

Machine learning for data-driven discovery in solid Earth geoscience

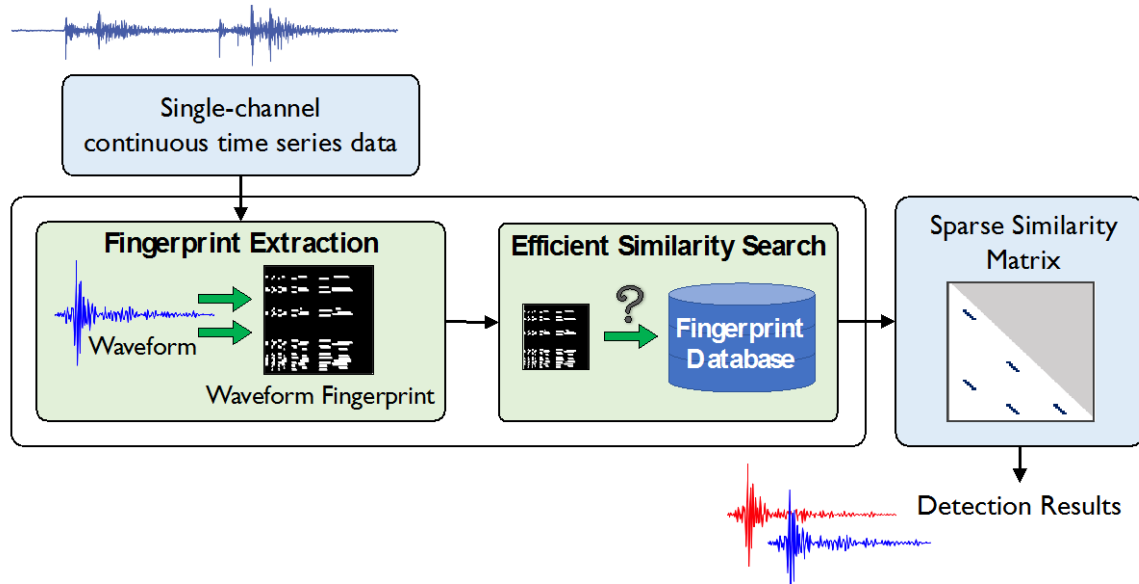
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Harvard Data Science Initiative Postdoctoral Fellow



**Harvard John A. Paulson
School of Engineering
and Applied Sciences**

Beyond the Black Box: The Future of Machine Learning and Data-Intensive Computing in the Solid Earth Geosciences

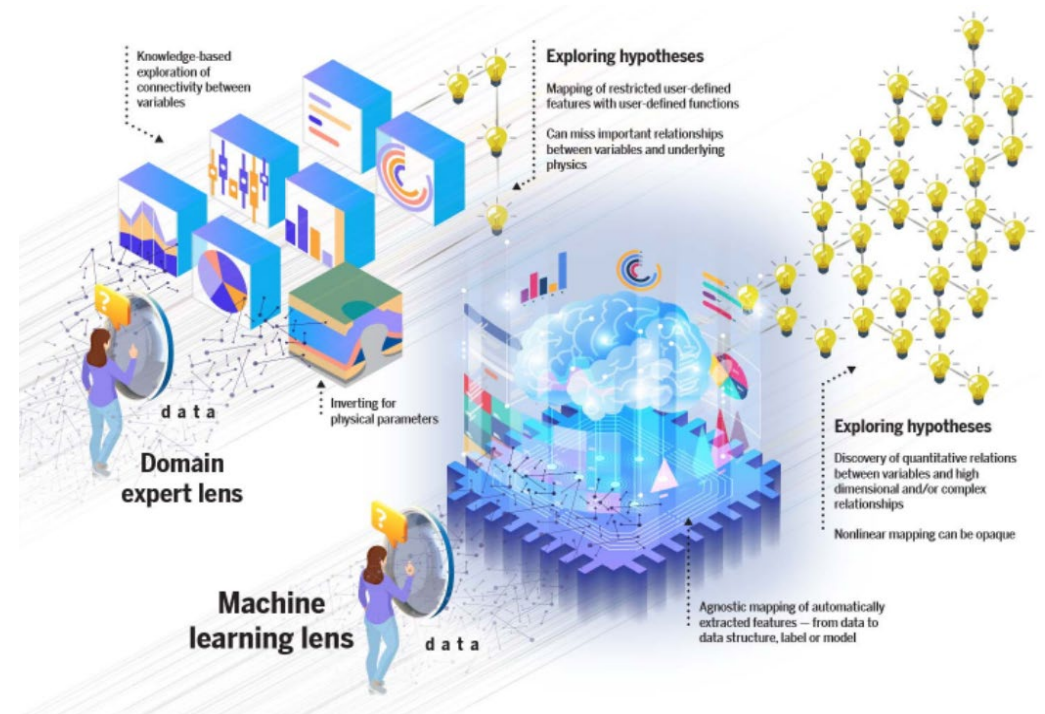
FAST: Earthquake detection by efficient similarity search



GEOFYSICS

Machine learning for data-driven discovery in solid Earth geoscience

Karianne J. Bergen^{1,2}, Paul A. Johnson³, Maarten V. de Hoop⁴, Gregory C. Beroza^{5*}



What is Machine Learning?

Machine learning (ML)

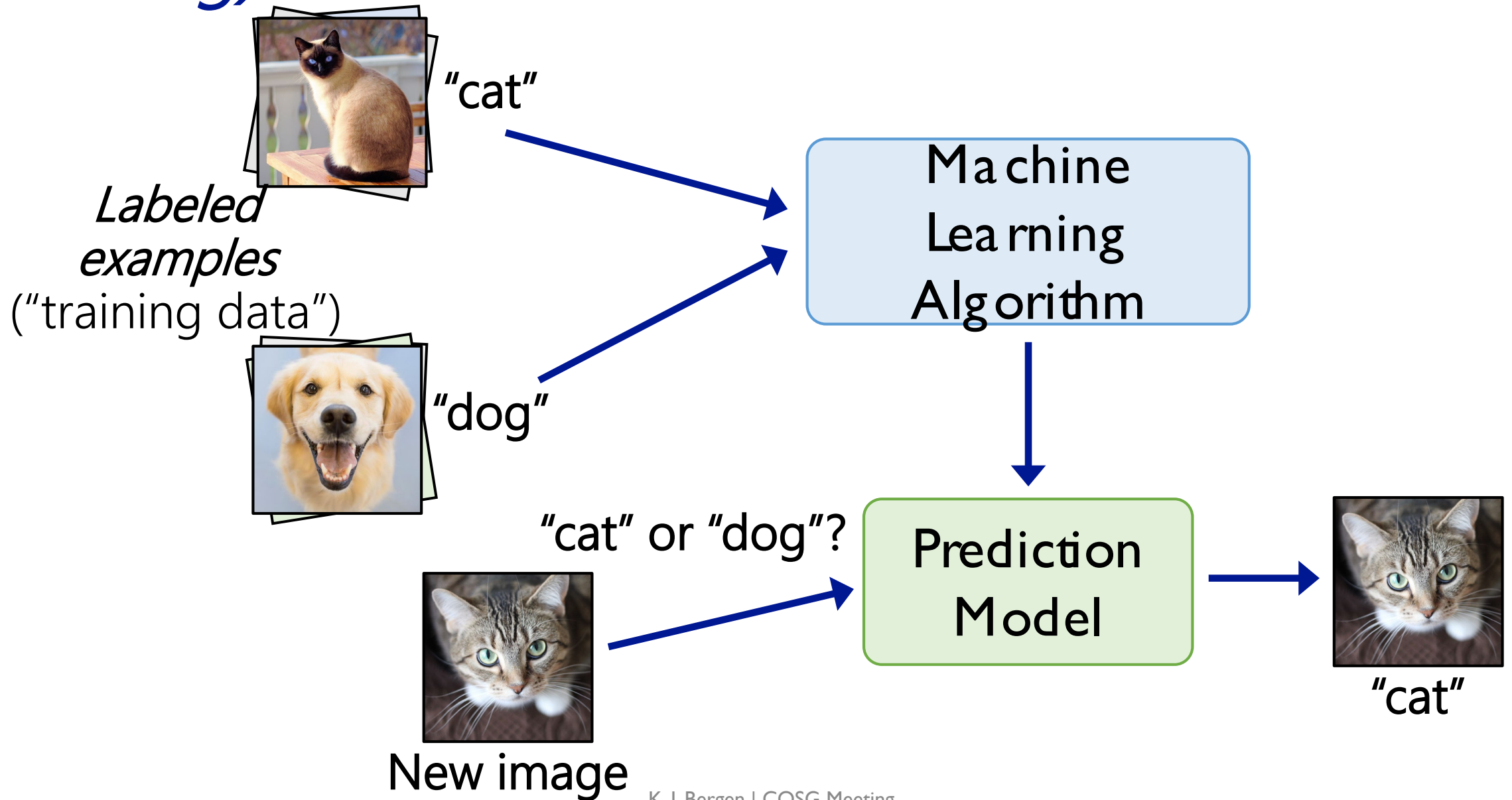
a set of tools for extracting patterns and building predictive models from data.

Data mining

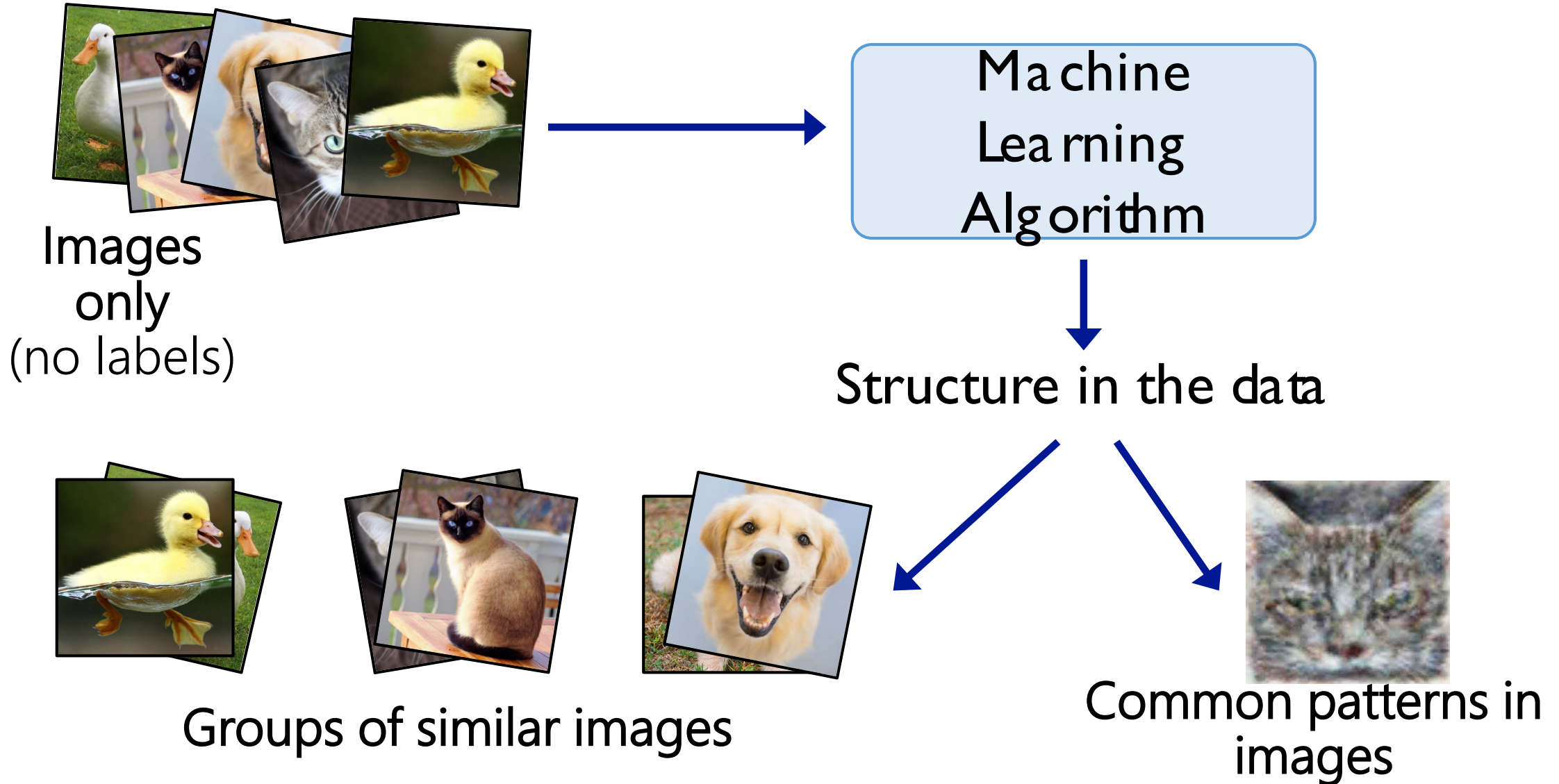
tools for extracting unknown patterns or information from large data sets

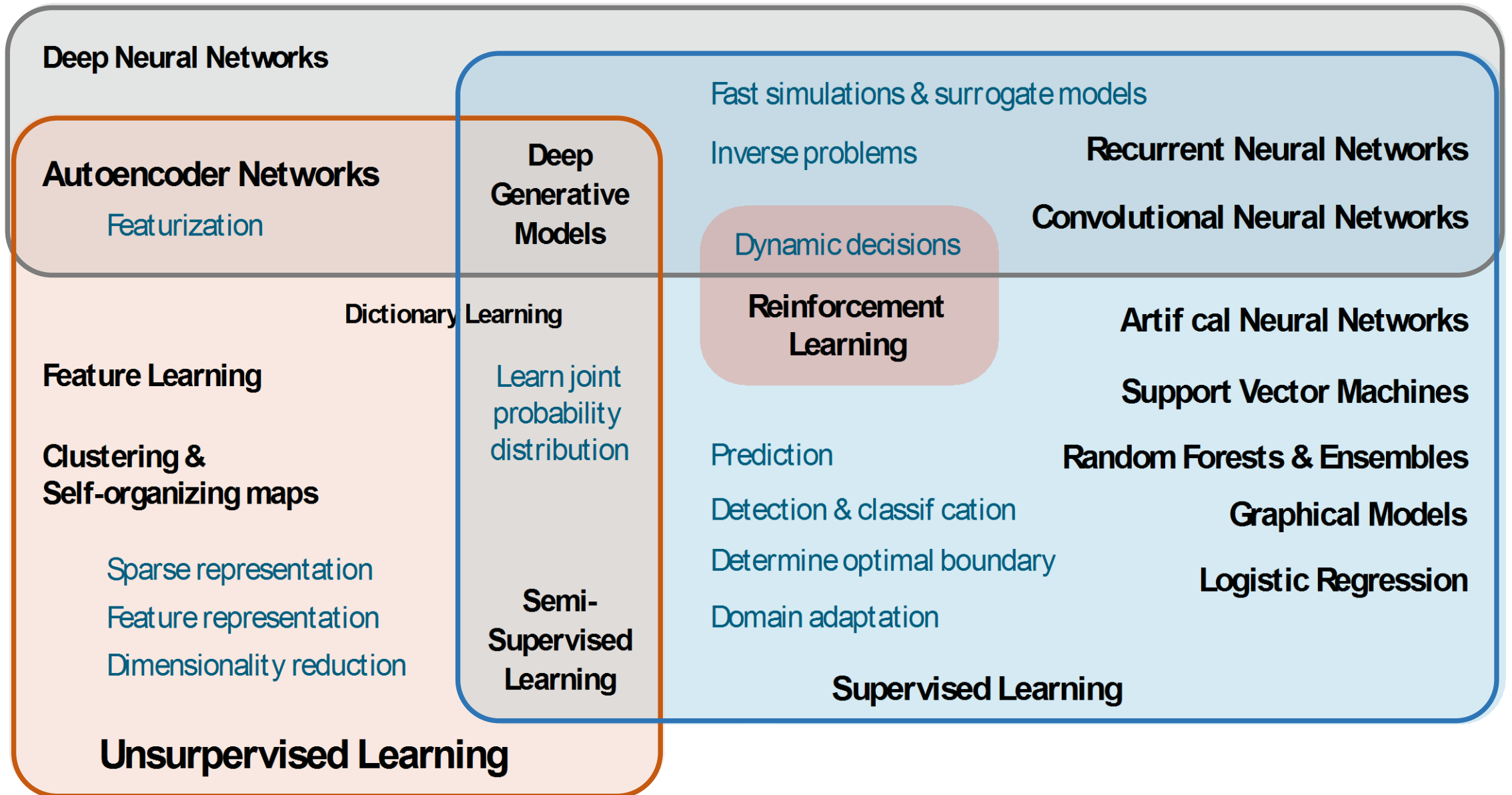


Building models from examples (*Supervised learning*)



Finding patterns in data (*Unsupervised learning*)



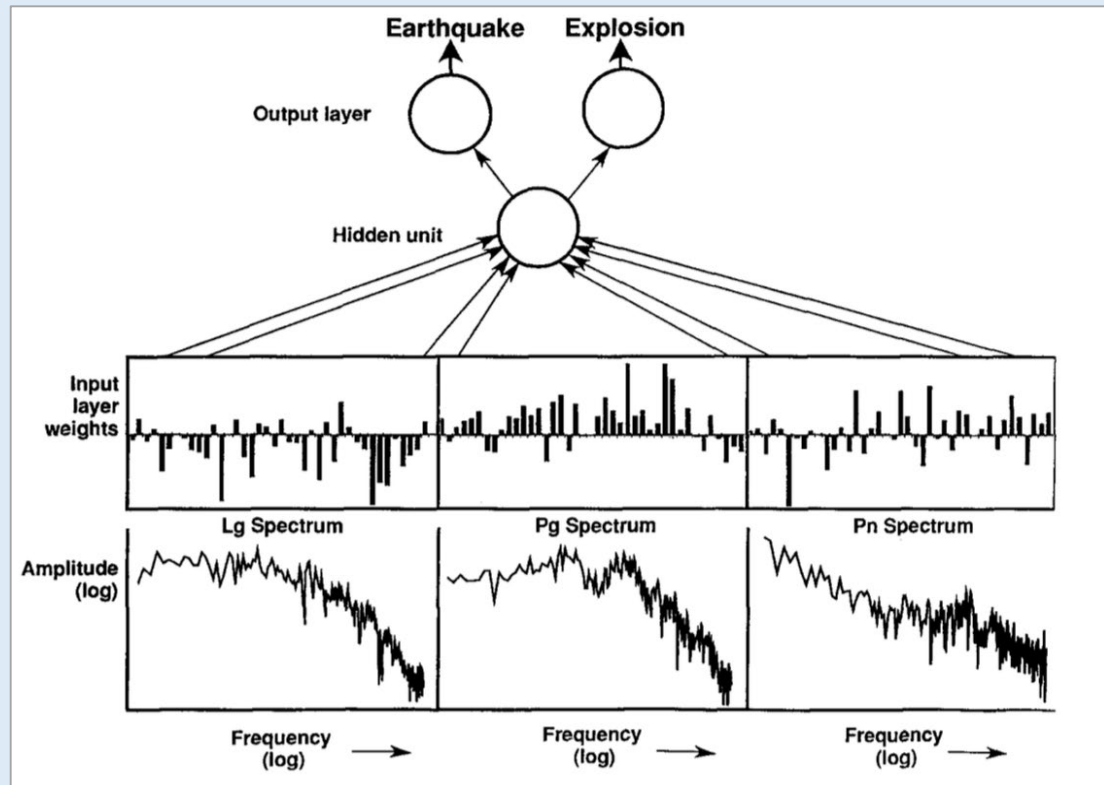


*Machine learning can help geoscientists
extract more knowledge & insights
from larger data sets than ever
before.*

Geoscientists have been using ML for decades.

Artificial Neural Networks

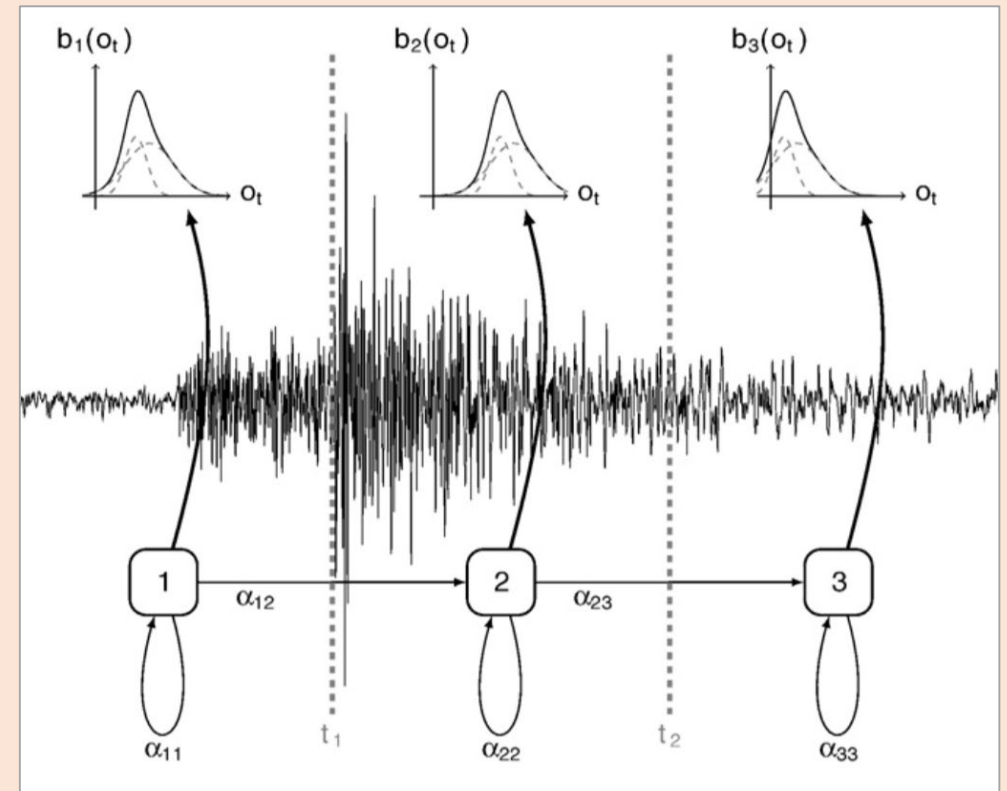
(e.g. Dowla *et al.*, 1990; Dysart & Pulli, 1990)



[Dowla *et al.*, 1990]

Hidden Markov Models

(e.g. Ohrnberger, 2001; Beyreuther *et al.*, 2008)

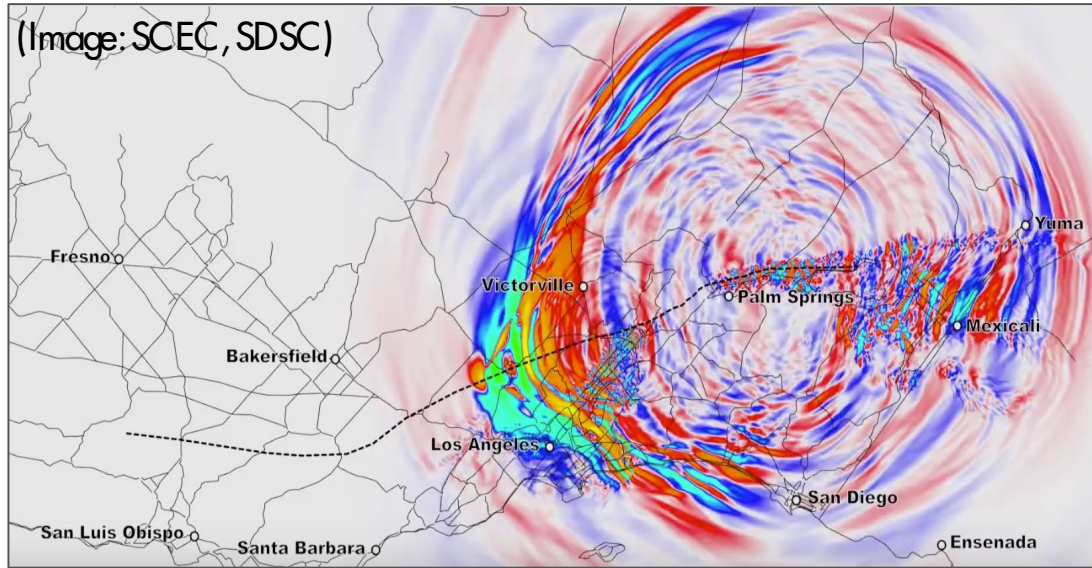


[Beyreuther *et al.*, 2008]

Recent developments have created new opportunities for scientific discovery with ML in solid Earth geoscience.

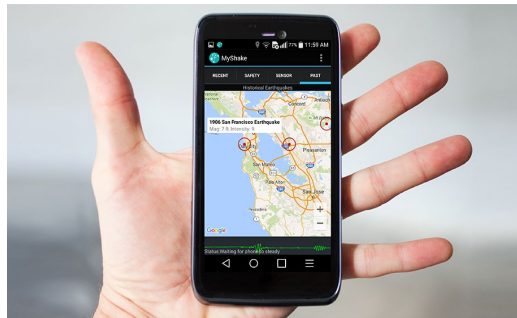
- 1) Massive geoscience data sets
- 2) New ML algorithms and models
- 3) Improvements in computing technology & tools

Massive geoscience data sets

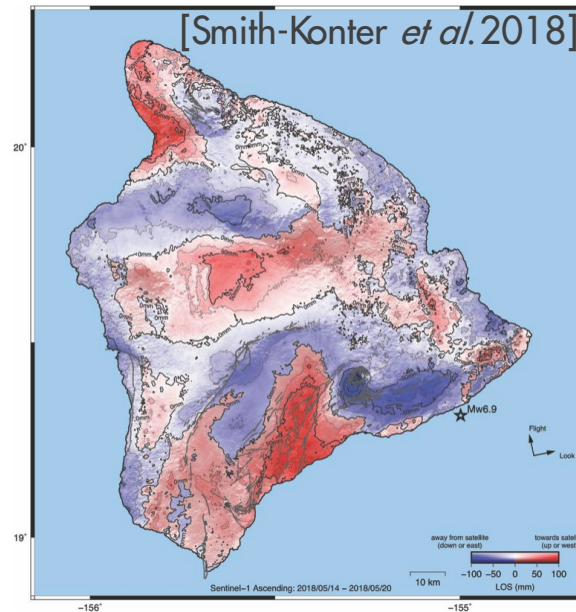


Large-scale simulations

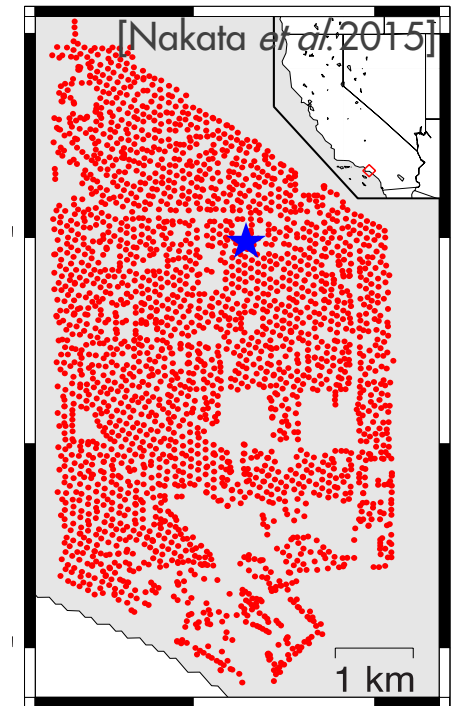
Crowdsourced
data



Long-duration continuous observations



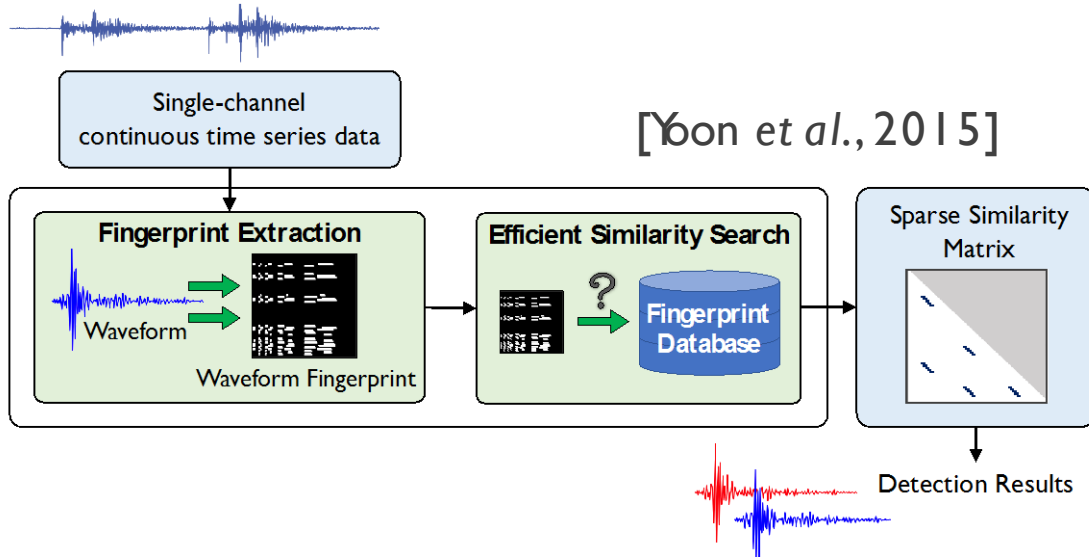
Spatiotemporal &
remote sensing
data



Dense sensor arrays
data

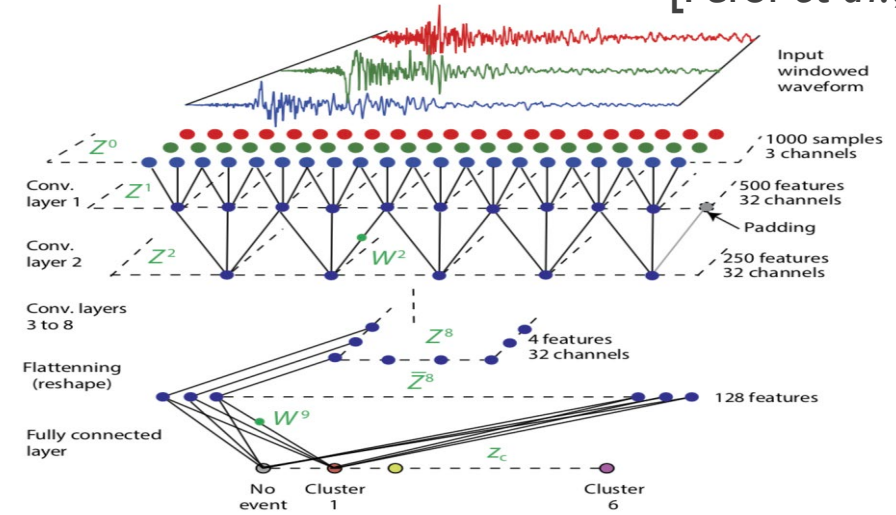
New ML algorithms and models

Large-scale Data Mining (FAST)

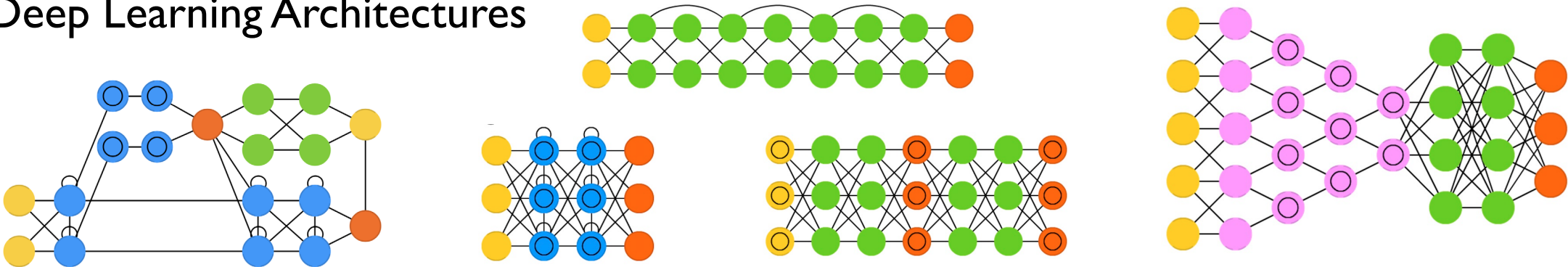


Convolutional Neural Network (ConvNetQuake)

[Perol et al., 2018]

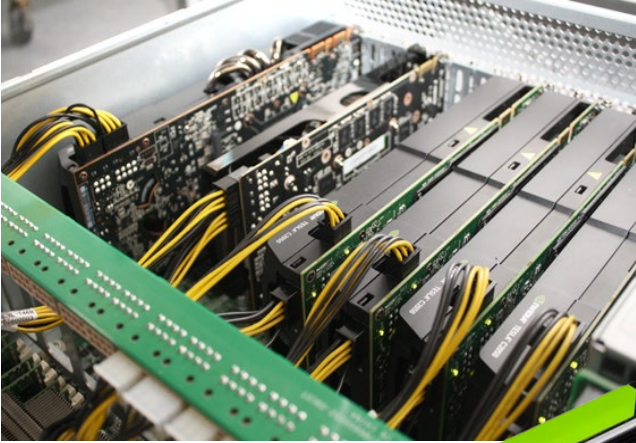


Deep Learning Architectures

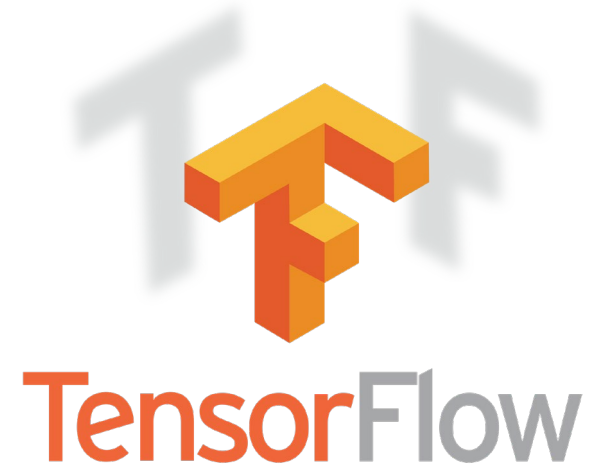


[Van Veen & Leijnen, 2019]

Improvements in computing technology & tools



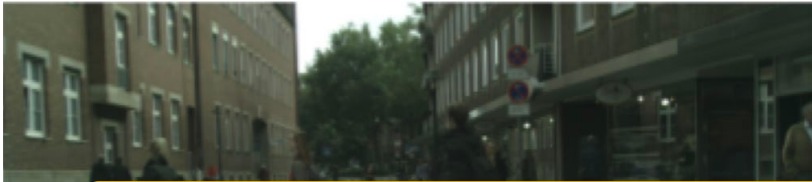
PYTORCH



Google Cloud

Where has ML been particularly successful?

[Trembl et al. 2016]



“Hey Siri....”

What can I help you with?

[DeepMind]



- Structured data
- Tasks are well-defined and/or easy for humans to perform
- Large volumes of (high-quality) labeled data



A blue and yellow train
traveling down train tracks.

[Google AI blog]



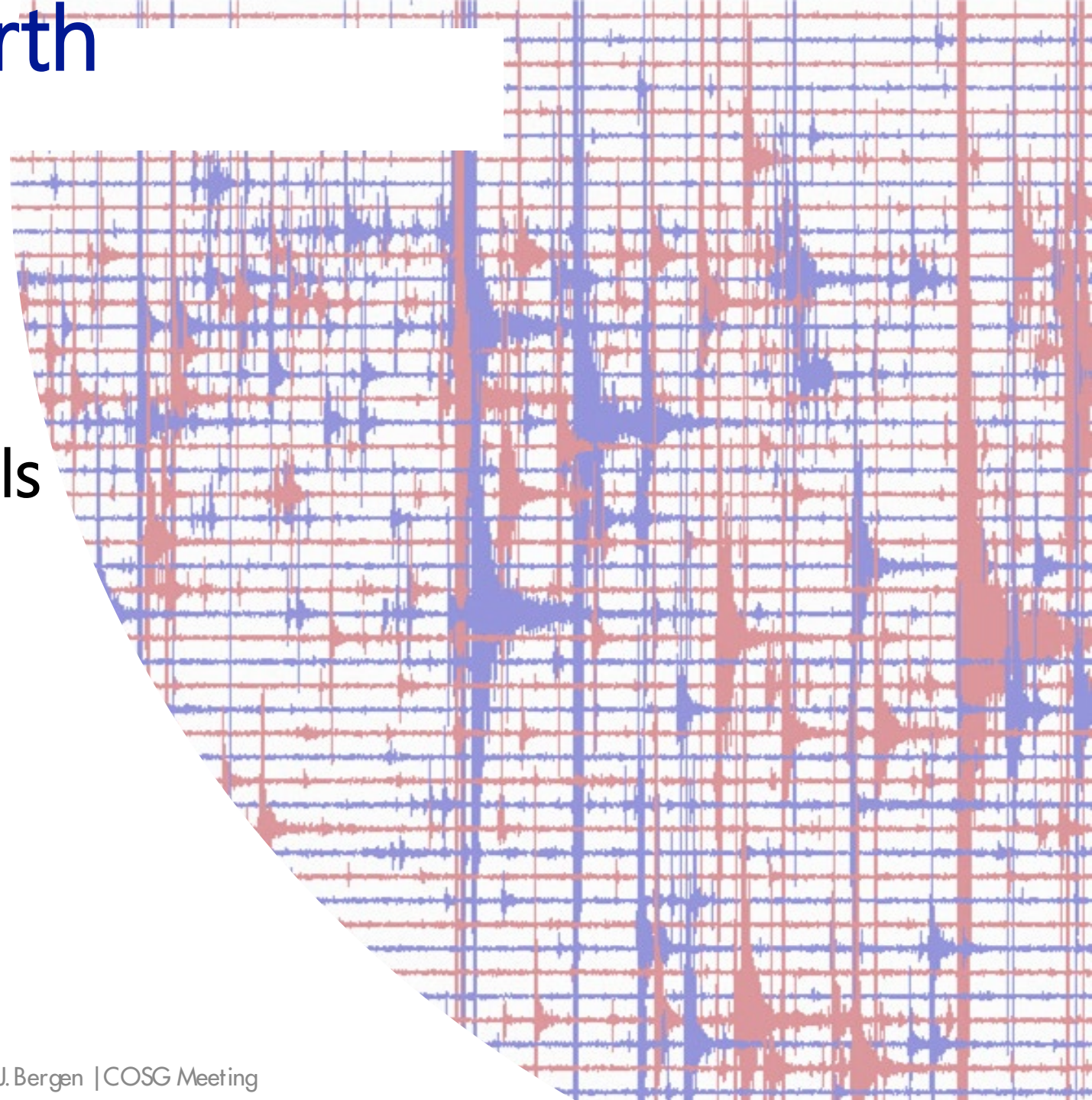
Image Processing
data on a grid: images

Language Processing
sequential data: text, audio

Game Play

Data sets in solid Earth geoscience

- Low signal-to-noise data
- Heterogenous noise
- Limited or low-quality labels
- Ground truth often unavailable
- Massive data sets require scalable methods
- Modeling across multiple scales (spatial, temporal)



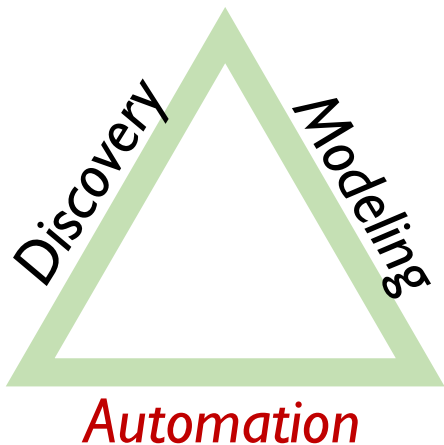
How is machine learning being used
in solid Earth geoscience today?

How might it be used in the near future?



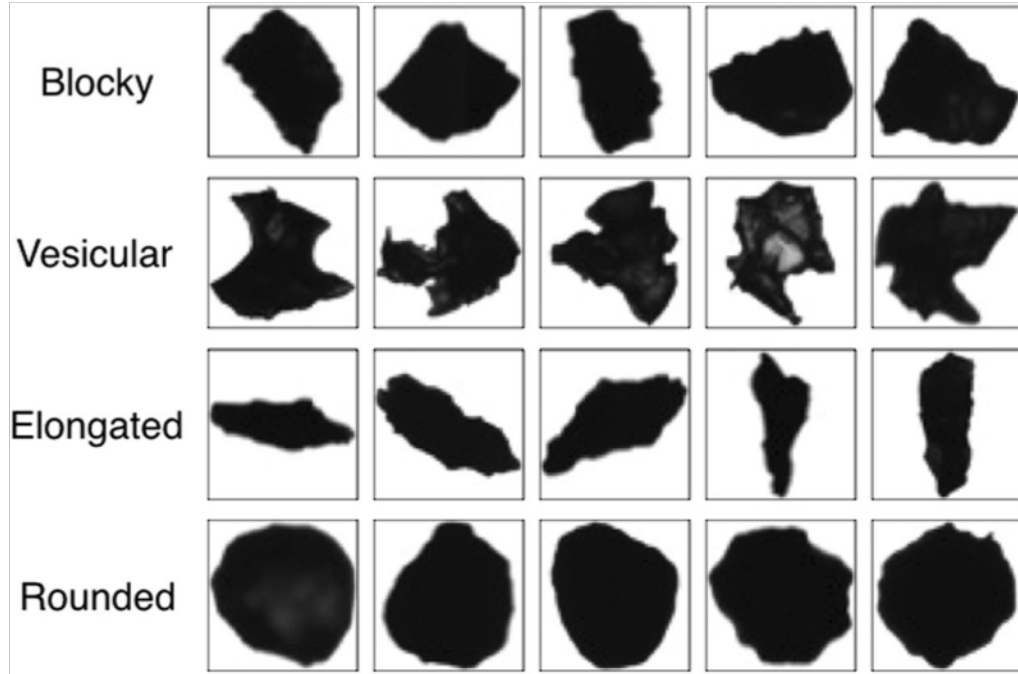
Automated prediction & analysis

- Goal:* Perform a complex or repetitive task
- a) challenging, tedious or infeasible for an analyst to perform, OR
 - b) difficult to express as a set of explicit commands
- ML as a tool for high accuracy predictions



Automated data analysis

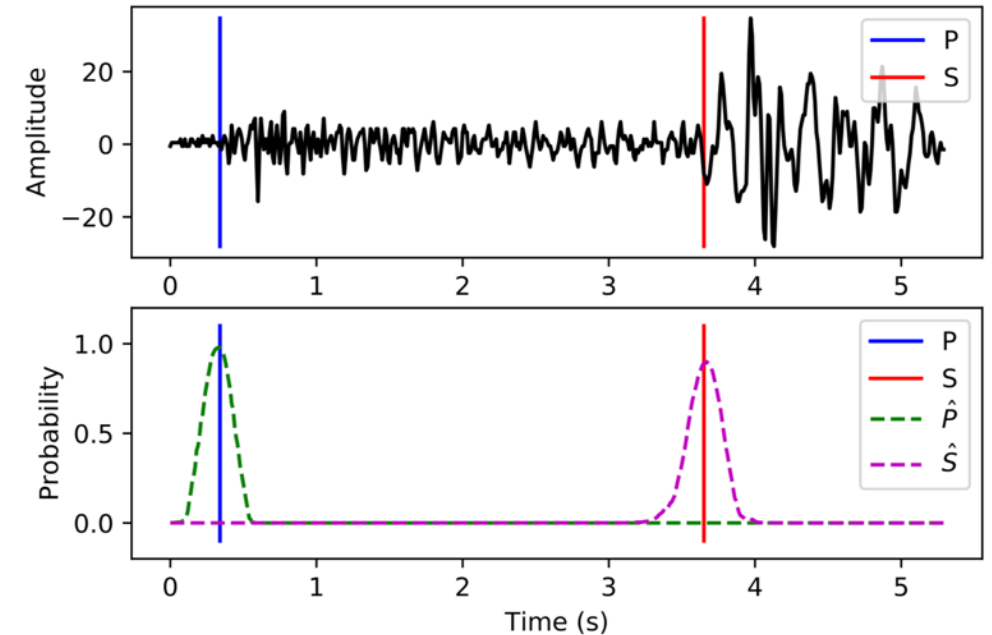
Classifying volcanic ash particles



*Tedious task for an analyst,
well-suited to automation with
ML*

[Shoji et al. (2018), Scientific

Phase-picking in seismic data

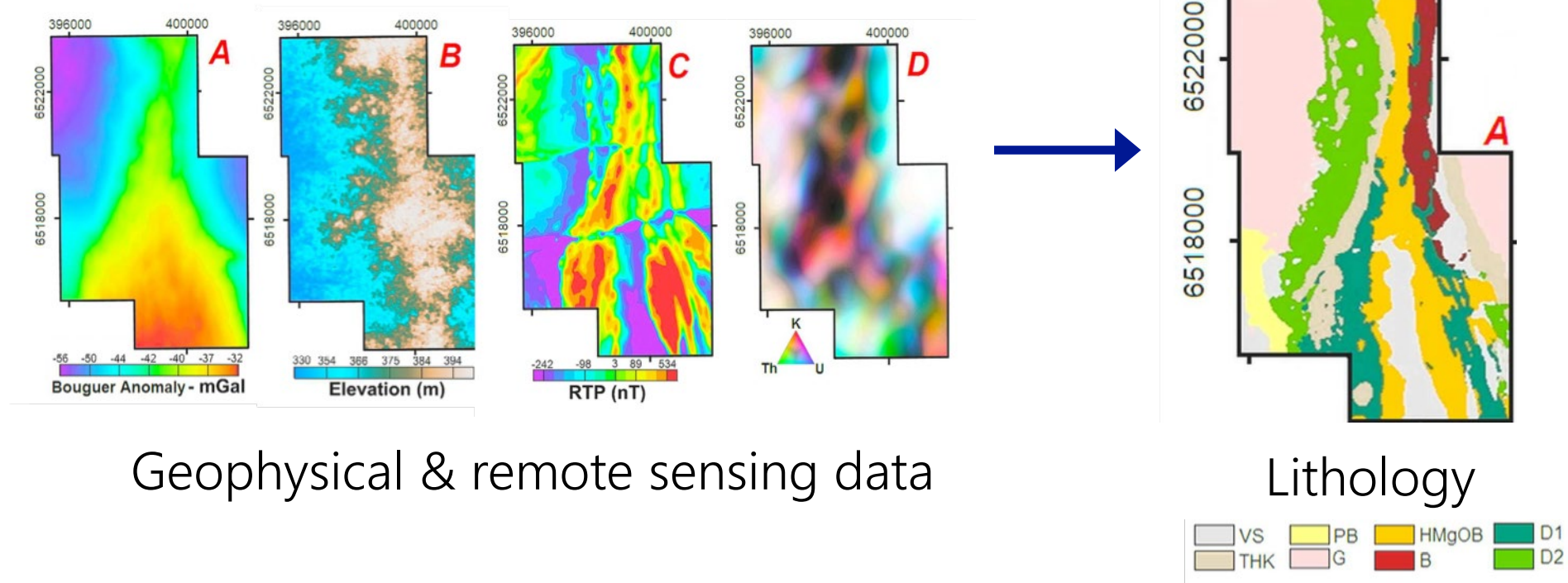


*Automating, improving
accuracy of existing analysis
pipeline*

[Zhu & Beroza (2018), Geophys J.

Automated prediction

Lithological mapping



Learning to predict lithology from sparse ground-truth measurements

[Kuhn et al., (2018), *Geophysics*.]

Machine learning challenges in solid Earth geoscience

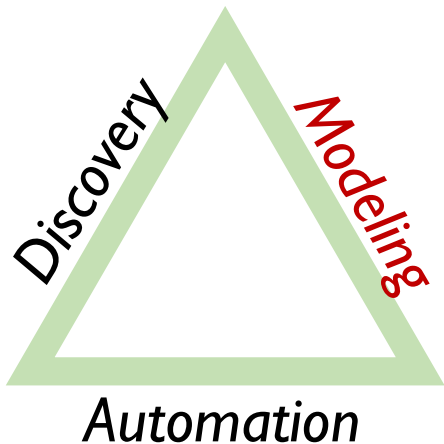
- Data set shift, covariate shift
- Biases in data collection, labeling
- Evaluating performance

Automation

Modeling & inversion

Goal: Create a representation that captures relationships or structure in a data set

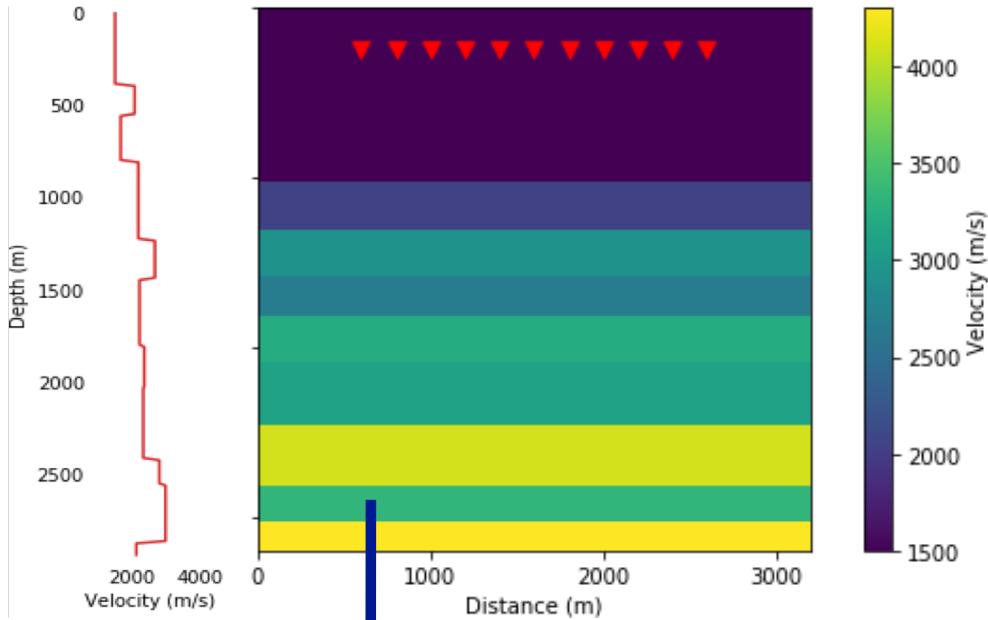
- Learning surrogate models
- Model reduction & coarse-graining
- Intersection of ML & numerical simulations



Modeling: *Simulating wavefields*

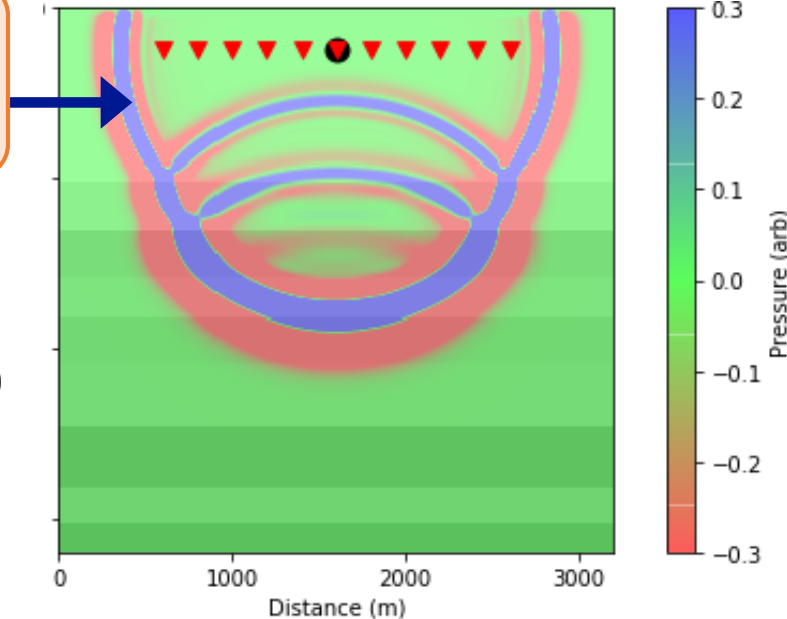
[Moseley *et al.* (2018), *arXiv*]

1D velocity model



Acoustic finite difference model

Wavefield Pressure (at 1s)



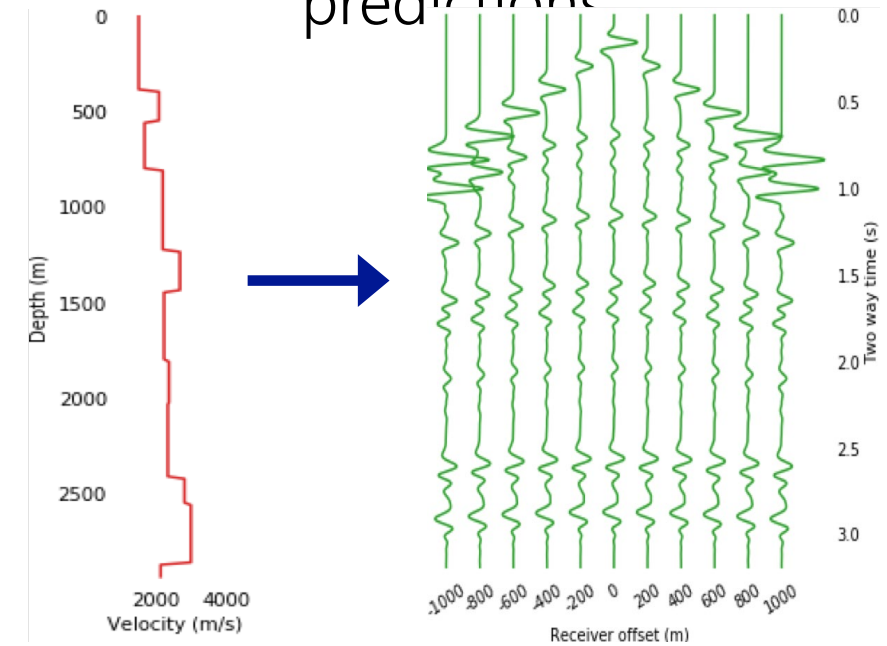
data

targets

Deep Neural Network

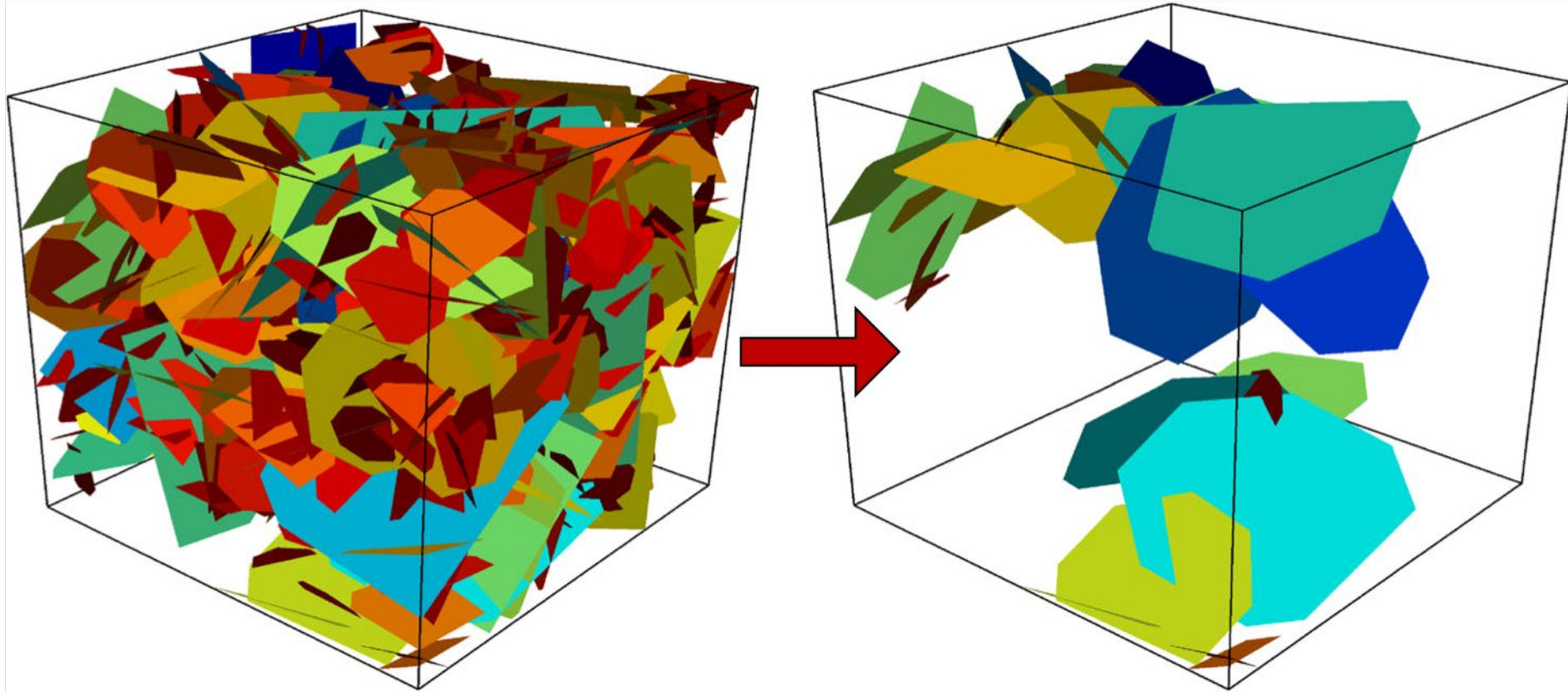
Prediction model

Directly maps 1D velocity structure to receiver pressure predictions



Modeling: *Model reduction for flow in porous media*

[Valera et al. (2018), *Comput. Geosci.*]



Full network model
Discrete fracture network

“Backbone” (reduced network model)
Subnetwork capturing flow pattern of full network

Machine learning challenges in solid Earth geoscience

- Data set shift, covariate shift
- Biases in data collection, labeling
- Evaluating performance

Automation

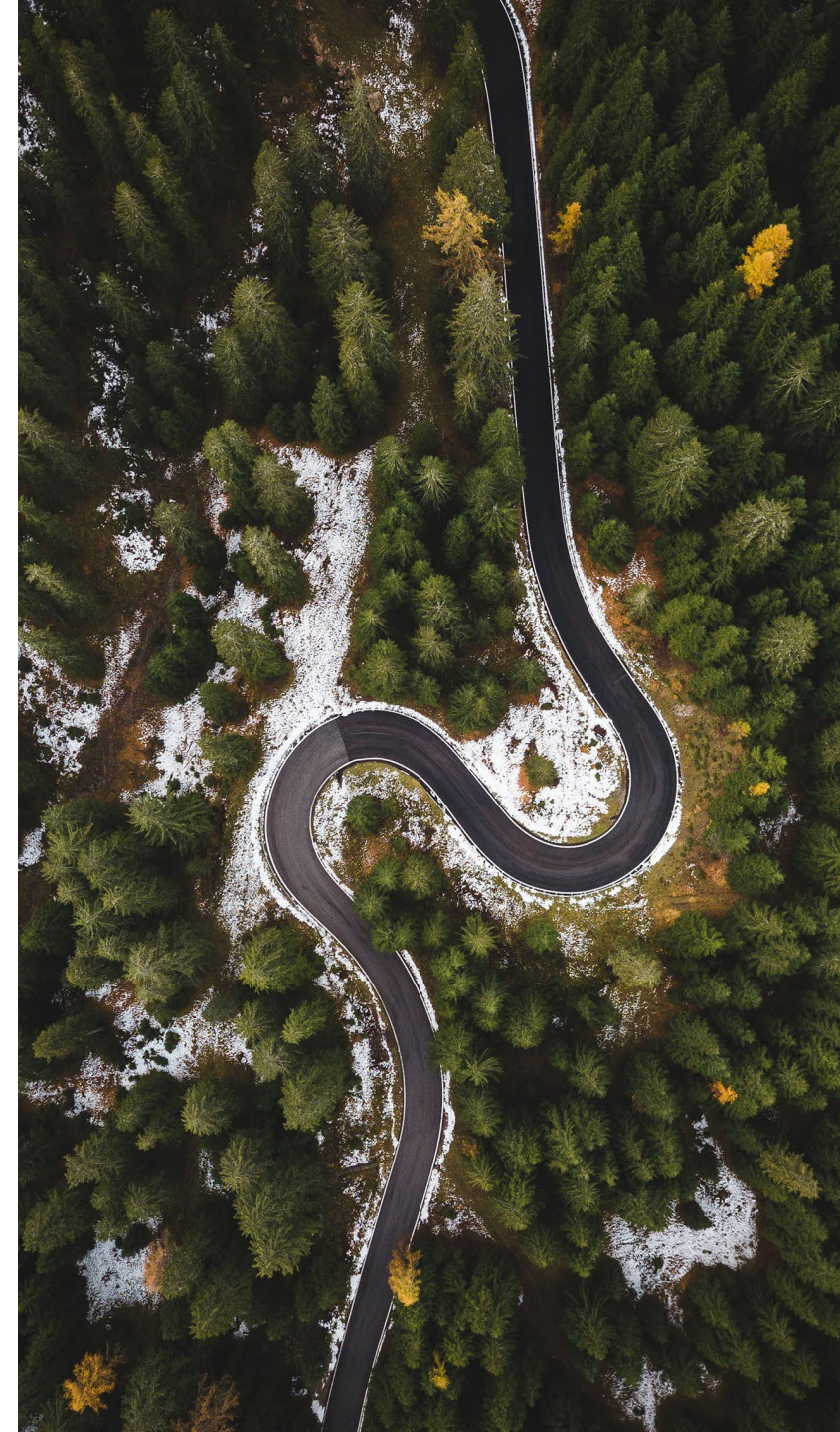
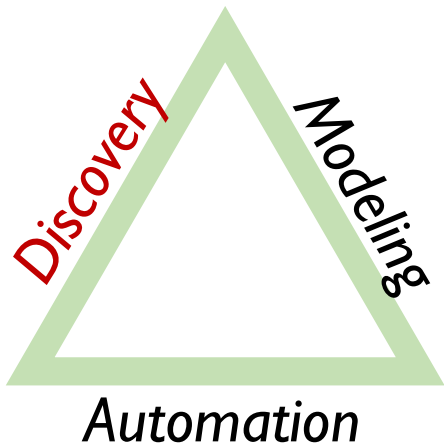
- Quantifying model uncertainty
- Physical constraints, domain knowledge
- Expense of collecting training data (from simulations)

Modeling

Discovering patterns & insights

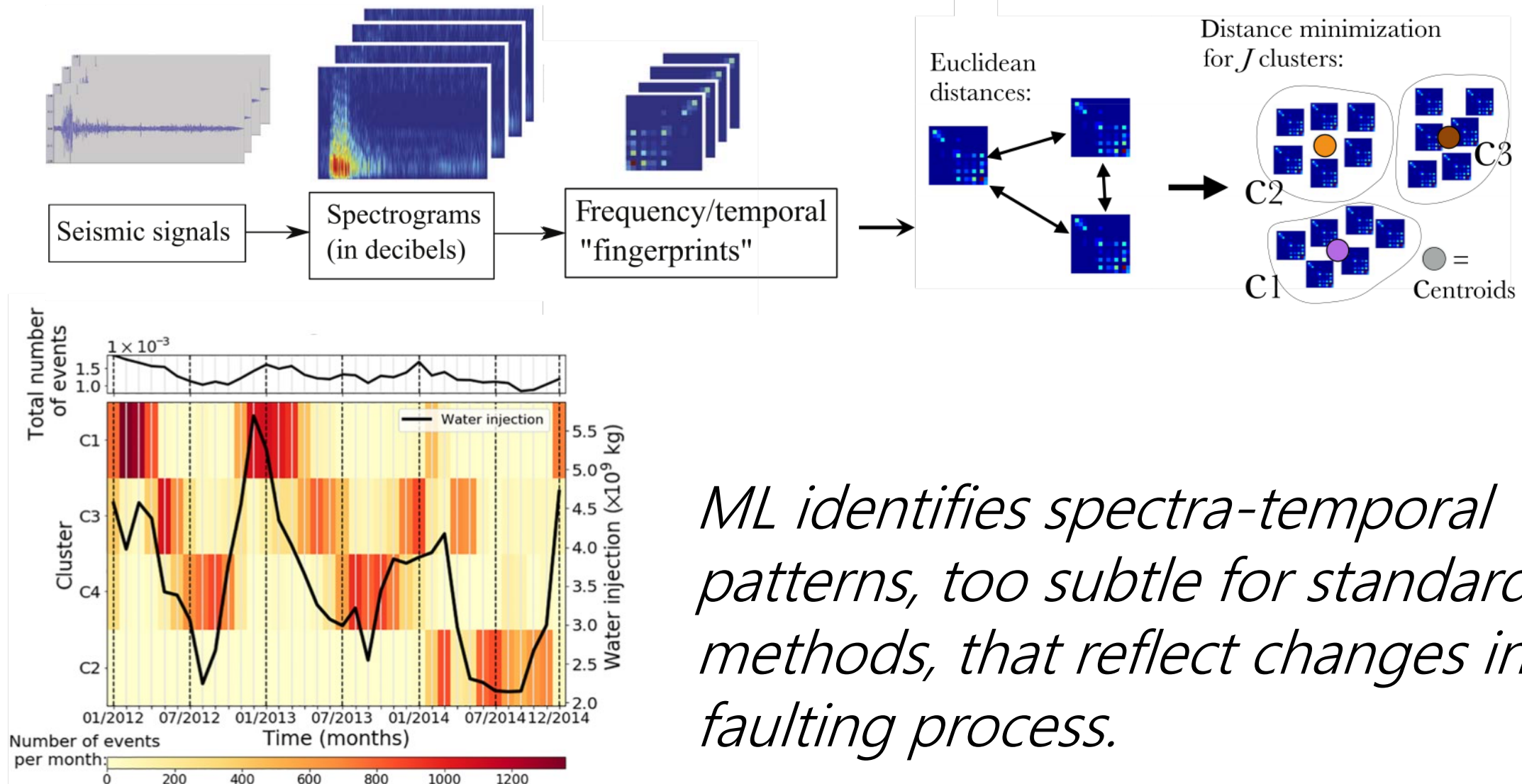
Goal: Extract new information (complex patterns, structure, or relationships) from scientific data sets, especially patterns *not easily revealed* by *conventional analysis techniques*.

- Unsupervised learning
- Generative models



Discovery: *finding temporal patterns among seismic signals*

[Holtzman *et al.* (2018), *Sci. Adv.*]

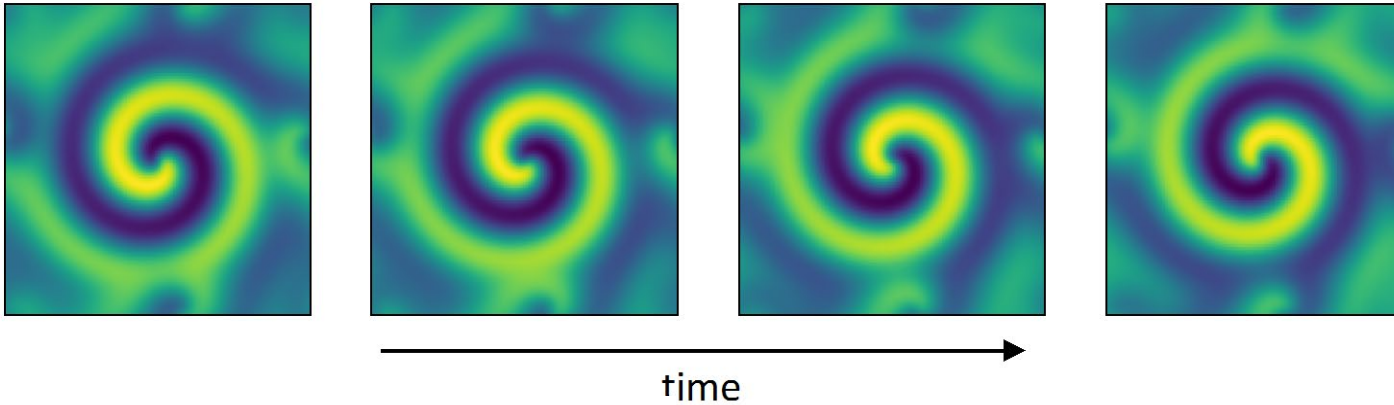


ML identifies spectra-temporal patterns, too subtle for standard methods, that reflect changes in faulting process.

Discovery: *learning governing equations from data*

[Champion *et al.* (2019), *PNAS*]

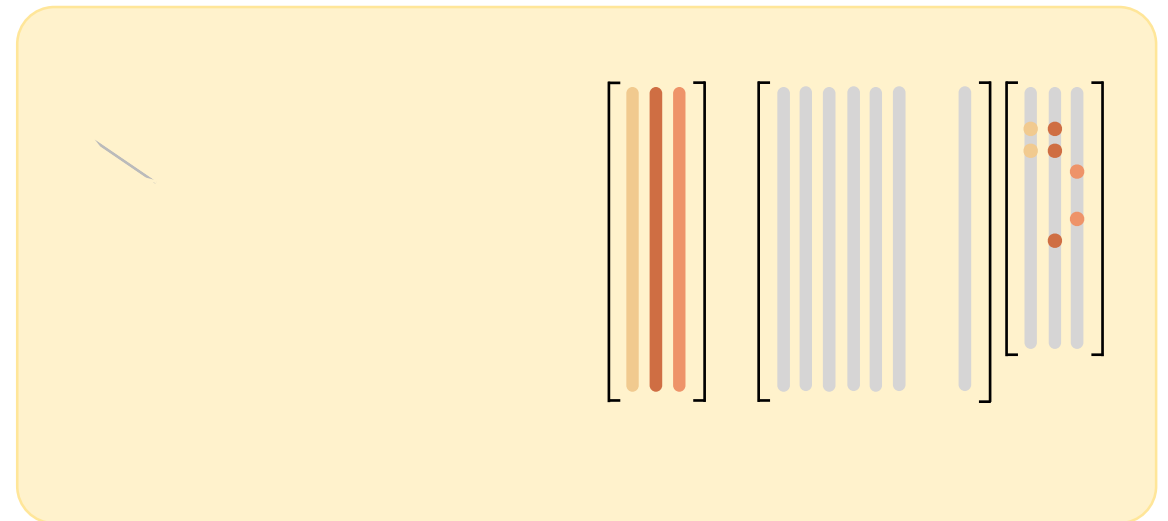
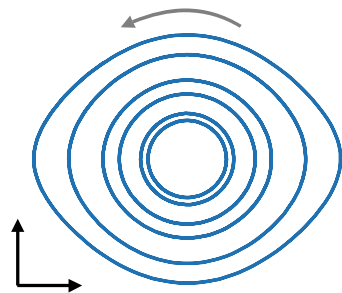
Reaction-diffusion system



$$\dot{z}_1 = -0.85z_2$$

$$\dot{z}_2 = 0.97z_1$$

Nonlinear pendulum



Machine learning challenges in solid Earth geoscience

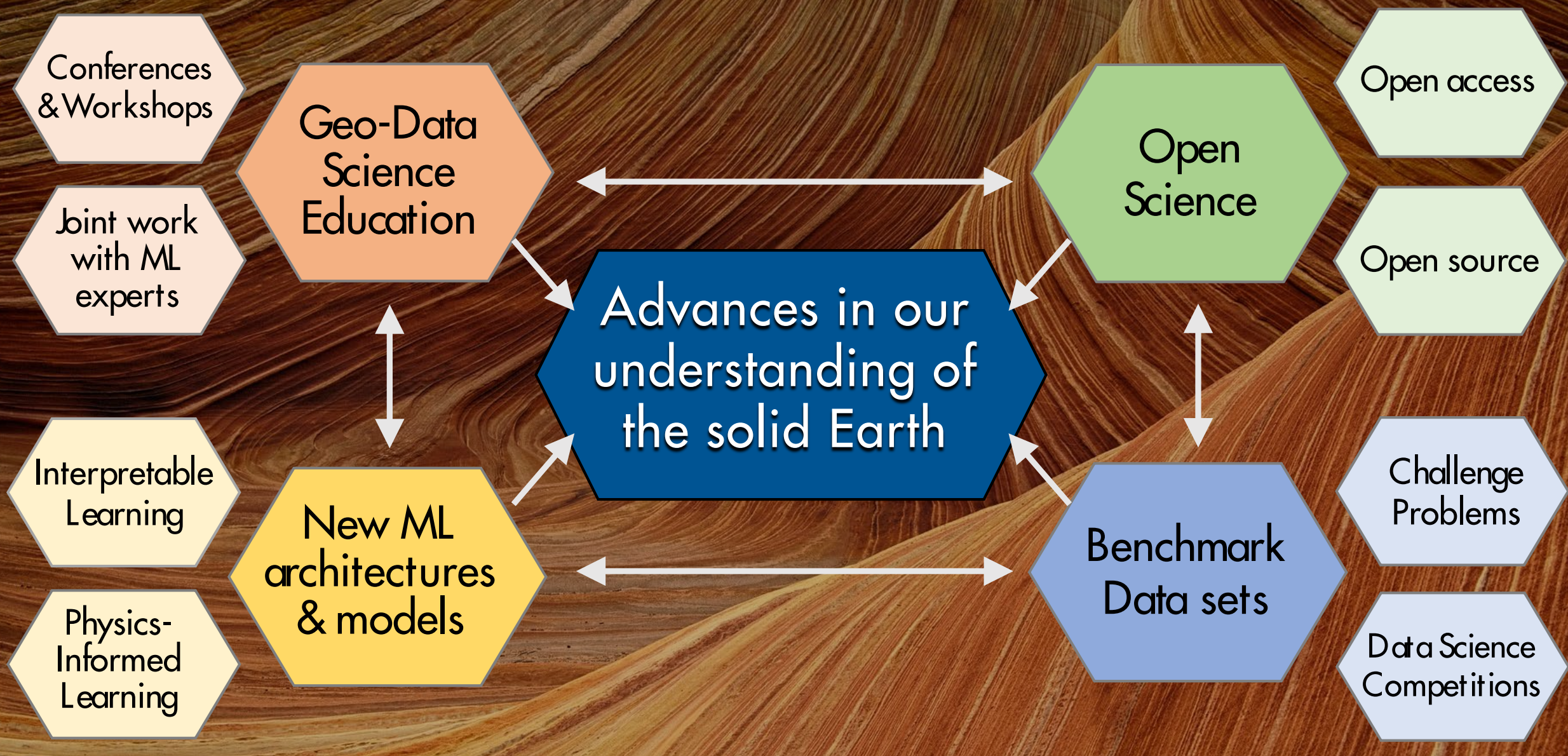
- Data set shift, covariate shift
- Biases in data collection, labeling
- Evaluating performance

Automation

- Quantifying model uncertainty
- Physical constraints, domain knowledge
- Expense of collecting training data (from simulations)
- Interested in outliers, infrequent events, unexpected patterns
- Interpolation vs. extrapolation
- Discovery often requires interpreting “black box” models

Modeling

Discovery



Questions?

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HDSI | Harvard Data Science Initiative

Modeling: Representing seamount bathymetry

[Valentine *et al.* (2013)]

