

# Automated Bow Shock and Magnetopause Boundary Detection With Cassini Using Threshold and Deep Learning Methods

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## Motivation

Manually searching by eye for bow shock (BS) and magnetopause (MP) boundaries in spacecraft data is: **Time** consuming, prone to human **error**, requires **expertise**.

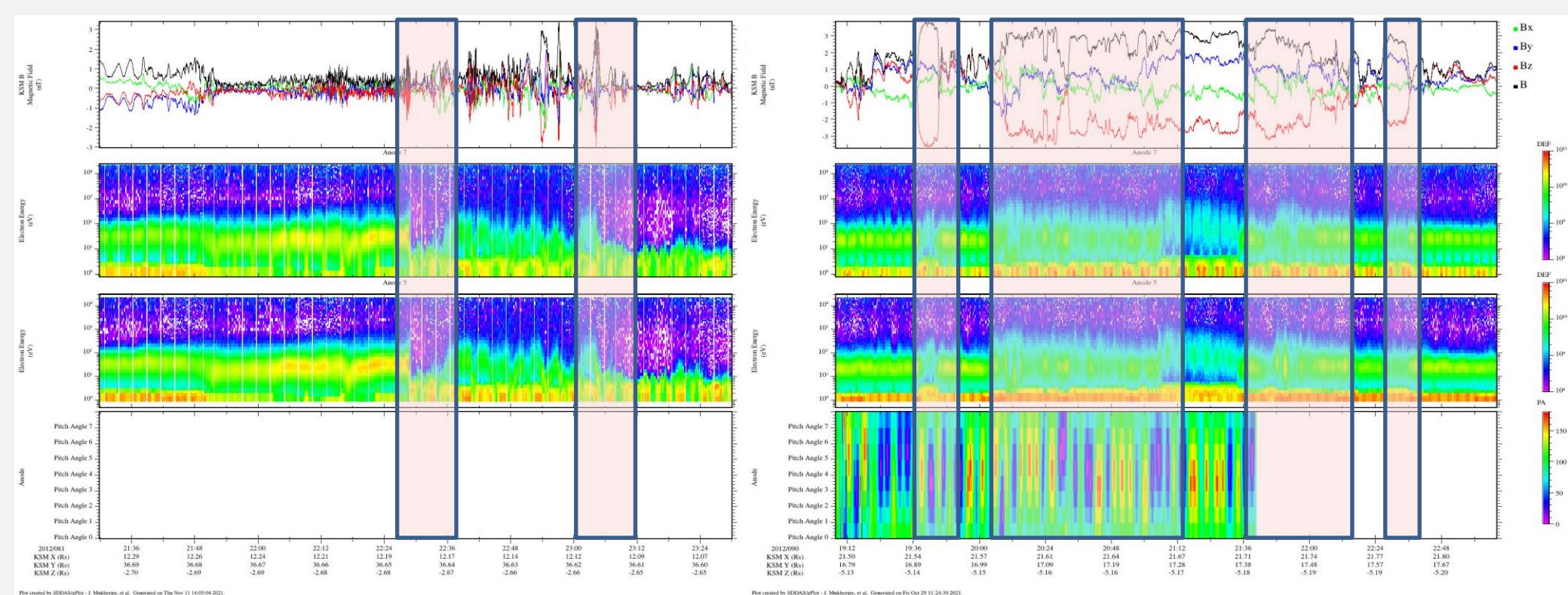
Automation will allow: **Reproducibility**, **discovery** potential in unlabeled data, **reusability** in existing and future planetary missions.

**BS and MP boundaries contain interesting physics such as:**

**Morphology** in which the 3-d shape and size of the magnetosphere (SP), MP and BS affect plasma flows in the magnetosheath (SH).

**Dynamics** like current systems, magnetic reconnection, shock physics and plasma energization. **Instabilities** like R-T waves, K-H waves, Kinetic waves, Mirror mode waves, Helical instability, Heat-flux driven instability, Modified two-stream instability, Lower-hybrid drift Instability<sup>1, 2</sup>

## BS and MP Crossing Signatures



**Fig. 1:** MAG<sup>13</sup> Data and CAPS<sup>14</sup> ELS Anode 5 and 7 with pitch angle information for intervals of example BS (left) and MP (right) crossings. Adapted from [cassinimag.space.swri.edu](http://cassinimag.space.swri.edu).

Typical signatures of BS crossings include (Fig 1 left):

- Magnetic field:** The SW magnetic field is weaker (typ. <1nT) than in the SH; often with magnetic overshoot feature due to ion reflection and gyration<sup>5</sup>.
- Plasma:** The SH plasma is denser and hotter than solar wind plasma due to conversion of kinetic to thermal energy by the BS.

Typical signatures of MP crossings include (Fig 1 right):

- Magnetic field:** The  $B_z$  component is usually negative (southward) inside the low-latitude magnetosphere, whereas the SH  $B_z$  is typically close to zero but highly variable. **Plasma:** The magnetospheric plasma is less dense and hotter than SH plasma.

For both boundaries, the field fluctuations typically increase in the SH due to turbulence.

## Ground Truth

The BS and MP ground truth catalogue used contains over 2100 MP crossings, and over 1200 BS crossings<sup>3,4</sup>. They are recorded as single timestamps.

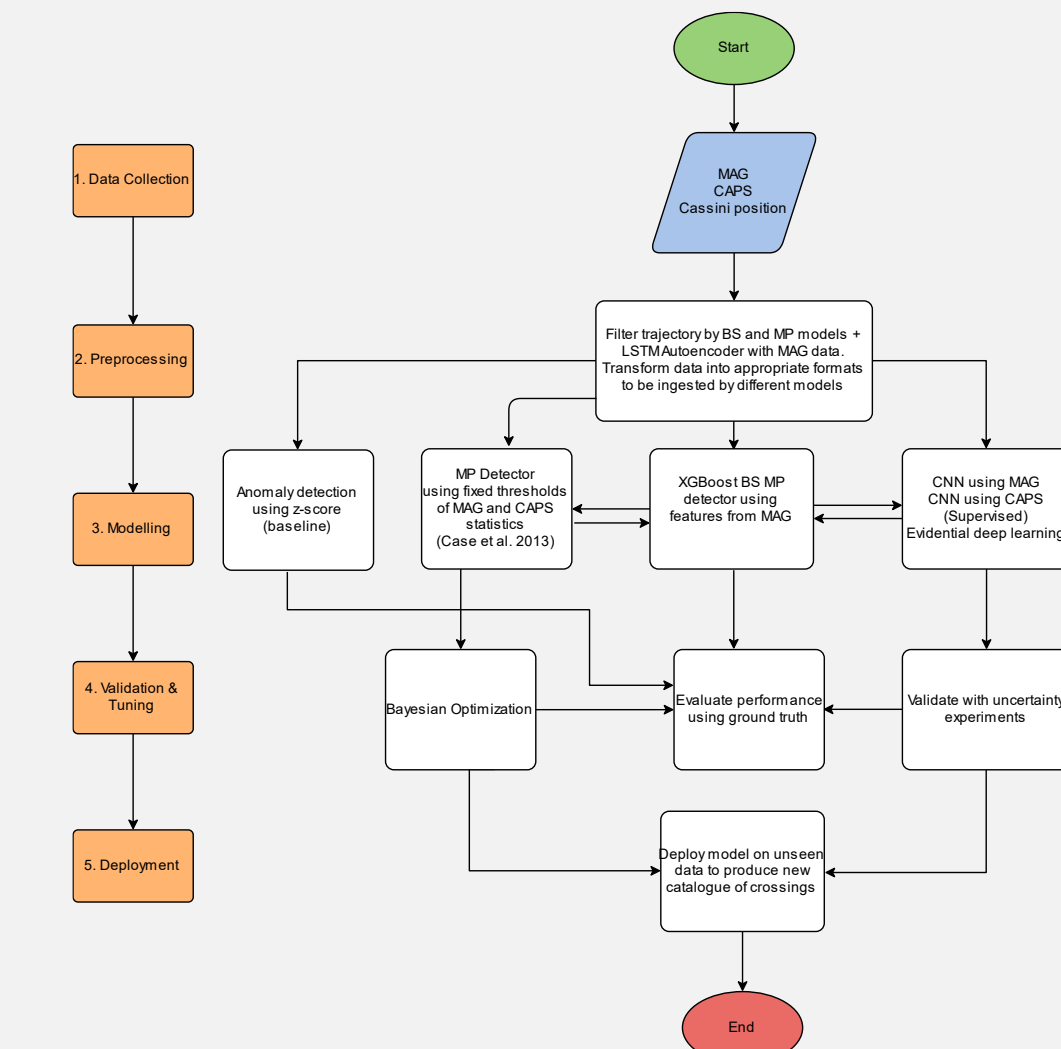
## Define the problem

To simplify the problem, binary classification is performed (Fig 2).



**Fig. 2:** Schematic of the problem. Question: Is there a BS or MP crossing or not?

## Pipeline

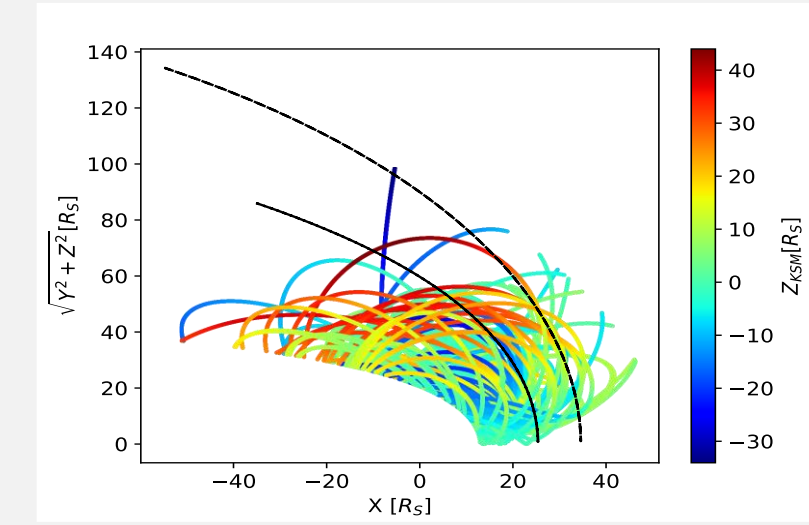


**Fig. 3:** Five stages of the data pipeline for automating boundary detection: 1) Data collection. 2) Pre-processing. 3) Modelling the data with different methods. 4) Validating and tuning the algorithm. 5) Deployment on new data.

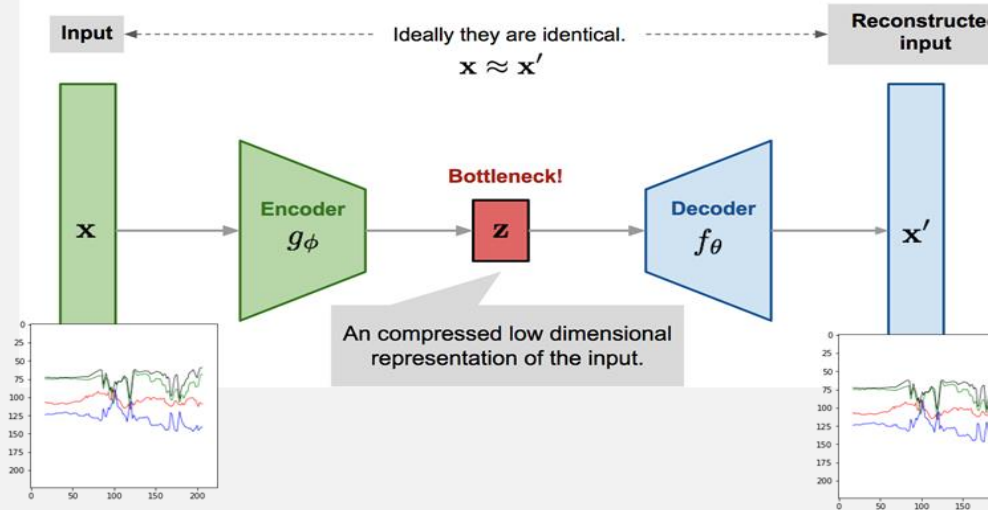
## Preprocessing

Data collection is complete thanks to Cassini. The next step (Fig. 3) is preprocessing the data for automated BS/ MP boundary detection.

- To reduce the search scope, sections of Cassini's orbits were pre-selected (Fig 4) based on expected BS and MP locations using empirical models. This filtering reduced the amount of data to  $4.2 \times 10^6$  minutes (between 2004- 2016).



**Fig. 4:** Orbit selection based on expected BS and MP locations and crossings catalogue.



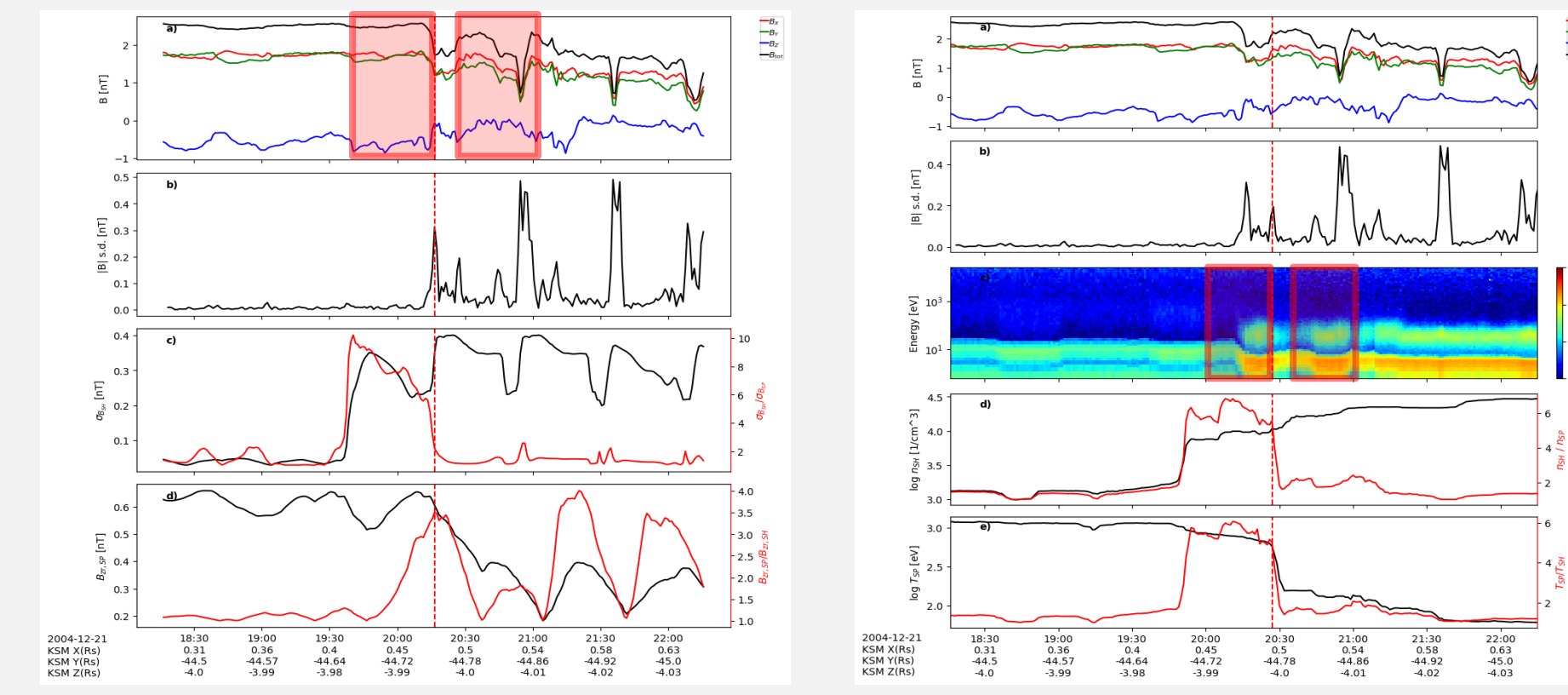
**Fig. 5:** Schematic of LSTM autoencoder used for filtering intervals of magnetic field data with abrupt changes.

- To further reduce the scope, a LSTM autoencoder (Fig. 5) was employed for unsupervised outlier detection. Over-parameterized neural networks (NN) have been shown to prioritize learning simple patterns that generalize across data samples<sup>6</sup>. This property was well-suited for filtering intervals with sudden changes in field which typically signal BS and MP boundary crossings.

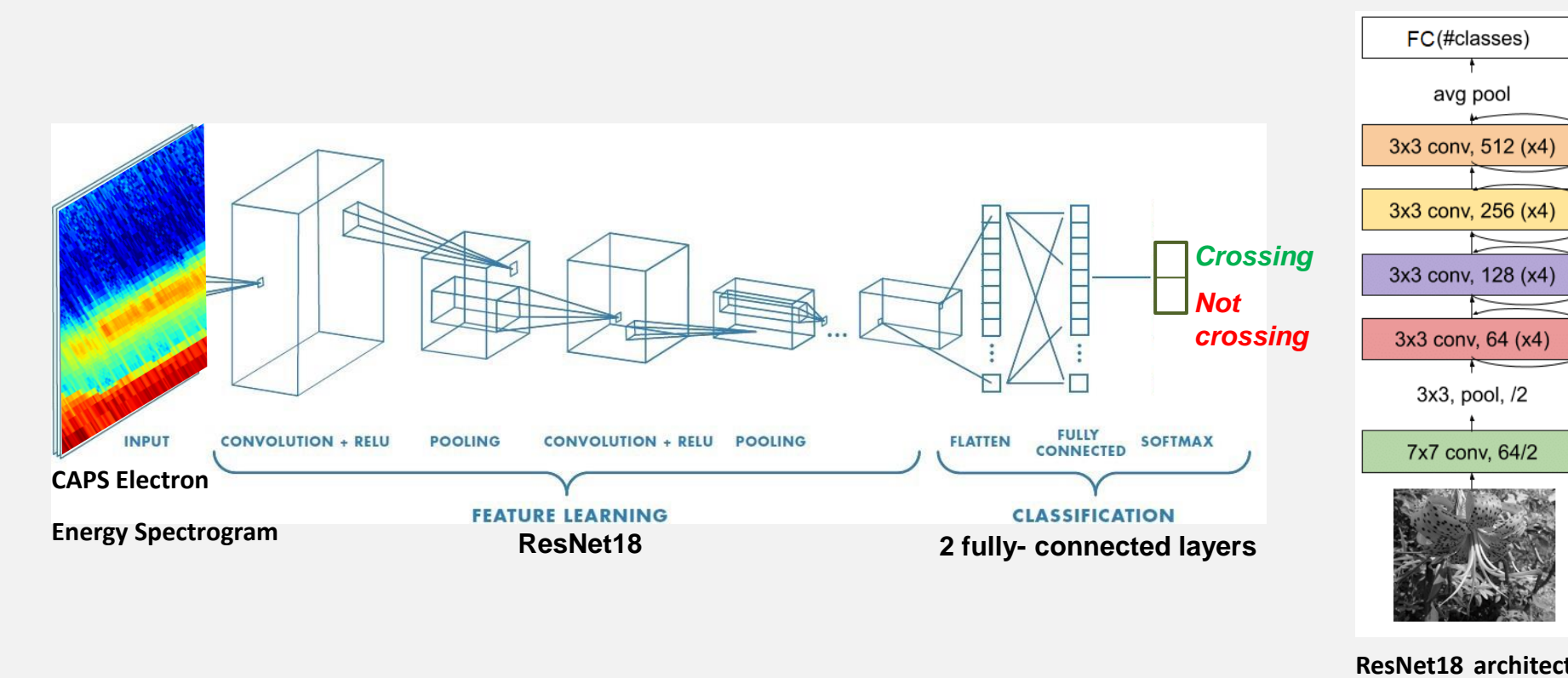
## Modelling

Two methods are compared in this poster:

- Threshold method<sup>7</sup>** : MAG and CAPS parameter values were computed using two sliding windows of length 30 minutes with a fixed gap of 8 minutes in between (shown by the red squares in Fig. 6). This method is easily explainable due to the physical meaning of the parameters such as fluctuations in the field. A positive detection occurs when a fixed threshold is exceeded in all the parameters.
- Deep learning with convolutional neural network (CNN)<sup>8</sup>** : Motivated by the ability of human eyes to recognize BS and MP features from multi-instrument plots (like Fig 1). A CNN automatically creates discriminative features from the input image in order to output the correct class label using labelled training data. A ResNet architecture was used due to the benefits of skip-connections<sup>9</sup>, where inputs are directly added to the output of a layer (see Fig. 7 right).



**Fig. 6:** MAG threshold method (left) to detect MP using four magnetic field parameters: 1) B standard deviation in SH, 2) ratio of B standard deviation between SH and SP, 3) North-south/ radial component of B in SP, 4) ratio of Bz or Br between SP and SH. Thresholds optimised using Bayesian optimisation. **CAPS threshold method** (right) to detect MP using four density and temperature parameters: 1) log density in SH, 2) ratio of density between SH and SP, 3) log temperature in SP, 4) ratio of temperature between SP and SH.

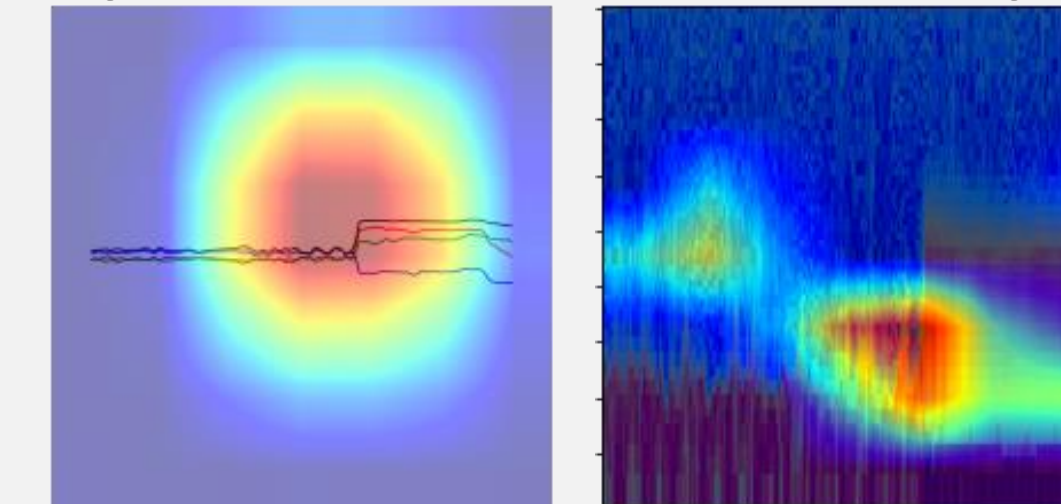


**Fig. 7:** Schematic of CNN classifier (left) showing how an input image of CAPS electron energy spectrogram is passed through the convolutional layers, generating deeper and deeper feature maps, eventually flattened to be passed through a fully connected network for classification giving output 'crossing' or 'notCrossing'. Schematic of ResNet architecture (right) used in the feature learning part with arrows showing skip-connections.

## Validating and Tuning

To tune the threshold method, the best parameter thresholds were found using Bayesian optimization<sup>10</sup> to maximize F1 score (a metric of both (1) how many of the ground truth are detected (recall) and (2) how many of these detections are true crossings (precision)). A tolerance of  $\pm 60$  minutes from a ground truth crossing was defined as correct.

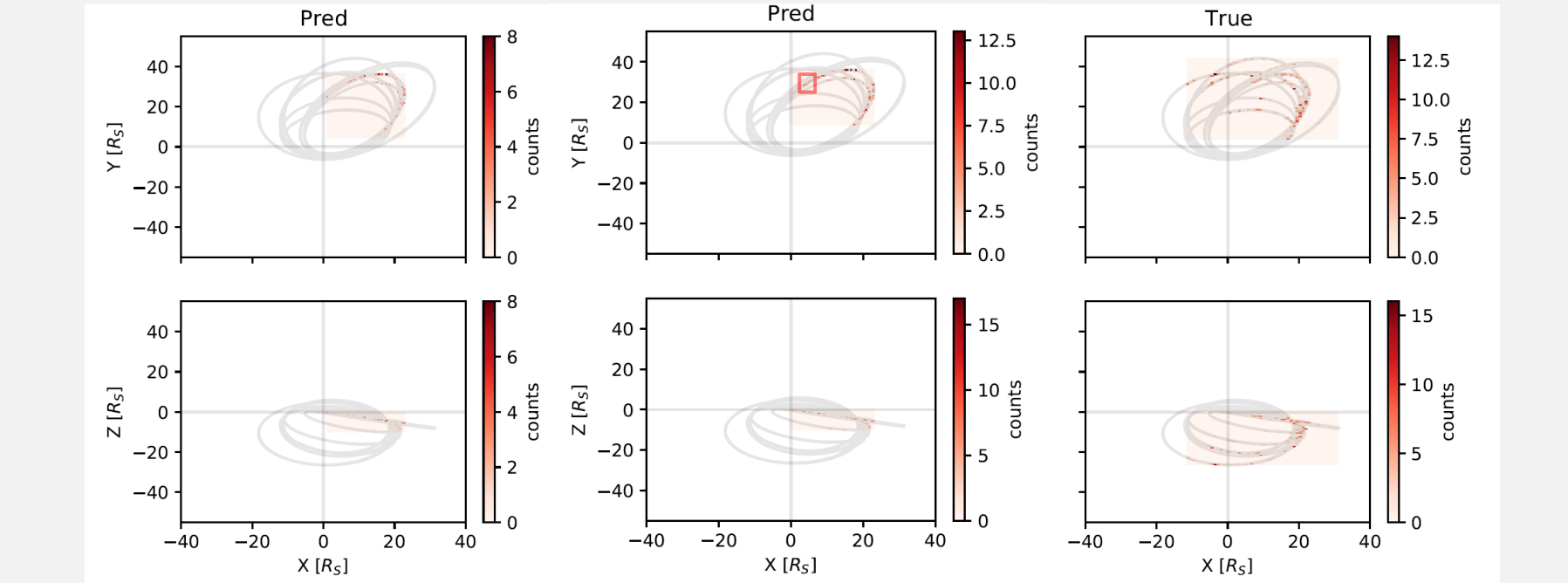
To validate the CNN, Grad-CAM<sup>11</sup> was used to visualize what the network was using to make its predictions (see Fig. 8).



**Fig. 8:** Grad-CAM applied to *cnn-mag* (left) and *cnn-caps* (right). The heatmap shows regions which are most discriminative for the output class (red regions highlight the most important pixels). Both models highlight the region with discontinuity as most important, which is what our eyes would focus on too for deciding between crossing or not.

Additional checks were implemented to 'screen' for genuine MP crossings as these tended to be the most difficult to detect especially in the dusk sector. These included: Angular deviation between MP model, TD and MVA normal, power spectra of parallel and perpendicular magnetic field, candidate crossing location on magnetic pressure map, predicted plasma beta based on pressure balance assumption, fluctuations of normal component of magnetic field from MVA, the ratio  $B_R/B$  at low latitudes assuming closed MP.

## Results



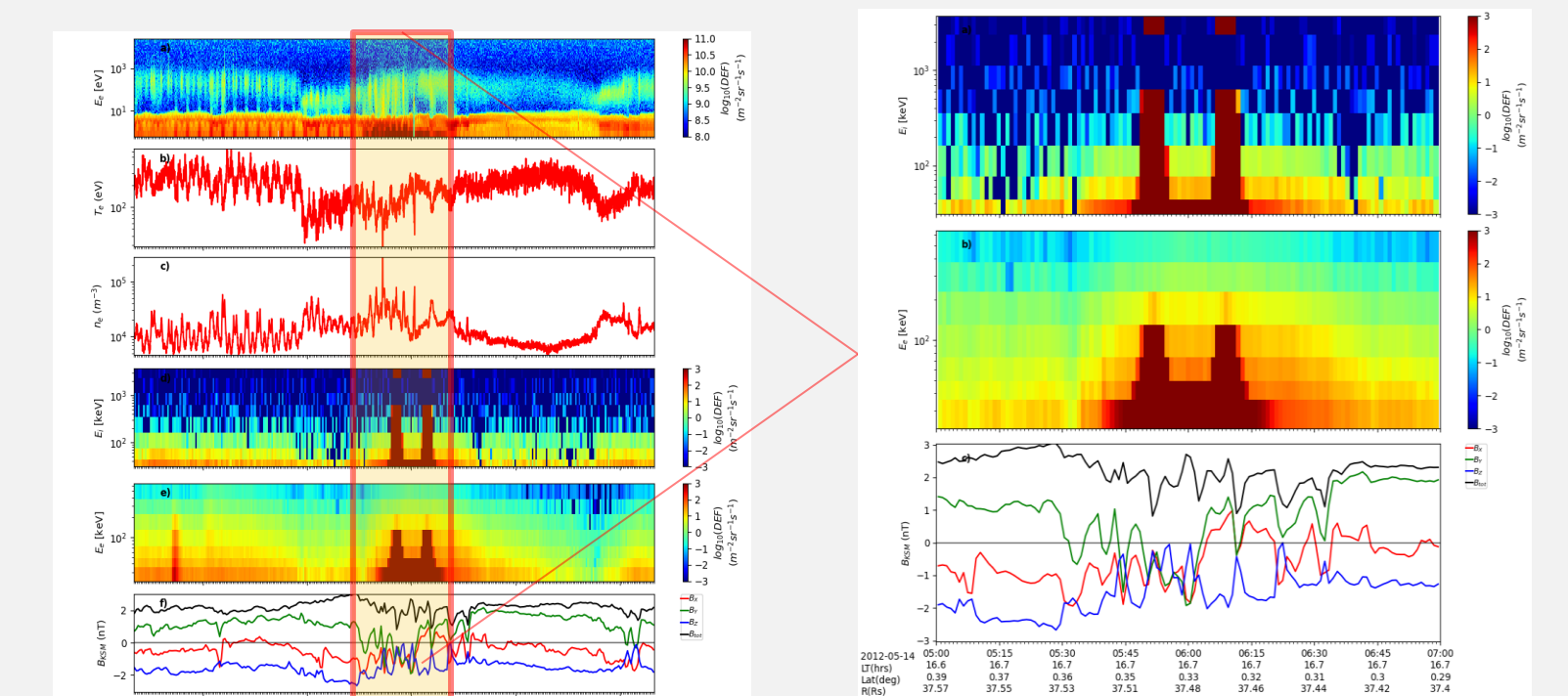
**Fig. 9:** 2d histogram of crossing prediction locations in 2012 by *thresh-caps* (left), *cnn-caps* (middle), and current ground truth (right). There is a region of crossing predictions (marked by red square) in *cnn-caps* which is not seen in *thresh-caps* or ground truth.

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0_notcrossing	0.995	0.986	0.990	2622
1_crossing	0.910	0.967	0.937	395
accuracy	0.952	0.976	0.964	3017
macro avg	0.984	0.983	0.983	3017

**Error analysis of *cnn-caps* misclassifications revealed:**

- 48.5% were MP
- 26.5% were BS
- 12.2% occurred in SH
- 11.7% occurred in SP
- 1.0 % occurred in SW
- Causes include missing BS and MP in ground truth and intervals with no CAPS data but exists in ground truth using MAG-based crossings.

**Fig. 10:** Error analysis of the *cnn-caps* and post-correction performance for test year 2012, with all metrics exceeding 90%.



**Fig. 11:** A 'crossing' event flagged by CNN method not previously recorded. This event situated on the dusk flank near the equator is similar to the K-H vortex encounter discussed in Masters et al. (2010)<sup>12</sup>.

## Conclusion and Future Work

- It is possible to automate the detection of BS and MP crossings using magnetic field data and electron energy spectrogram as demonstrated with Cassini data at Saturn.
- Two methods were compared: Threshold (Fig. 6), CNN (Fig. 7).
- Based on 2012 test data and the latest BS and MP catalogue at Saturn, the CNN approach outperforms the threshold approach (Fig. 9 and Fig. 10).
- Both are lightweight and effective tools for large scale boundary surveys of spacecraft data and speed up catalogue creation.
- Potential case studies from shortlisted events (e.g., Fig. 11).

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