

- Nishizuka et al. 2018 ApJ 858, 113
- Nishizuka et al. 2017 ApJ 835, 156

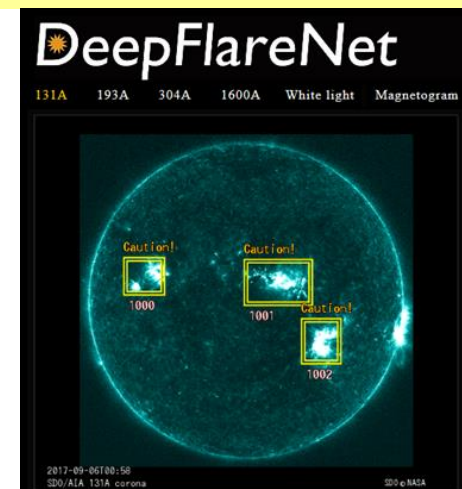
# Solar Flares and Eruptions Predicted by Deep Neural Networks: *Deep Flare Net (DeFN)*

○ N. Nishizuka<sup>1</sup>,

K. Sugiura<sup>2</sup>, Y. Kubo<sup>1</sup>, M. Den<sup>1</sup>, M. Ishii<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Space Environment Laboratory, AER, NICT

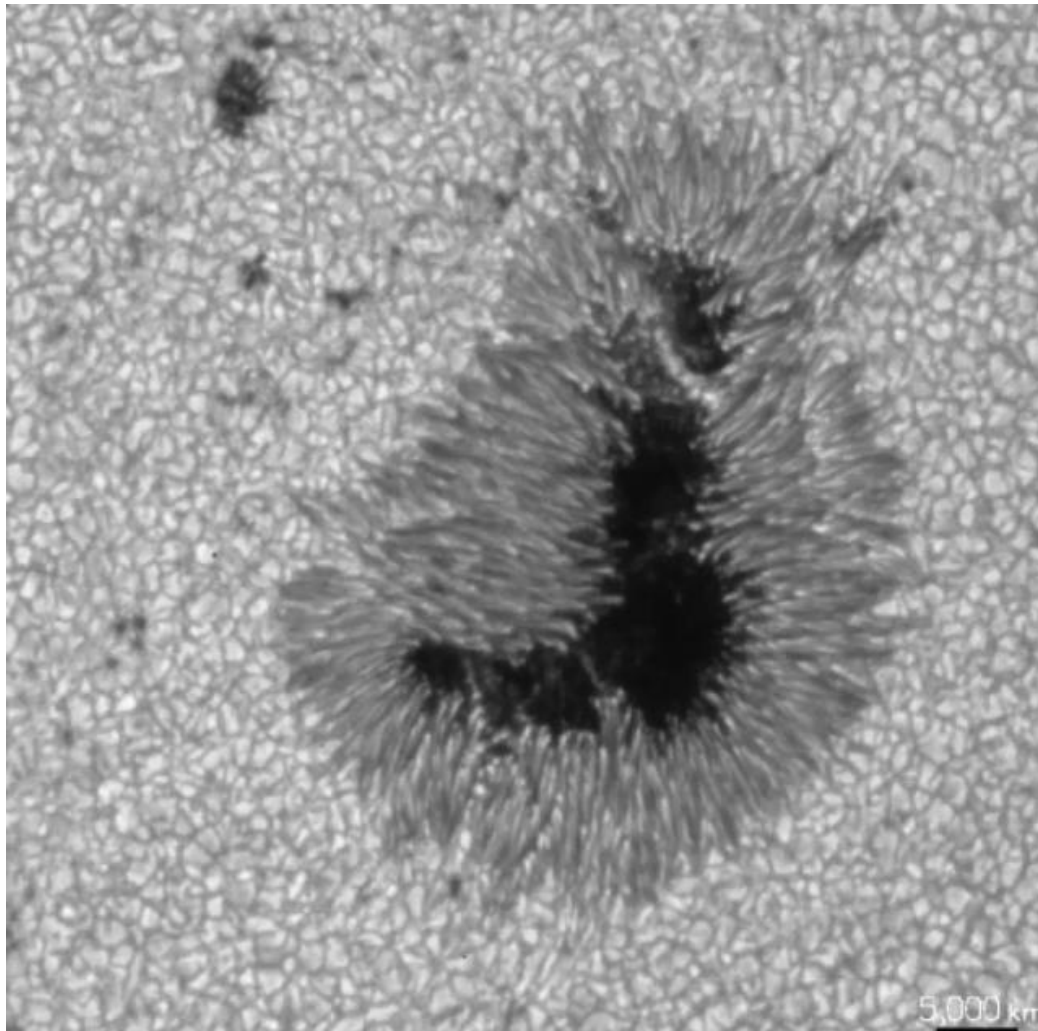
<sup>2</sup>Advanced Translation Technology Lab, ASTREC, NICT



<https://defn.nict.go.jp>

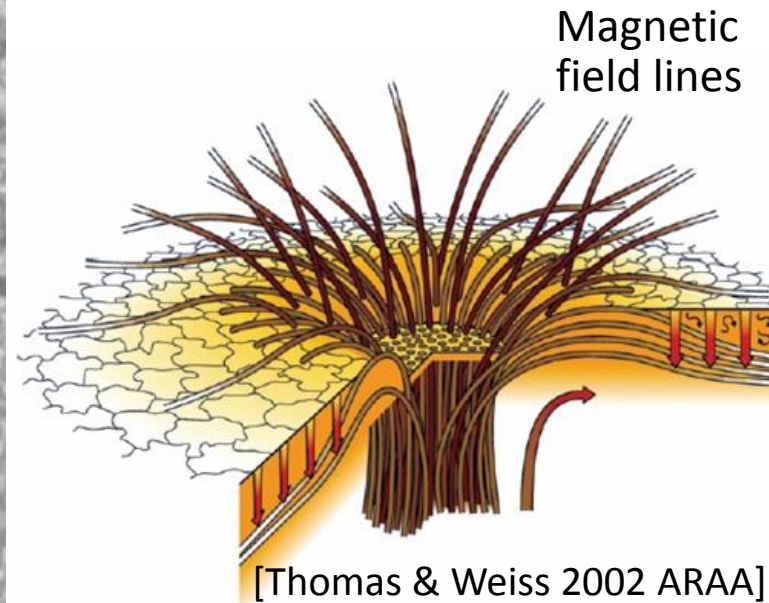
# Space observation of sunspots

G-band filter, Hinode/SOT, made by Okamoto



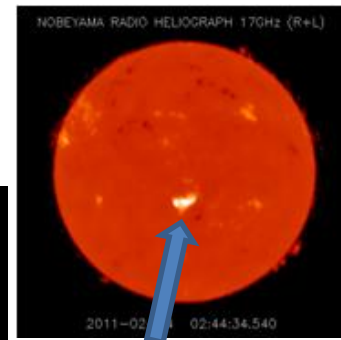
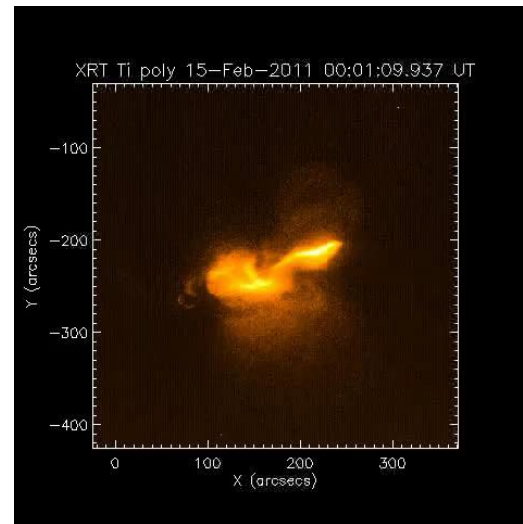
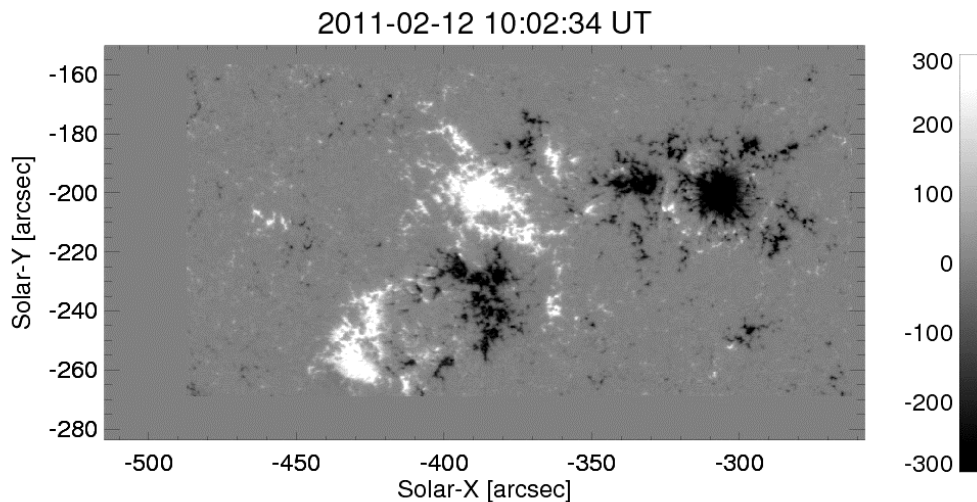
Convection  
(granule)

Stable quality, more precise  
& higher spatial resolution



Earth size

# Evolution of Sunspot & Prediction

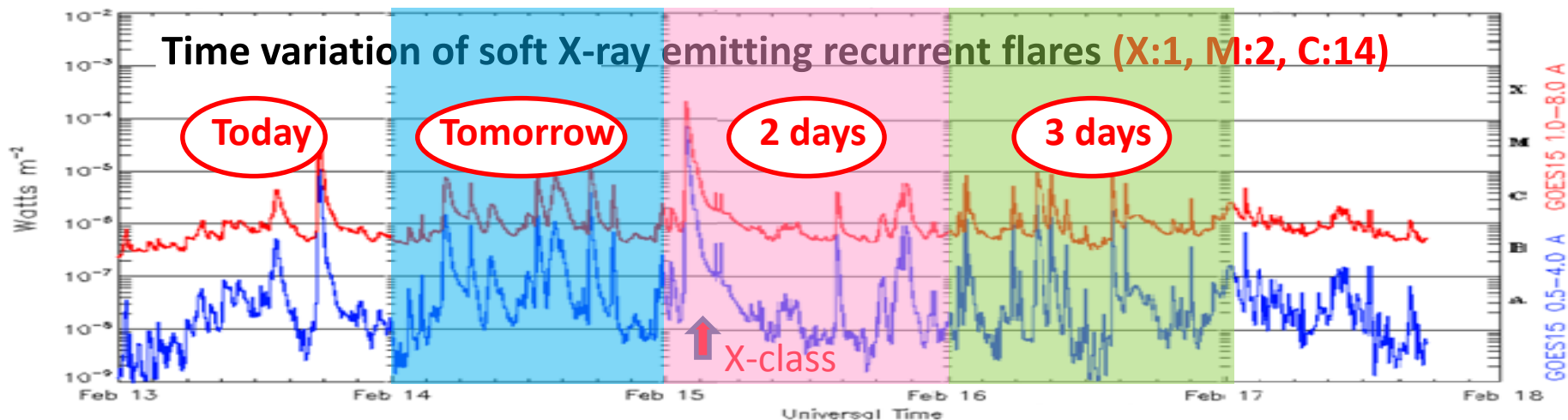


Solar flare  
(NoRH data)  
radio

Evolution of sunspots (Hinode/SOT), by Y. Iida

Intermittent Flares (Hinode/XRT)

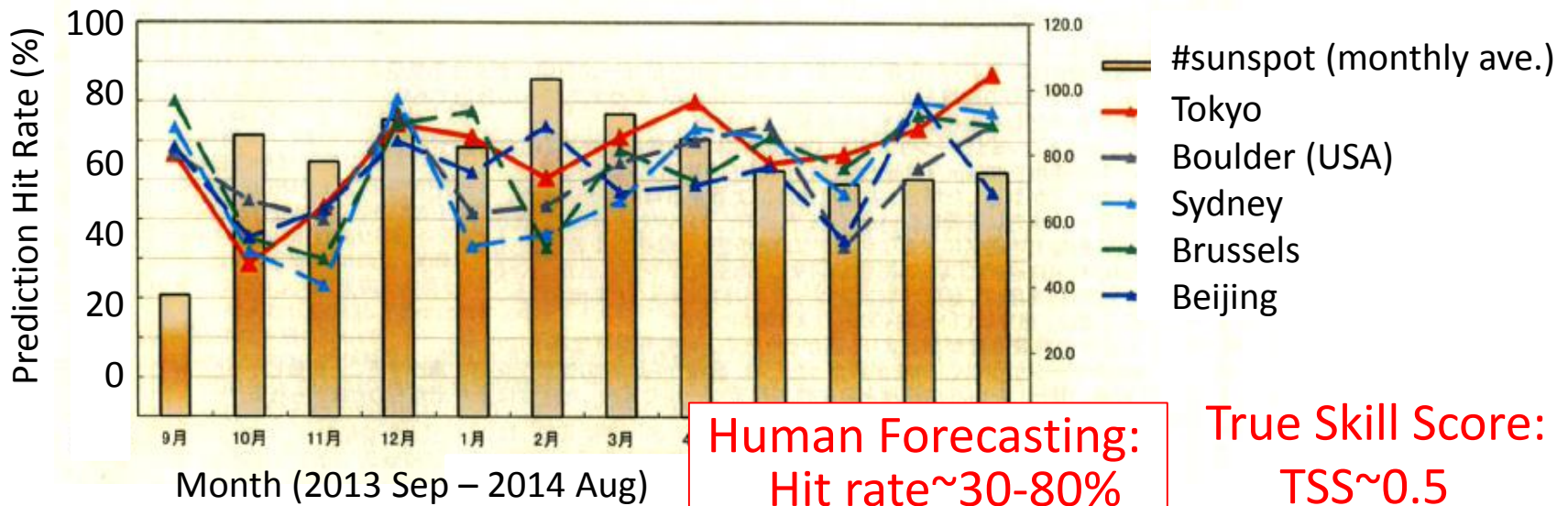
**What is the maximum class of flares within the following 24 hours ?**





# Daily Space Weather Forecasting

Sunspot Num. & Hit rate of flare predictions in 2013~2014



Human Forecasting:  
Hit rate ~30-80%

True Skill Score:  
TSS ~0.5  
(-1.0 < TSS < 1.0)

- ① Empirical forecast
- ② Statistical method
- ③ Machine-learning
- ④ Numerical simulation



# Check points by Human Forecasting

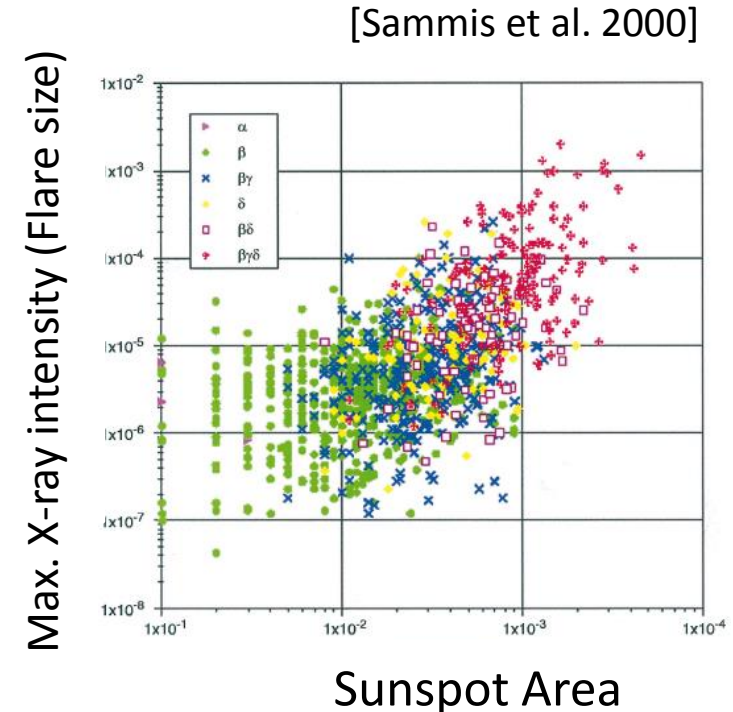
① **White light**: Sunspot Area, Shape ( $\alpha\beta\gamma\delta$ )

② **Soft X-ray**: Flare history in a sunspot

③ **Magnetic field in the photosphere**:  
Magnetic **neutral line**  
**Complexity** of the structure  
Shear angle, Flux Emergence

④ **Bottom Chromosphere**: UV Brightening

⑤ **Limb obs.:** ARs hidden by the east limb.



- Observation data is **too huge** to deal with by human forecasting.
- **Real-time** operation (<24 hrs) in an **automated** method.
- Better **feedback** of daily operation results to the next.
- New approach to reveal the mechanism of solar flares.

A large, horizontally-oriented yellow oval with a soft gradient, centered on a white background. Inside the oval, the text "Application of ML to Solar Flare Prediction" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered both horizontally and vertically.

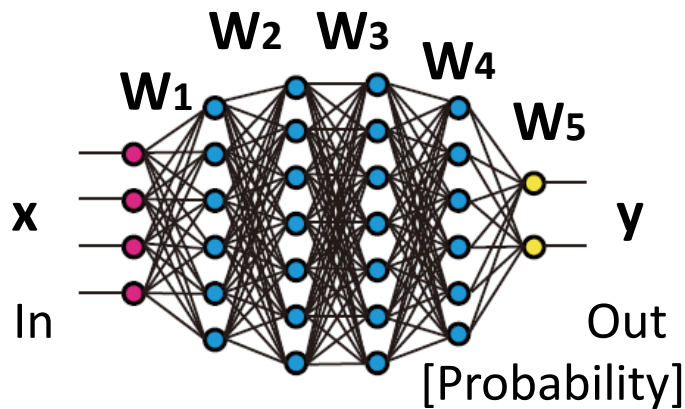
# Application of ML to Solar Flare Prediction

# Machine-Learning

- (1) To construct algorithms that can **learn** from and automatically make **classification** or **prediction** on known/unknown data.
- (2) To classify and predict the complex data, **beyond the human processing capability**.

[Nishizuka+2018 ApJ]

## ★ Neural Networks (NN)



### Deep Neural Network (DNN)

- RNN (LSTM)
- CNN, GoogleNet, Residual Net
- GAN, SimGAN

- Repeating linear & non-linear conversions of the input data at each layer.

$$y = f(Wx + b) = a_0x^n + a_1x^{n-1} + \dots$$

Linear (matrix)

- non-linear:** to separate the dataset by curves.  
to distort the space for an easy split.

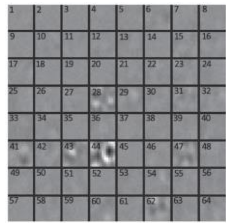
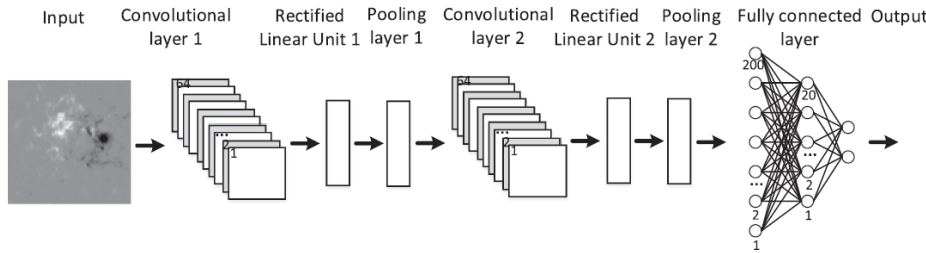
- Parameters  $W_i$  are optimized to minimize the cost function ( $\approx \sum (y - y_{\text{real}})^2$ , cross entropy).

⇒ Similar to a **Polynomial fitting**.

If  $\text{dim}(x)$  is large, **over-fitting** is a problem.

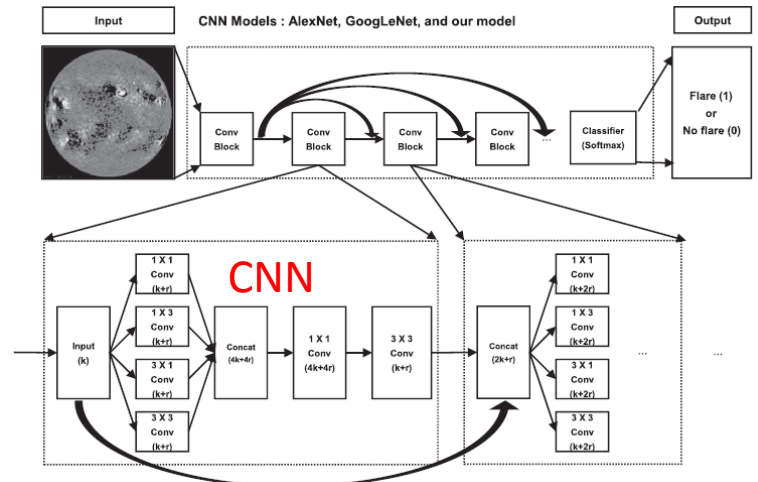
# Solar Flare Prediction using DNN

ML became popular after Bobra & Couvidat 2015 (using SDO data: 2010-)

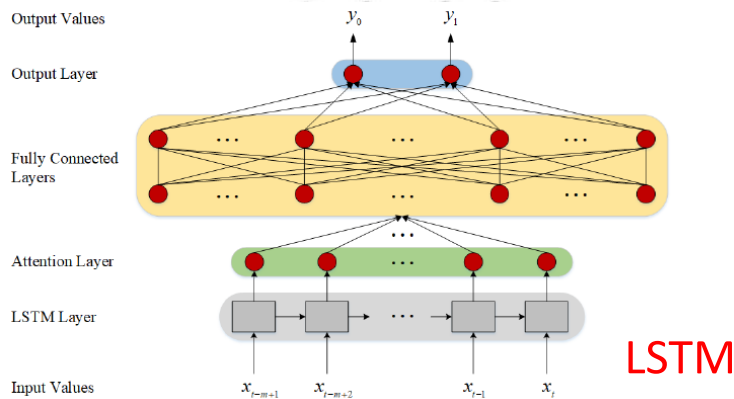


Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN)

[X. Huang et al. 2018 ApJ]

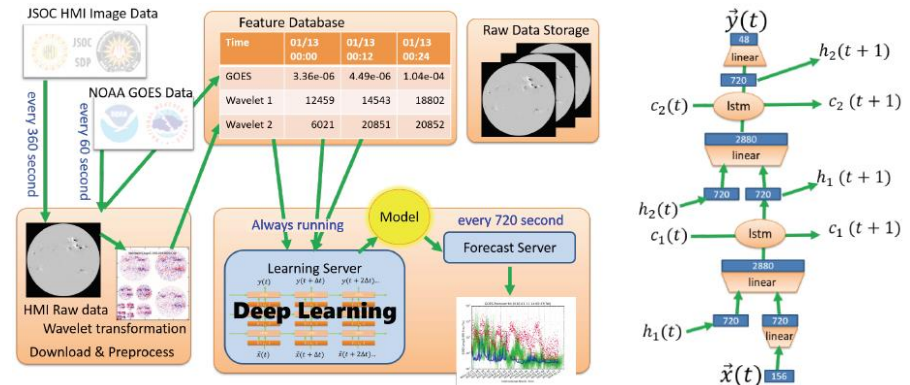


[E. Park et al. 2018 ApJ]



[H. Liu et al. 2019 ApJ]

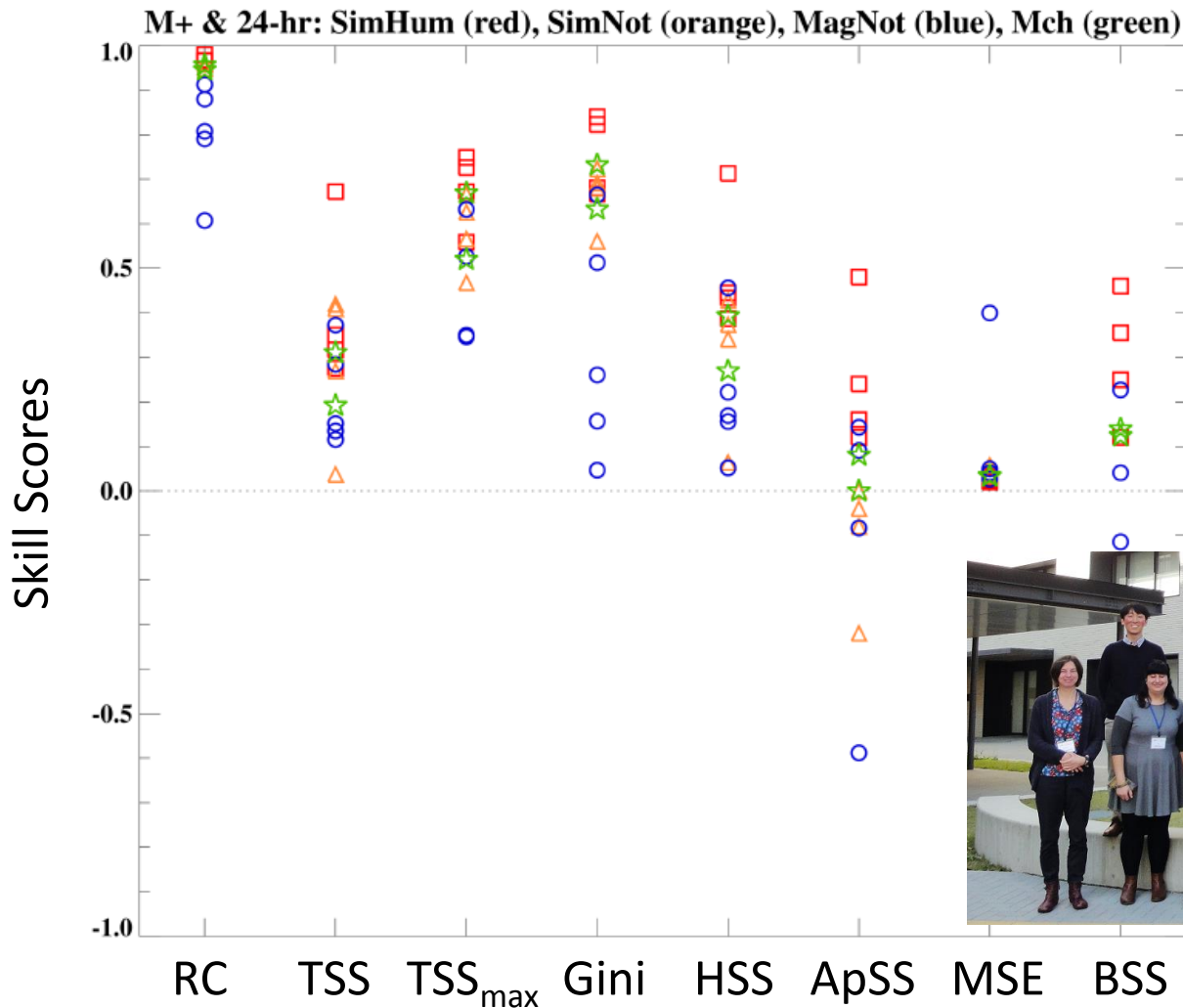
Long-Short Term Memory (LSTM) / RNN



[T. Muranushi et al. 2016 arXiv]



# Comparison of Operational Forecasting of solar flares



[Leka, S.–H. Park, et al. 2019 ApJ]

The ranking of models depends on metric selection.

[Benchmark of flare predictions in Nagoya, Japan, in Nov 2017]

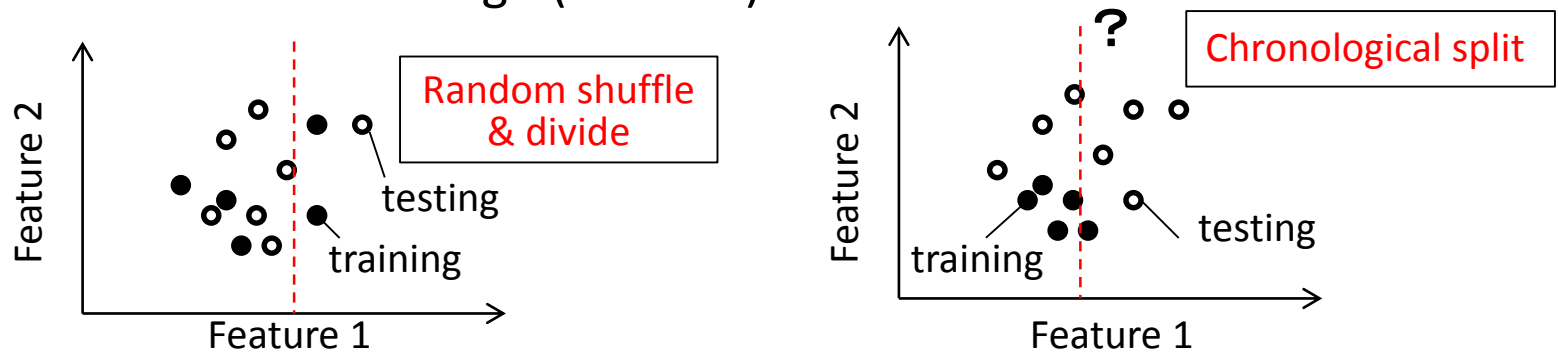


cf) Barnes+2016 ApJ

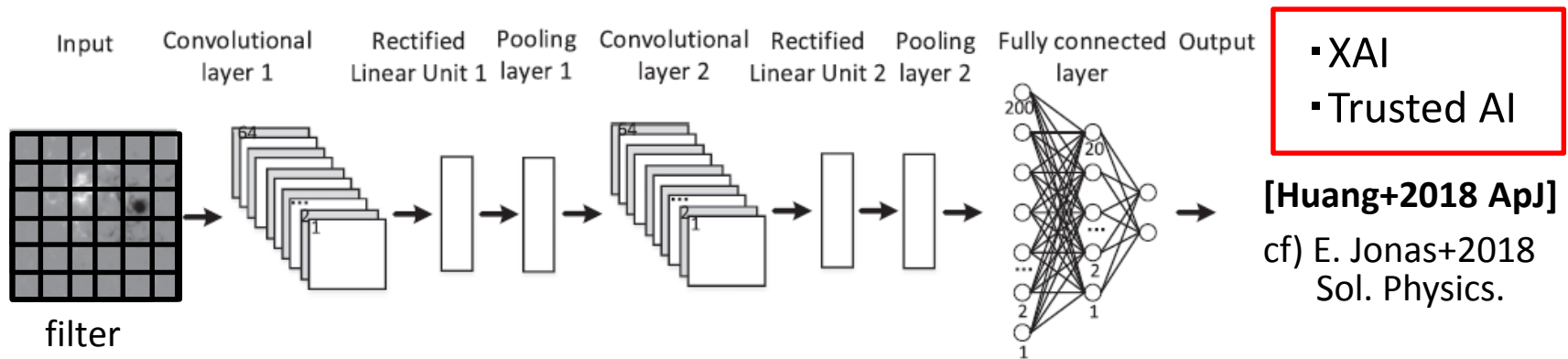
# Tasks of Machine-learning Models

## (1) Prediction using the Real-time Data :

- Previously we evaluated our model using the **past data**. [Nishizuka+2017 ApJ]
- But when evaluated with the **real-time data**, it was found that the performance was not enough (TSS=0.3).



## (2) Prediction using Deep Neural Network (DNN) & Convolutional NN :



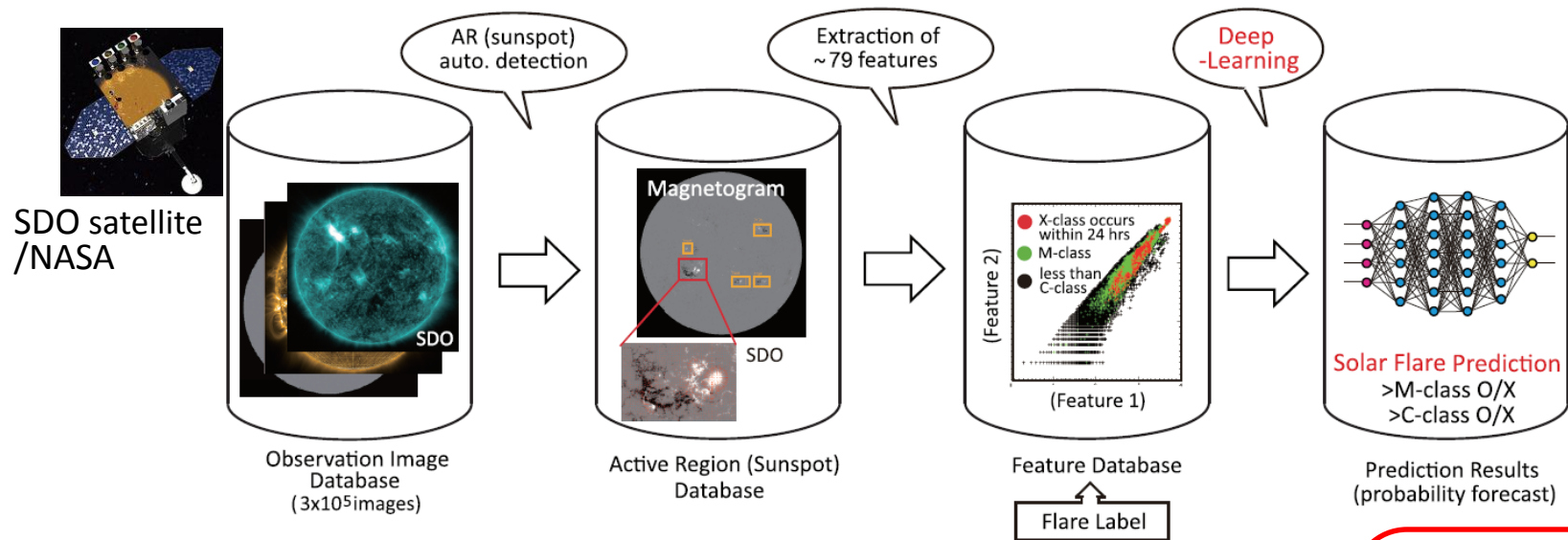
Features are automatically detected, but they are black boxes.

# Deep Flare Net (DeFN) model

- We developed a flare prediction model using DNN, to increase TSS.
- The evaluation was done by the real-time data in an operational setting.
- **Deep Flare Net (DeFN) = Excellent + Nippon/NICT/...**

↑ advice by Robert Steenburgh-san

[Nishizuka+2018  
ApJ]



Period: 2010~ 2015

X class ~40 events

M class ~460 events

C class ~4000 events

Reduction to 1 hr cadence

- Magnetogram ( $B_{LOS}$ ) 3TB,  $10^5$  images
- Vector magnetogram ( $B_x, B_y, B_z$ ) 12TB
- Photospheric BP (UV 1600Å) 3TB
- Coronal hot BP (EUV 131Å) 3TB

Flare probability

$\geq M$  ○%

$< M$  ○%

$\geq C$  ○%

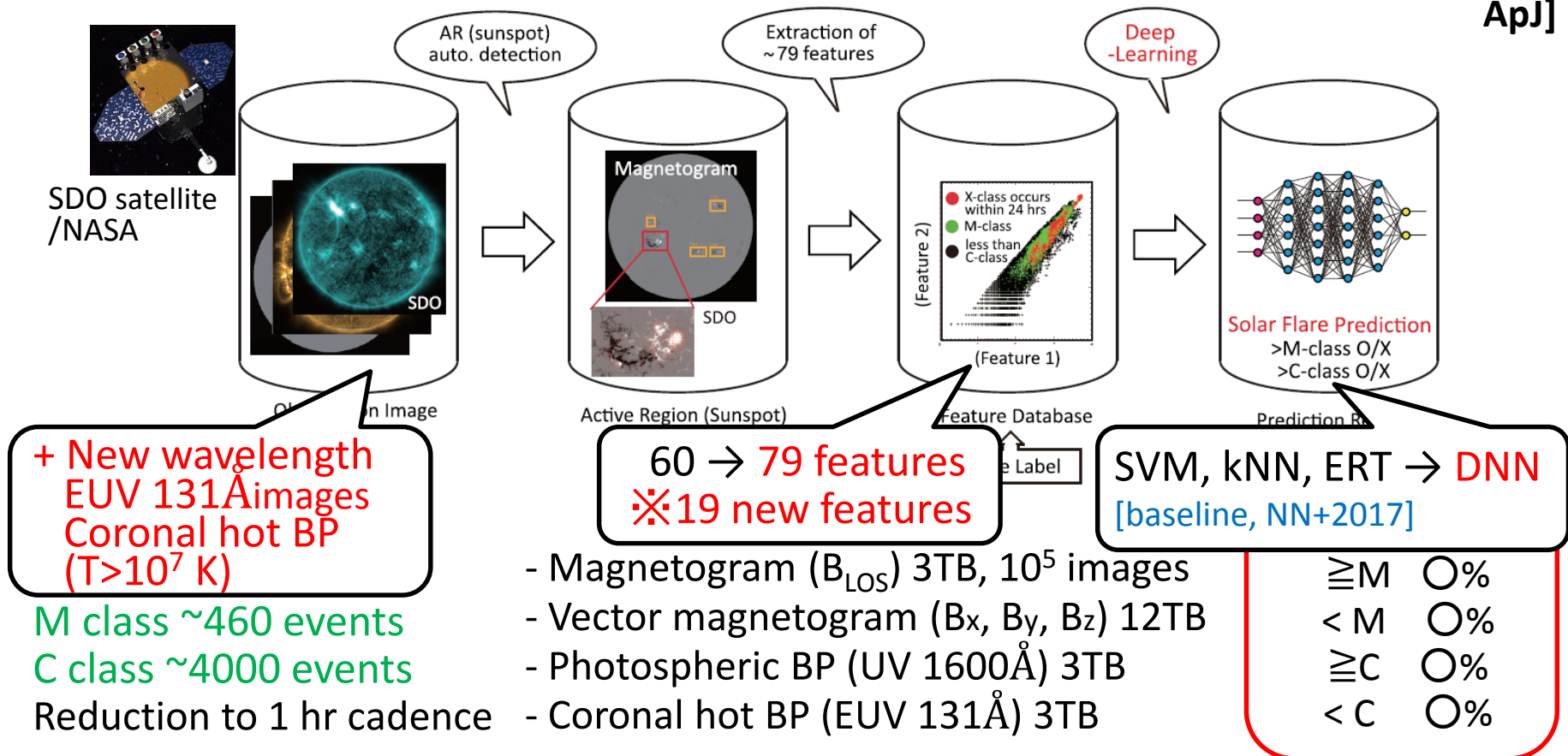
$< C$  ○%

# Deep Flare Net (DeFN) model

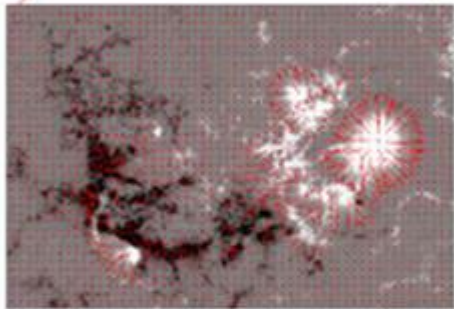
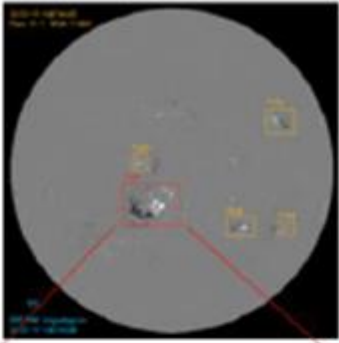
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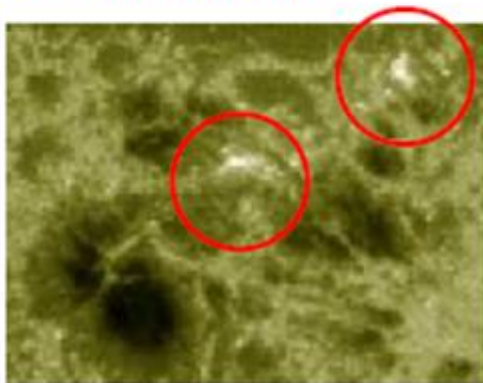
[Nishizuka+2018  
ApJ]



# Extraction of 79 Solar Features



Vector magnetic field in a detected AR



Area  
 Total unsigned mag. Flux  
 Flux imbalance fraction  
 max /average Bz  
 max/average grad Bz  
 Max. length of **Neutral lines**  
 Total length of NLs  
 The number of NLs

Flare history (X, M)@AR  
 Flare history@1d before  
 soft X-ray 2hrs/4hrs average  
 max soft X-ray@1d before

X-ray/EUV131 data **1 & 2 hr before an image**

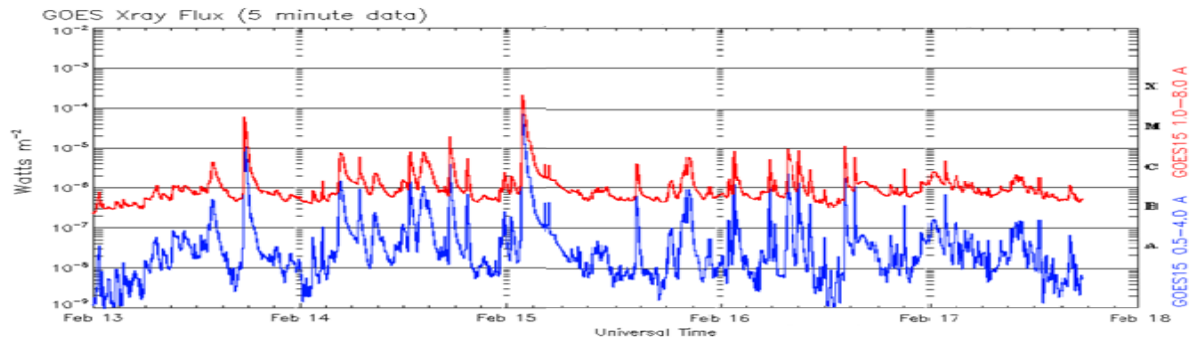
< Vector magnetogram >  
 Current helicity ( $\Sigma B_z \cdot J_z$ )  
 Lorentz force ( $\Sigma B^2$ )  
 Vertical current ( $J_z$ )

**Chromospheric BP Area**  
 Chm. BP max intensity  
 Chm. BP total intensity

Time derivative (2,12,24 hrs)

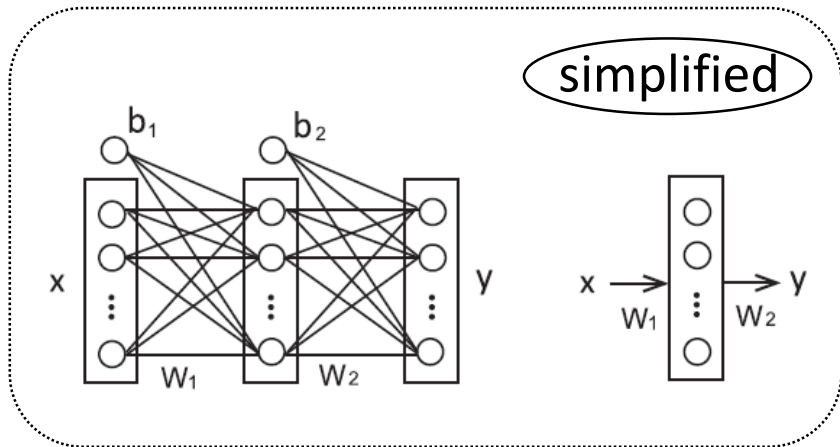
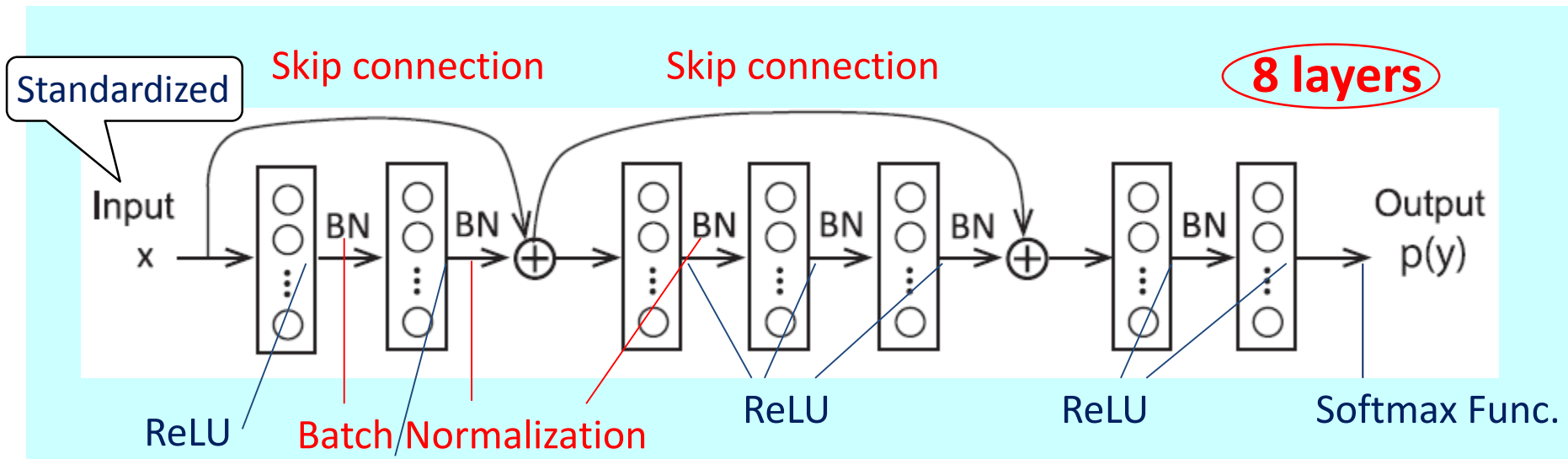
**Coronal hot BP Area (131Å)**  
 Coronal BP max intensity  
 Coronal BP total intensity

New features added for an operational prediction !!





# Structure of Deep Flare Net



To increase the prediction scores, we adopted

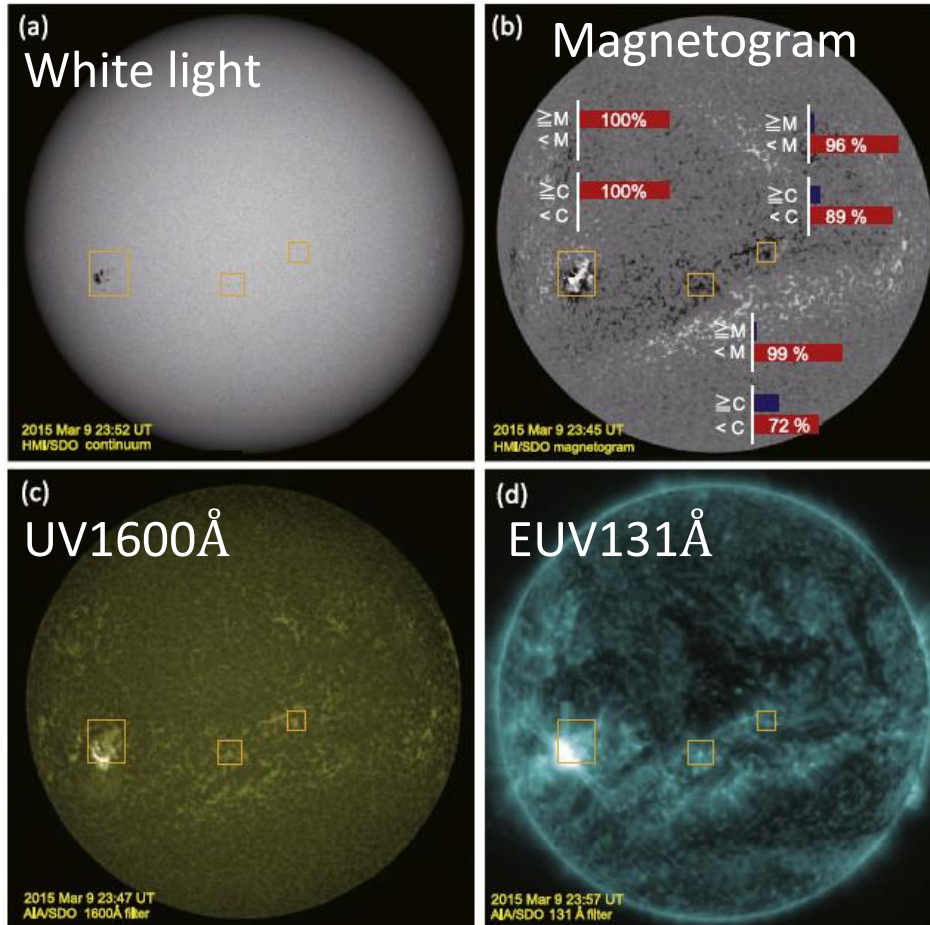
- ReLU (activation function)
- Skip connection (Residual Net)
- (mini-)Batch Normalization (BN)
- **Weighted cross entropy** (loss function)

$$J = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K w_k y_{nk}^* \log P(y_{nk}).$$

$$W_k = (1, 50) \text{ for } >M \\ = (1, 4) \text{ for } >C$$

\* Liu+2019 used the same loss function.

# Probability Forecast at each AR



At the last layer, softmax function,

$$p(y_i) = \frac{\exp(y_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^N \exp(y_j)}$$

gives the probability of flare occurrence.

$P(y_1)$  :  $\geq$ M-class flare probability

$P(y_2)$  :  $<$  M-class flare probability

are used for two-class prediction.

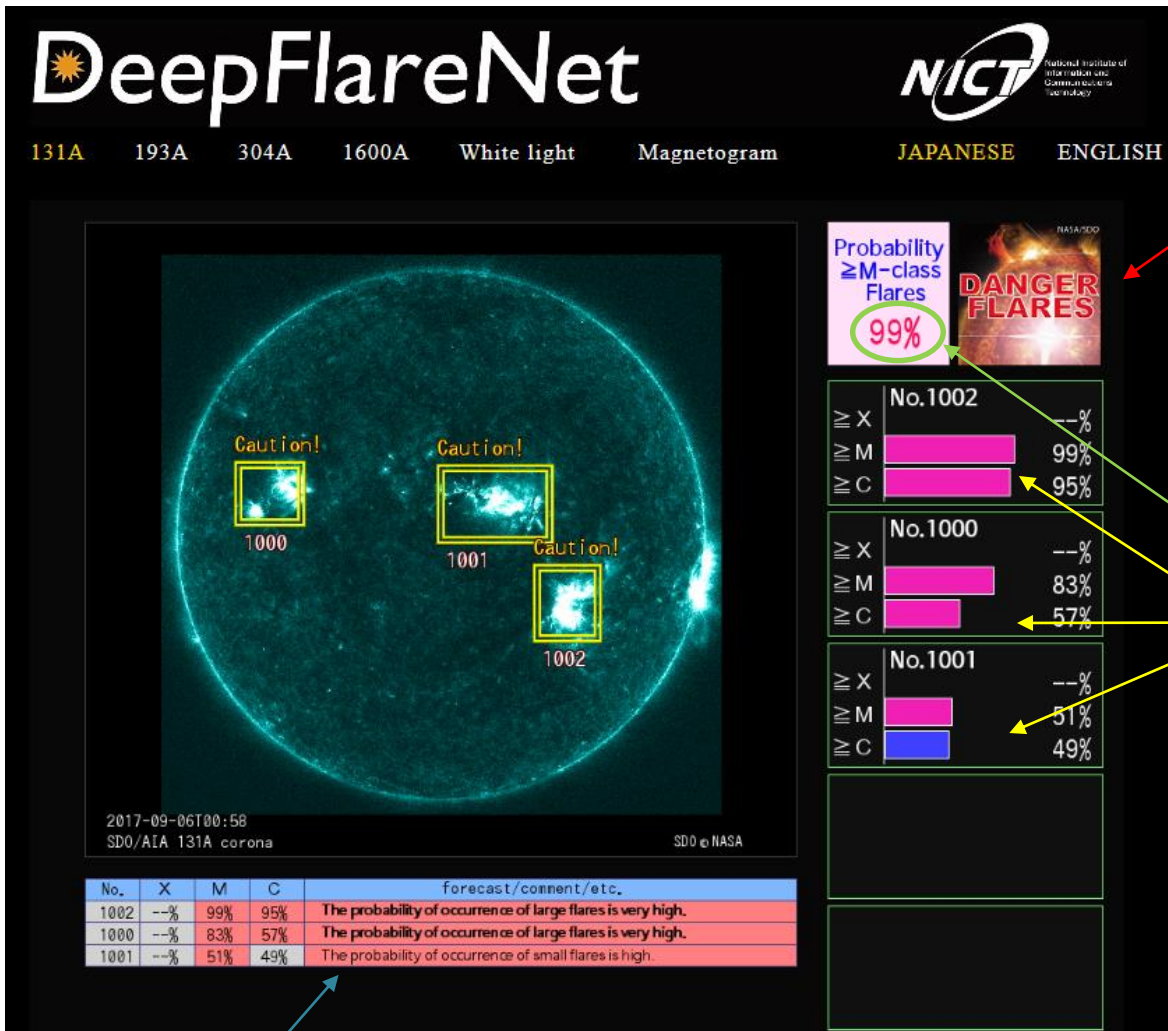
Finally, DeFN predicts flares by taking the max. probability

$$\hat{y} = \operatorname{argmax}_k p(y_k).$$

※ For **2-class** classification, thresh.=50%.

※ This can be easily extended to **4-class** classification. (X/M/C/O)

# Operational Forecasting by DeFN



Alert mark



Danger / Warning / Quiet like weather forecast (☀️☁️☔)

Flare Occurrence Probability

- Total prob. on disk
- Prob. at each region

▪ Near-real time data (nrt) from JSOC system (Stanford U., LMSAL, NASA)

▪ We started operating a web of Deep Flare Net in April. (Internal operation from Dec 2018.)

URL <https://defn.nict.go.jp>

Text comments

# Prediction Results & Evaluation

- We evaluated the prediction results in an operational setting. We divided the database with a **chronological split**: 2010-2014 for training and 2015 for testing. We used TSS for evaluation.

		Observation	
		flare	no
Prediction	flare	TP	FP
	no flare	FN	TN

## ● True Skill Statistic

[by Hanseen & Kuipers '65]

$$TSS = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} - \frac{FP}{FP + TN}$$

TSS = 1 means 100% Hit of flare prediction

[Nishizuka+2018 ApJ]

$\geq$ M-class		Observation	
		flare	no
Prediction	flare	963	4382
	no flare	54	25937

TSS= **0.80**

$\geq$ C-class		Observation	
		flare	no
Prediction	flare	4967	4420
	no flare	1171	20778

TSS= **0.63**

- We achieved **TSS=0.80**, though flares are overestimated. (large FP)
- cf) Huang+2018 ApJ: TSS=0.66 ( $\geq$ M), 0.49 ( $\geq$ C) DNN

# Prediction Results & Evaluation

- We evaluated the prediction results in an operational setting. We divided the database with a **chronological split**: 2010-2014 for training and 2015 for testing. We used TSS for evaluation.

		Observation	
		flare	no
Prediction	flare	TP	FP
	no		

**● True Skill Statistic**  
 [by Hansen & Kuipers '65]

$$TSS = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$

TSS = 1 means 100% Hit of flare prediction

★ Evaluation in the Real-time Operation (Jan-May 2019)

**≧ M-class**

		Observation	
		flare	no
Prediction	flare	0	25
	no	0	491

TSS= none

**≧ C-class**

		Observation	
		flare	no
Prediction	flare	26	24
	no	4	463

TSS= 0.82

By changing the **probability threshold** from 50%, we can control TSS & FP. Users can select it, depending on their purposes/demands.



# Importance Ranking of Features (from ERT)

Ranking	Features	Importance	
1.	Xhis	0.0519	← <b>Flare history</b> (total, 1day), ← Max X-ray intensity 1 day before
2.	Xmax1d	0.0495	
3.	Mhis	0.0365	
4.	TotNL	0.0351	← Total length of <b>Neutral Lines</b> ← Number of NLs
5.	Mhis1d	0.0342	
6.	NumNL	0.0341	← Unsigned magnetic flux, ← averaged/max Bz
7.	Usflux	0.0332	
8.	CHArea	0.0235	← <b>Chromospheric</b> Bright Area
9.	Bave	0.0230	
10.	Xhis1d	0.0224	← Total magnitude of Lorentz force ← Mean angle of field from radial ← Sum of the modules of the net current per polarity
11.	TotBSQ	0.0199	
12.	VUSflux	0.0196	
13.	Bmax	0.0193	
14.	MeanGAM	0.0179	
15.	dt24SavNCPP	0.0171	

**Total 50 features**

# Importance Ranking of Features (from ERT)

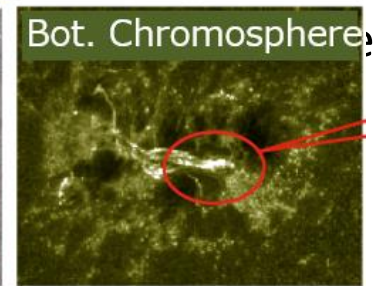
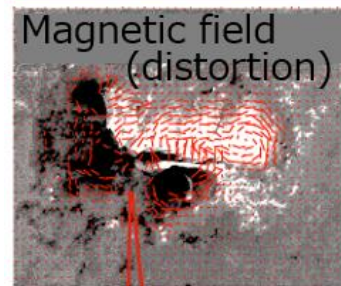
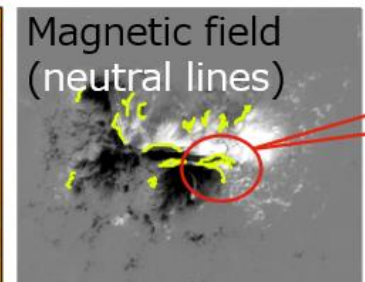
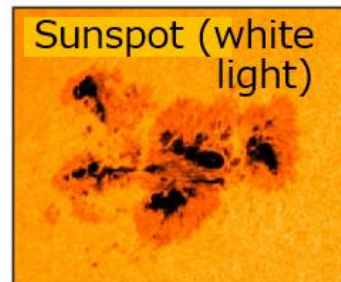
**Ranking**      **Features**      **Importance**

1.	Xhis	0.0519
2.	Xmax1d	0.0495
3.	Mhis	0.0365
4.	TotNL	0.0351
5.	Mhis1d	0.0342
6.	NumNL	0.0341
7.	Usflux	0.0332
8.	CHArea	0.0235
9.	Bave	0.0230
10.	Xhis1d	0.0224
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13.	Bmax	0.0193
14.	MeanGAM	0.0179
15.	dt24SavNCPP	0.0171

Ranking:

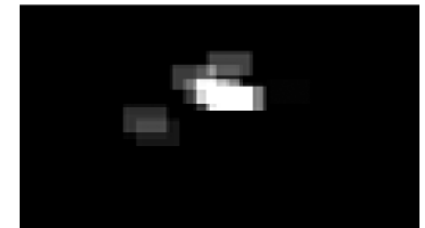
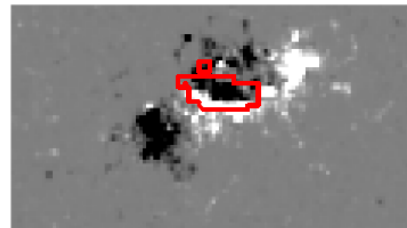
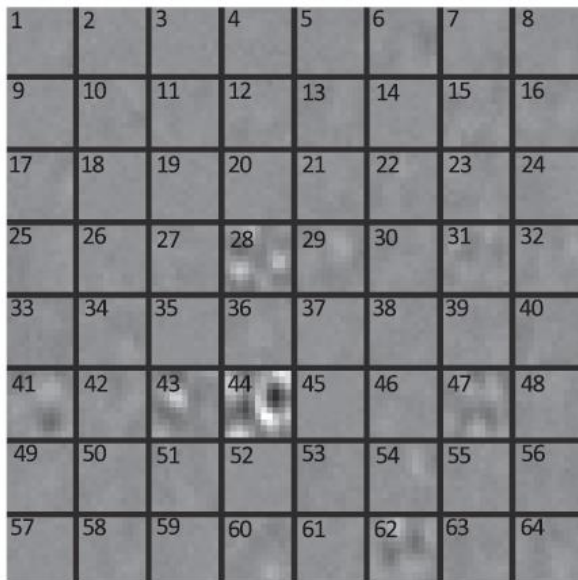
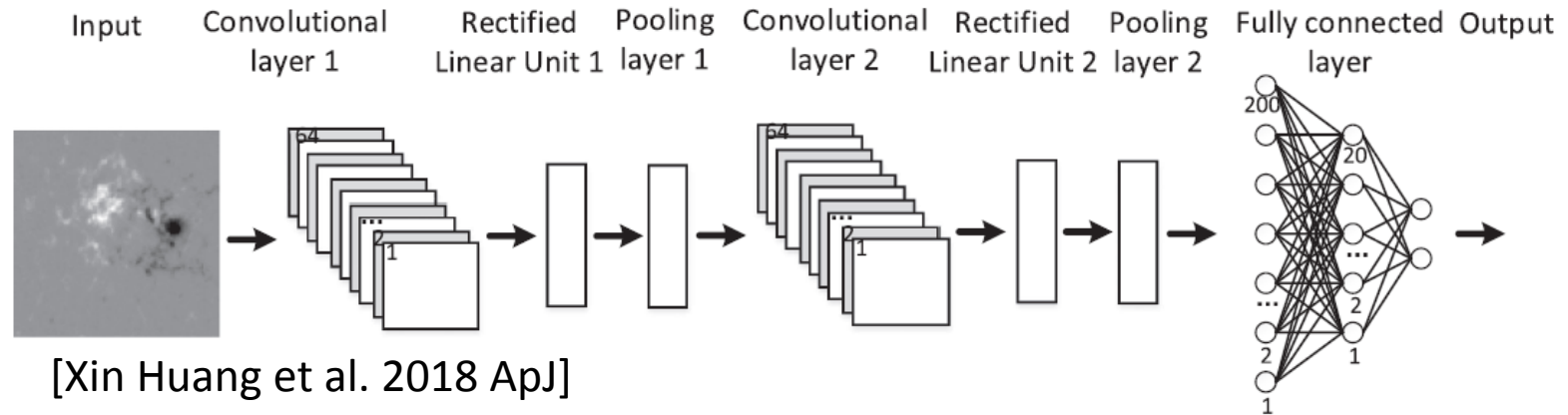
- ① Random Forest, ERT (Gini Impurity)
- ② LASSO (SVM) → Feature selection
- ③ Fisher-score

- Total length of **Neutral Lines**
- Number of NLs
- Unsigned magnetic flux,



**Total 50 features**

# Comparison with Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) used for prediction



- (Left) convolutional kernel
- The **pattern** indicates important information
- CNN also focus on the area of strong magnetic field and around the magnetic neutral lines.

→ Comparison between geometrical and physical parameters. Is there a parameter which has never been considered?

# Standard Evaluation method ?

Agreement / Consensus

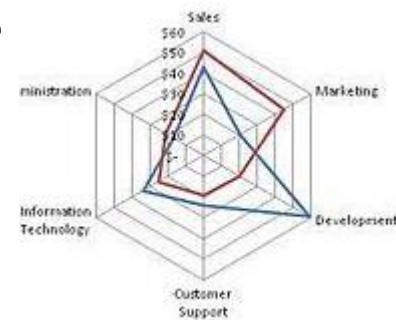
- **Event selection**

- positive/negative event ratio
- including near limb events? (not scientific, but **operational**)

- **The way to split the training/testing datasets**

- Random shuffle & divide (10-fold CV)
- week shuffle & divide, AR shuffle & divide
- **chronological split** (Time series CV)
- one leave-out (**most operational**)

Radar chart



Star ranking



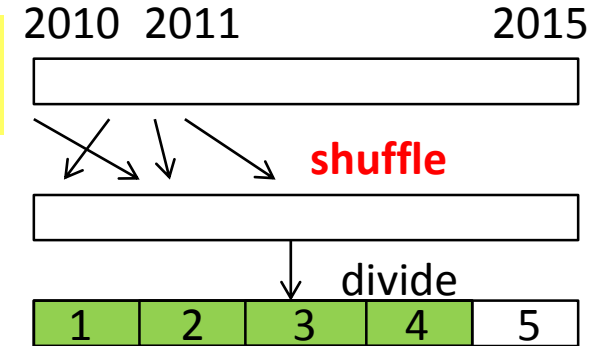
- **Selection of metrics**

- User dependent? Users select models by themselves? How?
- **Easy indicators** to show the robust performance of models.
- AI model needs a clear rule/purpose for design/optimization.
- We should have a **competition** by determining **rules**, **kaggle** to accelerate the AI model development. (like Kaggle, or in CCMC)

# The way to split the training/testing datasets

## ① K-fold Cross Validation = shuffle & divide

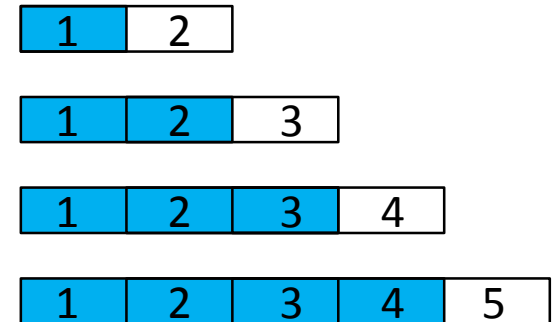
- (-) separating data before a flare to both training/testing datasets
- (-) training by future data.



## ② Time-series Cross Validation

good for evaluation in an operational setting

training test



## ③ Forecasting

Time series CV  $\neq$  forecasting

- (+) final destination
- (-) hard to compare methods A & B
- (-) It takes time

or 2011-2016  
2012-2017  
2009-2018

Leave-one-out CV





# Database & Code of DeFN

## ◆ Database Release

<http://wdc.nict.go.jp/IONO/wdc/solarflare/index.html>



*Database of Deep Flare Net (AI flare prediction)*

[< Database Terms and Conditions >](#)

This work, "Feature Database of Deep Flare Net (ver.1)" was produced by Dr. Naoto Nishizuka (National Institute of Information and Communications Technology). We have released our database for the purpose of scientific research on solar flare predictions using machine-learning algorithms.

This work is licensed under [the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#). To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>.

This work is a feature database of our solar flare prediction model using deep neural networks, named Deep Flare Net (DeFN). This database can be used for training and testing datasets.

You must indicate if you have made changes and add your explanation of them when you publish and present your papers.

The detailed information of our database is described in the following papers. When you publish or present your papers using our database, please be sure to refer to the following papers or acknowledge that you have used a feature database of Deep Flare Net developed by NICT.

(1) [Naoto Nishizuka et al. 2017, The Astrophysical Journal, 835, 156](#)

(2) [Naoto Nishizuka et al. 2018, The Astrophysical Journal, 858, 113](#)

When you use our database, please contact Dr. Naoto Nishizuka and add him to your co-authors.  
Contact: Naoto Nishizuka (National Institute of Information and Communications Technology),  
Email: [nishizuka.naoto@nict.go.jp](mailto:nishizuka.naoto@nict.go.jp)

### Download



Download

## ◆ Code Release

<https://github.com/komei-sugiura/defn18>



A screenshot of the GitHub repository page for 'komeisugiura/defn18'. The page shows the repository name, navigation tabs for Code, Issues (0), Pull requests (0), Projects (0), and Insights. Below the tabs, it displays 'Deep Flare Net 2018' with 3 commits, 1 branch, and 0 releases. A 'Branch: master' dropdown and a 'New pull request' button are visible. A commit history table shows a commit by 'komeisugiura' titled 'modify README.md' with files 'data', 'model', 'src', and '.gitignore', all marked as 'first release commit'.

For the purpose of 1) the evaluation of our model by others, 2) the comparison of different models, 3) acceleration of the new model development, and 4) standardization of feature database.

# Database & Code of DeFN

## ◆ Database Release

<http://wdc.nict.go.jp/IONO/wdc/solarflare/index.html>



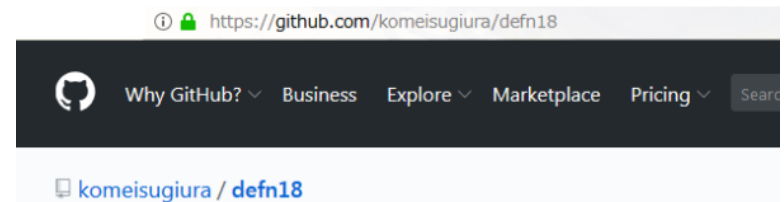
*Database of Deep Flare Net (AI flare prediction)*

[< Database Terms and Conditions >](#)

This work, "Feature Database of Deep Flare Net (ver.1)" was produced by Dr. Naoto Nishizuka (National Institute of Information and Communications Technology). We have released our database for the purpose of scientific research on solar flare predictions using machine-learning algorithms.

## ◆ Code Release

<https://github.com/komeisugiura/defn18>



- Without a natural database (flare event ratio = **chronological base rate, not arbitrary** selected), it's better to use TSS for comparison.
- With a **natural database**, we can discuss several skill scores like BSS and HSS as well as TSS, to compare each model in a fair way.
- Let's share natural database of DeFN and others if possible.



Download

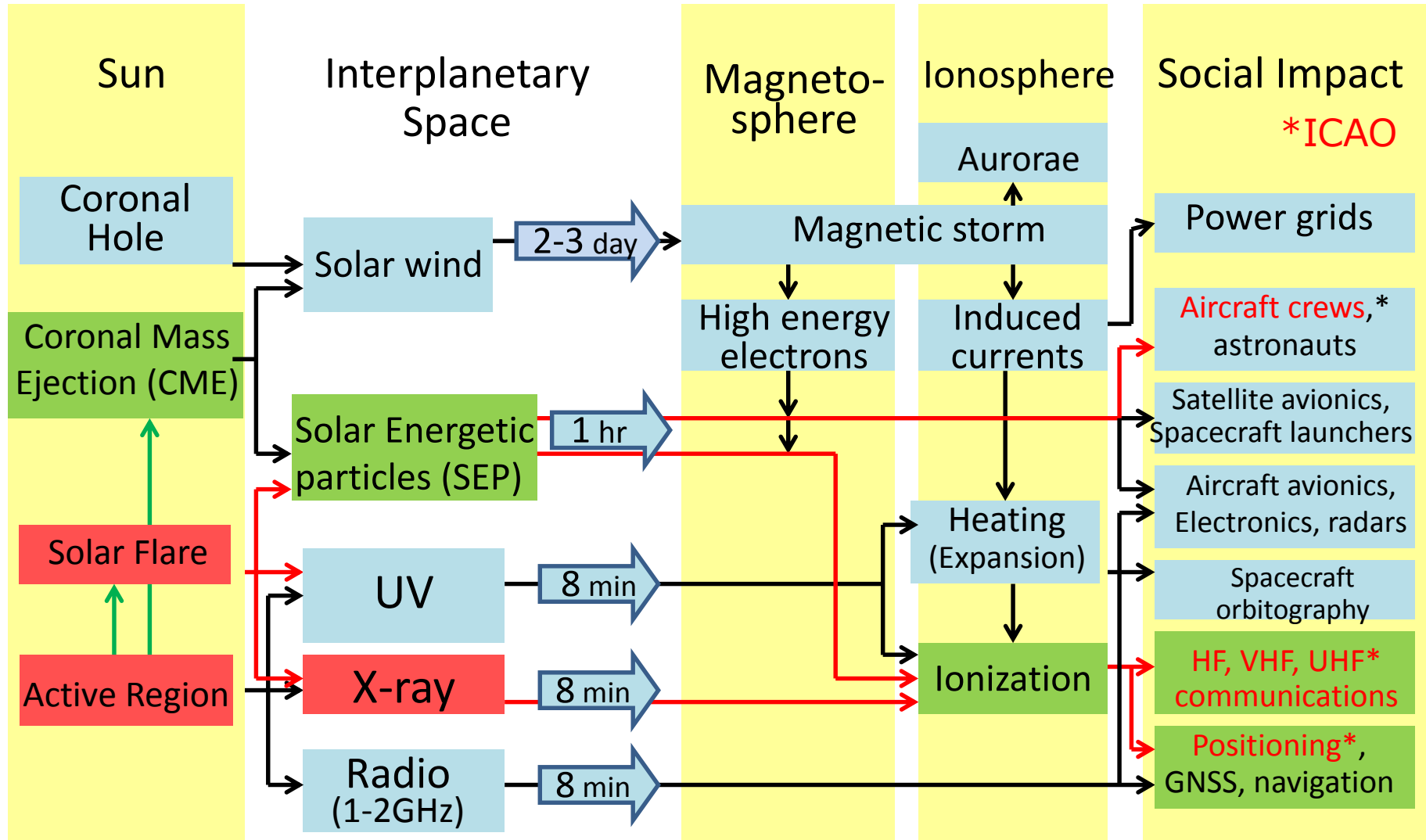
[.gitignore](#)

first release commit

For the purpose of 1) the evaluation of our model by others, 2) the comparison of different models, 3) acceleration of the new model development, and 4) standardization of feature database.

# Application to other SWx Forecasting

■ Solar Flares →      ■ Flare-driven events



[Revised from the original: Observatoire de Paris]

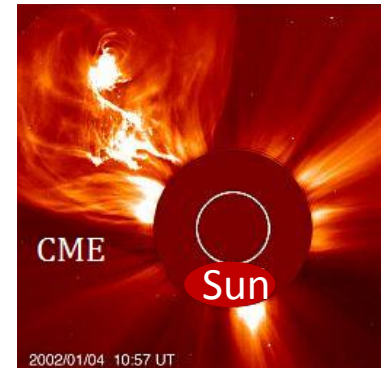
# Application to CME Prediction

- Our flare prediction (DeFN) model can be applied to a CME occurrence prediction model, by extending training database and labels with a **CME list**.

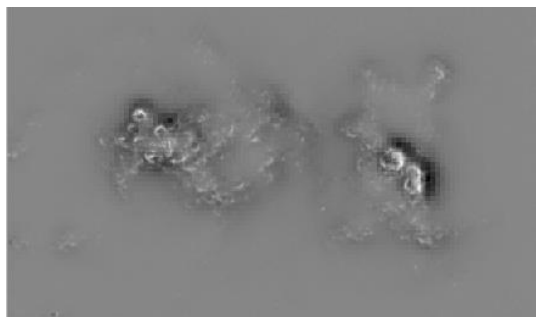
- New global features:**

Magnetic helicity & free energy (global twist),  
 Shear & Dip angles (non-potentiality),  
 Poynting flux (Energy injection), sigmoid/loop length.

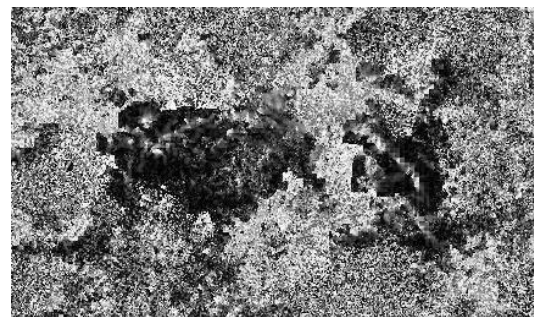
- 1,240 CMEs with velocity >500km/s, angle width >30°



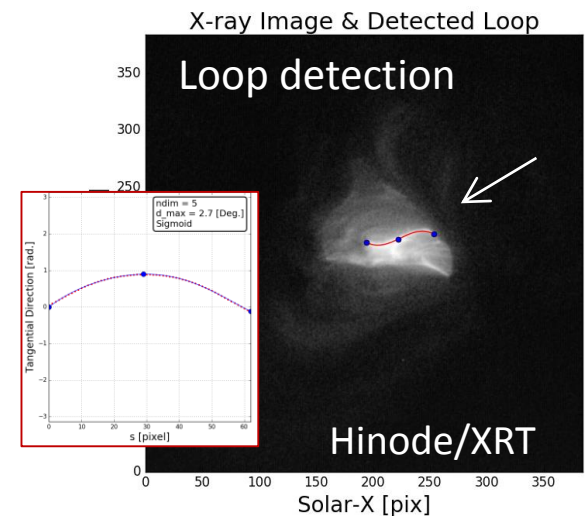
Flare & CME  
(LASCO/SOHO)



Magnetic free energy  
 $E = (B_x^2 + B_y^2) - (B_x p^2 + B_y p^2)$



Shear angle  
 (stress from the potential field  
 In the horizontal direction)



[Iida & Kawabata]

# Summary

- We developed a solar flare prediction model using machine-learning/DNN, which we named Deep Flare Net (DeFN). The model can predict the **flare probability** at each region. For 24hr prediction, TSS=0.80 for  $\geq M$ , and TSS=0.63 for  $\geq C$ .
- We started **operating** a Web site of DeFN model in April. In the real-time operation, TSS=0.82 for  $\geq C$  flares (thresh=50%).
- DeFN model can be used to predict other SWx phenomena, such as CMEs from ARs (30%). (Transfer-learning)
- Users can determine the **threshold** of **probability**, depending on their purposes/demands. We would like to have a useful **feedback** from users to further improve our model.
- We **opened** our **database** and **code**, so we would like lots of people to use them and have lots of discussion.