



Georgia State University

# The Solar-Stellar Informatics Cluster

*Interdisciplinary, International, Cross-Divisional,  
Diversified Funding, Signature Educational Experience,  
Entrepreneurial*

Presenters: Piet Martens, Rafal Angryk, Juan M. Banda, Stuart Jefferies, Jane Pratt, Daniel Pimentel-Alarcon

*February 26, 2018*



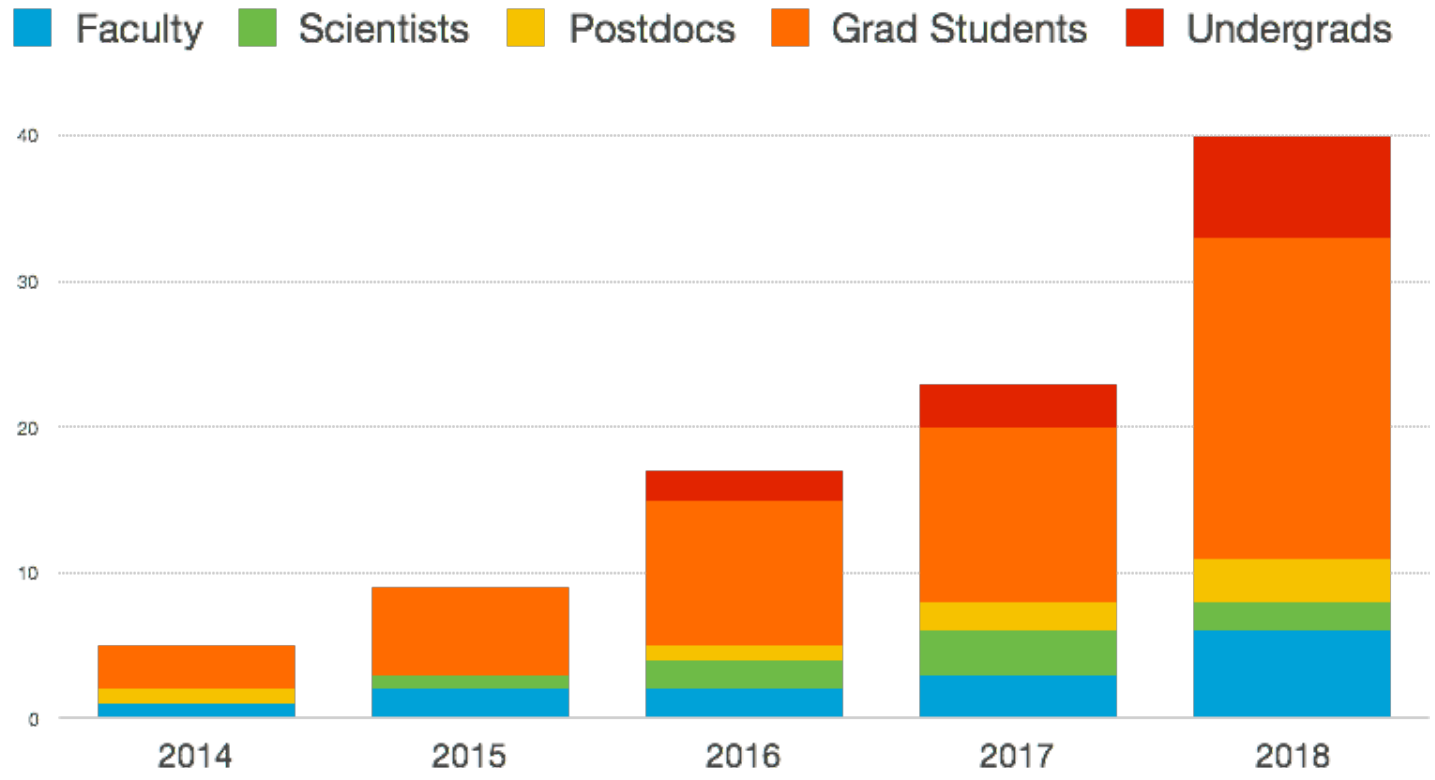
## Outline

1. Introduce Group
2. Science Motivation
3. Science Objectives
4. Educational Program
6. Individual Science Highlights
7. Public Relations and Outreach
8. SWOT Analysis: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats, including funding
9. Compliance with University Objectives

***Basics: Please feel free to interrupt and question. The presentation is designed to be < 40 minutes for that purpose***

# Solar-Stellar Informatics Cluster – 38 Group Members

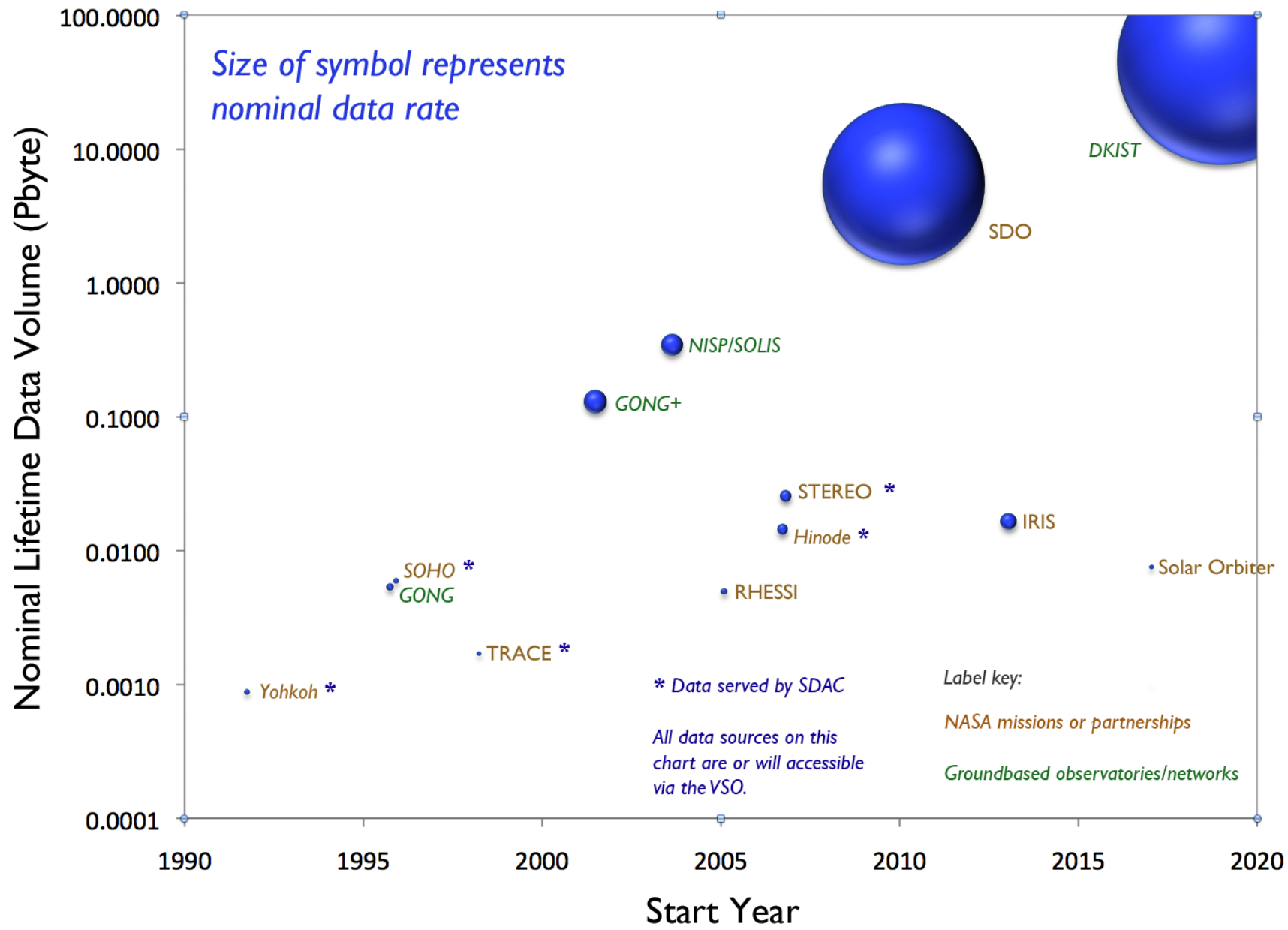




700% growth in just 4 years!



# Solar Data Volume Growth





## Why does this matter?

- “A solar superstorm, similar to the 1859 Carrington event, could cripple the entire US power grid for months and lead to economic damage of \$1-2 trillion dollars” (Space Studies Board of the National Research Council, 2008)
- Confirmed in independent study by Lloyd’s of London

# Solar-stellar Informatics Active Collaborations



IISERKOL, Tor Vergata, Lyon,  
Eindhoven, Saclay, Glasgow,  
Durham, St Andrews, Berlin,  
Exeter, GSU South Pole Station,  
CfA, NASA GSFC, NSO, SwRI,  
CHARA, PSI, Univ. Hawaii, Mees  
Obs., Australian Nat'l U.

# A Core Cluster Research Objective



**Solar Event Prediction:** Develop benchmark datasets, apply cutting edge machine learning techniques to forecast hazardous solar events

**Solar Cycle Prediction:** Data-driven MHD forecasts. Combine with CHARA and Lowell observations of Sun-like stars to and improve our physical understanding of the dynamo

**Content Based Image Recognition (CBIR):** Develop novel feature recognition, and feature tracking algorithms for solar and spin-off applications

**Short term:** Solar flare prediction

**Longer term:** Explore stellar data-sets, e.g. TESS & PLATO, branch out into medical and biological research

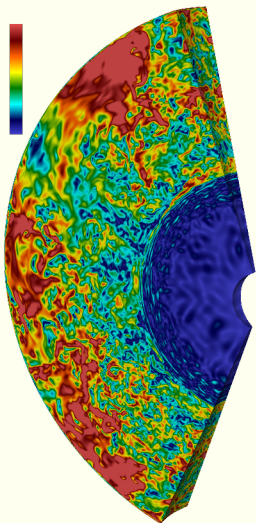


# A Signature Educational Experience



***Graduate Students in our group, both in Astronomy and Computer Science:***

- Students and faculty take part in a common **weekly interdisciplinary meeting**. Thesis advising from both disciplines.
- **Cross-disciplinary courses**, data mining for astronomy students, solar and stellar physics for CS students.
- **Internships and exchanges abroad and nationally**: NASA Heliophysics and Space Weather summer school, La Serena school for data science, internships with Google, Apple, long-term student visit to Kolkata, JPL, CIOS, AFRL.
- **Dual PhD program with Tor Vergata (Rome)**: strategic recruitment.
- The icing on the cake! **The Astromundus initiative**. Exchanges of students between 10 European and two US universities to gain local expertise. GSU brings in: Big Data, Machine Learning, HPC, Instrumentation.



Velocity magnitude in a pre-main  
sequence star. 3D grid  
 $1312 \times 1024 \times 64$ .

- ▶ MULTIdimensional Stellar Implicit Code (MUSIC) interfaced & realistic to Lyon and MESA 1D stellar evolution codes.
- ▶ Next generation of stellar evolution models motivated by CFD, improvement over simple phenomenologies and fitted parameters.
- ▶ Research Highlights: new approach and new models for convective overshooting and penetration, consequences for lithium depletion: [1] Pratt, Baraffe, et al. (2017) A&A. [2] Baraffe, Pratt, et al. (2017). ApJ Lett.
- ▶ High Performance Computing: purchase of seed for a HPC cluster with start-up funds, need for continuing investment and support.



# Solar event classification: from classical methods to deep neural networks

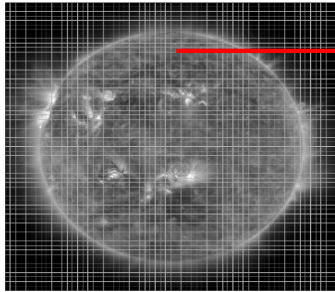
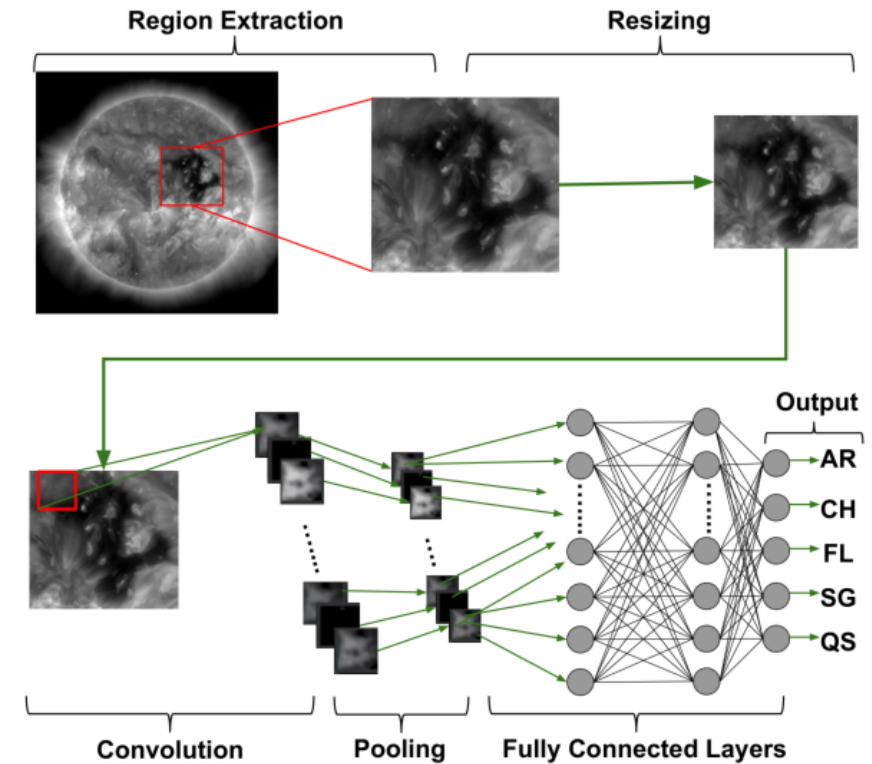
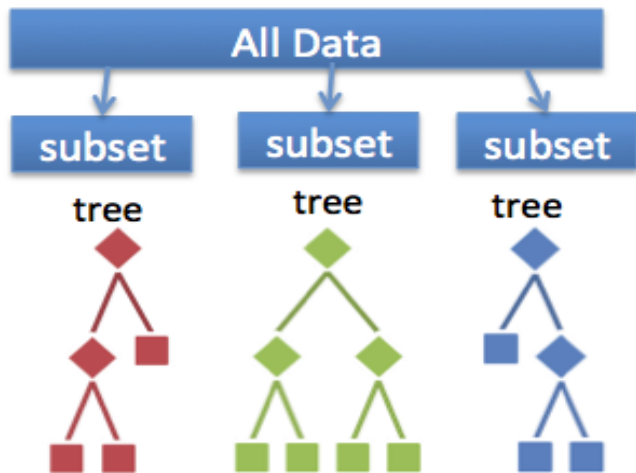
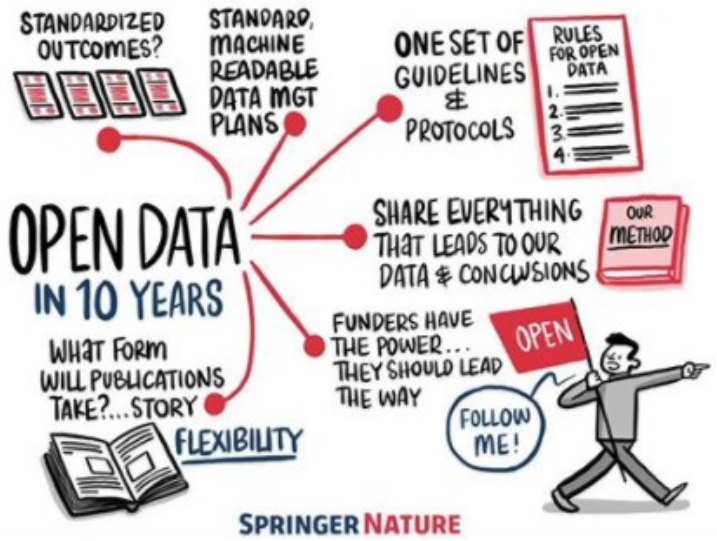


Image parameter	Value
Entropy	0.1521
Mean	0.2695
Standard Deviation	0.5751
3 <sup>rd</sup> Moment (skewness)	0.3652
4 <sup>th</sup> Moment (kurtosis)	0.1112
Uniformity	0.9984
Relative Smoothness (RS)	0.2154
Fractal Dimension	0.0014
Tamura Directionality	0.1512
Tamura Contrast	0.1412





# Data availability for non-Solar scientists



**SCIENTIFIC DATA**

Altmetric: 17 Citations: 1 [More detail >>](#)

Data Descriptor | [OPEN](#)

## A large-scale solar dynamics observatory image dataset for computer vision applications

Ahmet Kucuk, Juan M. Banda & Rafal A. Angryk

*Scientific Data* 4, Article number: 170096 (2017)  
doi:10.1038/sdata.2017.96

[Download Citation](#)

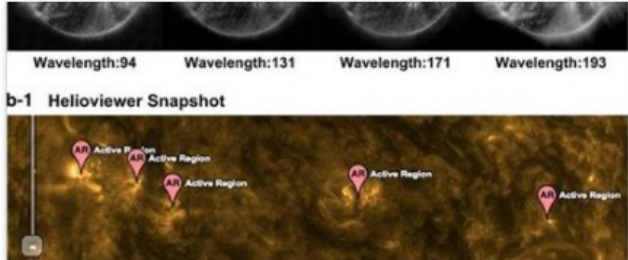
[Computer science](#) [Solar physics](#)

Received: 06 December 2016  
Accepted: 14 June 2017  
Published online: 25 July 2017



Scientific Data  
July 25, 2017

Our first non-terrestrial dataset!  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/sdata201796>



Wavelength:94 Wavelength:131 Wavelength:171 Wavelength:193

**b-1 Heliviewer Snapshot**

**b-2 Drawing from The Dataset**

A large-scale solar dynamics observatory image dataset for computer vision applications

Data Descriptor  
NATURE.COM

Data from: January 1, 2012, and December 31, 2014



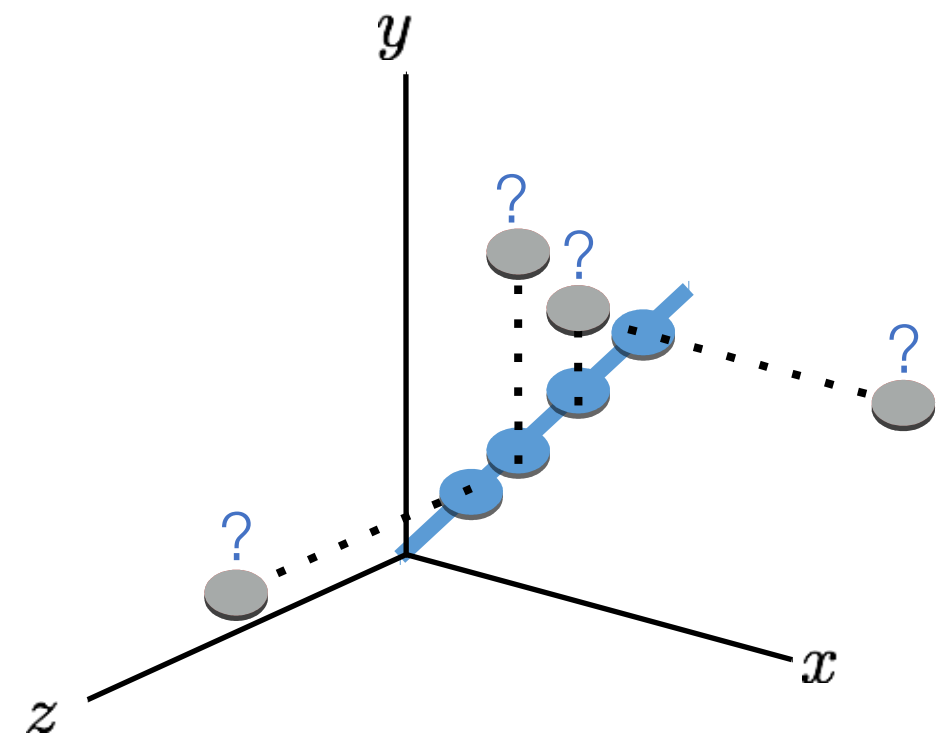
## Long-term goals and perspective:

- Move to data-driven multi-modal modeling
- Incorporate both Computer Science and Solar Physics knowledge in to the data processing and understanding process
- From data silos into inter-connected, machine readable and directly referenceable data points



Daniel Pimentel-Alarcón  
(CS: Machine Learning)

$x$	■	■	■	?
$y$	■	?	?	■
$z$	?	■	■	■



Learning from *challenging* data

Corrupted

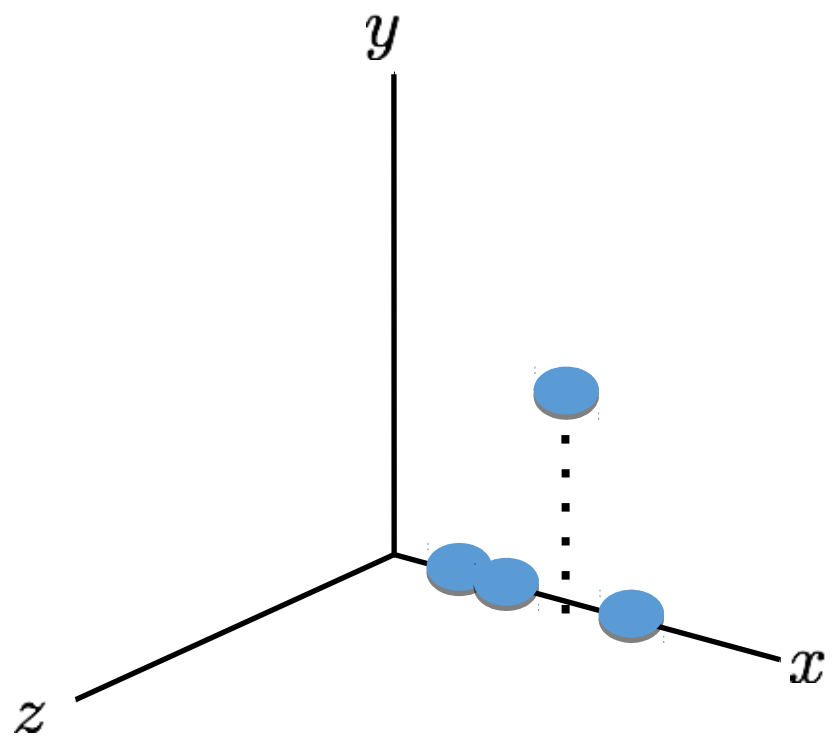
Incomplete

Sparse



Daniel Pimentel-Alarcón  
(CS: Machine Learning)

$x$	0	0	1	0
$y$	0	0	0	0
$z$	0	0	0	0

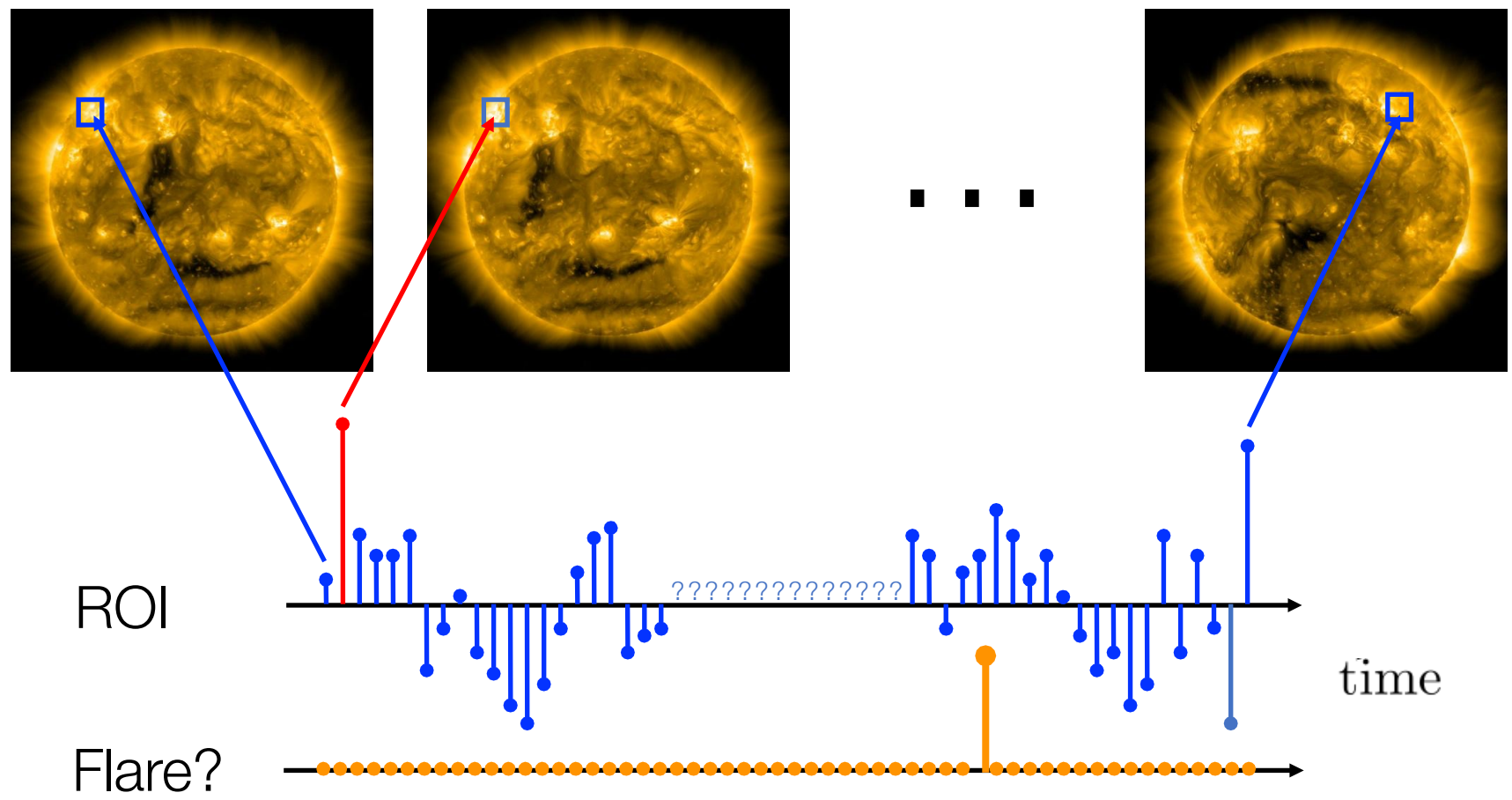


Learning from *challenging* data

**Corrupted**

**Incomplete**

**Sparse**



# Learning from *challenging* data

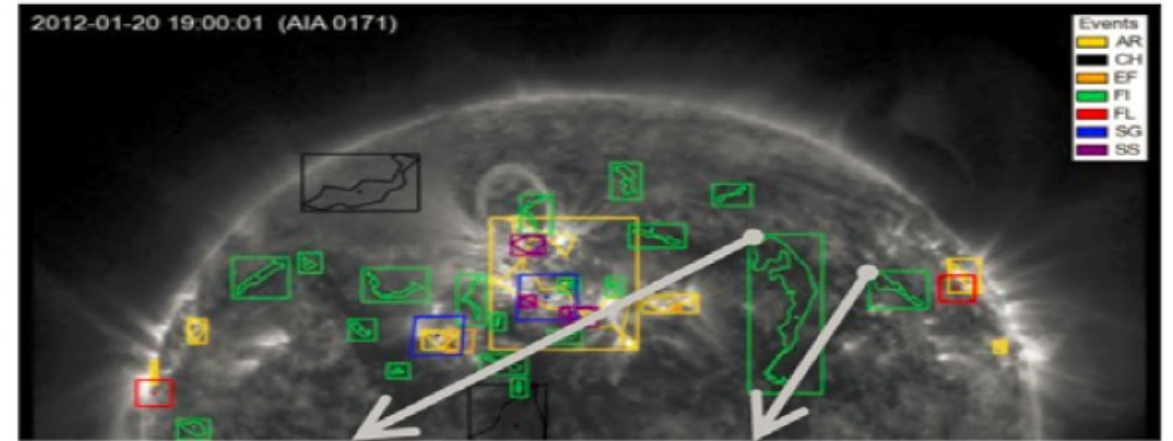
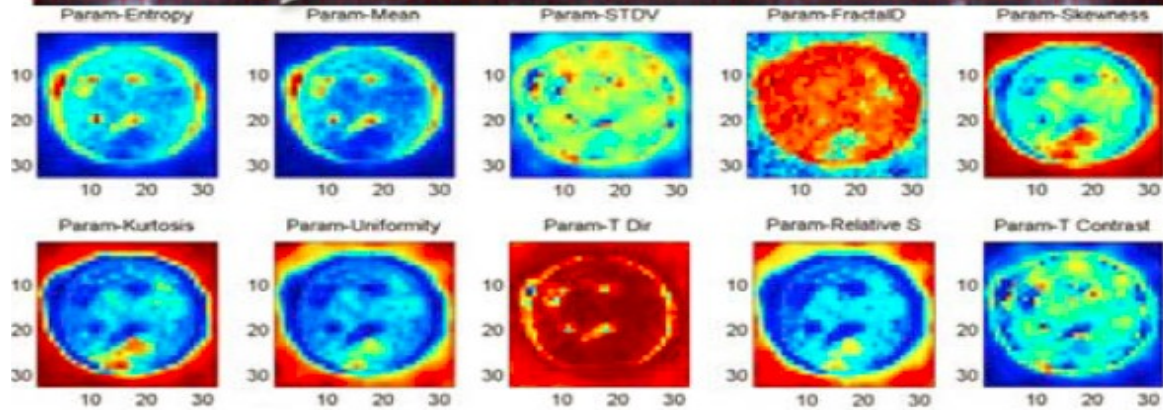
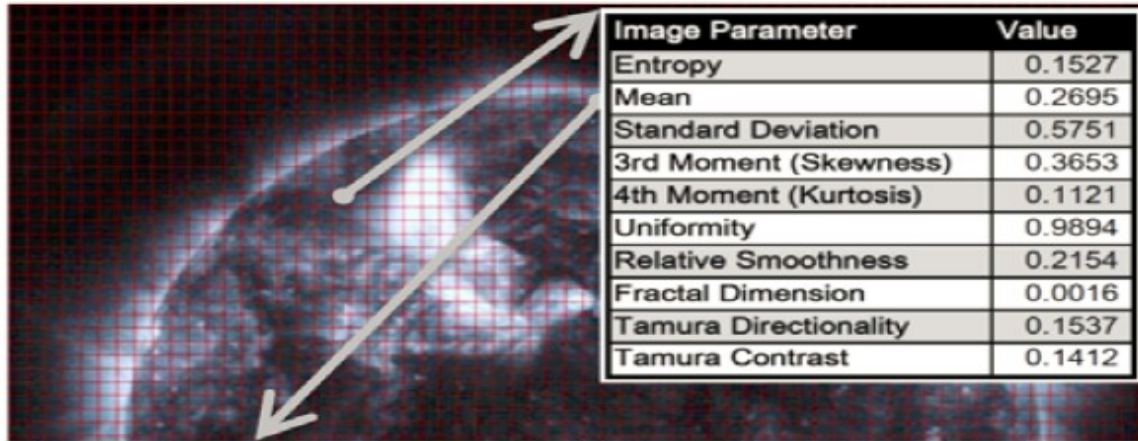
Corrupted

Incomplete

Sparse



# Big Data at GSU

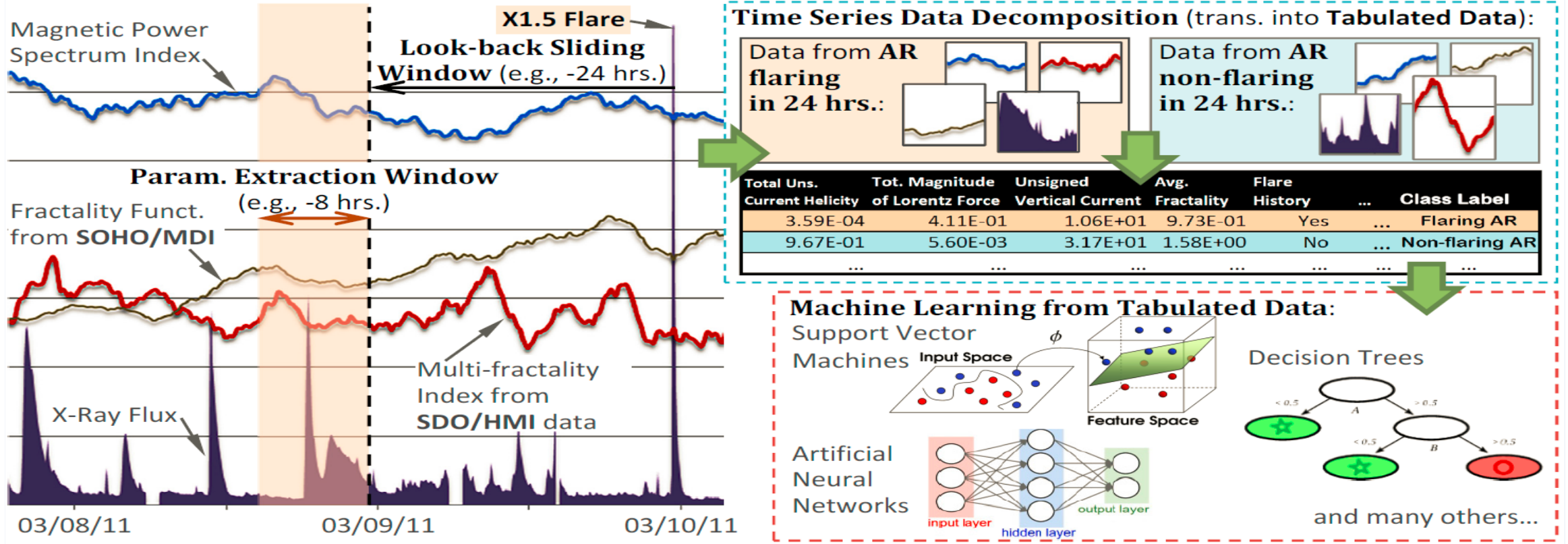


Attribute	Filament 1	Filament 2
FI_Length	9.18E+09	4.16E+09
FI_Tilt	14.11	66.88
FI_BarbsTot	3.00	2.00
FI_BarbsR	1.00	1.00
FI_BarbsL	2.00	0.00
FI_Chirality	0.00	-1.00
FI_BarbsStartC1	-675.38,-677.38,-631.49	-595.57,-601.56
FI_BarbsEndC1	-688.35,-672.39,-630.49	-573.62,-594.57
Event_StartTime	2014-03-04T19:58:11	2014-03-04T19:58:11

**A. Grid Data/Feature Parameters (GSU)**

**B. Events Metadata (HEK)**

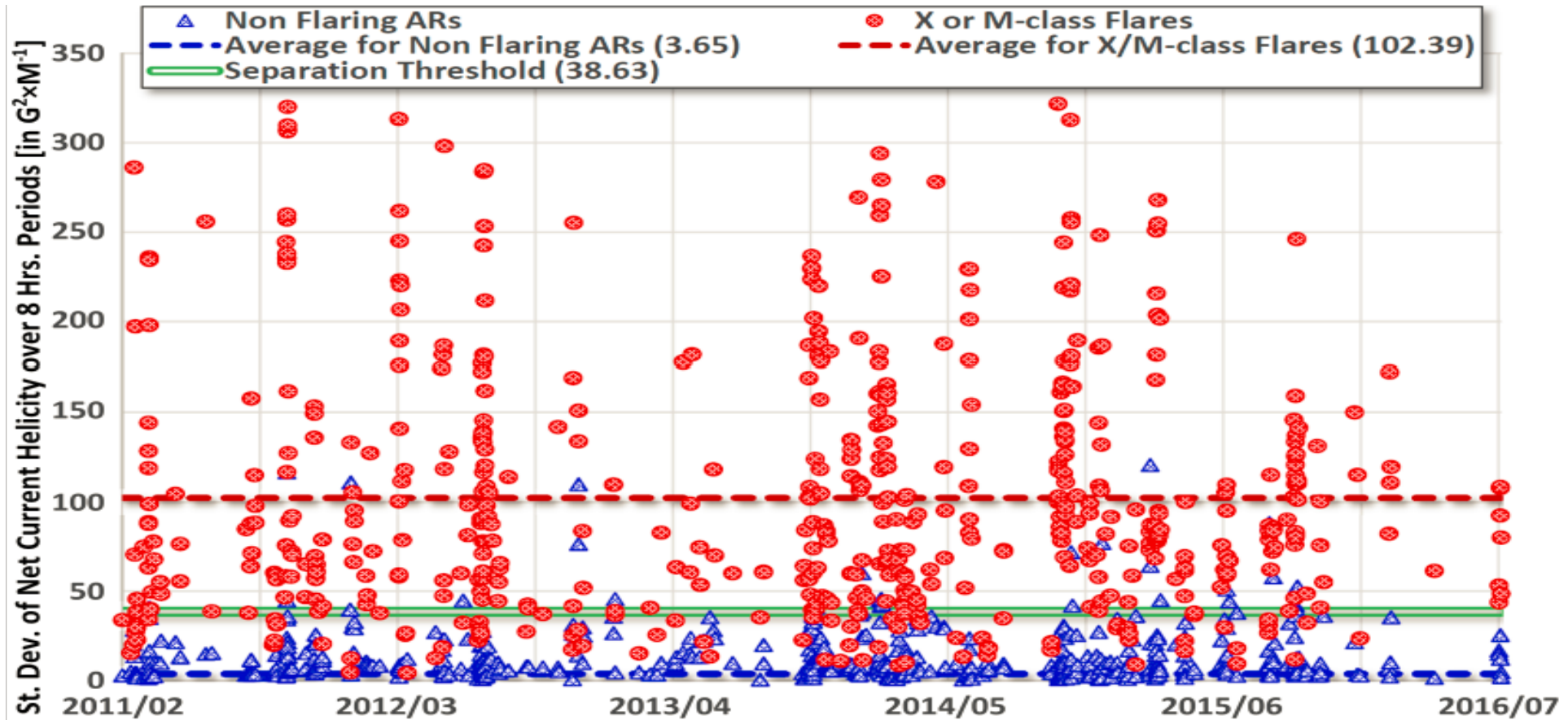
# Parameters Extraction & Exhaustive Analyses (NEVER done before)



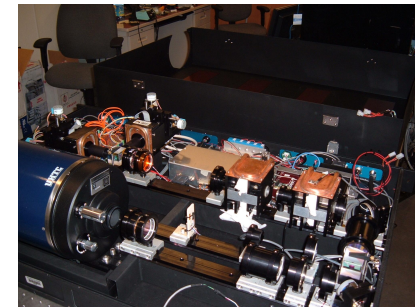
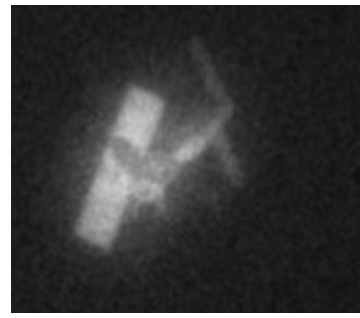
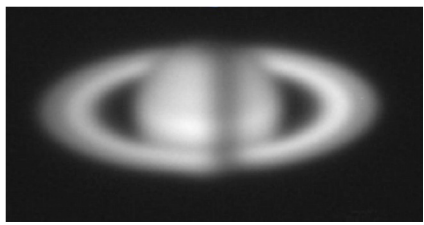
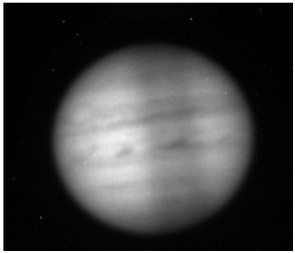
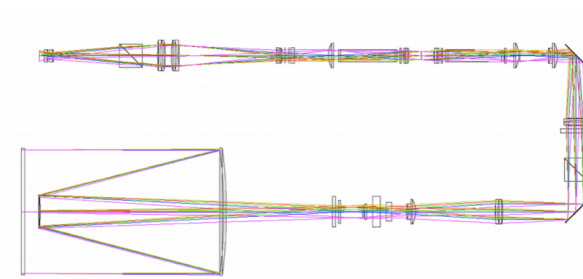
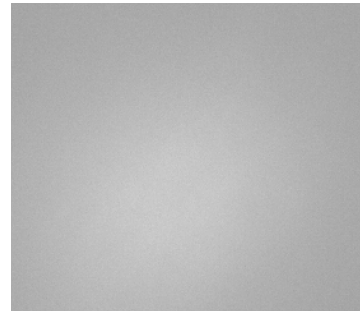
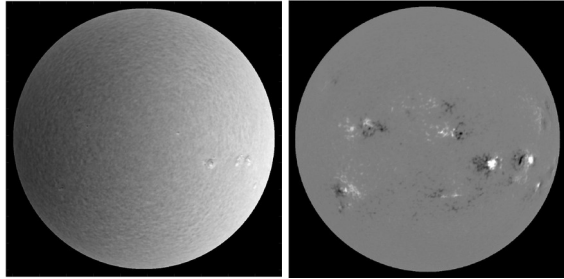
# We focus on human-friendly decision making 😊



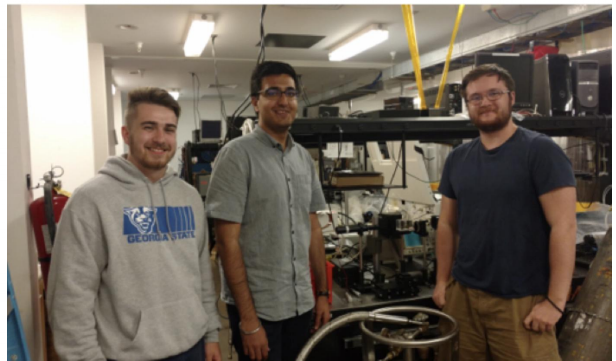
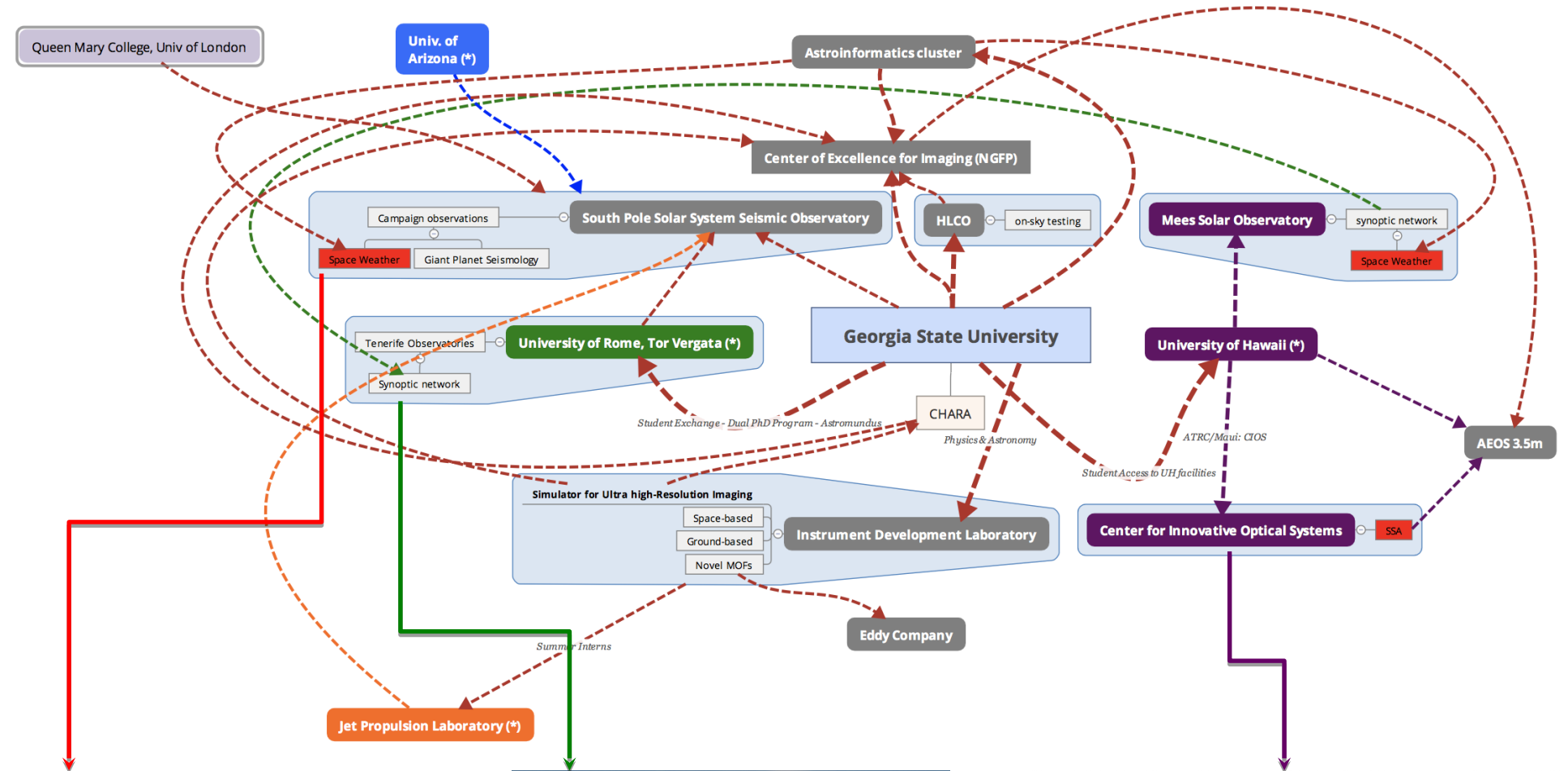
Standard Deviation of Active Region Net Current Helicity measured over 8 hours period prior for 580 X- or M-class Solar Flares (red) from 02/2011 to 07/2016 compared to non-flaring Active Regions (blue). Green line represents threshold recommended by our decision tree to separate flaring and non-flaring ARs



# We seismically probe the solar system, develop techniques for high-resolution imaging, and build instruments.



# Strategic Plan 2018-2025

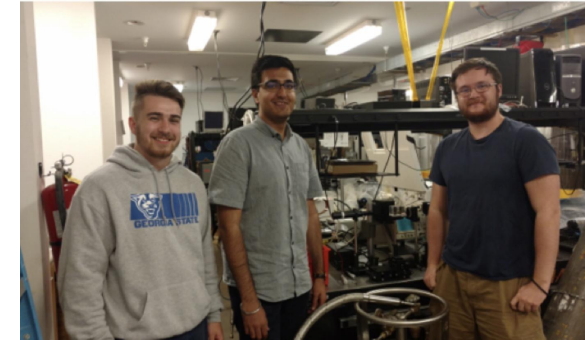




# Laboratories and Observatories

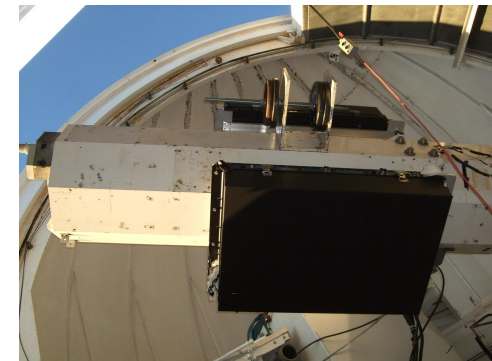
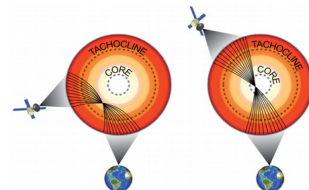
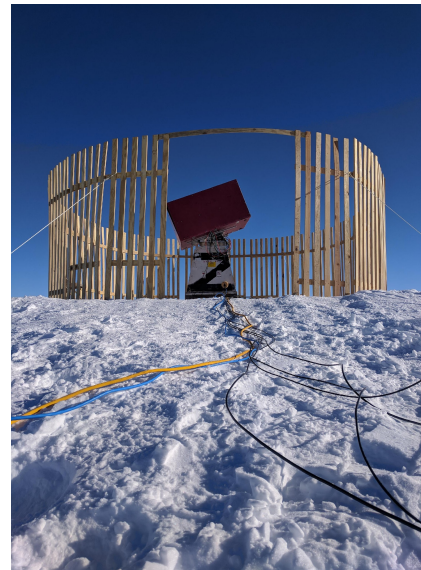
## – Laboratories

- GSU's Natural Sciences Building
  - Funding – DURIP award (\$300K), GSU (\$250K)
  - Transfer of equipment from UH (~\$1M value)
- Optics Laboratory at UH's Advanced Technology Research Center
  - MOU in place for GSU staff and students



## – Observatories

- Hard Labor Creek Observatory
  - On-sky validation of instrumentation
  - Demonstrators for students
- South Pole Solar Observatory
- Mees Solar Observatory
  - Part of MOU with UH
- AEOS 3.5m (Maui)
  - Part of MOU with UH
- Targeting instrument deployment on
  - High-altitude balloons
  - CubeSats
  - Satellites





GSU has a very energetic and pro-active PR department. They have strongly highlighted:

- 1) *Jefferies' GSU South Pole Observatory*
- 2) *White House Visit Angryk & Martens*
- 3) *Data Benchmark Release Banda (GSU)*

Public outreach, apart from the standard lectures and classroom visits:

- 4) *August 2017 Eclipse*
- 5) *Teaching for the Dalai Lama*





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# Two Georgia State Scientists Invited to White House to Discuss Preparedness for Space Weather Events

Posted On October 29, 2015

Categories Colleges & Schools, Discovery Tags Astronomy, CHARA, Computer Science, Piet Martens, Rafal Angryk, space weather, Technology, White House



WASHINGTON, D.C. — Two Georgia State University scientists were among experts invited by The