

SPECTRAL ANOMALY DETECTION FOR THE MAPPING IMAGING SPECTROMETER FOR EUROPA (MISE). K. L. Wagstaff¹, D. L. Blaney¹, S. Chakraborty^{1,2}, S. A. Chien¹, A. G. Davies¹, S. Diniega¹, and G. Doran¹, ¹Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena, CA, 91109-8099, USA (kiri.wagstaff@jpl.caltech.edu), ²Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, 85381, USA.

Introduction: The Europa Clipper mission [1], scheduled to launch in 2023, will conduct 40+ flybys of Jupiter’s moon Europa and collect observations using nine instruments. Each flyby is likely to reveal new discoveries about Europa that will increase our understanding of the subsurface ocean and influence future mission plans. Due to the distance between Europa and Earth, Clipper will be downlink-limited: the instruments have the ability to collect more data than can be transmitted. Traditional mission planning operations will tailor each flyby’s data collection activities to fit the available resources (time, power, and downlink). We are exploring software advances that would enable Clipper to collect additional data, analyze it onboard to assign downlink priorities, and potentially increase science return without increasing downlink consumption.

Spacecraft onboard data analysis: Several missions have demonstrated the ability to analyze data *in situ* and make decisions about downlink priorities and follow-up observations. The EO-1 spacecraft in Earth orbit analyzed hyperspectral data from the Hyperion instrument to detect floods and volcanic eruptions [2], detect surface sulfur deposits (a potential Europa analogue biosignature) [3], and assess image quality in terms of cloud cover to optimize downlink [4]. The IPEX CubeSat, also in Earth orbit, used machine learning to generate image classification maps as low-bandwidth summary products and detect regions of high visual interest for priority downlink [5]. The Mars Science Laboratory rover uses onboard image analysis to select targets in Navcam images and collect new observations of those targets autonomously with the ChemCam laser spectrometer [6].

Clipper has several instruments that can potentially benefit from onboard analysis as the data is collected. We developed a method for detecting thermal anomalies (hot spots) in data collected by the E-THEMIS thermal imager [7]. Hot spots could indicate subsurface upwelling or processes related to plume activity. In this work, we focus on analysis of data collected by the Mapping Imaging Spectrometer for Europa (MISE) [8], which generates a much higher data volume and therefore could benefit even more from onboard analysis and prioritization of data.

Spectral anomaly detection: The presence of specific minerals, including hydrated salts and sulfates, are of great interest on Europa. Specific pattern matching detectors can be employed to detect and prioritize those observations within MISE data. Yet in all missions designed for the exploration of new environments and worlds, perhaps

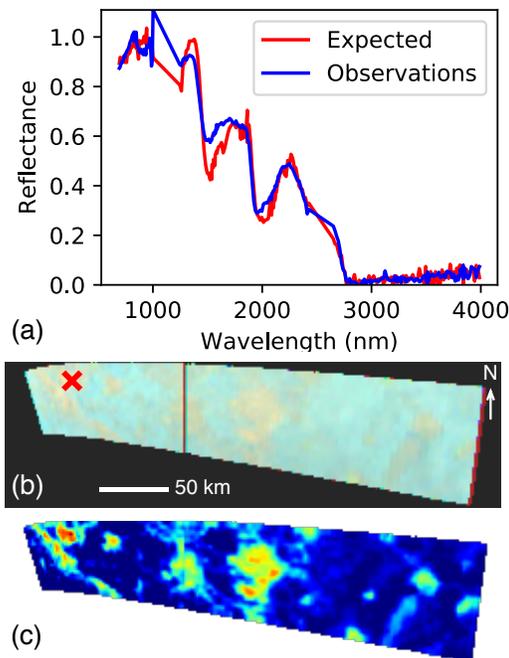


Figure 1: Spectral anomaly found in Galileo NIMS data set 14e006ci (14ENSUCOMP01A) of Argadnel Regio using the DEMUD algorithm. (a) Explanation for why this pixel was considered anomalous, (b) Spatial plot with anomalous pixel marked with red x, (c) Abundance heatmap showing locations of similar pixels.

the greatest value comes from detecting the unexpected. We employ anomaly detection methods to identify surface areas with unusual composition.

We explored two anomaly detection methods. The Reed-Xiaoli (RX) method [9] assigns an anomaly score A to each pixel x that captures its deviation from the “background” or typical signals in the data set:

$$A_{RX}(x) = (x - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x - \mu), \quad (1)$$

where μ is the mean across all pixels and Σ is the covariance matrix. The DEMUD method [10] iteratively models pixels as they are selected using the top k components of a Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) of the pixels and assigns an anomaly score to the remaining pixels based on their reconstruction error:

$$A_D(x) = \|x - (UU^T(x - \mu) + \mu)\|_2, \quad (2)$$

where U contains the k principal components and $UU^T(x - \mu) + \mu$ is the reconstruction of x using U .

DEMUD is unique amongst anomaly detection methods in that it also provides an explanation for its selections by highlighting which features cause the greatest reconstruction error (i.e., which feature values could not be well modeled by previous observations). For example, it has been used to detect and explain unusual mineralogy in MSL ChemCam observations [11].

Results with NIMS data: Since MISE data do not yet exist, we tested these algorithms on Europa data from the Galileo Near-Infrared Mapping Spectrometer (NIMS). NIMS observed at $0.7 - 5.2 \mu\text{m}$, versus $0.8 - 5.0 \mu\text{m}$ for MISE. Figure 1 shows an example spectral anomaly identified by the DEMUD algorithm in NIMS data (red x in Figure 1(b)). Figure 1(a) shows DEMUD’s model prediction (red) and the observed data (blue). Wavelengths where the two spectra diverge are diagnostic for this pixel. Figure 1(c) shows an abundance heatmap in which red areas are similar to the selected pixel and blue areas are dissimilar. As DEMUD iterates, it also finds and flags data with quality issues, such as the vertical stripe to the left of the middle of the region. Careful review of each outlier enables the determination of whether it is of scientific interest or an artifact. We are currently applying these methods to a larger collection of NIMS Europa observations, which could yield new insights to inform mission planning for Clipper.

We also conducted controlled sensitivity experiments in which we artificially perturbed a randomly selected NIMS pixel and evaluated whether the modified pixel was detected. We perturbed the pixel x by linearly mixing it with the spectrum s for a mineral of interest from the USGS NIMS spectral library [12], which covers $0.2 - 3.0 \mu\text{m}$: $\hat{x} = fs + (1 - f)x$, where f is the anomaly fraction. Figure 2 shows the novelty detection rank (i.e., speed with which a given perturbed pixel is discovered), for NIMS data set 14e002ci. Discoverability increases as the perturbed pixel is more anomalous. A supervised method that is trained to detect the mineral of interest using a matched filter (“MF”) provides an upper bound on anomaly-based discoverability. We found that RX and DEMUD detected the perturbed pixels at about the same rate (e.g., within 10 – 50 selections for an anomaly fraction of 0.5). These results provide information about how easy or difficult it would be to detect a given mineral on Europa (e.g., bloedite is easier to detect than epsomite); discoverability varies since some minerals are inherently more similar or different to Europa’s composition.

Discussion: Our ground-based experiments with NIMS observations of Europa provide a proof of concept for spectral anomaly detection methods that could be employed for the autonomous analysis of MISE data. This analysis could be done onboard the spacecraft to help prioritize data for downlink (e.g., observations with

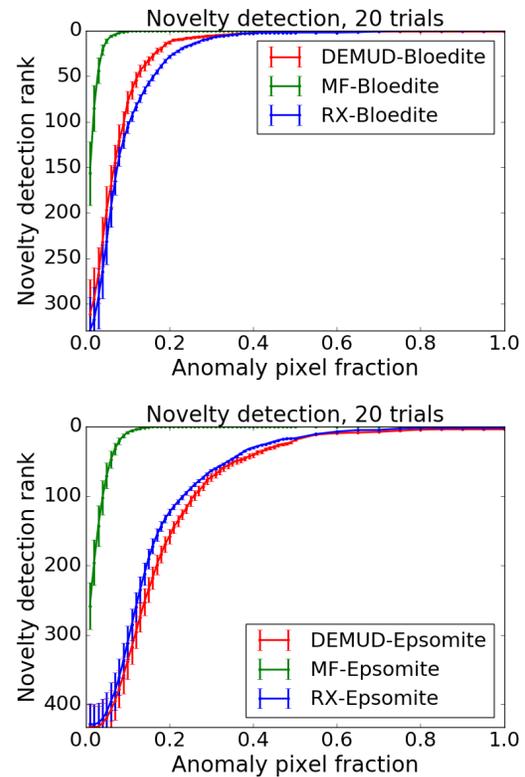


Figure 2: Discoverability for artificially perturbed pixels in Galileo NIMS data set 14e002ci. The perturbed pixel was mixed with library spectra for bloedite (top) or epsomite (bottom). “MF” is a matched filter trained to detect the specified mineral.

a high anomaly score could receive high priorities, or regions around an anomaly could be cropped to generate a smaller product that focuses on an area of high interest). It could also be used on the ground to direct attention to small areas with anomalous composition that merit deeper investigation.

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