



# Classification of exoplanet candidates in the era of Deep Neural Networks

Hugh Osborn

+ Megan Ansdell, Yani Ioannou, Michele Sasdelli,  
Jeff Smith, Jon Jenkins, Doug Caldwell, Chedy Raissi, Dan Angerhausen,

# Talk Structure

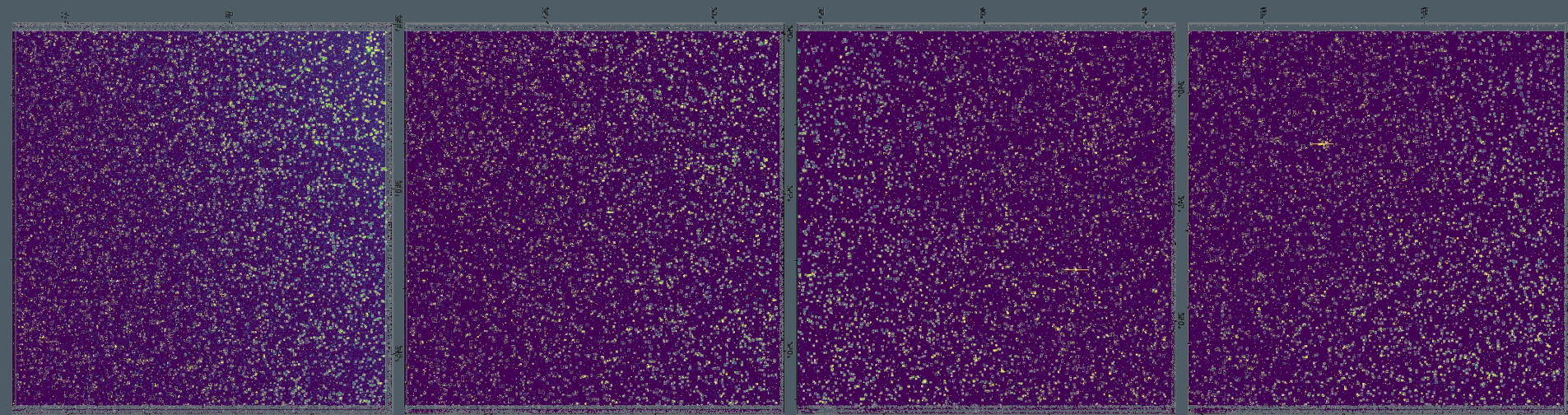
LAM  
LABORATOIRE D'ASTROPHYSIQUE  
DE MARSEILLE

HUGH OSBORN



- The problem of classifying exoplanet candidates from space-based transit surveys
- General Overview of Machine Learning & Neural Networks and their use in exoplanet Astronomy
- Our project on Kepler and TESS

The problem:  
From raw data to planets



“Postage stamps” for target stars

Typical TESS Raw data



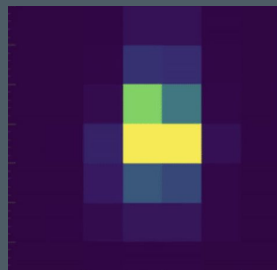
# Kepler/TESS pipeline

LAM  
LABORATOIRE D'ASTROPHYSIQUE  
DE MARSEILLE

HUGH OSBORN

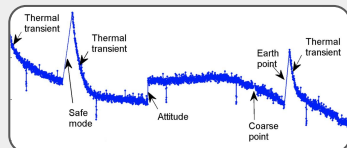
Wu+2010

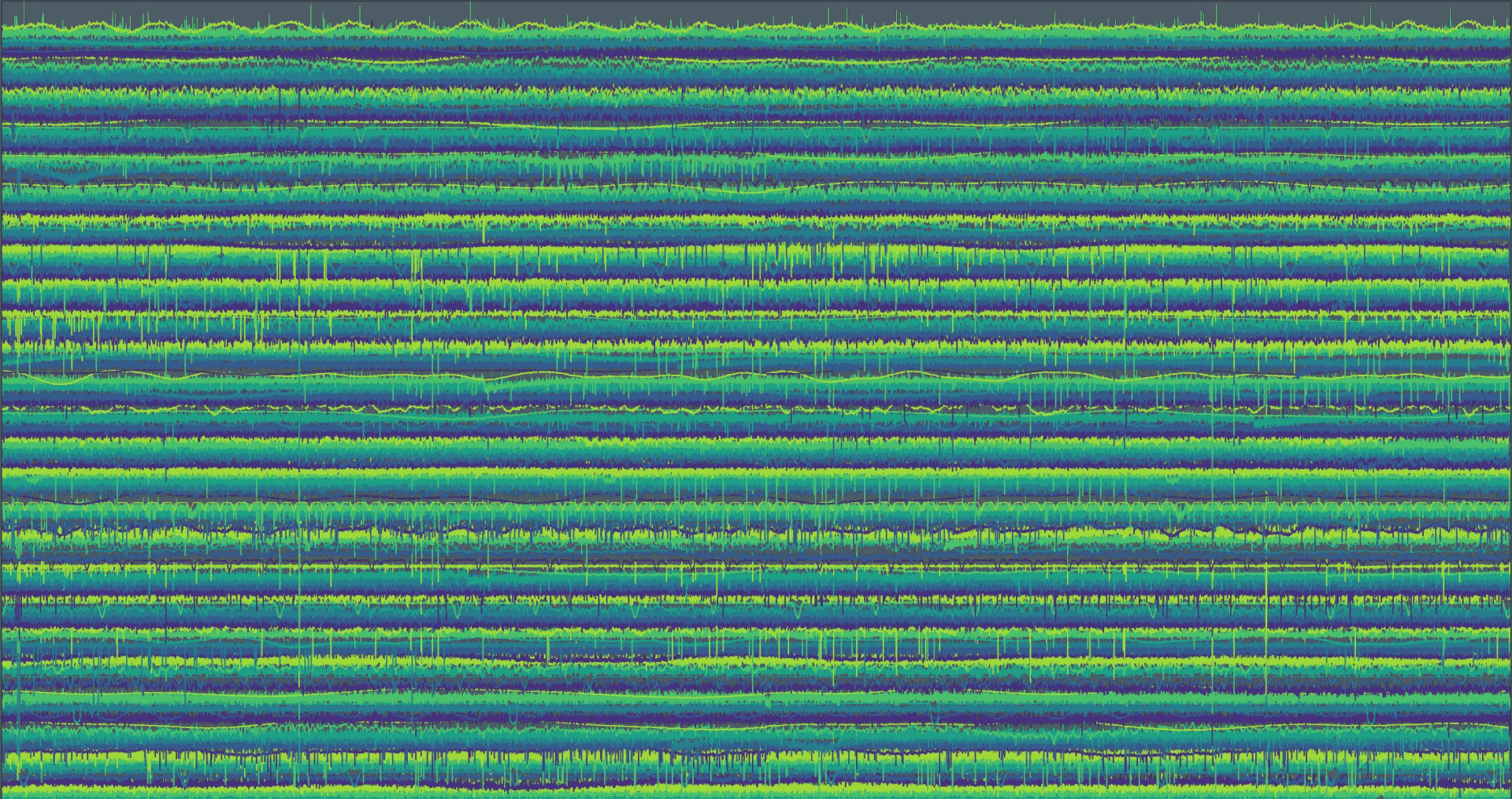
Target Pixel File (TPF)



Smith+2012, Stumpe+2012

Aperture Photometry  
& Systematics Correction



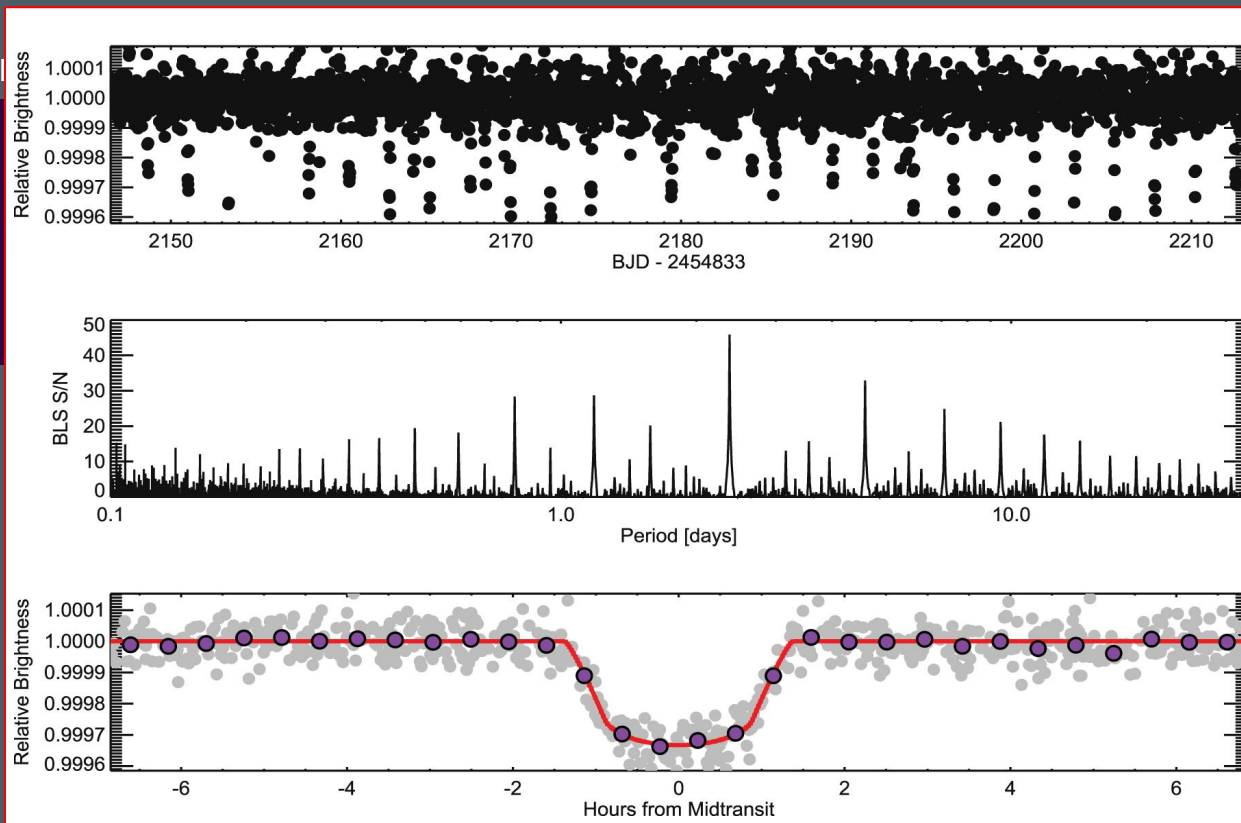
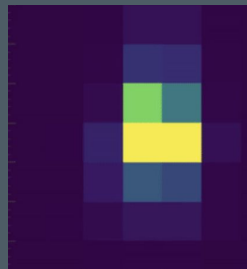


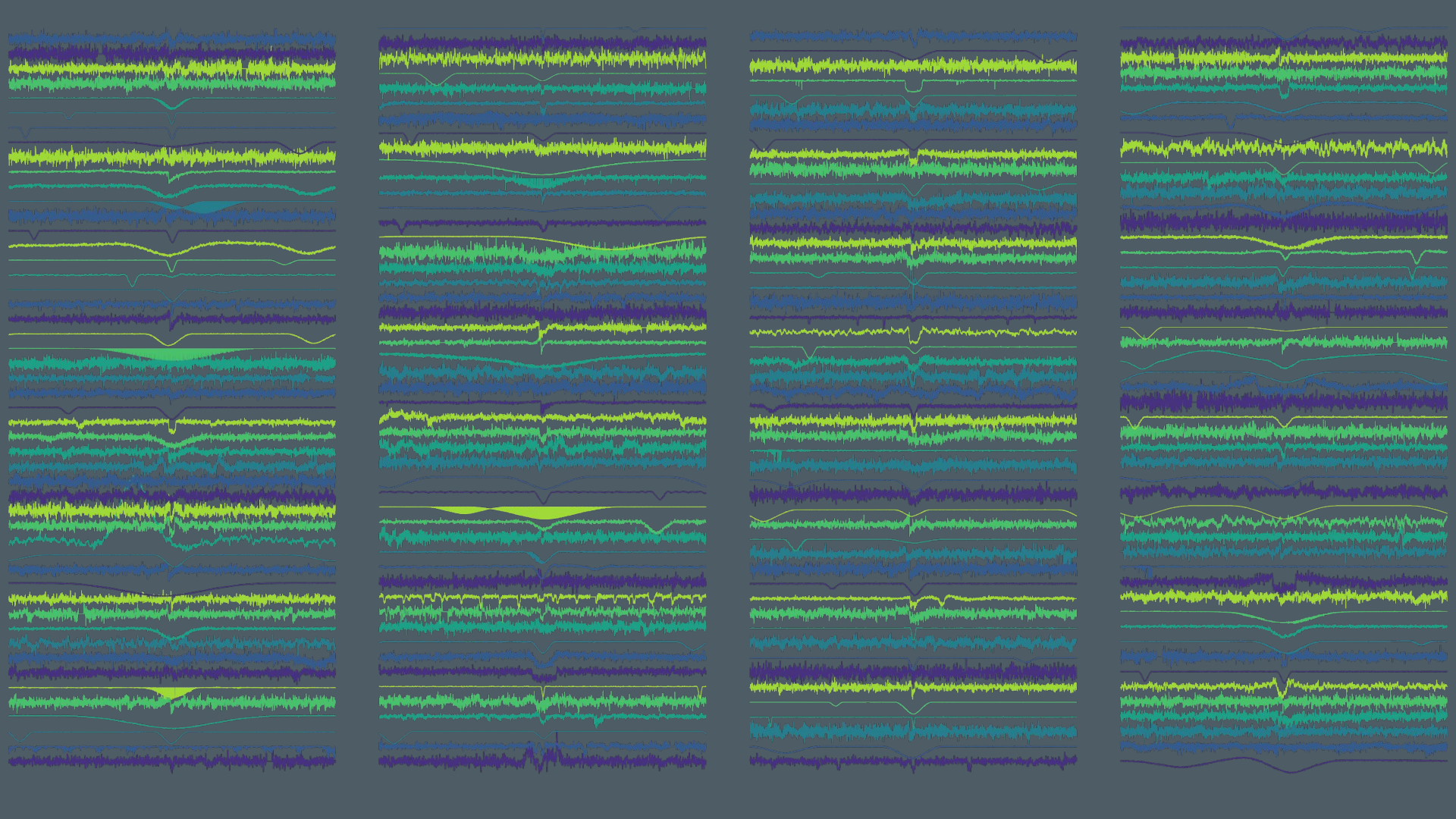
Simulated TESS Data



# Kepler/TESS pipeline

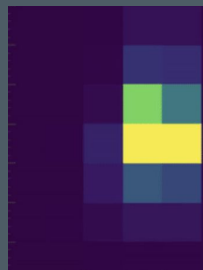
Target Pixel File (TPF)





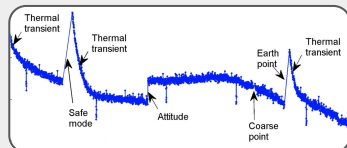
# Kepler/TESS pipeline

## Target Pixel File (TPF)



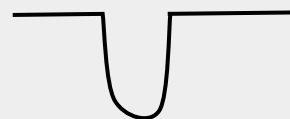
Smith+2012, Stumpe+2012

## Aperture Photometry & Systematics Correction



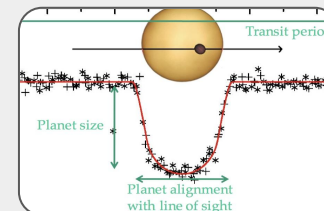
Jenkins+2010, Seader+2013

## Transiting Planet Search (TPS)



## Threshold Crossing Event (TCE)

## Data Validation (DV)



## Exoplanet Catalogues

NASA EXOPLANET ARCHIVE  
NASA EXOPLANET SCIENCE INSTITUTE

Name	About Us	Data	Tools	Support	Links
Kepler-11	Kepler-11	Kepler-11	Kepler-11	Kepler-11	Kepler-11
Kepler-12	Kepler-12	Kepler-12	Kepler-12	Kepler-12	Kepler-12
Kepler-13	Kepler-13	Kepler-13	Kepler-13	Kepler-13	Kepler-13
Kepler-14	Kepler-14	Kepler-14	Kepler-14	Kepler-14	Kepler-14
Kepler-15	Kepler-15	Kepler-15	Kepler-15	Kepler-15	Kepler-15
Kepler-16	Kepler-16	Kepler-16	Kepler-16	Kepler-16	Kepler-16
Kepler-17	Kepler-17	Kepler-17	Kepler-17	Kepler-17	Kepler-17
Kepler-18	Kepler-18	Kepler-18	Kepler-18	Kepler-18	Kepler-18
Kepler-19	Kepler-19	Kepler-19	Kepler-19	Kepler-19	Kepler-19
Kepler-20	Kepler-20	Kepler-20	Kepler-20	Kepler-20	Kepler-20
Kepler-21	Kepler-21	Kepler-21	Kepler-21	Kepler-21	Kepler-21
Kepler-22	Kepler-22	Kepler-22	Kepler-22	Kepler-22	Kepler-22
Kepler-23	Kepler-23	Kepler-23	Kepler-23	Kepler-23	Kepler-23
Kepler-24	Kepler-24	Kepler-24	Kepler-24	Kepler-24	Kepler-24
Kepler-25	Kepler-25	Kepler-25	Kepler-25	Kepler-25	Kepler-25
Kepler-26	Kepler-26	Kepler-26	Kepler-26	Kepler-26	Kepler-26
Kepler-27	Kepler-27	Kepler-27	Kepler-27	Kepler-27	Kepler-27
Kepler-28	Kepler-28	Kepler-28	Kepler-28	Kepler-28	Kepler-28
Kepler-29	Kepler-29	Kepler-29	Kepler-29	Kepler-29	Kepler-29
Kepler-30	Kepler-30	Kepler-30	Kepler-30	Kepler-30	Kepler-30
Kepler-31	Kepler-31	Kepler-31	Kepler-31	Kepler-31	Kepler-31
Kepler-32	Kepler-32	Kepler-32	Kepler-32	Kepler-32	Kepler-32
Kepler-33	Kepler-33	Kepler-33	Kepler-33	Kepler-33	Kepler-33
Kepler-34	Kepler-34	Kepler-34	Kepler-34	Kepler-34	Kepler-34
Kepler-35	Kepler-35	Kepler-35	Kepler-35	Kepler-35	Kepler-35
Kepler-36	Kepler-36	Kepler-36	Kepler-36	Kepler-36	Kepler-36
Kepler-37	Kepler-37	Kepler-37	Kepler-37	Kepler-37	Kepler-37
Kepler-38	Kepler-38	Kepler-38	Kepler-38	Kepler-38	Kepler-38
Kepler-39	Kepler-39	Kepler-39	Kepler-39	Kepler-39	Kepler-39
Kepler-40	Kepler-40	Kepler-40	Kepler-40	Kepler-40	Kepler-40
Kepler-41	Kepler-41	Kepler-41	Kepler-41	Kepler-41	Kepler-41
Kepler-42	Kepler-42	Kepler-42	Kepler-42	Kepler-42	Kepler-42
Kepler-43	Kepler-43	Kepler-43	Kepler-43	Kepler-43	Kepler-43
Kepler-44	Kepler-44	Kepler-44	Kepler-44	Kepler-44	Kepler-44
Kepler-45	Kepler-45	Kepler-45	Kepler-45	Kepler-45	Kepler-45
Kepler-46	Kepler-46	Kepler-46	Kepler-46	Kepler-46	Kepler-46
Kepler-47	Kepler-47	Kepler-47	Kepler-47	Kepler-47	Kepler-47
Kepler-48	Kepler-48	Kepler-48	Kepler-48	Kepler-48	Kepler-48
Kepler-49	Kepler-49	Kepler-49	Kepler-49	Kepler-49	Kepler-49
Kepler-50	Kepler-50	Kepler-50	Kepler-50	Kepler-50	Kepler-50
Kepler-51	Kepler-51	Kepler-51	Kepler-51	Kepler-51	Kepler-51
Kepler-52	Kepler-52	Kepler-52	Kepler-52	Kepler-52	Kepler-52
Kepler-53	Kepler-53	Kepler-53	Kepler-53	Kepler-53	Kepler-53
Kepler-54	Kepler-54	Kepler-54	Kepler-54	Kepler-54	Kepler-54
Kepler-55	Kepler-55	Kepler-55	Kepler-55	Kepler-55	Kepler-55
Kepler-56	Kepler-56	Kepler-56	Kepler-56	Kepler-56	Kepler-56
Kepler-57	Kepler-57	Kepler-57	Kepler-57	Kepler-57	Kepler-57
Kepler-58	Kepler-58	Kepler-58	Kepler-58	Kepler-58	Kepler-58
Kepler-59	Kepler-59	Kepler-59	Kepler-59	Kepler-59	Kepler-59
Kepler-60	Kepler-60	Kepler-60	Kepler-60	Kepler-60	Kepler-60
Kepler-61	Kepler-61	Kepler-61	Kepler-61	Kepler-61	Kepler-61
Kepler-62	Kepler-62	Kepler-62	Kepler-62	Kepler-62	Kepler-62
Kepler-63	Kepler-63	Kepler-63	Kepler-63	Kepler-63	Kepler-63
Kepler-64	Kepler-64	Kepler-64	Kepler-64	Kepler-64	Kepler-64
Kepler-65	Kepler-65	Kepler-65	Kepler-65	Kepler-65	Kepler-65
Kepler-66	Kepler-66	Kepler-66	Kepler-66	Kepler-66	Kepler-66
Kepler-67	Kepler-67	Kepler-67	Kepler-67	Kepler-67	Kepler-67
Kepler-68	Kepler-68	Kepler-68	Kepler-68	Kepler-68	Kepler-68
Kepler-69	Kepler-69	Kepler-69	Kepler-69	Kepler-69	Kepler-69
Kepler-70	Kepler-70	Kepler-70	Kepler-70	Kepler-70	Kepler-70
Kepler-71	Kepler-71	Kepler-71	Kepler-71	Kepler-71	Kepler-71
Kepler-72	Kepler-72	Kepler-72	Kepler-72	Kepler-72	Kepler-72
Kepler-73	Kepler-73	Kepler-73	Kepler-73	Kepler-73	Kepler-73
Kepler-74	Kepler-74	Kepler-74	Kepler-74	Kepler-74	Kepler-74
Kepler-75	Kepler-75	Kepler-75	Kepler-75	Kepler-75	Kepler-75
Kepler-76	Kepler-76	Kepler-76	Kepler-76	Kepler-76	Kepler-76
Kepler-77	Kepler-77	Kepler-77	Kepler-77	Kepler-77	Kepler-77
Kepler-78	Kepler-78	Kepler-78	Kepler-78	Kepler-78	Kepler-78
Kepler-79	Kepler-79	Kepler-79	Kepler-79	Kepler-79	Kepler-79
Kepler-80	Kepler-80	Kepler-80	Kepler-80	Kepler-80	Kepler-80
Kepler-81	Kepler-81	Kepler-81	Kepler-81	Kepler-81	Kepler-81
Kepler-82	Kepler-82	Kepler-82	Kepler-82	Kepler-82	Kepler-82
Kepler-83	Kepler-83	Kepler-83	Kepler-83	Kepler-83	Kepler-83
Kepler-84	Kepler-84	Kepler-84	Kepler-84	Kepler-84	Kepler-84
Kepler-85	Kepler-85	Kepler-85	Kepler-85	Kepler-85	Kepler-85
Kepler-86	Kepler-86	Kepler-86	Kepler-86	Kepler-86	Kepler-86
Kepler-87	Kepler-87	Kepler-87	Kepler-87	Kepler-87	Kepler-87
Kepler-88	Kepler-88	Kepler-88	Kepler-88	Kepler-88	Kepler-88
Kepler-89	Kepler-89	Kepler-89	Kepler-89	Kepler-89	Kepler-89
Kepler-90	Kepler-90	Kepler-90	Kepler-90	Kepler-90	Kepler-90
Kepler-91	Kepler-91	Kepler-91	Kepler-91	Kepler-91	Kepler-91
Kepler-92	Kepler-92	Kepler-92	Kepler-92	Kepler-92	Kepler-92
Kepler-93	Kepler-93	Kepler-93	Kepler-93	Kepler-93	Kepler-93
Kepler-94	Kepler-94	Kepler-94	Kepler-94	Kepler-94	Kepler-94
Kepler-95	Kepler-95	Kepler-95	Kepler-95	Kepler-95	Kepler-95
Kepler-96	Kepler-96	Kepler-96	Kepler-96	Kepler-96	Kepler-96
Kepler-97	Kepler-97	Kepler-97	Kepler-97	Kepler-97	Kepler-97
Kepler-98	Kepler-98	Kepler-98	Kepler-98	Kepler-98	Kepler-98
Kepler-99	Kepler-99	Kepler-99	Kepler-99	Kepler-99	Kepler-99
Kepler-100	Kepler-100	Kepler-100	Kepler-100	Kepler-100	Kepler-100

## Follow-up observations



Confirm (or statistically validate) planets

Batalha+2013, Burke+2014, Rowe+2015, Mullally+2015

## Candidate Classification In Kepler: TCE Review Team [human vetting]



# Manual vetting

LAM  
LABORATOIRE D'ASTROPHYSIQUE  
DE MARSEILLE

HUGH OSBORN



Used for Kepler on all Quarters (later used as labels for machine learning)

Current TESS team: 21 vetters. >200 human hours per sector



# Manual vetting

LAM  
LABORATOIRE D'ASTROPHYSIQUE  
DE MARSEILLE

HUGH OSBORN



Can a machine do better?

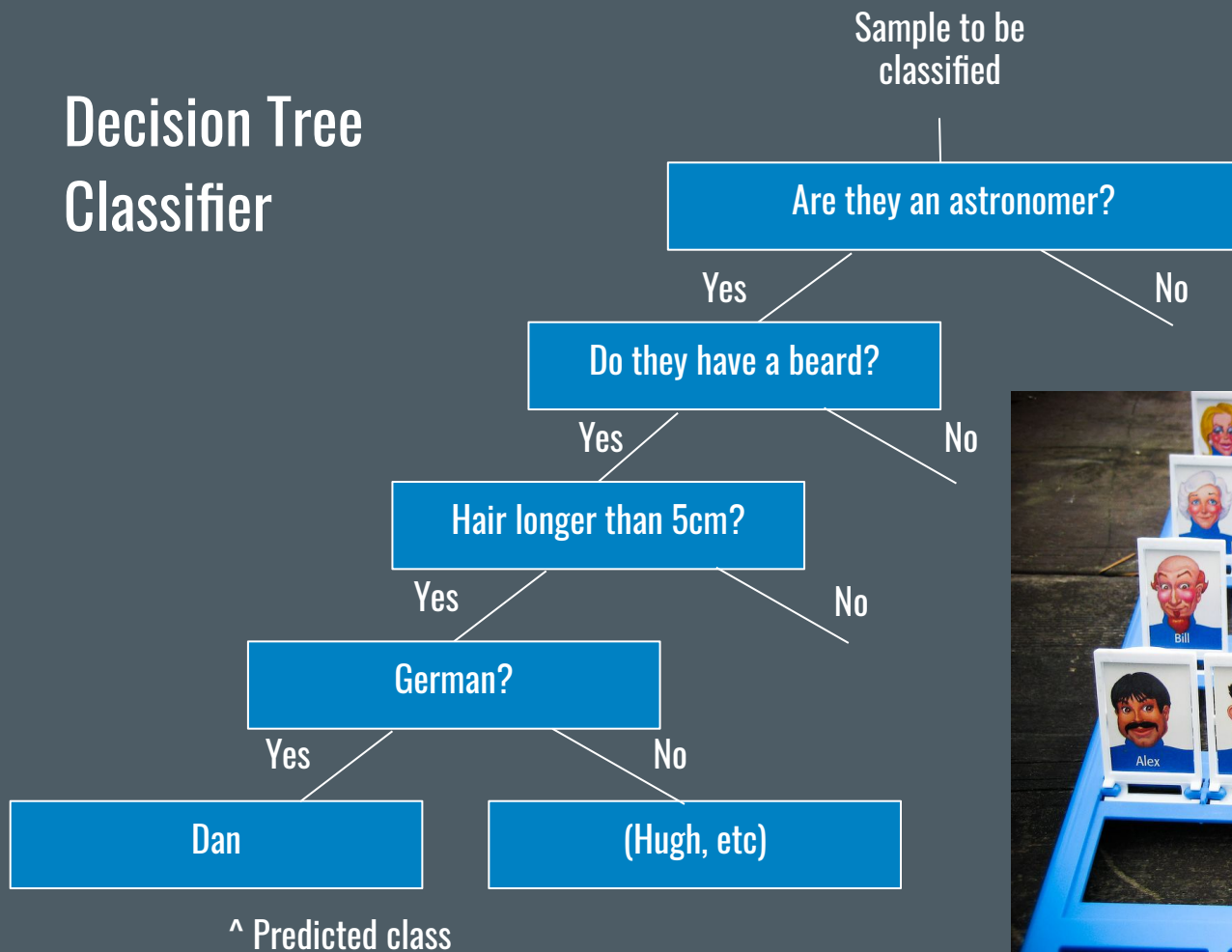
# Classification with Machine Learning

Classes >

Samples ^

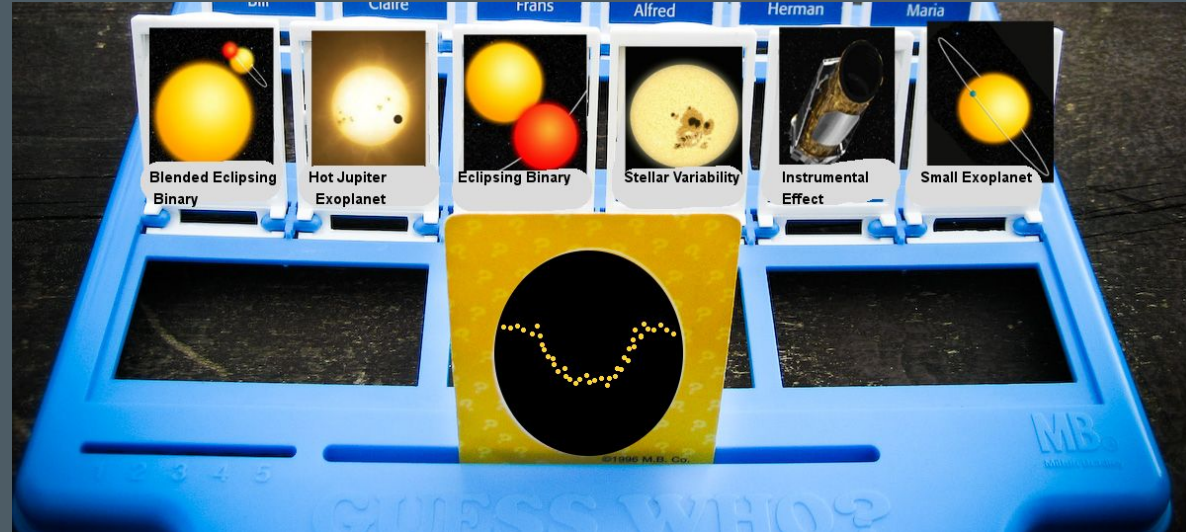
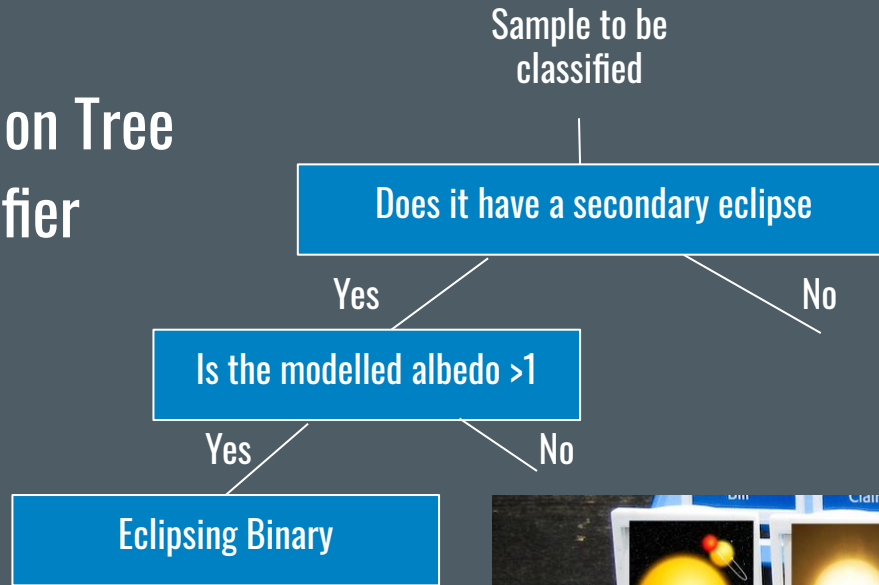


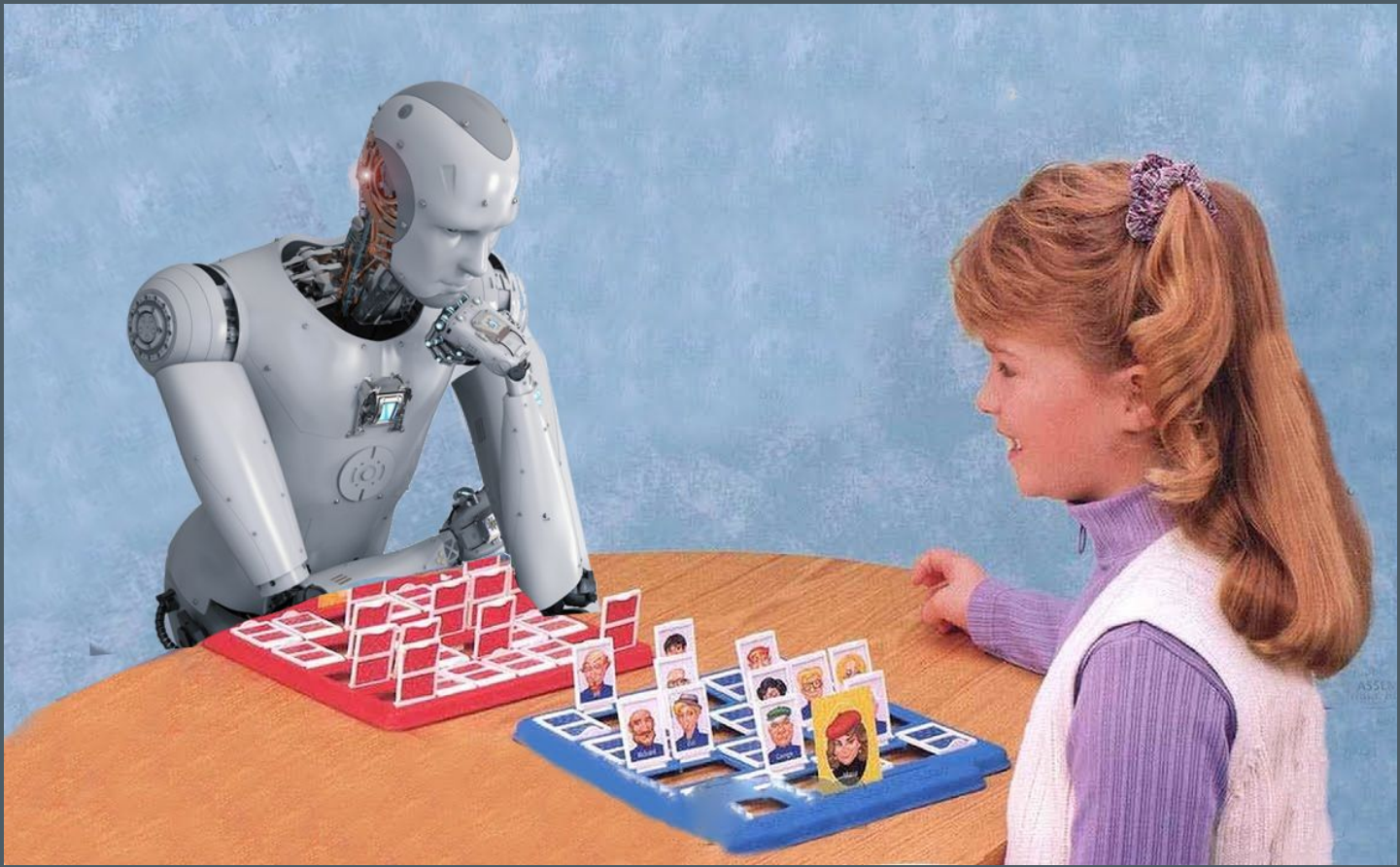
# Decision Tree Classifier





# Decision Tree Classifier





How can we classify with minimal human processing?  
With Machine Learning



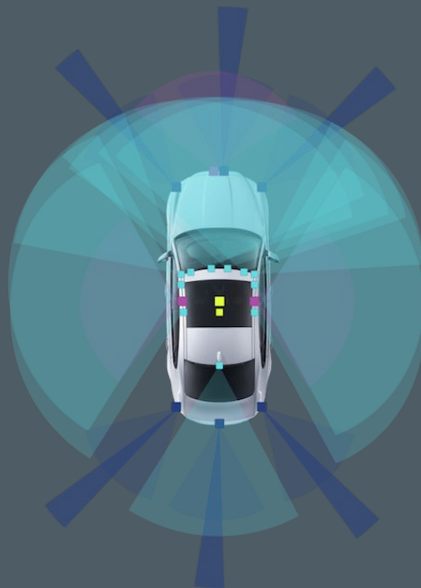
# Machine Learning

LAM  
LABORATOIRE D'ASTROPHYSIQUE  
DE MARSEILLE

HUGH OSBORN



Translation



Self-driving cars

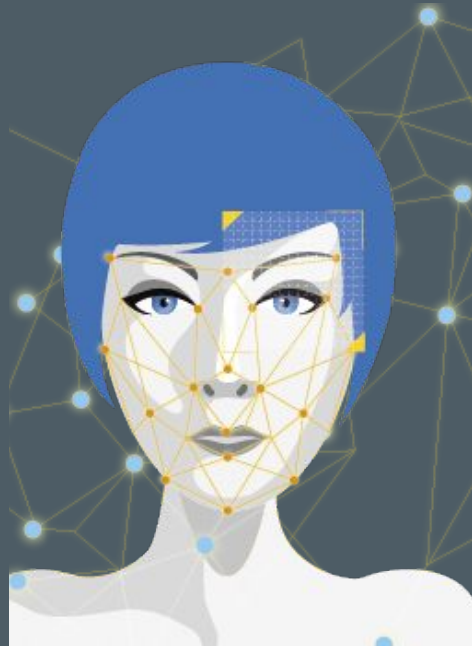
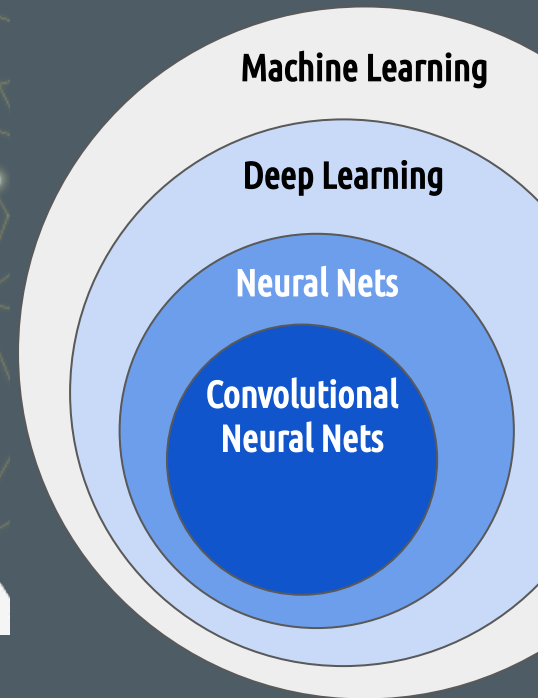


Image recognition



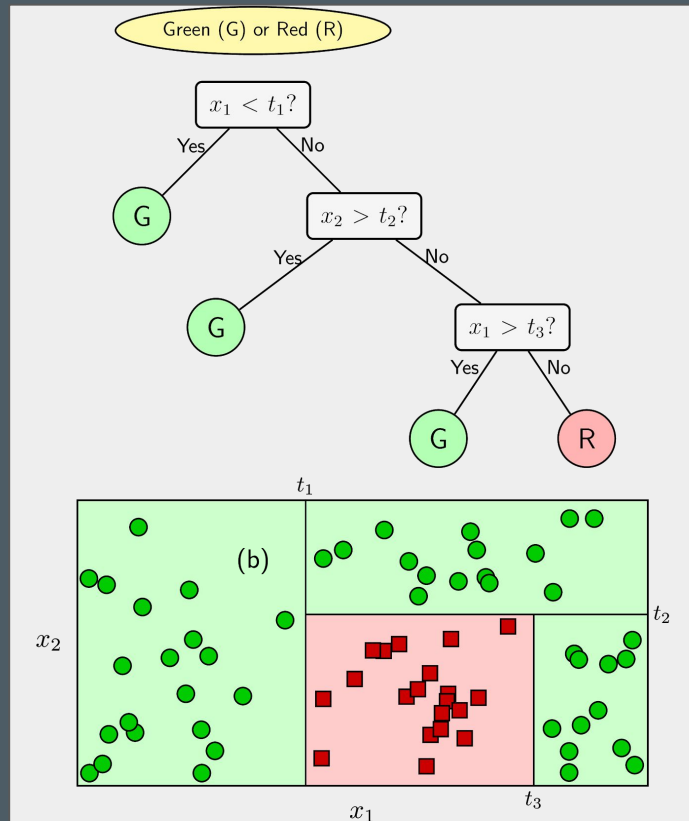
# Decision Trees



- Decision trees are the simplest form of machine learning
- The thresholds and position of each decision node are varied until error is minimised.

## Problems:

- Decision thresholds are linear (eg 1D)
- Requires input of 'features' derived from data



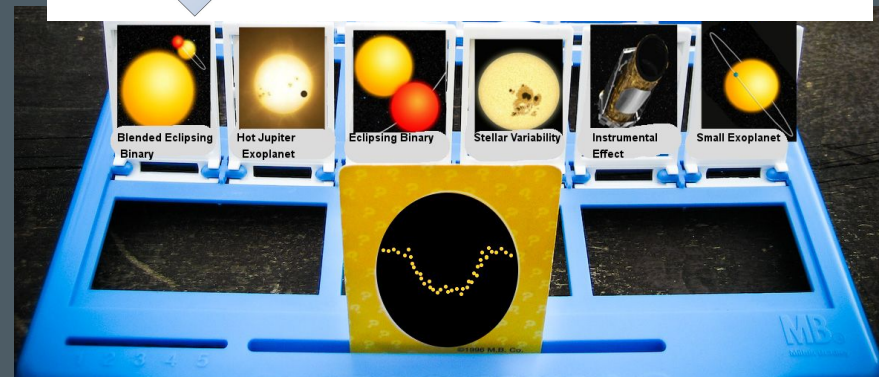
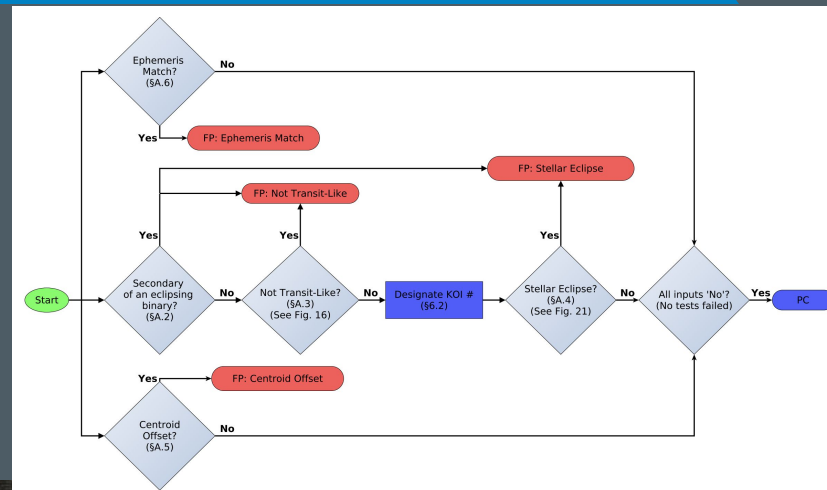
# Robovetter - Decision Tree

“Robovetter” - Thompson et al 2017.

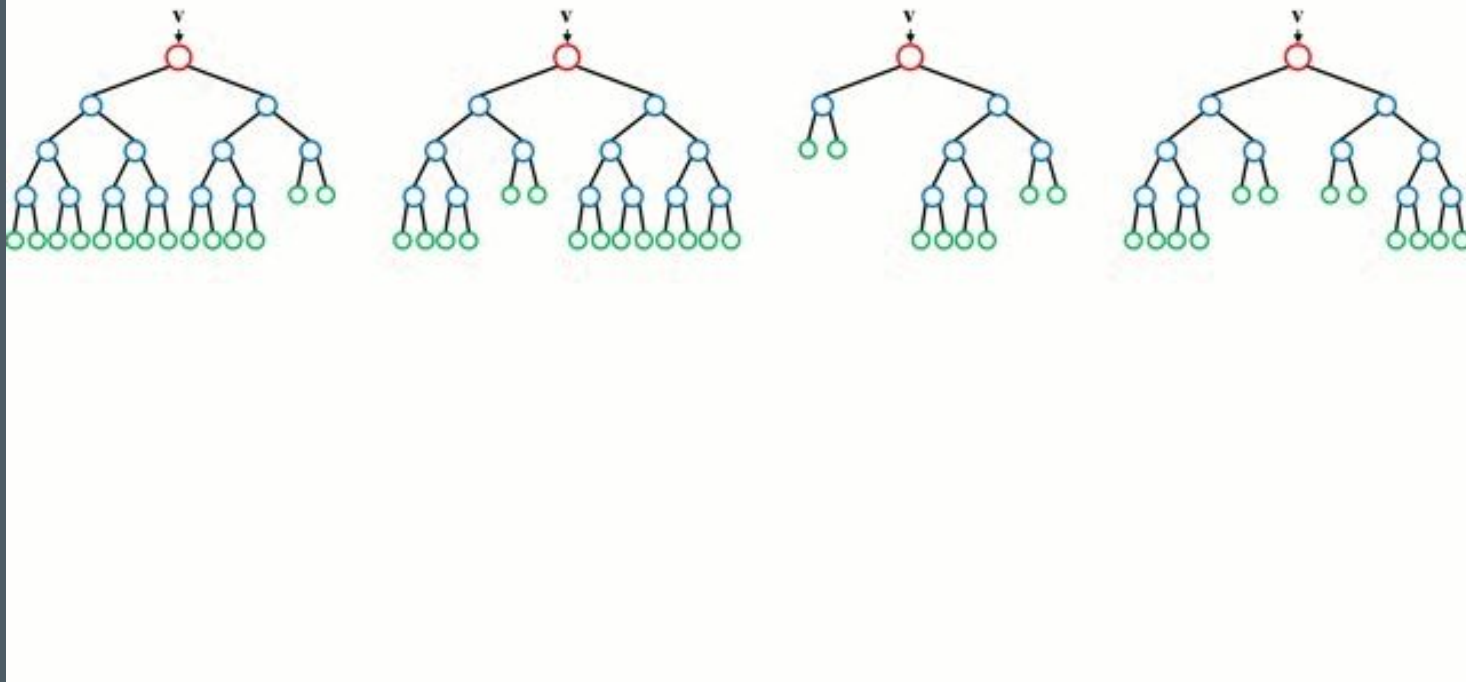
Decision tree classifier used to produce Kepler’s homogenous catalogue in DR25.

Used features processed from lightcurve.

Achieved a recall of around 80% on injected data.



# Random Forests

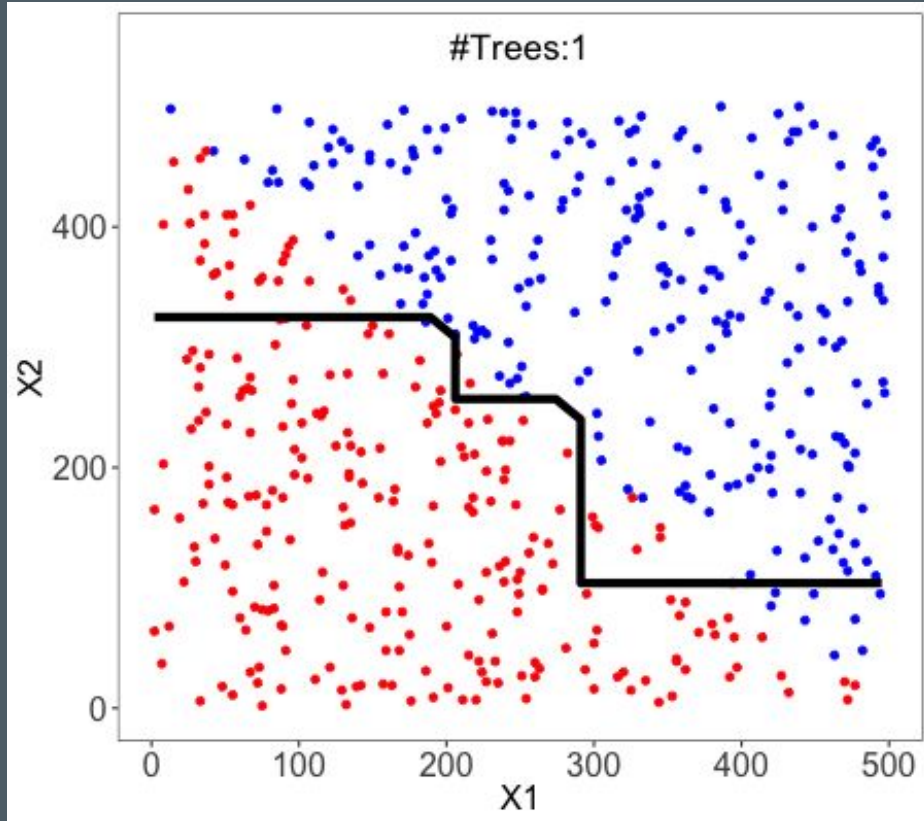


- Each tree sees random subset of whole dataset
- Each decision step uses random selection of available features.

# Random Forests



- While each tree splits the data “linearly”, averaging of many trees approximates non-linear splits in data.



# R.F.s in exoplanet atmospheres

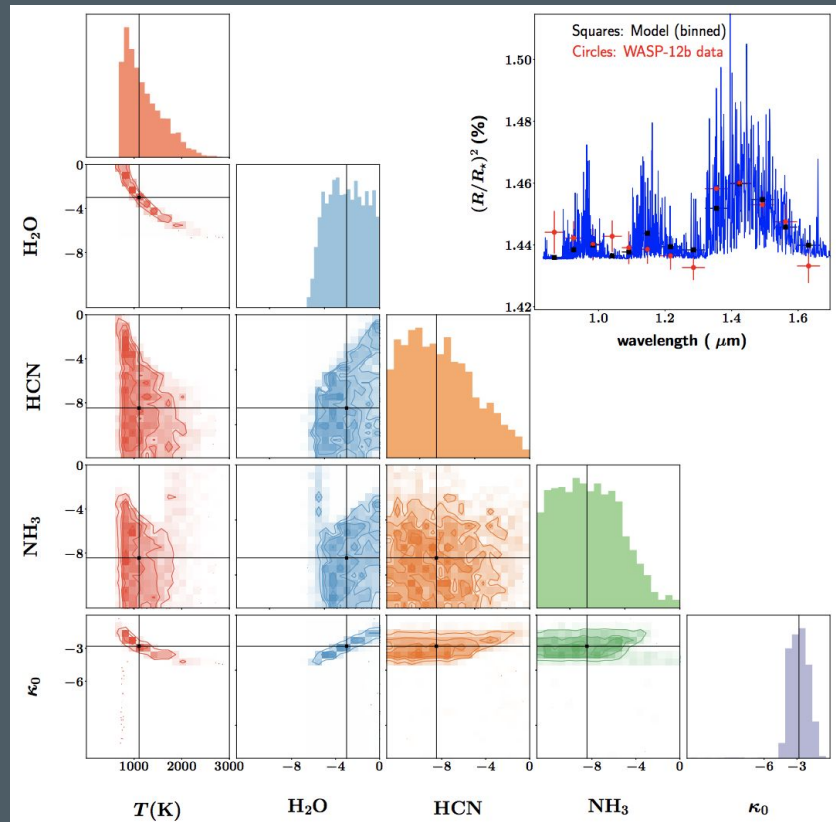


Marquez-Neila et al (2018)

Random Forest for atmospheric retrieval.

Inputs: HST transmission spectra of WASP-12b.

Outputs: 5-parameter model of exoplanet atmosphere.





# Autovetter - Random Forests

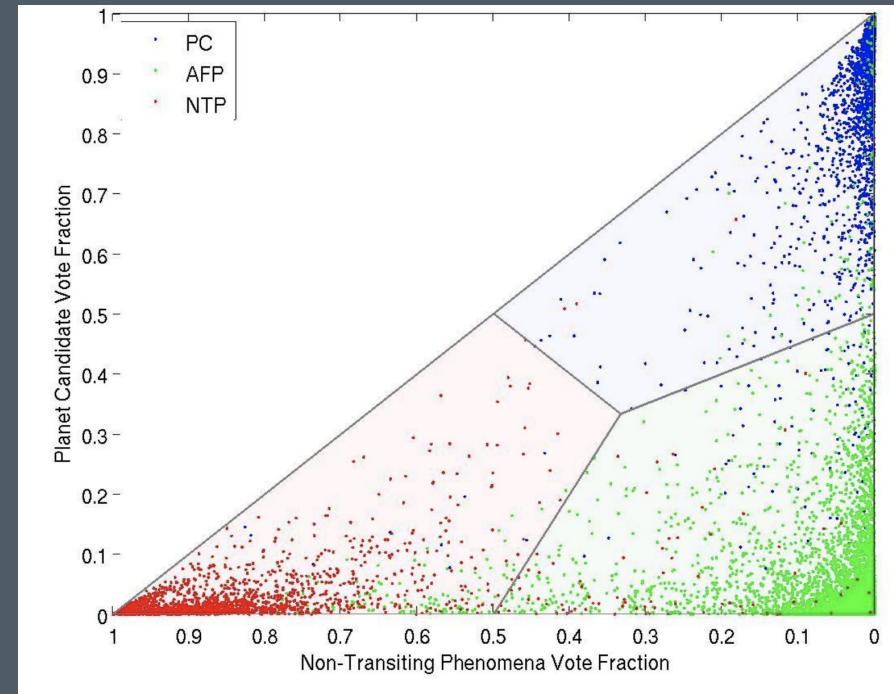


The Kepler team also produced a random forest -  
MacAuliff et al, (2015)

Used 230 features calculated from candidate  
lightcurve, model fits, etc.

3 output classes: planet, astrophysical dip (e.g. EBs)  
& non-transiting phenomena

94.15% accuracy & 97.2% average precision (on  
human-labelled data)



# Exoplanet Classification with KNNs

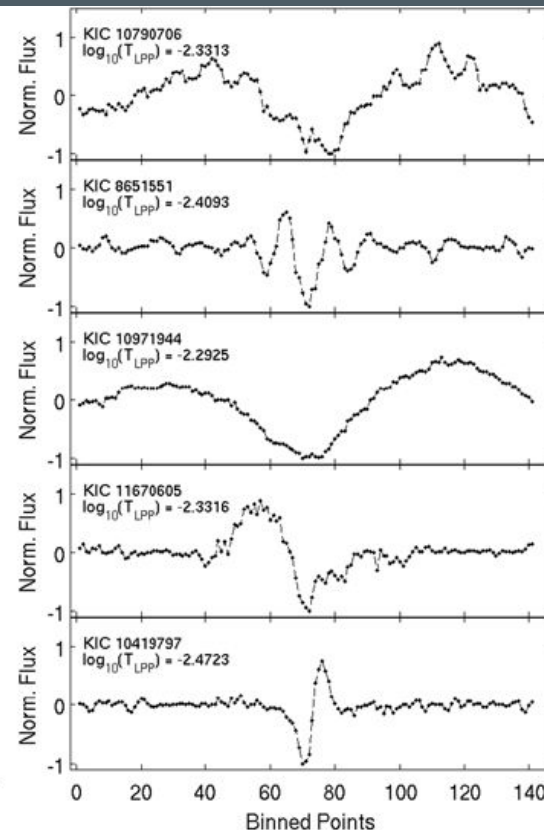
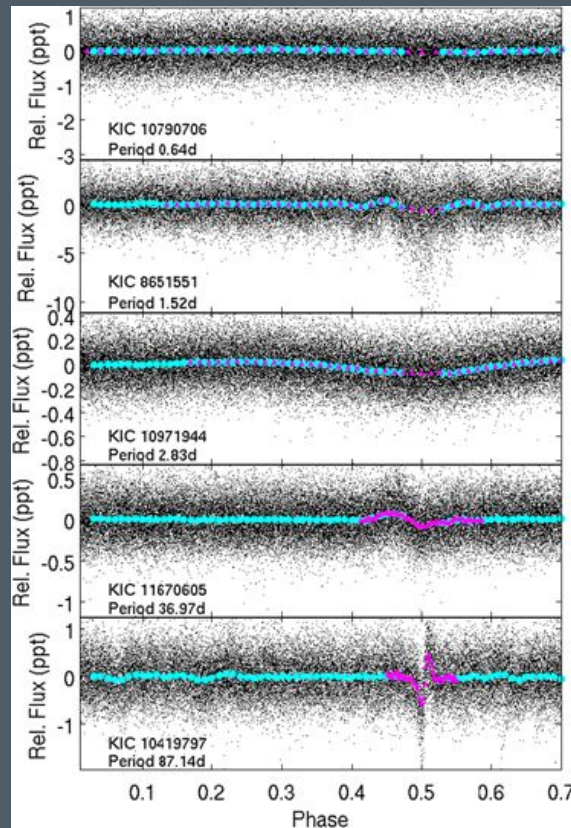


Thompson et al (2015).

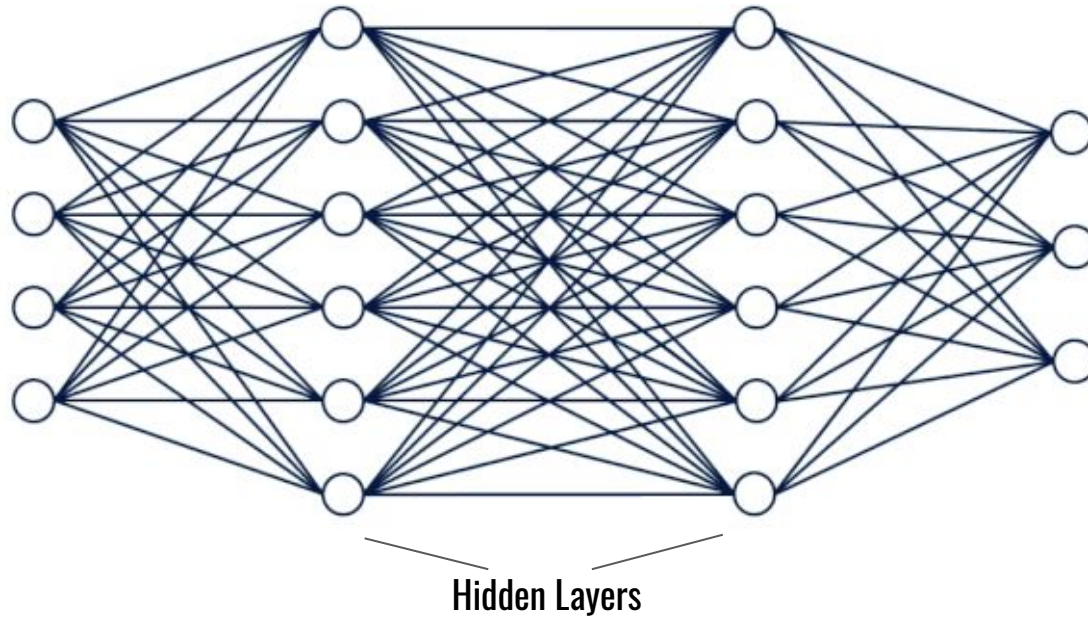
Used a “K-Nearest Neighbours” (KNN) unsupervised approach.

Takes average of nearest labelled features.

Used as inputs binned & normalised phase-folded transits.



# Neural Networks



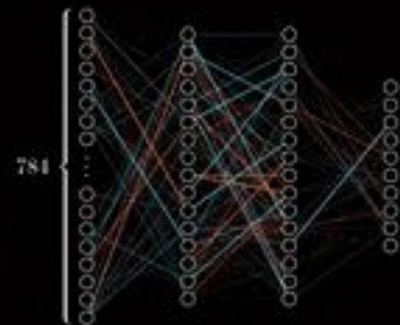
# Neural Networks



## Training neural networks

- Quantify how poorly prediction was compared to ground truth
- Performance is then “back-propagated” through network to weights between neurons.
- These are adjusted such that the updated weight should decrease overall loss function - “gradient descent”

Training in progress...

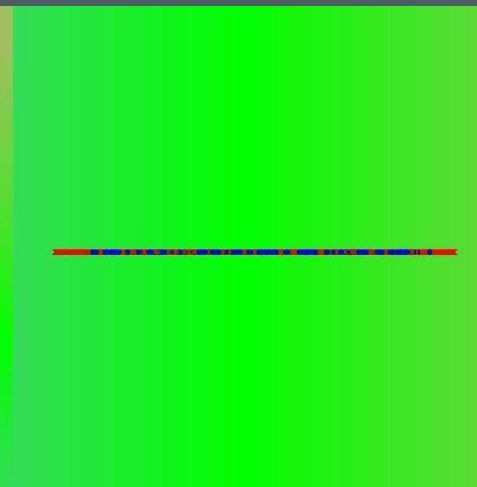
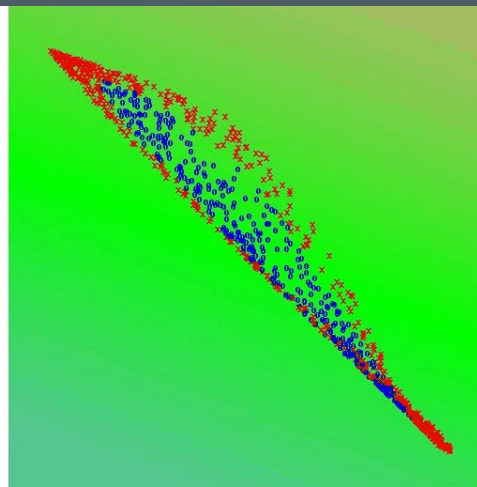
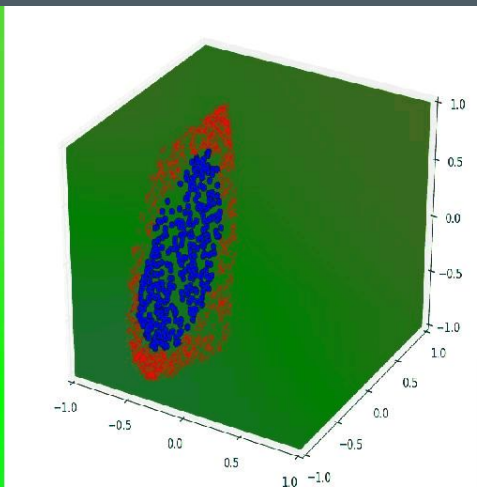
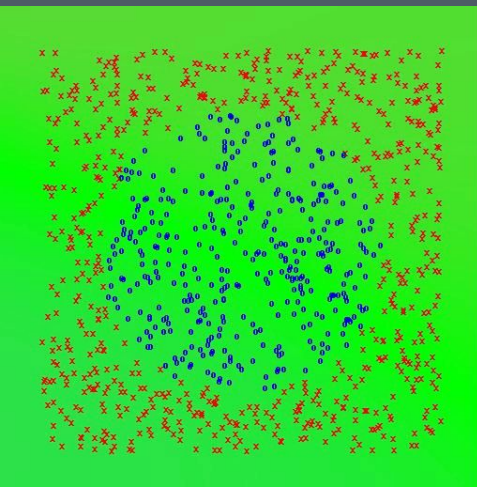




# Neural Networks



- Neural Networks are not inherently “linear” - can better map irregular parameter spaces
- Hidden layers allow “abstraction” - acts like a new dimension in which to “fold” the (lower dimensionality) data.



# Unsupervised Learning (SOMs)



Armstrong et al, 2016

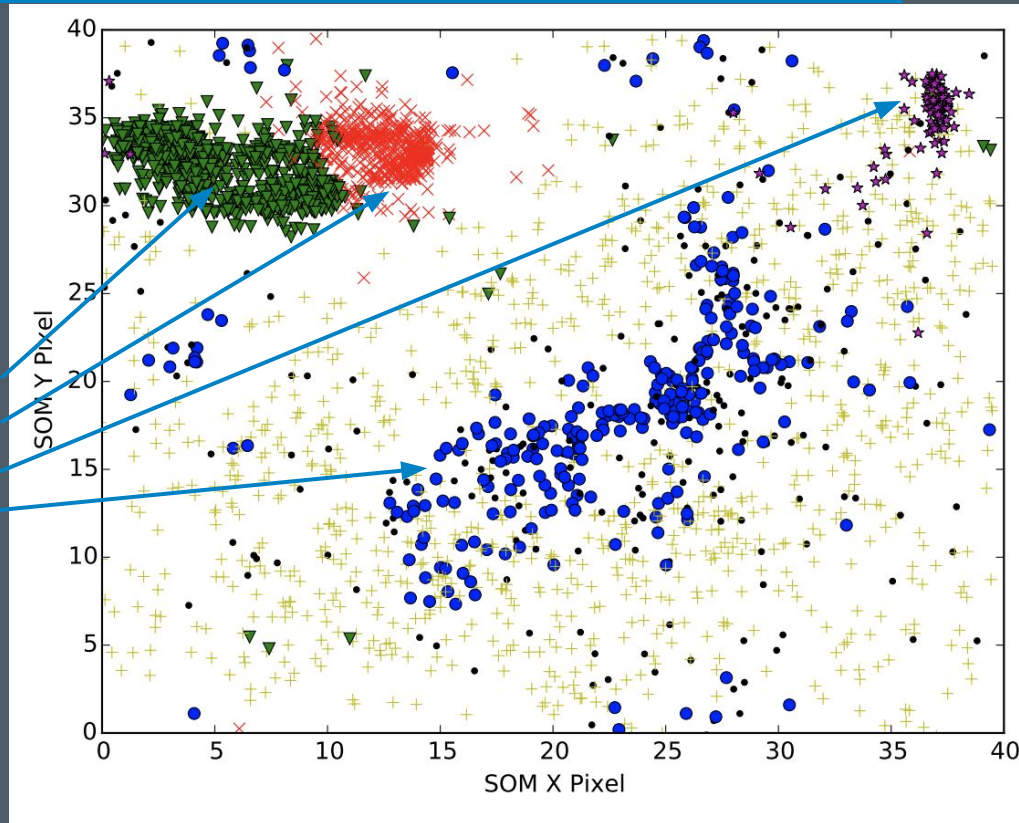
Self-Organising Map (SOM) - a type of neural network which reduces dimensionality without any supervision.

Creates isolated regions of self-similar input data

Performed on 4 K2 campaigns.

Pixel position used an input into Random Forest.

Detached EBs  
Contact EBs  
RR Lyraes  
Delta Scutis



# Self Organising Maps for Exoplanets

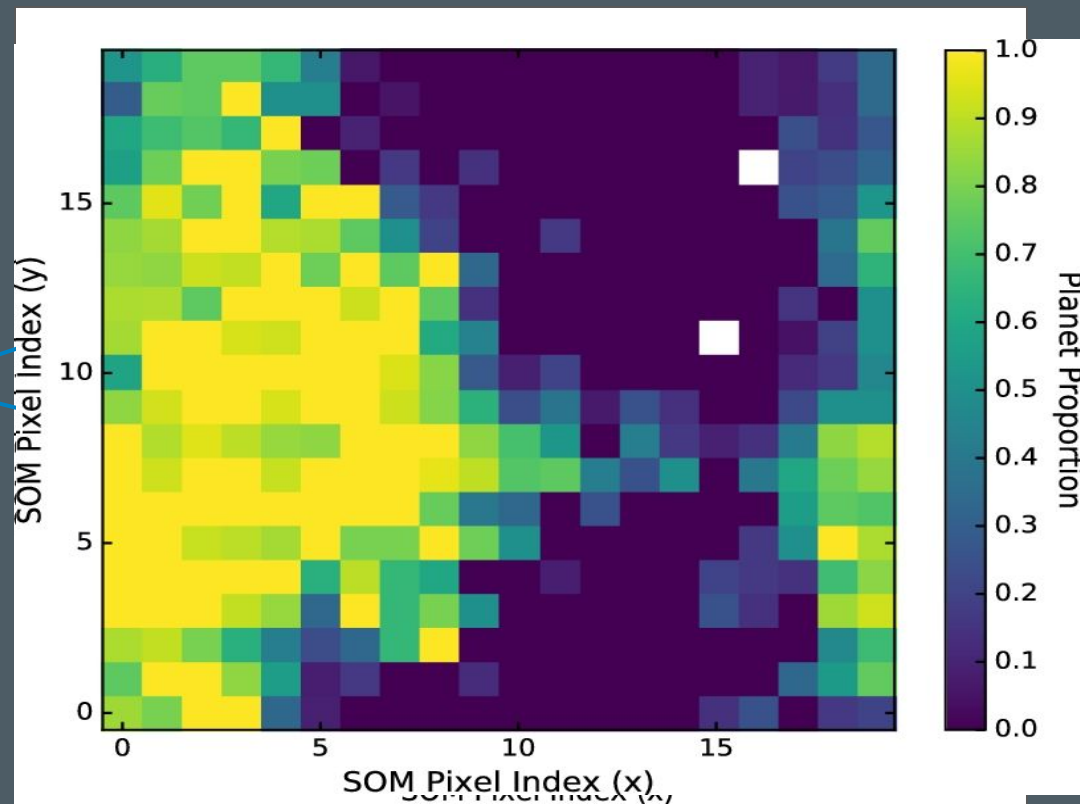


Armstrong et al (2017)

SOM and random forest applied to Planet candidates in K2 & Kepler

~79% accuracy on Kepler planets

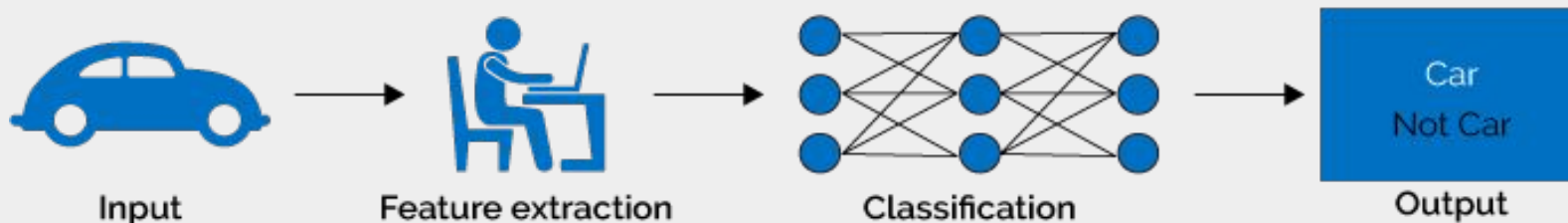
EBs  
Planets



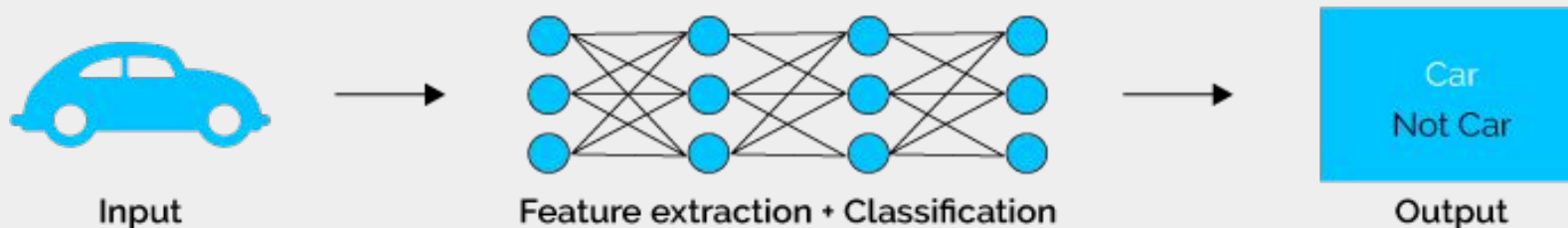
# Convolutional Neural Networks



## Machine Learning

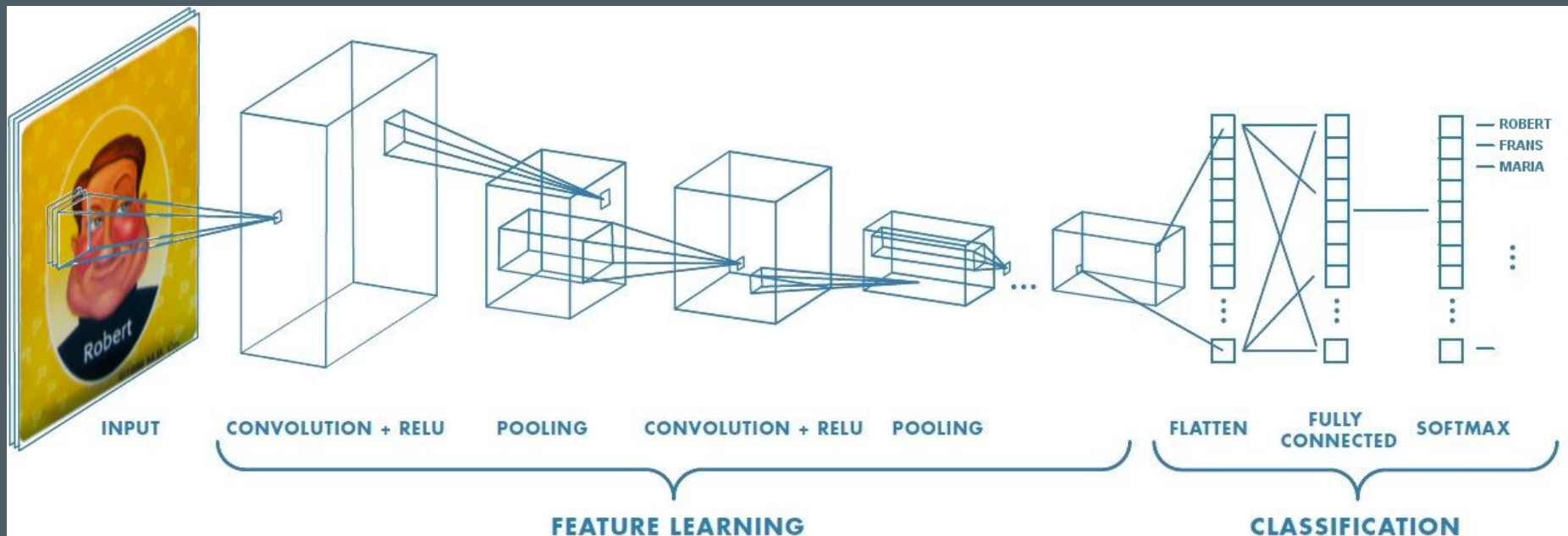


## Deep Learning





# Convolutional Neural Networks



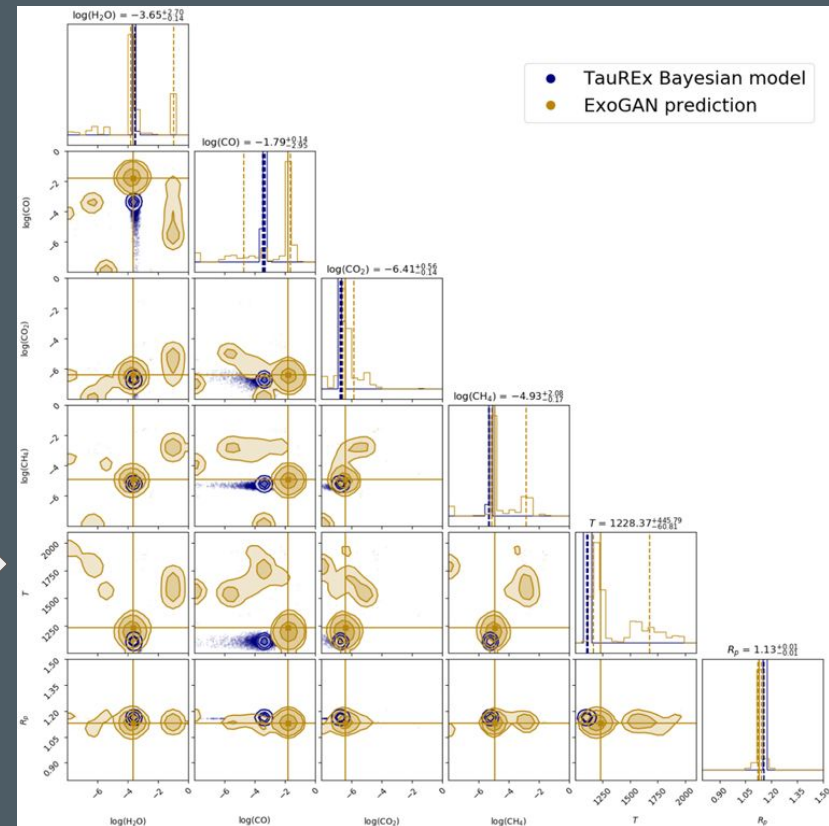
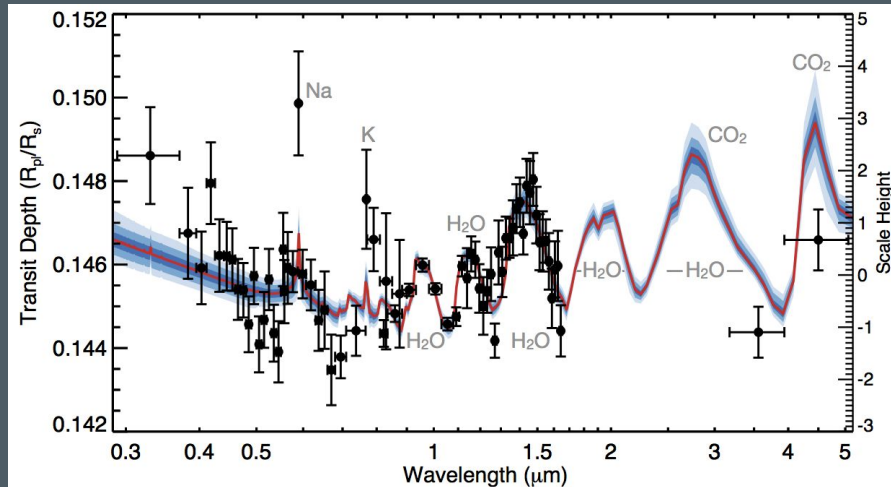
- Raw image “convolved” with range of filters (which themselves are trained with back propagation)
- Enables Feature extraction from the raw data (although raw data may need preprocessing)

# CNNs for Atmospheric Retrieval



Waldmann (2015) & Zingales (2018) - RoBert using  
Neural networks

Cobb, Angerhausen, et al (subm.)



# Ground-based transits with RF & CNNs

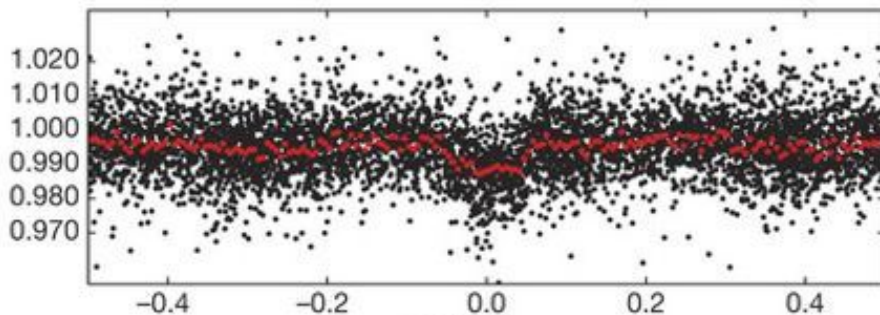
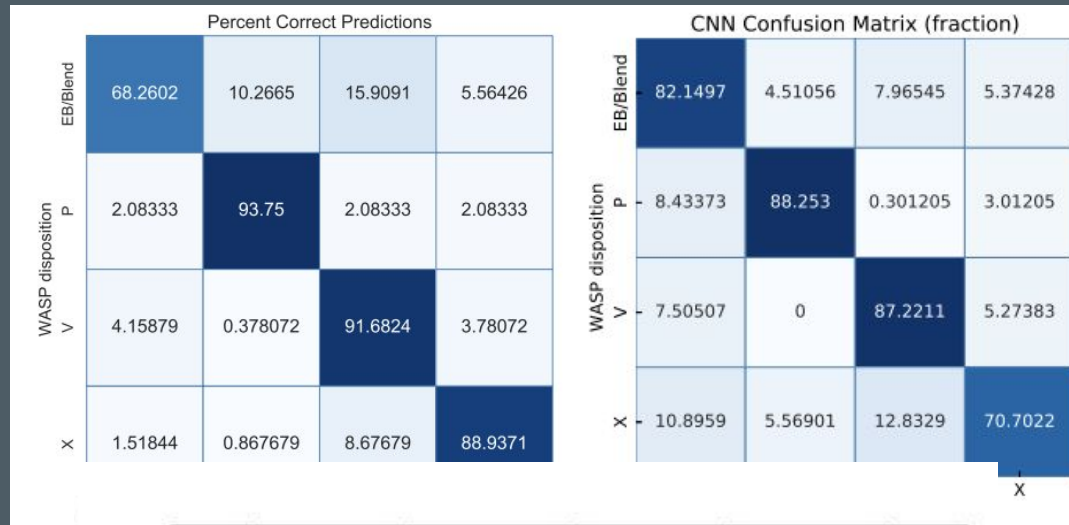


Schanche et al. (2018)

Classified WASP planet candidates with both Random Forest and Convolutional Neural Network.

CNN gives better average precision, but random forest performs best on planets:

MEarth used Neural Networks to determine which “triggers” the telescopes should follow, leading to LHS 1132 b Dittman et al. (2017)



# CNNs for Exoplanet Detection



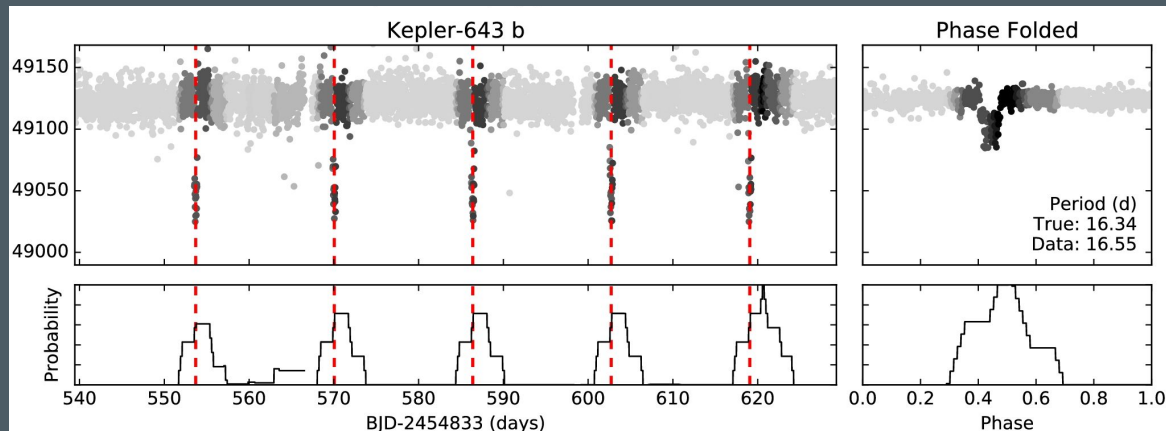
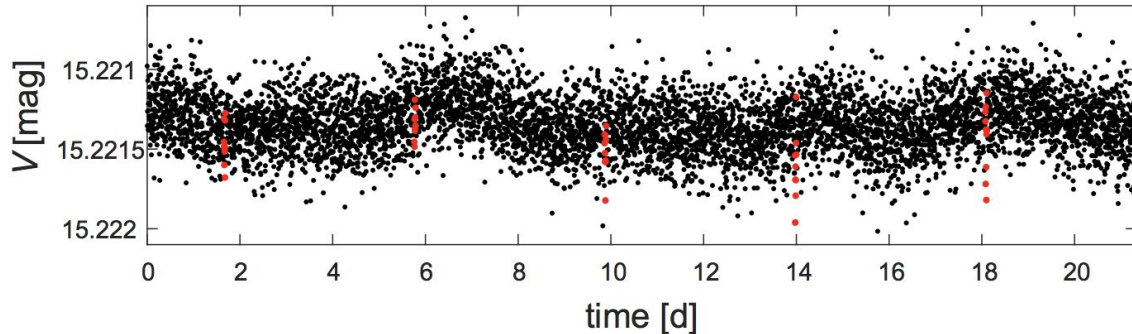
Two parallel papers using neural networks to detect exoplanets:

Zucker et al, (2017)

Pearson et al, (2017)

Difficult as neural networks cannot natively learn “periodicity”.

Neither deal with classifying real planets vs false positives

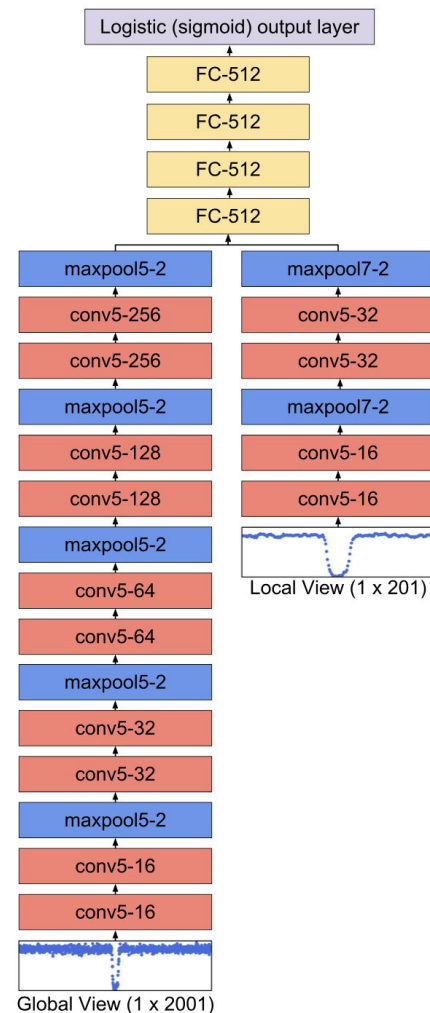
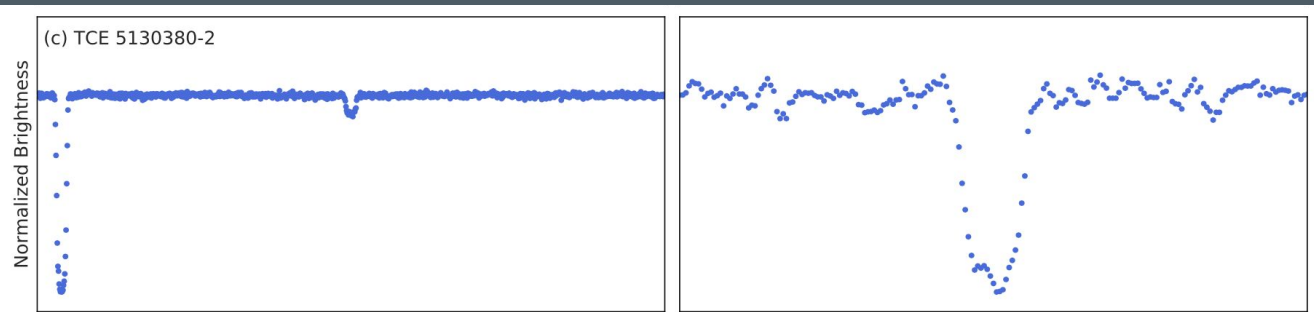




# Shallue et al 2018

## Astronet - Shallue & Vanderburg (2018)

- Deep Convolutional Neural Net
- Inputs are “local” and “global” transit view of each candidate (TCE)
- Two disjoint 1D convolutional columns + 4 fully connected layers
- Output is binary classifier in the range  $[0,1]$

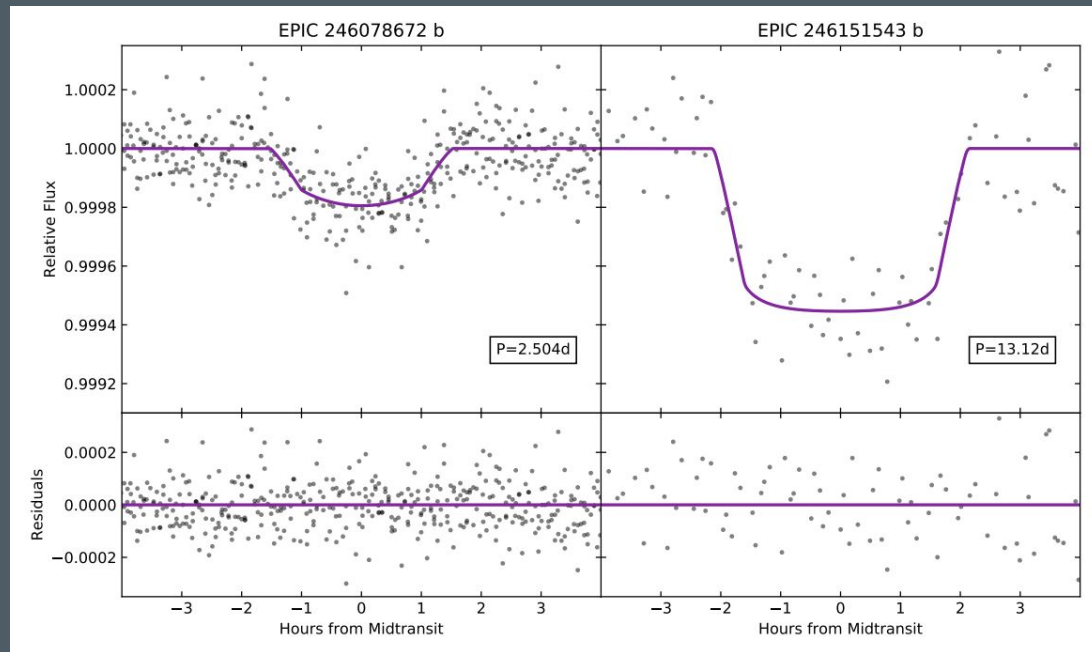


# New planets from CNNs



Dattilo et al (Yesterday)

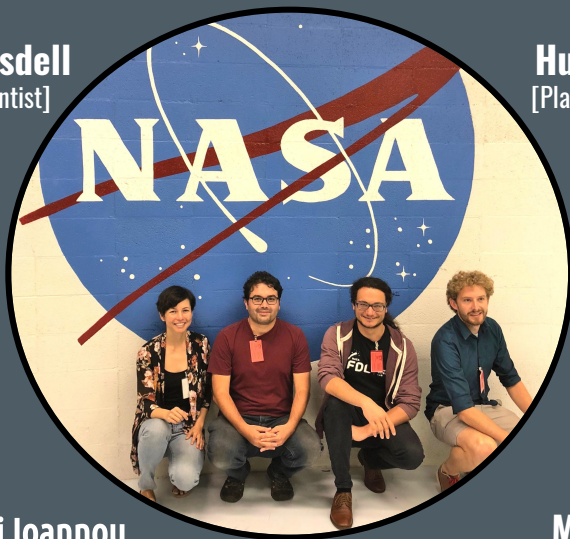
Using the methods of Shallue & Vanderburg, they detected new candidates in K2, including two statistically validated planets.



Our FDL project:  
Can we do better?

# 2018 NASA FDL - Exoplanet Team

**Megan Ansdell**  
[Planetary Scientist]  
UC Berkeley



**Hugh Osborn**  
[Planetary Scientist]  
LAM, Marseille

**Yani Ioannou**  
[Deep Learning Expert]  
University of Cambridge

**Michele Sasdelli**  
[Deep Learning Expert]  
University of Adelaide

## 2018 FDL Exoplanet Team Mentors:

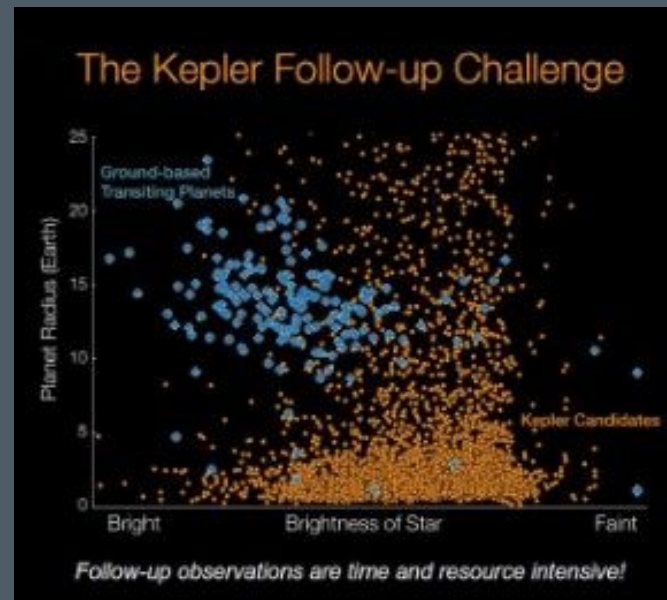
- *Science Expertise* → J. Smith, D. Caldwell, J. Jenkins  
(NASA Ames / SETI Institute)  
Daniel Angerhausen  
(University of Bern / CSH)
- *Machine Learning* → C. Raissi (INRIA),  
Yarin Gal (Oxford)
- *Compute Power* → Massimo Mascaro  
(Google Cloud)



# Paper 1: Classifying Kepler Candidates



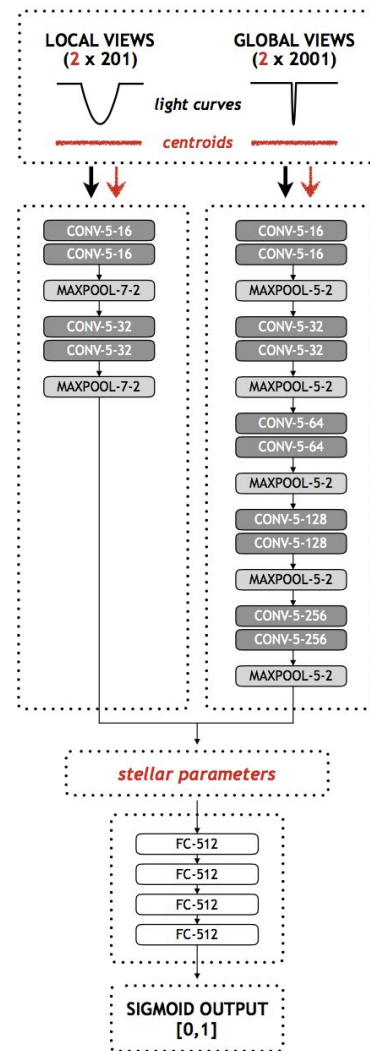
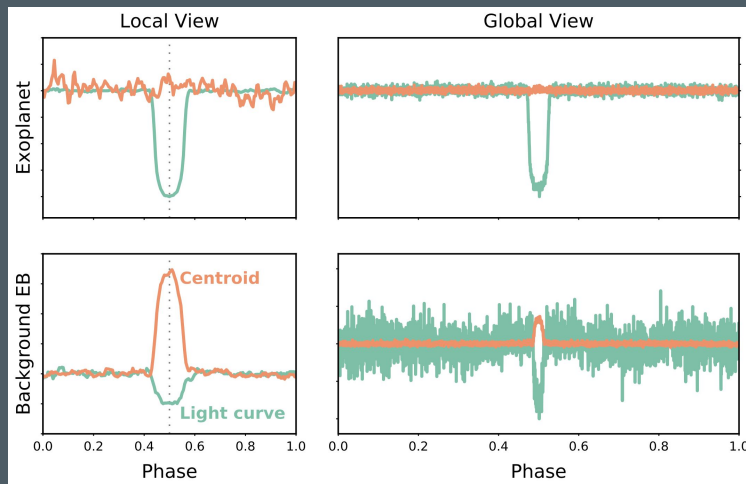
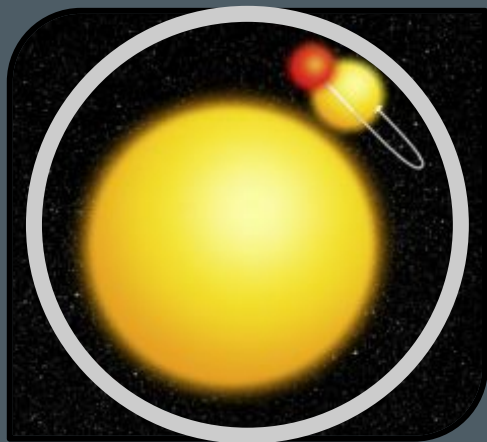
- 16,000 Threshold Crossing Events (TCEs) from Kepler DR24
- Labelled by human vetters
- ~25% planets & ~75% false positives
- Followed Shallue & Vanderburg to preprocess the data:
  - Detrending lightcurve
  - Phase-folding onto candidate period
  - Binning to “global” & “local” view



# Classifying Kepler Candidates

## Centroid Time-series

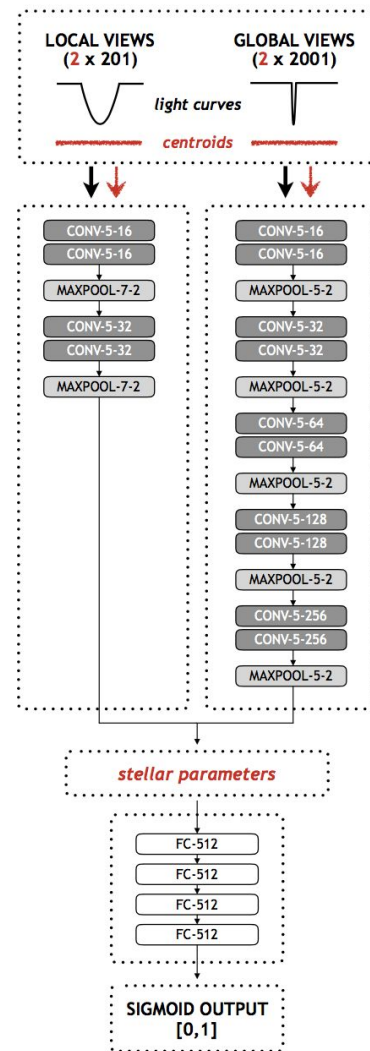
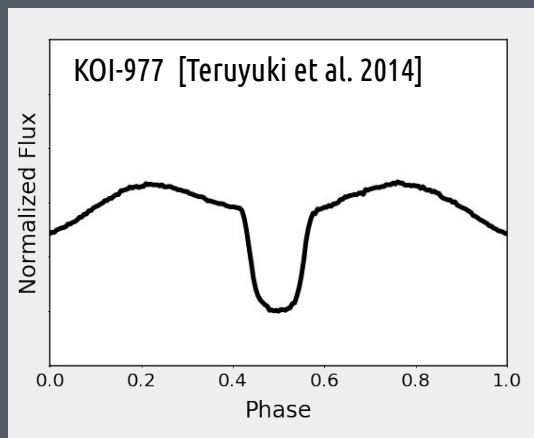
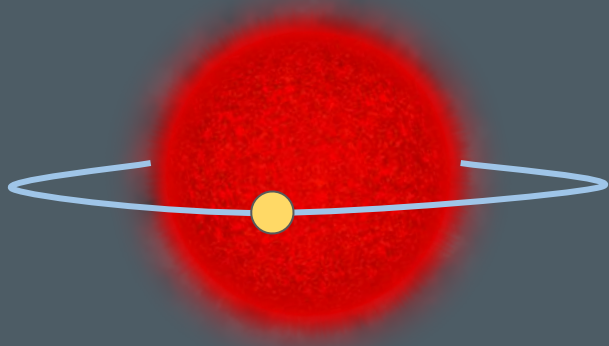
- Position of center of light in TPF as function of time
- Important for identifying EBs and BEBs



# Classifying Kepler Candidates

## Stellar Properties

- From KOI catalog: mass, radius, density, surface gravity, metallicity
- Important for identifying, e.g., giant star eclipsing binaries

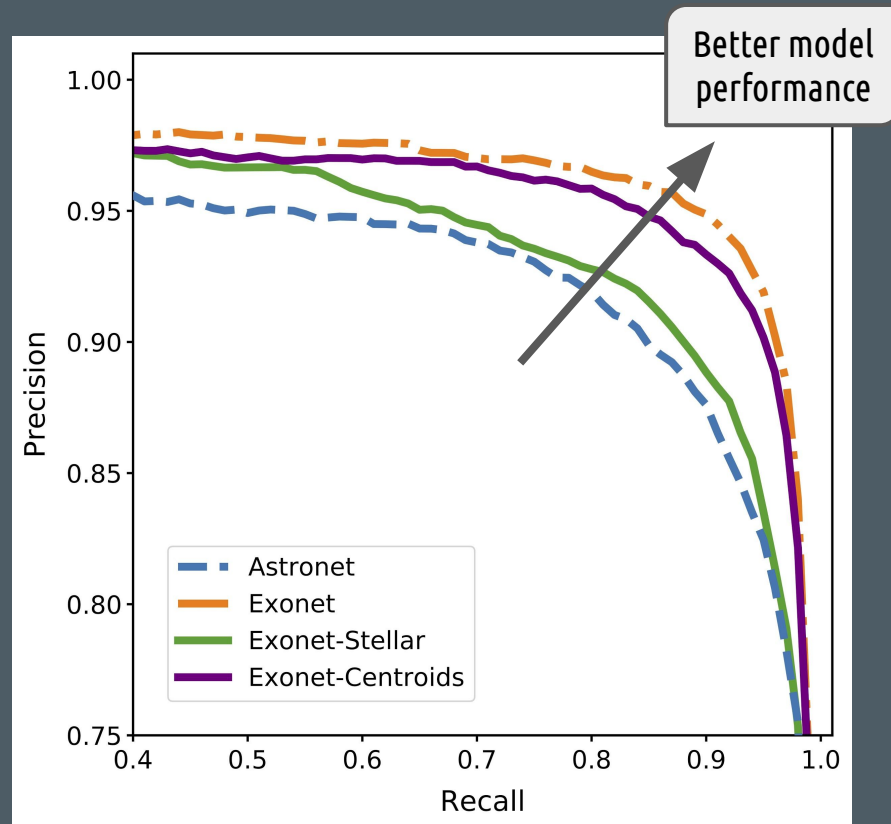


# Performance on Kepler



- Centroids & Stellar info both improve performance
- Cross validation & model ensembling also improved performance
- Best classification** of any metric on Kepler

	Planet Accuracy	Avg. Precision
Autovetter	94.15%	97.19%
Astronet	95.8%	95.5%
Exonet	<b>97.5%</b>	<b>98.0%</b>

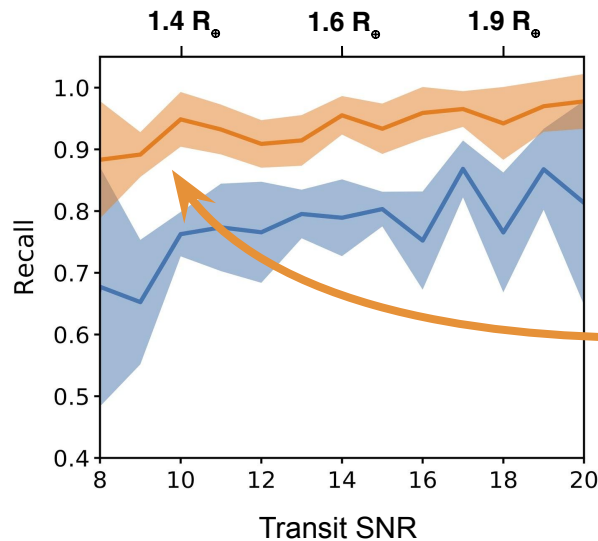
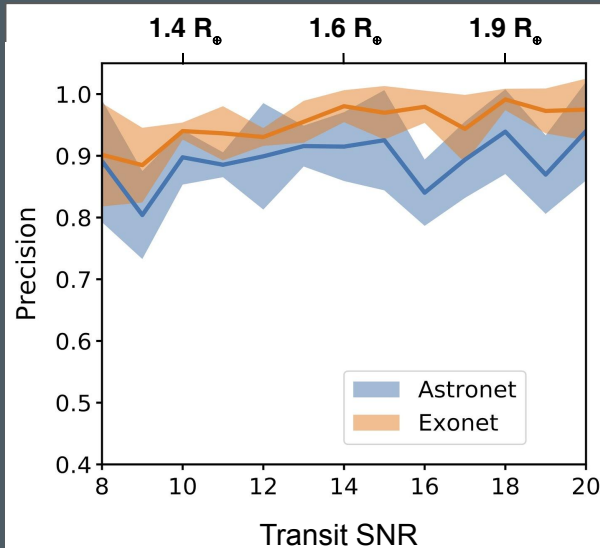




# Performance on Kepler



## Improved Performance for Lowest SNR Transits

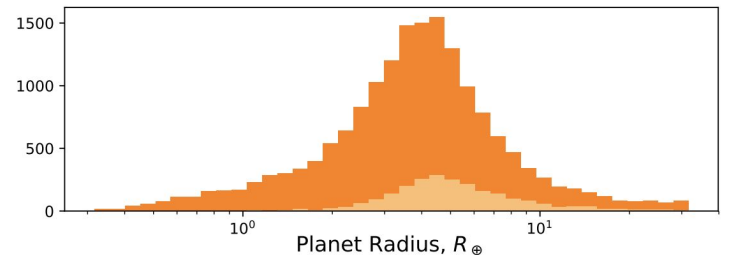
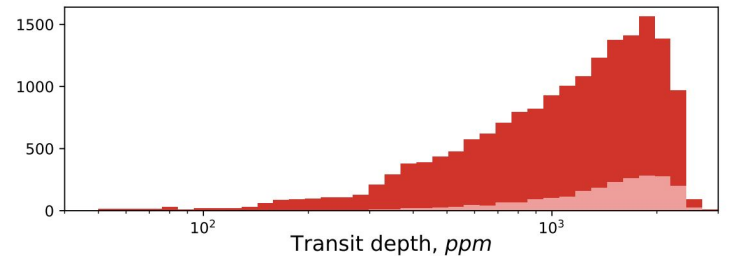
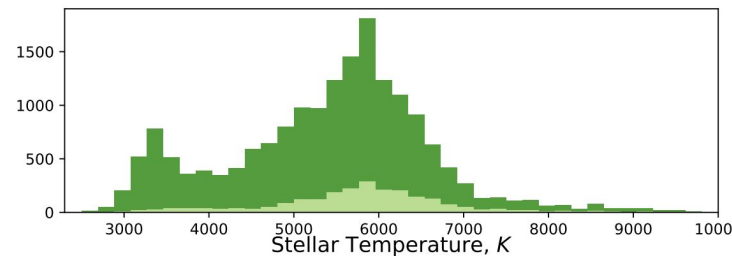
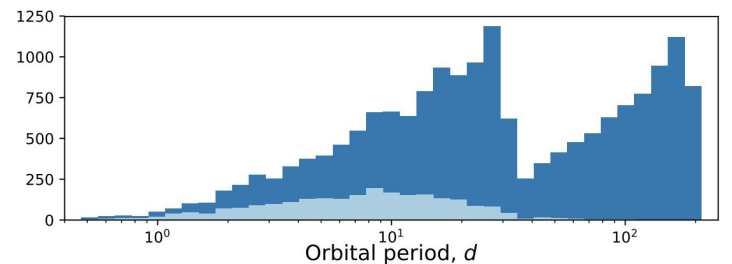
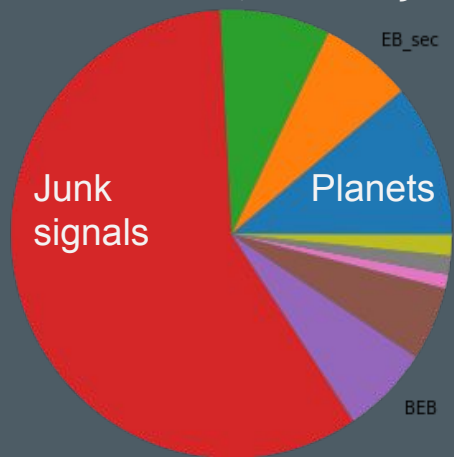


**Future missions like  
TESS & PLATO will  
focus on small planets**

**15-20% gains in recall for  
Earth-sized planets**

# Paper 2: Classifying TESS Data

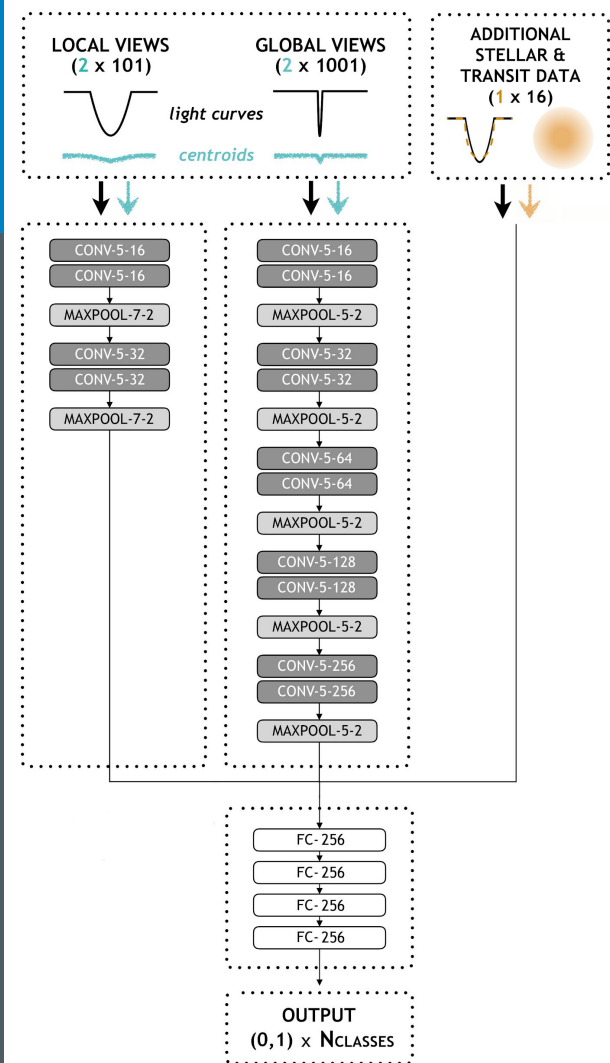
- 4 Simulated sectors.
- Pixel-level injections of signals, processed with the full TESS pipeline
- ~16,000 candidates, with only ~14% planets



# Classifying TESS Data

Modified the model of Ansdell et al (2019):

- Added additional transit-derived information
- Reduced bins from 2001 to 1001
- Used multi-class modelling

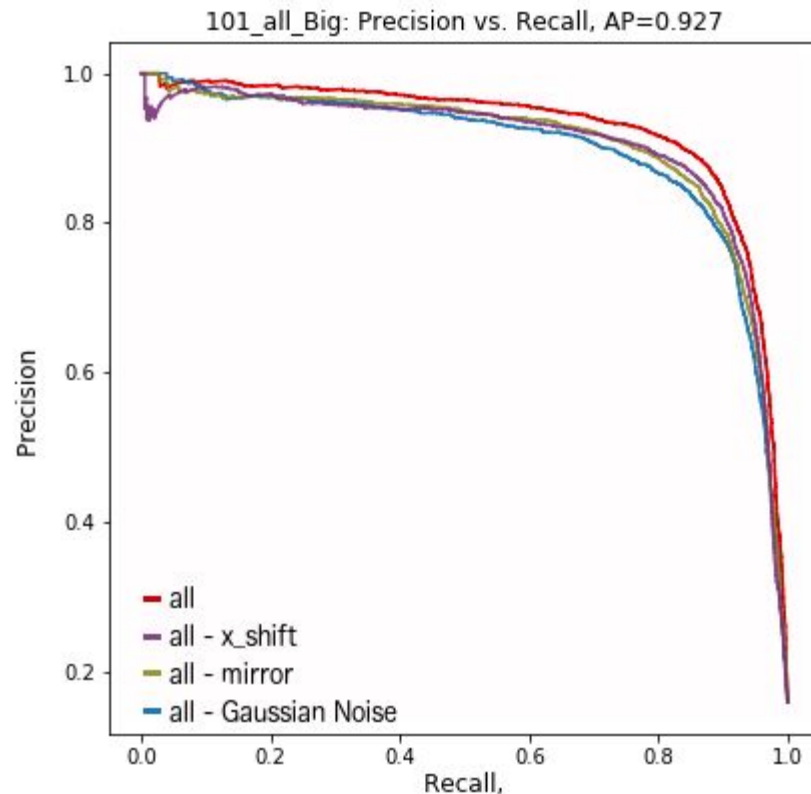


# Data Augmentation



- Augmentation modifies input data to create “new” data for the neural net, preventing overfitting

	Avg. Precision
Exonet: no augmentation	85.2%
Exonet - Gaussian	89.6%
Exonet - xmirror	90.4%
Exonet - xshift	90.5%
Exonet - all	92.7%

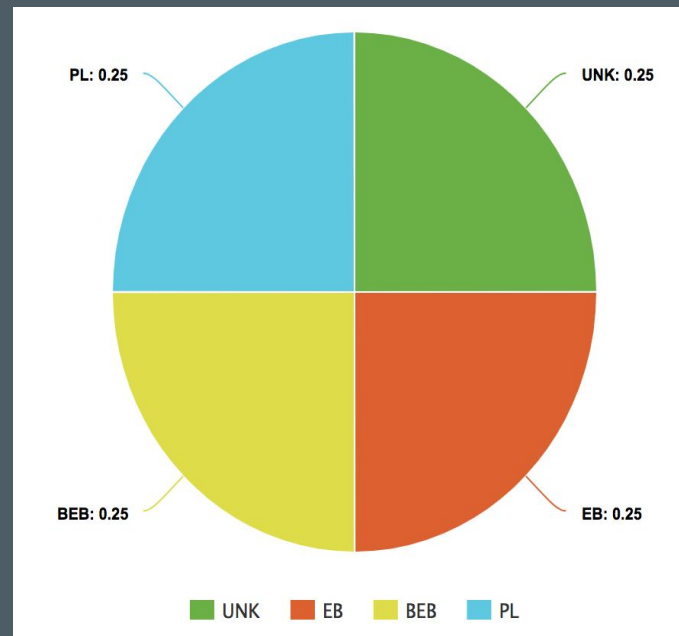
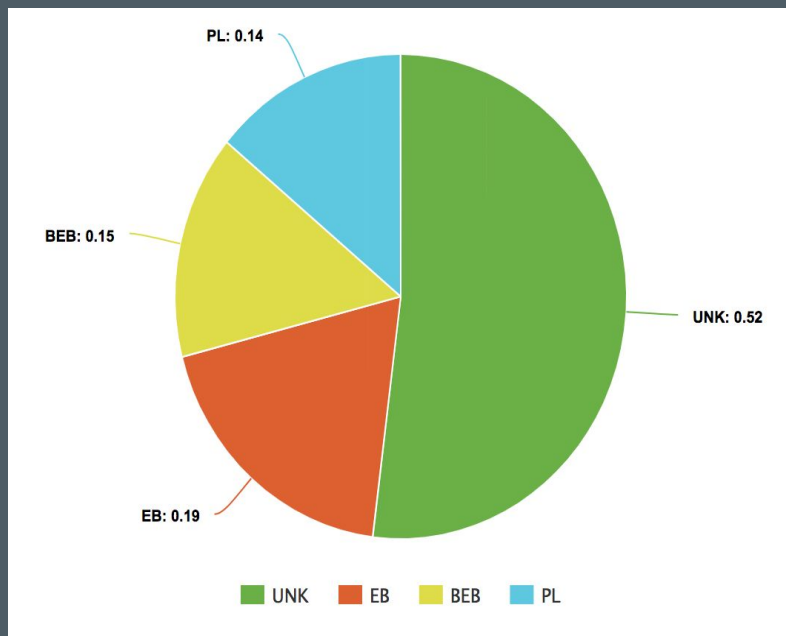




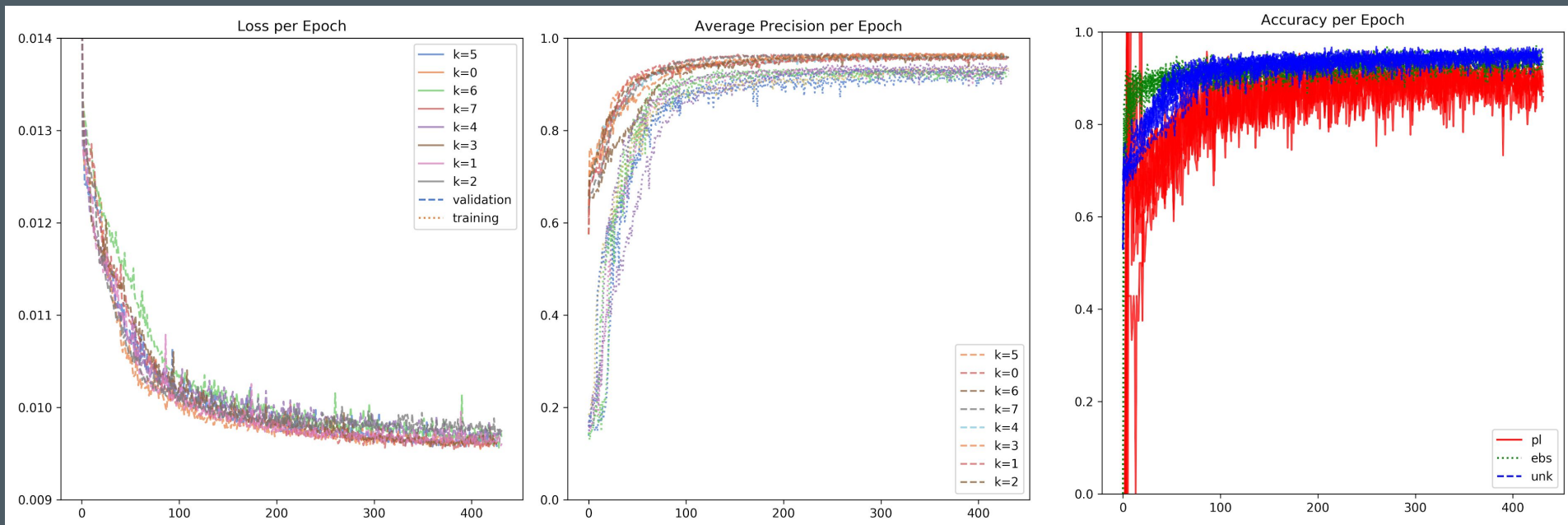
# Balanced Batch Sampling



- Unbalanced data is difficult to learn as models tend to predict the majority class.
- Re-balancing means that each epoch sees same number of samples from each



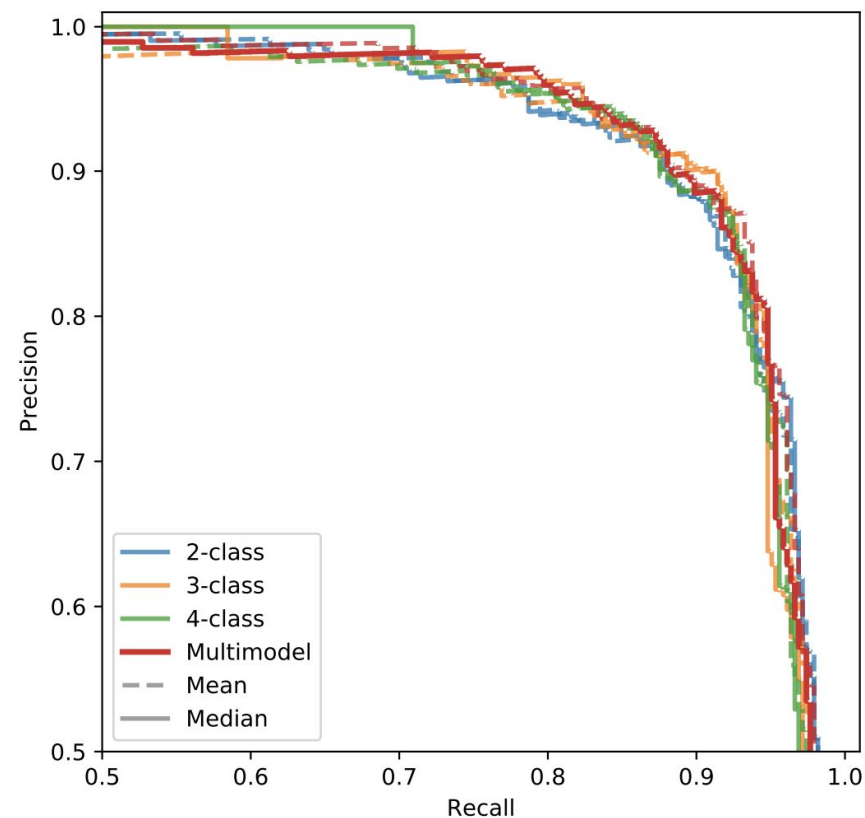
# Classifying TESS Simulations



# Performance on TESS Simulations



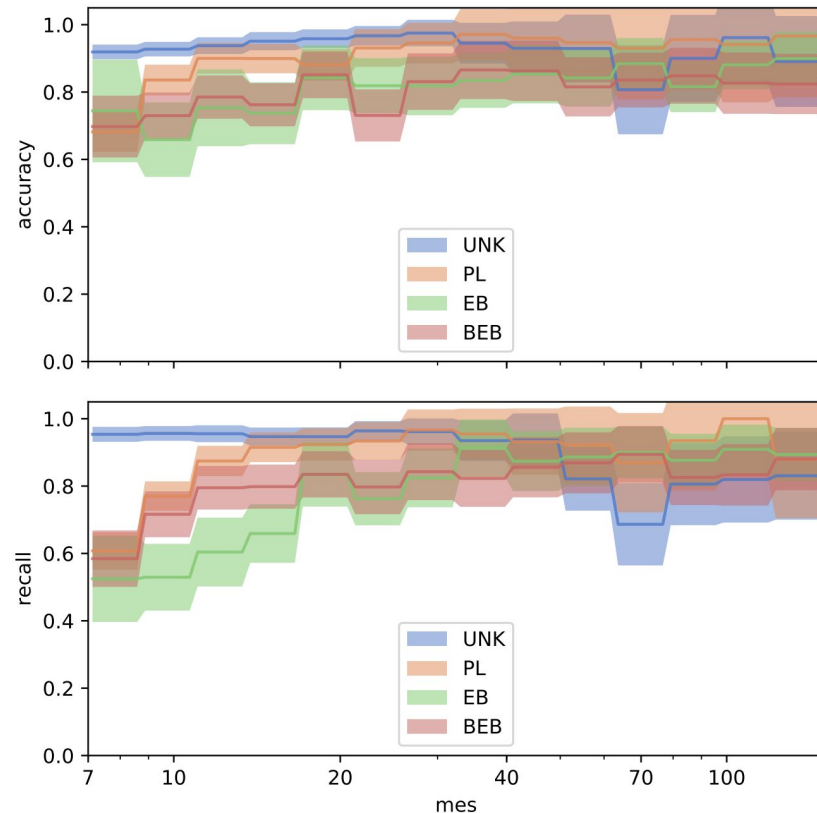
		Accuracy	Recall	Av. Precision
Binary	Planet	91.8	87.8	95.2
	Not Planet	97.6	98.5	99.4
3-class	Planets	<u>90.4</u>	<u>90.1</u>	<u>95.6</u>
	EBs	95.1	95.1	96.9
	Unknown	94.8	94.9	97.7
4-class	Planets	89.1	88.8	94.4
	EBs	87.4	91.7	94.7
	BEBs	88.5	81.7	91.7
	Unknown	94.6	95.5	97.8



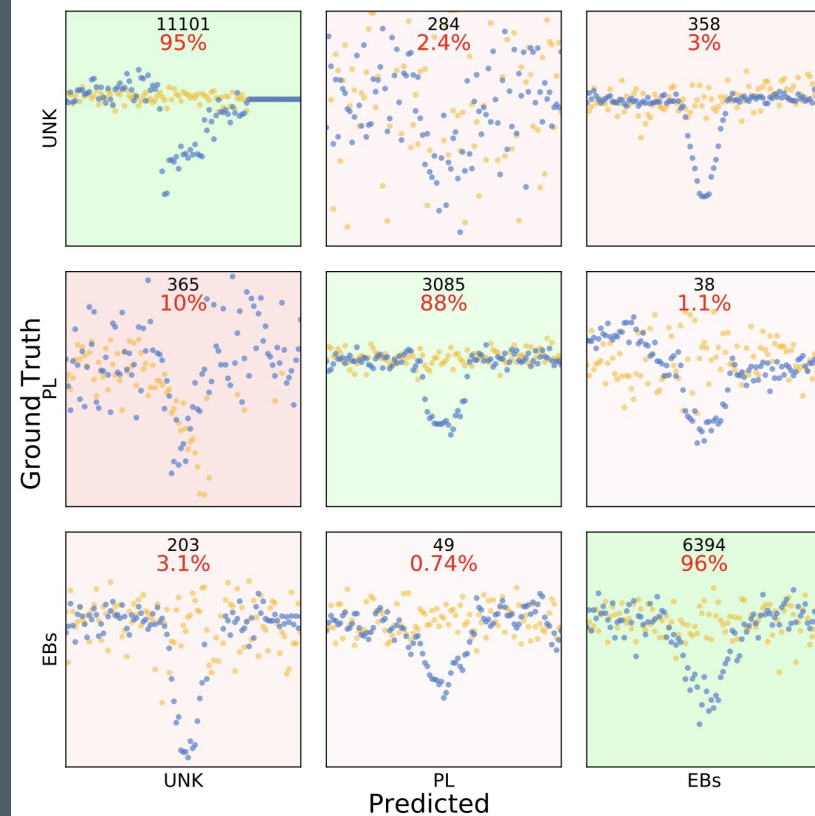
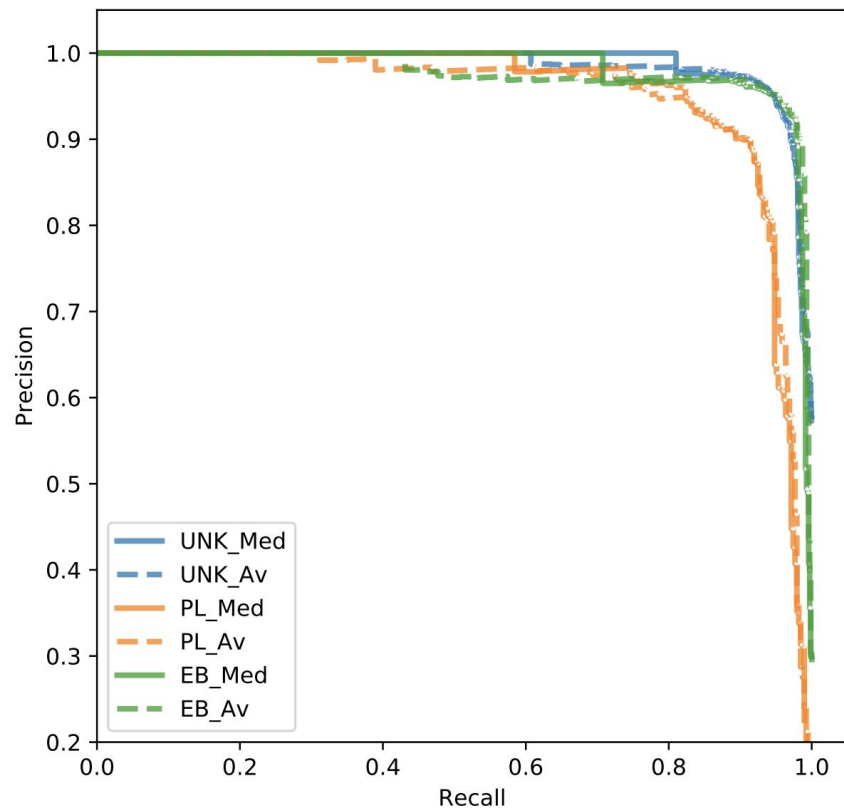
# Performance as a function of SNR



- Recall deteriorates at low SNR
- 70% accuracy in  $7 < \text{SNR} < 8.5$  range
- “Unknown” consistently accurate - model has learnt systematic features

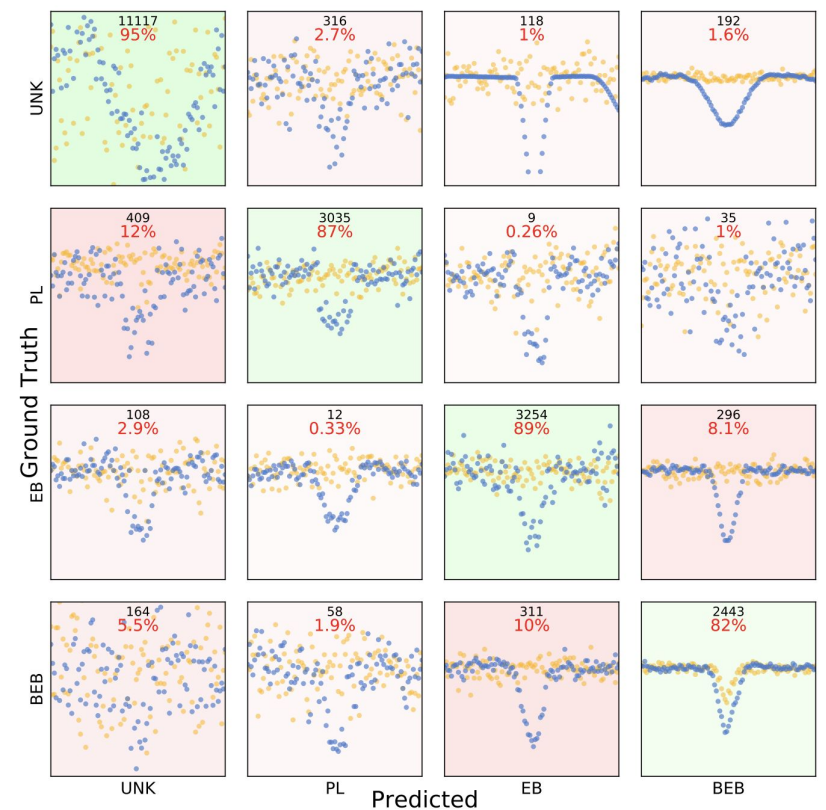
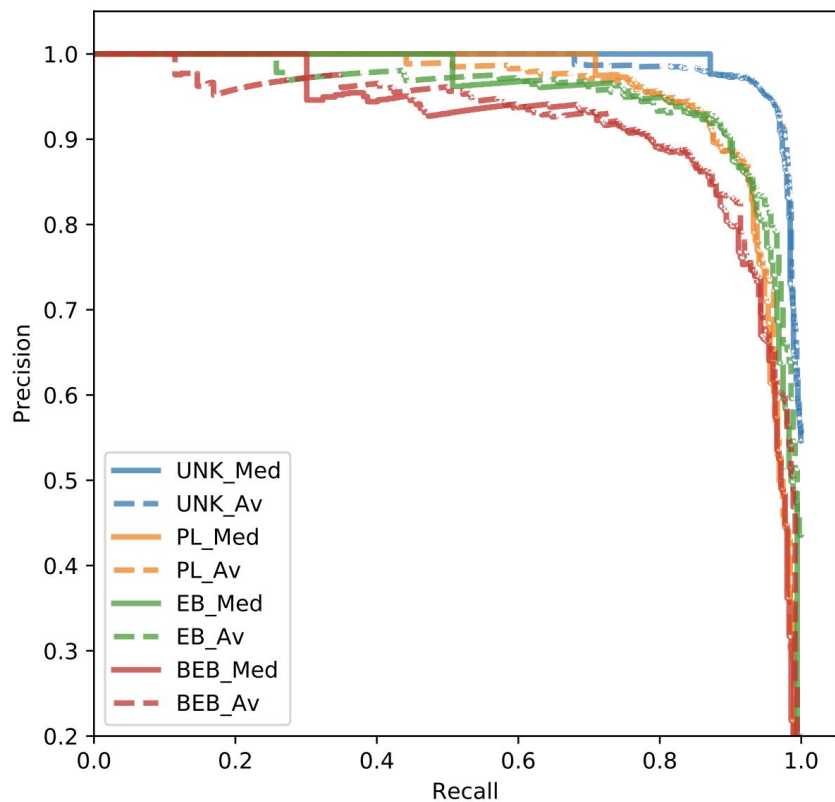


# 3-class model





# 4-class model



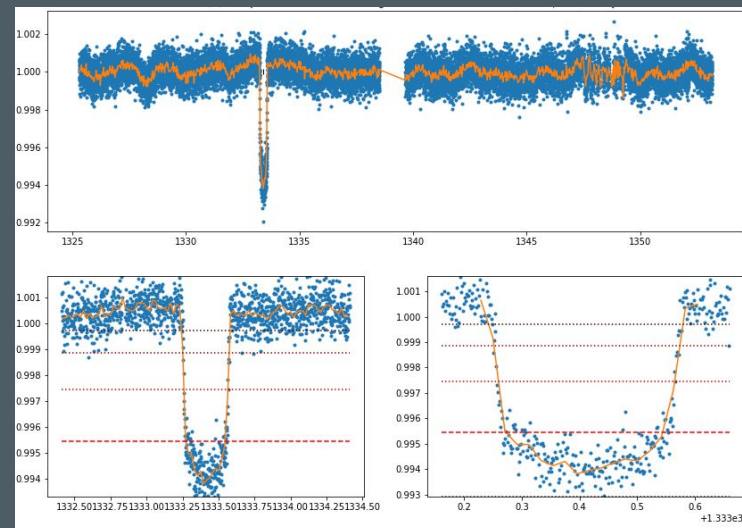
# Comparison with Ansdell et al, 2019



	Average Precision on planets
Kepler	98.5%
TESS	95.6%

← Why?

- Labels: Human vetting vs. Simulated ground truth
- Minimum transits: Kepler  $\geq 3$  - vs - TESS  $\geq 2$
- “Near misses” - 196 “false positives” are planets
  - 44% from monotransits
  - 25% from period confusion
- Including “near misses” - planet accuracy from 90.3% to 95.1%



A Monotransit flagged as periodic in real TESS data.

# Application to real TESS data



Far faster than other TESS vetting methods!

- ~60 minutes to pre-process lightcurves
- 5 minutes to predict with trained model on one GPU

But real data  $\neq$  simulated data

- Different noise characteristics
- Do injections match reality?
- No “ground truth” to make comparisons

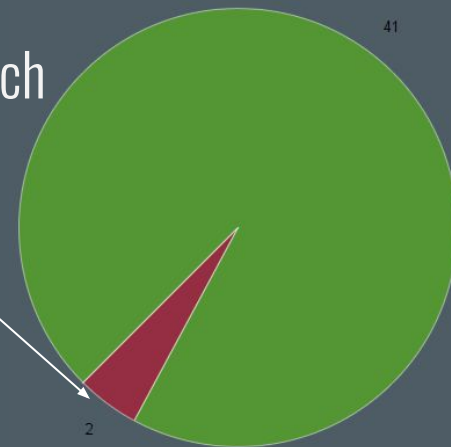
TESS has 2 candidate pipelines producing candidates. Overlap is not perfect.

# Application to real TESS data



## Planets Known Before Launch

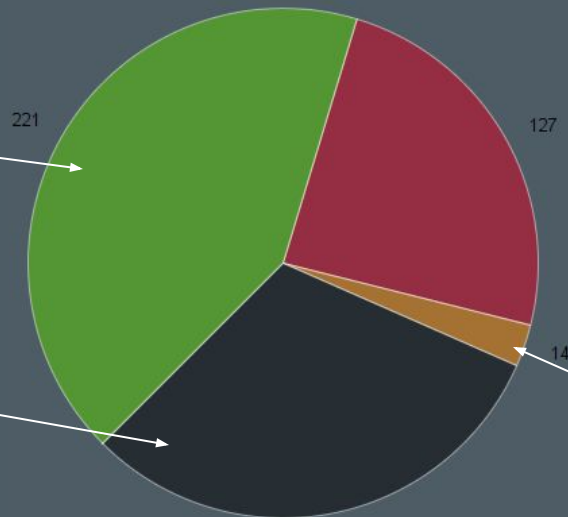
HATS-34b: shows secondary  
WASP-18b:  $b=0.94$  (grazing)



## All KOIs in Sectors 1-5

Recall of 61% on KOIs

KOIs from QSOP pipeline not  
in our candidate list



14 we suggest are EBs

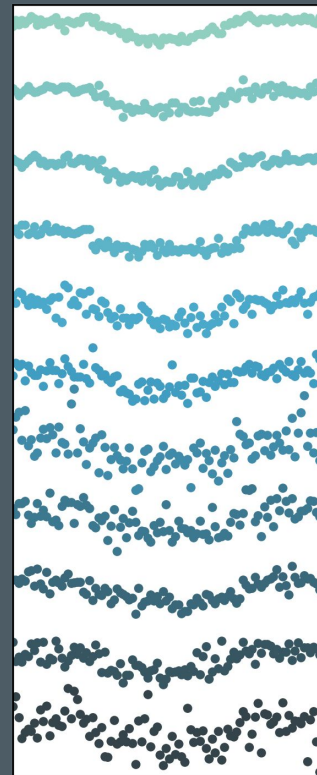
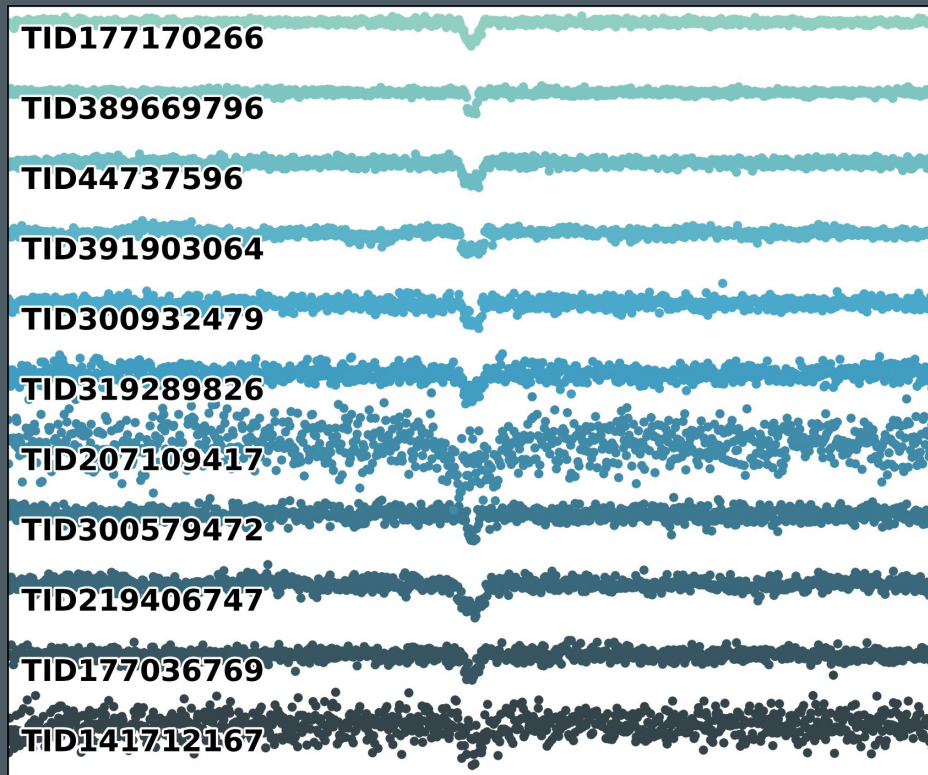
# New predicted planets



>100 new candidates predicted

Problems:

- Many giant binaries in predicted sample
- Some of these targets share the same period and epoch - reflections from a bright binary

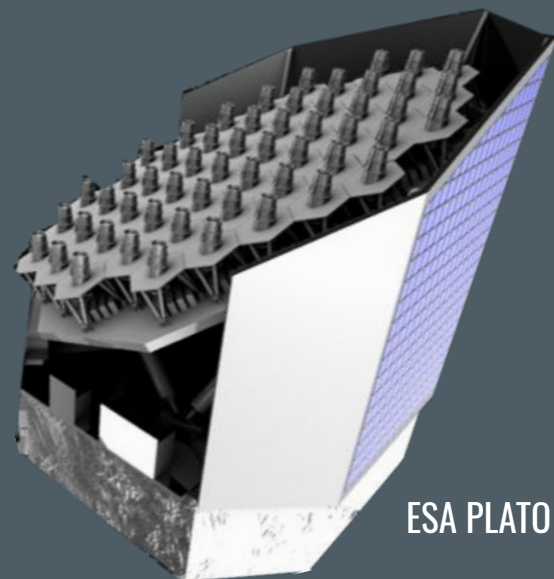




# Future steps



- Train with real TESS lightcurves
  - Problematic: how to inject signals and avoid real transit signals?
  - How to replicate instrumental effects many times?
- Add Bayesian Uncertainty to network
- Follow-up (and hopefully confirm!) predicted candidates
- Formulate how PLATO can use CNNs to classify & rank planet candidates



ESA PLATO

# Conclusion



- Machine Learning enables faster and often more accurate classification of astronomical data
- Our application to Kepler candidates is the best-performing model yet tested, with an accuracy on planets of 97.5%
- Our model on TESS simulated data shows CNNs are a promising method of rapidly classifying TESS planet candidates without human vetting, achieving between 90 and 95% accuracy.
- Application to real TESS data shows work is still needed, with a recall on KOIs of only 60%.
- Identified a handful of promising new candidates missed by manual vetters.



# Thanks! Any Questions

Hugh Osborn

Podcast with  
Andrew Rushby &  
Hannah Wakeford

