48/60 days in order for the deformation to be visible in
365 a single interferogram. The deformation signal at Agung was attributed to
366 the opening of a dyke (Albino et al., 2019), but due to the short lived na-
367 ture of this event, is only visible in a relatively small number of the “daisy
368 chain” of short temporal baseline interferograms. To increase the number of
369 interferograms available, we again produce a selection of 24/36/48/60 day
370 interferograms that span the event.

371 Figure 8 shows the results of applying our trained classification and localisa-
372 tion model to a quasi-random selection of Sentinel-1 interferograms. Inter-
373 ferograms such as Interferogram 3 show a very clear inflation signal at Sierra
374 Negra, and are correctly classified by the CNN (“sill/point”), whilst the lo-

375 calisation is broadly correct. Other promising results include the labelling of
376 the three Wolf coeruptive interferograms (seven, nine and ten) as containing
377 a sill (“sill/point”), which is also localised well. However, some interfero-
378 grams are poorly classified, such as the subtle signal seen in interferogram
379 zero. The divergent nature of our CNN’s two heads also leads to outputs
380 that show disagreement between them. Interferogram 11 demonstrates this,
381 in which it is correctly classified as containing no deformation, but features
382 an incorrect localisation output.

383 Considering the entire real testing dataset, the classification accuracy is 0.65,
384 whilst the localisation loss is ~ 2017 . We discuss the results of this model
385 more fully in Section 4, but in the following section we seek to improve
386 the performance of our model through the inclusion of real data during the
387 training stage.

388 *3.3. Augmentation of training data with the VolcNet database of Sentinel-1* 389 *data*

390 To increase the performance of our model further, we seek to incorporate
391 real data into the training. We do this through revisiting the time series
392 that were used to generate the test dataset of 52 interferograms (Section
393 3.2), and labelling a further 173 interferograms which we use for training,
394 whilst retaining the original set for further testing. This number was cho-
395 sen as it was the largest that could be created from several time series that
396 were readily available and, whilst we acknowledge that more labelled real
397 data is likely to improve our model, the creation of a significantly larger
398 database remains outside the scope of this paper. Additionally, the use of

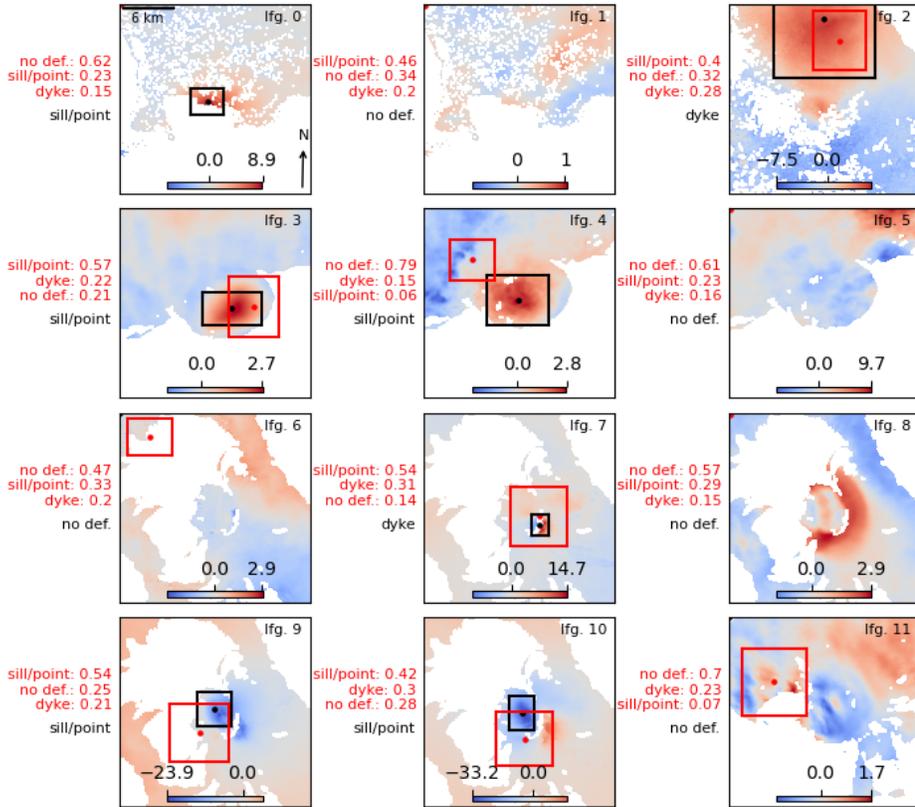


Figure 8: Results of our classification and localisation CNN on our testing set of Sentinel-1 interferograms when the CNN has been trained on synthetic data only. The labelling convention is as per the previous figure (n.b. deformation is in centimetres), but labels in black were manually created. Inspection 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.

399 a relatively small number of real data allows for greater care to be taken in
400 their labelling, and so reduce the probability of labelling errors occurring.
401 We also make the combined database of $173 + 52 = 225$ training and test-
402 ing data and their labels freely available via GitHub, and term this database
403 VolcNet: <https://github.com/matthew-gaddes/VolcNet>. However, 20000
404 synthetic interferograms were used to train the previous model, and the in-
405 clusion of 173 new interferograms is unlikely to impact the model significantly
406 as these could still be classified poorly with minimal increase in the loss func-
407 tion. We therefore apply data augmentation, which involves creating random
408 flips, rotations, and translations of the interferograms to extend our set of
409 real training data to feature 20000 unique, though often highly correlated,
410 Sentinel-1 interferograms. With the exception of including real data, we train
411 our model in the same computationally efficient manner as described in the
412 previous section, which we show schematically in Figure 6B.

413 Figure 9 shows the results of applying our CNN to the same set of test
414 interferograms used in Section 3.2. Inspection shows greatly improved lo-
415 calisation, with very small errors for interferograms zero, two and three. In
416 this selection of interferograms, false positives are not seen (i.e. cases of “no
417 deformation” that are labelled as dykes and sills), but several cases of false
418 negatives are seen, such as interferograms 4, 7, 9, and 10 (i.e. cases of dykes
419 and sills that are labelled as “no deformation”). The misclassification of in-
420 terferogram 4 may be explained through the relatively low signal-to-noise
421 ratio of the deformation signal (i.e. in contrast to interferogram 3), whilst
422 interferograms 7, 9, and 10 feature complex signals that span the 2015 erup-
423 tion of Wolf and were attributed to both changes in the volume of a sill, and

424 propagation of magma to the surface (Xu et al., 2016). As the model was
425 not trained on data that contained multiple deformation signals, the errors
426 seen when this situation is encountered suggests that further work may be
427 needed to incorporate more complex deformation patterns that better reflect
428 the processes that occur at volcanoes.

429 Considering the entire real testing dataset, performance has now increased,
430 and the classification accuracy has risen to 0.83, whilst the localisation loss
431 has decreased to 522. Table 1 compares the two models in a more detailed
432 manner by considering the classification accuracy and localisation loss for
433 each class of interferogram. As this is our best performing network, we
434 name it VUDL-NET-21 (“Volcanic Unrest Detection and Localisation NET,
435 2021), and make all the code required to train it freely available on GitHub:
436 https://github.com/matthew-gaddes/VUDLNet_21

437 **4. Discussion**

438 From the analysis performed in Section 2 we conclude that the incorporation
439 of a DEM into our CNN could not be achieved through the relatively simple
440 step of using it as one channel in multichannel data. This is likely because
441 the weights in the first five convolutional blocks of our model were trans-
442 ferred from VGG16 and, as VGG16 was trained using natural images, inputs
443 which are broadly similar across all three channels are required. It should be
444 noted that we rescaled our training data to lie in the same range as the data
445 that VGG16 was trained on (described further in Section 2), and therefore
446 the lack of similarity across channels we refer to is not due to different mag-

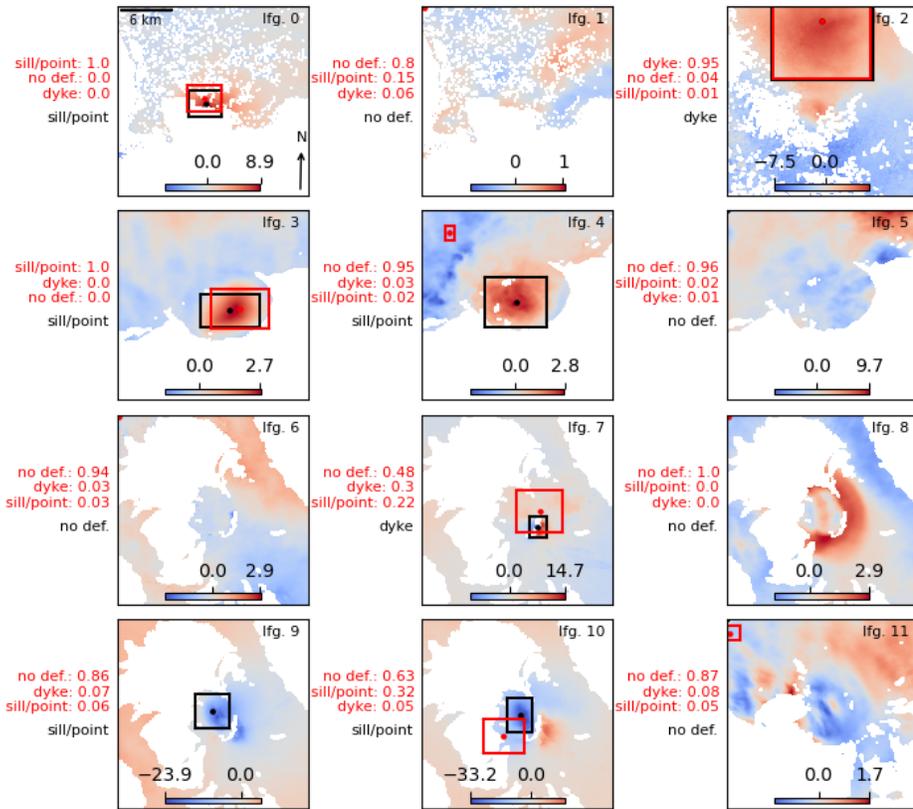


Figure 9: Results of our classification and localisation CNN on our testing set of Sentinel-1 interferograms after incorporating real data into the training. The labelling convention and interferograms are as per Figure 8. This model can be seen to outperform the CNN trained only on synthetic data, with 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/Point (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/Point (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. Combined refers to the complete set of testing data. For both cases, the models can be seen to achieve good accuracy when classifying interferograms that contain either no deformation or deformation due a sill or point source, 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.

447 nitudes, but rather, different spatial patterns. However, an approach where
448 the weights within the convolutional blocks of a classification and localisa-
449 tion model were trained from scratch, may easily allow for the incorporation
450 of extra data in the different input channels. Should this approach not be
451 feasible, information such as the DEM may be best incorporated through
452 the use of a two input model, in which one set of convolutional filters are
453 applied to the phase information, whilst a second is applied to the DEM.
454 These two networks could then be merged at the fully connected stage, in
455 much the same way as our fully connected model diverges into two outputs.
456 Should this be successful, it may also provide a method to add further inputs
457 to a model, such as those outputted by a weather model, which may reduce
458 false positives due to occurrences such as a strong topographically correlated
459 APS. However, training the weights of a model from scratch and exploring
460 more complex multi-input model architectures remains beyond the remit of
461 this study.

462 The results presented in Figure 8 show that a model trained only with syn-
463 thetic data is able to classify and locate deformation signals in Sentinel-1
464 data. However, it is only successful in cases with particularly clear defor-
465 mation patterns, and in cases with more subtle signals generally erroneously
466 resorts to labelling these as not containing deformation. It is possible that
467 both of these limitations may be overcome through the use of more realistic
468 synthetic data, as our result suggests that our current methodology does not
469 describe processes well enough to be used without real data. The generation
470 of more realistic deformation patterns may be achieved through steps such as
471 more intelligent sampling of the parameters used in the forward models used

472 to generate the deformation patterns, the use of different types of deforma-
473 tion models such as penny-shaped cracks (Fialko et al., 2001) or point/Mogi
474 sources (Mogi, 1958), and the superposition of multiple deformation patterns
475 in a single interferogram such as was observed prior to the 2005 eruption of
476 Sierra Negra (Jónsson, 2009). The generation of more realistic atmospheric
477 signals could be achieved through increasing the complexity of synthetic data,
478 such as through the use of phase-elevation ratios that are non-linear or spa-
479 tially variable, or through using data from different sources. Interferograms
480 that image regions with little deformation could be used to increase the
481 complexity of the set of “no deformation” data, or combined with synthetic
482 deformation patterns to produce more complex semi-synthetic data.

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

496 The divergent nature of the two heads (classification and localisation) of our

497 network also allows for discrepancies between their outputs. This is seen
498 in interferogram 10 of Figure 9, in which the localisation head produces a
499 broadly correct output, but the signal is incorrectly labelled as “no defor-
500 mation”, although with a relatively low confidence. However, we postulate
501 that it may be possible to avoid errors of this type by using more complex
502 model architectures. Models such as YOLO (Redmon et al., 2016) produce
503 bounding boxes and classifications in one step, and have the added bonus
504 of being able to work with images that contain multiple signals. If success-
505 fully applied to interferograms, a model of this complexity may avoid the
506 discrepancy errors we encounter, and be able to handle interferograms that
507 contain multiple deformation patterns. In the case that multiple signals do
508 exist in a single interferogram, we do not envisage these to be difficult to
509 label as it is likely that these would be considered interesting events by the
510 scientific community and therefore be the subject of detailed study (e.g. the
511 multi-signal interferograms used in this study are analysed in detail in (Xu
512 et al., 2016)).

513 Our approach to localisation avoids the need for repeated classification using
514 a sliding window approach, and allows for our network to reason using the
515 entire image. Whilst this approach is beneficial in terms of advancing the
516 state-of-the-art towards that of a human interpreter, one caveat remains in
517 that building a network that is able to utilise large interferograms can be
518 complex. In our model, we use pixels of three arc second size and, with an
519 input size of 224×224 , the resulting model is able to “see” an approximately
520 20km square around a volcano. If we wish to proceed at this resolution, our
521 model’s visual field could be increased through changing the input size to

522 around 400×400 which would not impact our ability to use VGG16's filters
523 (or convolutional blocks), but would increase the size of the first layer of the
524 fully connected part of our network.

525 At present, an input with side length 224 is reduced to a feature map with
526 side length 7 (shown in Figure 4) which, combined with a depth of 512,
527 produces a flattened layer of size $7 \times 7 \times 512 = 25088$. However, doubling
528 the input side length would double the feature map side length, increasing
529 the flattened layer to a size of $14 \times 14 \times 512 = 100352$. Whilst our model
530 contains millions of free parameters, connecting this layer to a subsequent
531 layer would produce a significant increase in the total, and is likely to require
532 either more ingenuity or more data to be trained successfully. Analysis of the
533 offsets of deformation patterns at volcanic centres by Ebmeier et al. (2018)
534 finds that 8% of signals are located more than 10km from a volcanic edifice,
535 and would therefore be missed by our current model. Future models that
536 wish to perform localisation using a global approach may therefore require
537 slight increases in size in order to capture all signals of interest.

538 **5. Conclusion**

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

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

551 To minimise the costly nature of labelling data, we initially train our model
552 using only synthetic data. We find that our model generalises well to some
553 cases of Sentinel-1 data, but errors remain in cases such as subtle deformation
554 signals, or unusual atmospheric signals. We alleviate this problem through
555 the inclusion of a small amount of real data during the training phase, and
556 present a model that is able to both classify and locate deformation within
557 ~ 50 interferograms of ~ 20 km side length.

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569 (Hunter, 2007), and all CNN work was carried out in KERAS using the
570 TensorFlow backend.

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