

# Machine Learning Applications to Kronian Magnetospheric Reconnection Classification

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## 2 ABSTRACT

3 The products of magnetic reconnection in Saturn's magnetotail are identified in magnetometer  
4 observations primarily through characteristic deviations in the north-south component of the  
5 magnetic field. These magnetic deflections are caused by travelling plasma structures created  
6 during reconnection rapidly passing over the observing spacecraft. Identification of these  
7 signatures have long been performed by eye, and more recently through semi-automated  
8 methods, however these methods are often limited through a required human verification step.  
9 Here, we present a fully automated, supervised learning, feed forward neural network model  
10 to identify evidence of reconnection in the Kronian magnetosphere with the three magnetic  
11 field components observed by the Cassini spacecraft in Kronocentric radial-theta-phi (KRTP)  
12 coordinates as input. This model is constructed from a catalogue of reconnection events which  
13 covers three years of observations with a total of 2093 classified events, categorized into  
14 plasmoids, travelling compression regions and dipolarizations. This neural network model is  
15 capable of rapidly identifying reconnection events in large time-span Cassini datasets, tested  
16 against the full year 2010 with a high level of accuracy (87%), true skill score (0.76), and Heidke  
17 skill score (0.73). From this model, a full cataloguing and examination of magnetic reconnection  
18 events in the Kronian magnetosphere across Cassini's near Saturn lifetime is now possible.

19 **Keywords:** Machine Learning, Magnetic Reconnection, Planetary Magnetospheres, Magnetotail, Plasmoid

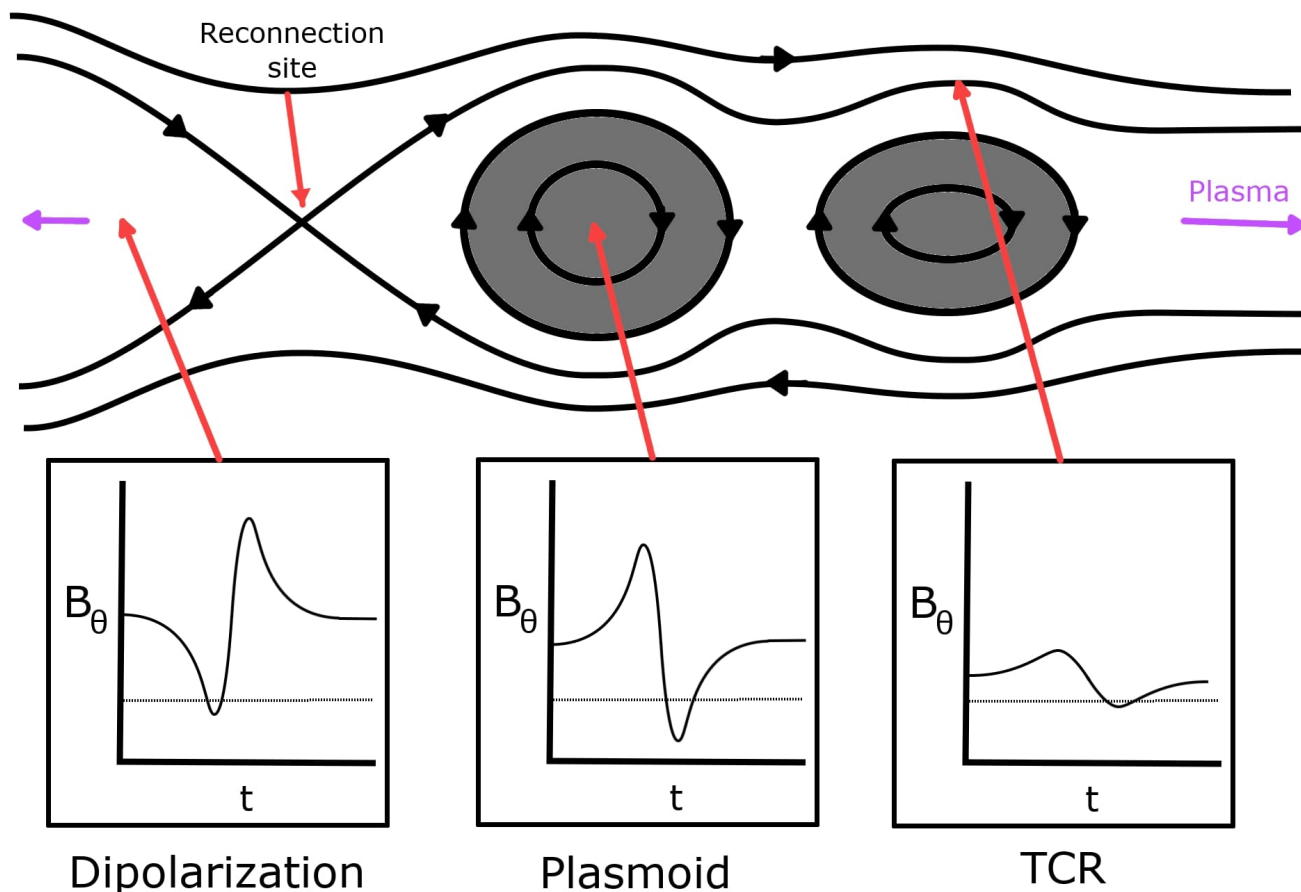
## 1 INTRODUCTION

20 Magnetic reconnection is the primary process whereby magnetic fields under strain can reconfigure  
21 and energy within their structure can transfer. On the dayside, incoming plasma and magnetic fields  
22 can reconnect, opening previously closed planetary magnetic field lines. At planets like Earth, day-side  
23 (between 6 and 18 local time) reconnection is considered to play a primary role in energy and mass  
24 transportation between a planet's magnetic field and the interplanetary magnetic field (Milan et al., 2007).

25 Similarly, on the night-side (0 to 6 and 18 to 24 local time), open planetary magnetic field lines become  
26 distended in an extended planetary magnetotail, within which field lines may reconnect to again form  
27 closed field lines (Dungey, 1961), (Dungey, 1965). This cyclic transition between open and closed field  
28 configurations allows the transfer of mass, both in and out, of the planetary magnetosphere system.  
29 Alternatively, reconnection can further occur for rapidly rotating planets which involves no change in  
30 overall magnetic flux. For example, at Jupiter and Saturn fast rotation rates and significant internal mass  
31 sources result in the operation of the Vasyliunas cycle. In this cycle mass is lost down the magnetotail  
32 through the reconnection of centrifugally stretched, mass loaded field lines (Vasyliunas, 1983).

33 On a global scale reconnection can facilitate an energy balance, dynamic equilibrium between  
34 the planetary field and the interplanetary field, and serve as a way to balance the mass budget for  
35 magnetospheres where there is a significant amount of internal plasma loading, e.g. from volcanic moons.  
36 However, on a small scale it produces local fluctuations of energy and unstable closed magnetic field  
37 systems of plasma. These small scale products can be identified by *in-situ* spacecraft through measurements  
38 of magnetic field topology and changes in plasma flow. For this study, focus will be on reconnection  
39 signatures at Saturn, as identified from the Cassini magnetometer and now classified through machine  
40 learning. Reconnection for Saturn has long focused on the planetary magnetotail whereby two types of  
41 reconnection signatures are typically reported: dipolarizations and plasmoid ejections. Dipolarizations  
42 occur on the planetside of the reconnection site where previously stretched magnetic field lines relax,  
43 under a reconnection event, to a more dipole-like magnetic field (Bunce et al., 2005), (Russell et al.,  
44 2008), (Jackman et al., 2013), (Jackman et al., 2015), (Yao et al., 2017), (Smith et al., 2018a), (Smith  
45 et al., 2018b). On the tailside of the reconnection site, closed magnetic field systems encompassing a  
46 trapped bubble of plasma known as plasmoids are created during reconnection, which are rapidly ejected  
47 down-tail. These events were first identified in Earth's magnetosphere (Hones, 1977), but have since  
48 been identified in Saturn's magnetosphere (Jackman et al., 2007), (Hill et al., 2008). Observations of  
49 these reconnection related structures can be further identified indirectly in magnetic field measurements  
50 in the adjacent magnetotail lobes through compressions in the magnetic field. These features are known  
51 as travelling compression regions (TCRs; Slavin et al. (1984)) due to their close following of plasmoid  
52 and dipolarization features. Notably, this indirect method of identification gives no insight to the internal  
53 structure of the plasmoid but do at least indicate reconnection occurring and hence can be used to estimate  
54 reconnection rates.

55 Typically signatures of reconnection may be identified by a rapid deflection in the north-south magnetic  
56 field component, as observed in Figure 1. At Saturn, plasmoids moving are expected to exhibit a south  
57 to north deflection and vice versa (north to south deflection) for planetward-moving dipolarizations. For  
58 plasmoids in particular, it is important to recognize the true velocity of the signature may have some  
59 azimuthal/corotational component following release (McAndrews et al., 2009), (Thomsen et al., 2013),  
60 (Neupane et al., 2019), (Kane et al., 2020). The nature and magnitude of magnetic field deflection depends  
61 not only on the intensity of incoming reconnection event, but also on the orientation and direction of travel  
62 of the observing spacecraft through this region (Cowley et al., 2015). Spacecraft travelling through the  
63 center of reconnection signatures observe stronger deviations from the background north-south component  
64 of magnetic field, and vice versa. Without *a priori* knowledge of reconnection, these signatures are the  
65 principal identifiable feature in magnetic field data, and any deviation in north-south field component present  
66 a potential indication of magnetic reconnection. Notably, this is not a definitive method of classification  
67 as random turbulent motion in the magnetosphere or waves in the plasma sheet can reproduce similar  
68 signatures in the magnetic field observations (Nakagawa and Nishida, 1989), (Jackman et al., 2009),  
69 (Martin and Arridge, 2017).



**Figure 1.** Model north-south magnetic field ( $B_\theta$ ) measurements for a spacecraft as it passes through a dipolarization, plasmoid and TCR associated with a magnetic reconnection event. Notably, a significant deflection occurs as the spacecraft travels through the center of this region, with directionality of the field even possibly being reversed (going from positive to negative).

70 Only recently has there been sufficient data to catalogue and identify large numbers of reconnection  
 71 events in Saturn's magnetosphere. During 2006 the Cassini spacecraft executed a series of tail orbits to a  
 72 maximum downtail distance of  $68 R_S$  ( $1 R_S = 60268 \text{ km}$ ) and reconnection signatures from these data  
 73 were catalogued by Jackman et al. (2007), Hill et al. (2008). These catalogues were built upon in Jackman  
 74 et al. (2011), where 34 additional plasmoid signatures were identified in the 2006 orbit, and again expanded  
 75 in Jackman et al. (2014) which reported a total of 99 events, 86 of which are identified moving tailward.  
 76 Estimations of mass loss from large-scale events in this catalogue could not balance the mass gain in the  
 77 system from Enceladus and other sources (Bagenal and Delamere, 2011). Multiple theories have been  
 78 submitted to account for this imbalance including unobserved mass loss in the magnetospheric flanks  
 79 (Burkholder et al., 2017), (Ma et al., 2017), through small scale processes (Bagenal and Delamere, 2011),  
 80 simply that the definition of reconnection event duration under-accounted for the mass in a plasma structure  
 81 (Cowley et al., 2015), or unaccounted for reconnection on the day-side may balance the mass transfer  
 82 budget (Guo et al., 2018). Most recently, Smith et al. (2016) attempted to more fully quantify the mass  
 83 imbalance through the creation of a more comprehensive model and catalogue of tail reconnection events.  
 84 This model was applied to the equatorial dawn flank orbits and midnight tail orbits of 2006, the dusk flank  
 85 orbits of 2009, and similar low latitude dusk orbits throughout 2010. Across this observing window 2093  
 86 individual events were identified and validated forming a substantial catalogue of reconnection events for

87 Saturn’s magnetosphere. However, their semi-automated technique required the selection of observationally  
88 defined limits and thresholds.

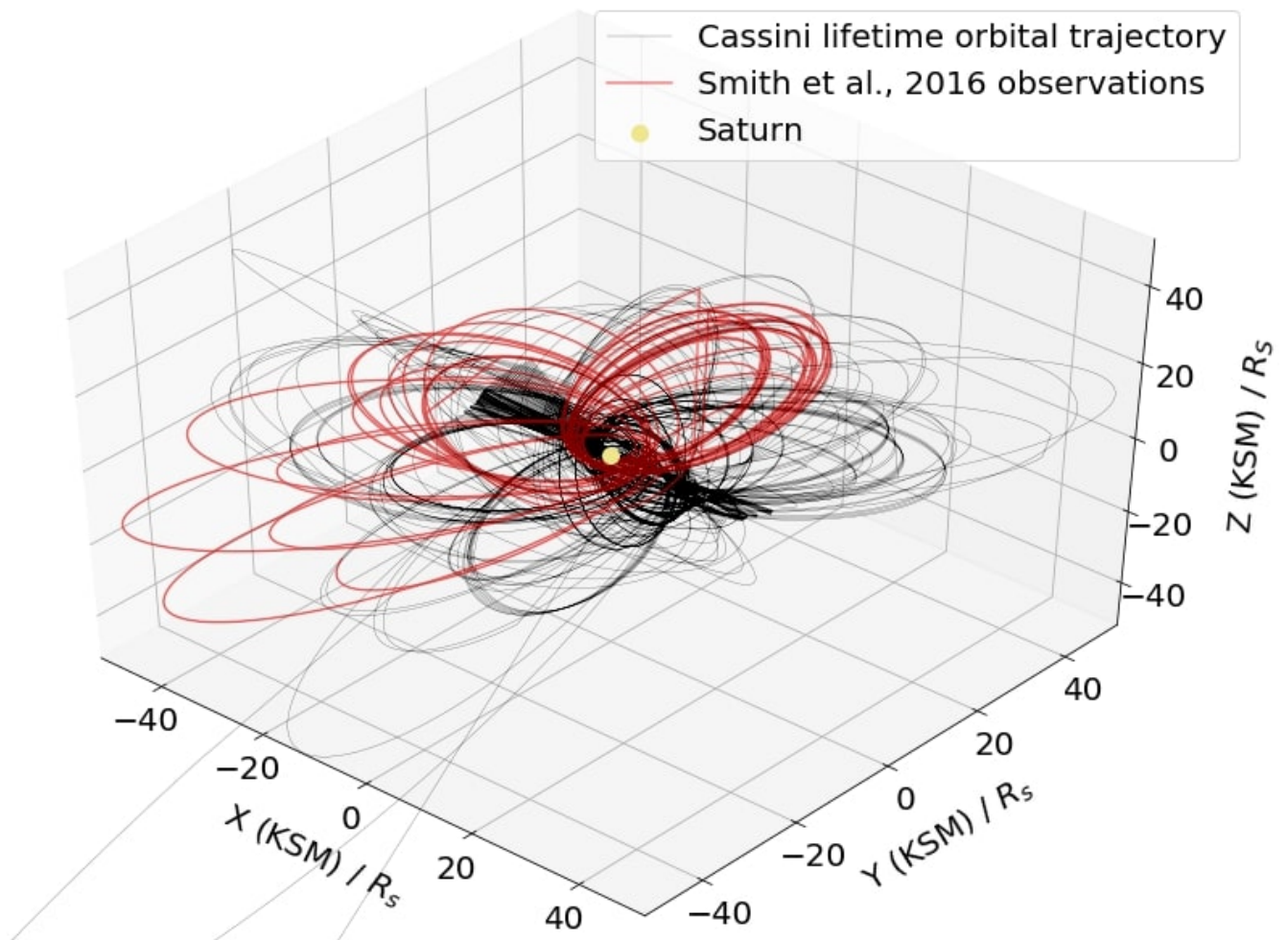
89 Here, we apply established methods of machine learning (ML) to planetary magnetospheric reconnection  
90 classification to expand these previous surveys to spatially cover the entire Kronian magnetosphere and  
91 temporally cover all of Cassini’s near Saturn lifetime. ML is an application of artificial intelligence  
92 that allows computers the ability to learn from large datasets and experience without being explicitly  
93 programmed. This method aides in the prevention of biases and limitations that would otherwise be  
94 imposed by a human created model, such as event size and spatial constraints. Furthermore, these models  
95 perform well at identifying underlying structures that humans otherwise would not, or could not, that are  
96 essential for classification and can be extrapolated to identify features in previously unobserved datasets and  
97 have already been implemented across the field of astrophysics to solve a variety of problems (Ruhunusiri  
98 et al., 2018; Ruhunusiri, 2018; Waldmann and Griffith, 2019).

## 2 DATASET AND OBSERVATION

99 The datasets used in this study are magnetic field component measurements as observed by the Cassini  
100 magnetometer (MAG; Dougherty et al. (2004)) instrument. Cassini was launched onboard a Titan IV rocket  
101 in 1997 and following Saturn Orbit Insertion (SOI) in July 2004, it orbited the planet until 2017. During its  
102 lifetime it observed a variety of environments within the Kronian magnetosphere which can be used to  
103 gain a greater understanding of Saturn’s magnetic processes. For this research, Kronocentric radial, theta,  
104 phi (KRTP) coordinates are used as this coordinate system has been shown to be useful in distinguishing  
105 reconnection related events from turbulent motion in the hinged current sheet (Jackman et al., 2009). In  
106 this spherical coordinate system the radial component ( $B_r$ ) is positive outward from Saturn, the meridional  
107 component ( $B_\theta$ ) is positive southward (at the equator), and the azimuthal component ( $B_\phi$ ) is positive in the  
108 direction of corotation (prograde). Furthermore, one minute cadence observations are analyzed as it has  
109 been shown that reconnection events last an average duration of  $\sim 10$ -20 minutes and can be accurately  
110 identified at this cadence (Jackman et al., 2014), (Smith et al., 2016).

111 Figure 2 illustrates the near-Saturn lifetime trajectory of Cassini in Kronocentric solar magnetospheric  
112 (KSM) coordinates. This Cartesian coordinate system is oriented such that the x axis points toward the  
113 Sun, the x-z plane contains the planetary dipole axis, and the y component completes the right-handed set.  
114 The trajectories of Cassini during the Smith et al. observing window is highlighted in red for comparison.  
115 The full 13 years dataset shows the various magnetic environments about Saturn that the Cassini satellite  
116 has explored. Similarly, the trajectories during the highlighted observations cover much of these varied  
117 environments, however are focused primarily on longer observation times of Saturn’s magnetotail within  
118 the equatorial plane. Furthermore, this observing window covered times when Saturn’s night-side current  
119 sheet was hinged upward (southern hemisphere summer), was parallel to the equatorial plane (e.g. equinox;  
120 Khurana et al. (2009)), or even hinged downward (northern hemisphere summer) later in the mission  
121 (Arridge et al., 2011). By allowing for identification across the entire Cassini lifetime, more accurate  
122 statistical investigations can be performed on reconnection occurrence across the entire morphology of  
123 Saturn’s magnetosphere.

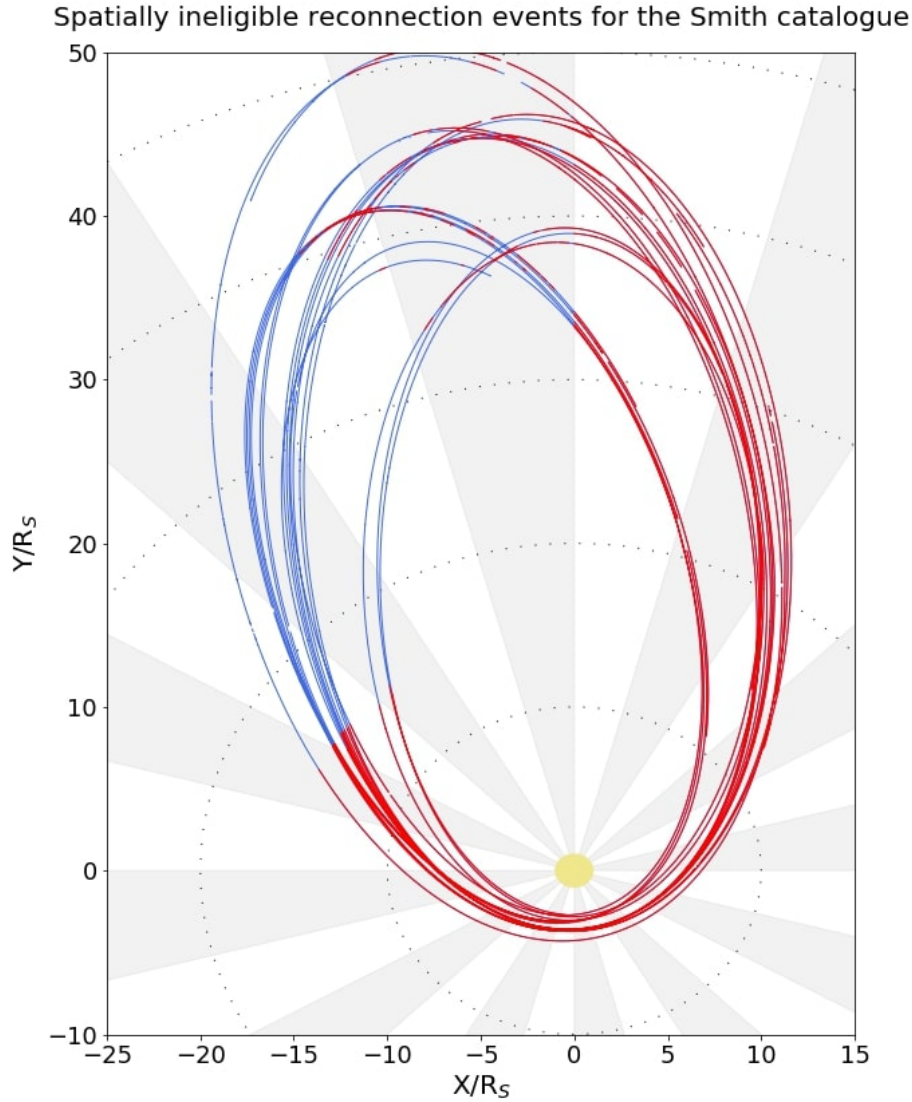
124 For the construction of a supervised ML model, a previous, labeled database is required for the model  
125 to learn the parametric identifiers of the magnetic reconnection class, and to test against to validate the  
126 model’s accuracy. The Smith et al. (2016) catalogue (hereafter S16) of reconnection is selected as this  
127 classified dataset due to its large number of samples, variety of orbital trajectories sampled, and its final  
128 human based verification step. However, to utilize this catalogue, the limitations of its selection criteria



**Figure 2.** Lifetime trajectory (black) of Cassini around Saturn (yellow). The Cassini trajectories during the observing window employed in the creation of the Smith et al. (2016) catalogue of magnetic reconnection are highlighted in red for comparison. For the creation of a machine learning training set, observations of events are taken from the Smith catalogue and null events are randomly taken from a variety of local times and radial distances during the Smith catalogue observing window.

129 must be understood. This catalogue was constructed from a semi-automated model with many hard-coded  
 130 limitations. Excluding the aforementioned temporal limitations of observation window selection, this  
 131 model further includes spatial and magnetic parametric limitations. Spatially, this model is defined within a  
 132 'viewing region' where events are strictly only identified within the night-side, at distances greater than  
 133  $15 R_S$  from Saturn, and strictly within the magnetosphere. Figure 3 demonstrates the spatial constraints on  
 134 the S16. This figure illustrates the entire 2010 trajectory of the Cassini instrument separated into spatial  
 135 constraints where the S16 could identify reconnection events (blue) and those where identifications are  
 136 spatially ineligible (red). This catalogue has similar magnetic parametric limitations. Primarily events  
 137 are identified from the background through a quadratic fit to  $B_\theta$  polarity crossings with a least squared  
 138 goodness of fit value of  $r^2 \geq 0.9$ . Identified candidates are then verified through

$$\frac{|\Delta B_\theta|}{B_\theta^{RMS}} \geq 1.5 \quad (1)$$



**Figure 3.** 2010 trajectory of Cassini about Saturn (yellow) separated by colour into regions where the S16 could identify reconnection events (blue) and the trajectories that were spatially ineligible for identification (red). Notably, at large distances ( $>35 R_S$ ) eligibility appears to be very patchy, this is due to the changing position of the magnetopause boundary under the varying balance between solar wind dynamic pressure and internal plasma pressure.

139 where  $|\Delta B_\theta|$  is the magnitude of deflection during the event and the root-mean-square (RMS) of  $B_\theta$  is  
 140 calculated for a period extending 30 minutes both sides on the candidate. A secondary validation step  
 141 follows this such that:

$$|\Delta B_\theta| \geq 0.25 \text{ nT} \quad (2)$$

142 where symbols have their previous meaning. These validation steps are imposed as it is difficult for  
 143 humans to verify candidates that fall below these parametric limitations due to a signal to noise ratio  
 144 problem. Through these identification and validation methods, the Smith et al. model identifies 2094 (1083  
 145 planetward and 1011 tailward) reconnection signatures within their observation window.

146 These events identify the temporal windows which act as a labeled dataset for a supervised training ML  
147 method. However, training of a ML model requires a collection of input parameters, from which the ML  
148 model learns the association of parameters to events. For this research, exclusively magnetic observations  
149 in the three spatial components of the KRTP coordinate systems are used for identification. This selection  
150 is made due to the coverage of Cassini's lifetime that the MAG instrument remained operational. While  
151 signatures of planetary reconnection exist in other property observations such as plasma density, MAG  
152 data is used as a predominant identifier for human based identifications. Furthermore, the Cassini plasma  
153 spectrometer (CAPS; Young et al. (2004)) did not remain operational across the entirety of Cassini's near  
154 Saturn lifetime, being permanently inactive post-2012, nor did it provide a full 3D picture of the plasma  
155 environment, and so may miss any reconnection related jets due to pointing in the 'wrong' direction.  
156 A model for identifying magnetic reconnection signatures using only magnetic field component data  
157 would also ease possible transitions, and transfer learning of a ML model to use with new satellites  
158 and for different planetary magnetic fields. Hence, plasma property observations for these reconnection  
159 events are not used in this research, however, plasma observations could and should be used in any future  
160 implementation where the plasma measurements are comprehensive in both time and 3D viewing. Finally,  
161 it is envisioned that the construction of a catalogue using this method across the entire Cassini dataset will  
162 enable the examination of numerous case studies of reconnection using multiple instruments.

163 Figure 4 illustrates example magnetic time series across the three KRTP spatial components as well as  
164 the total magnetic field,  $|B|$ , used during training as a null classification (left) and an event classification  
165 (right). The X-axis of these plots denotes the time of observation and the spacecraft ephemeris data for  
166 Cassini at that time. The time constraint of ML training is highly dependant on the size of input parameters,  
167 hence, only the three elementary components of magnetic field measurements from Cassini are used as  
168 inputs for ML training in this study.

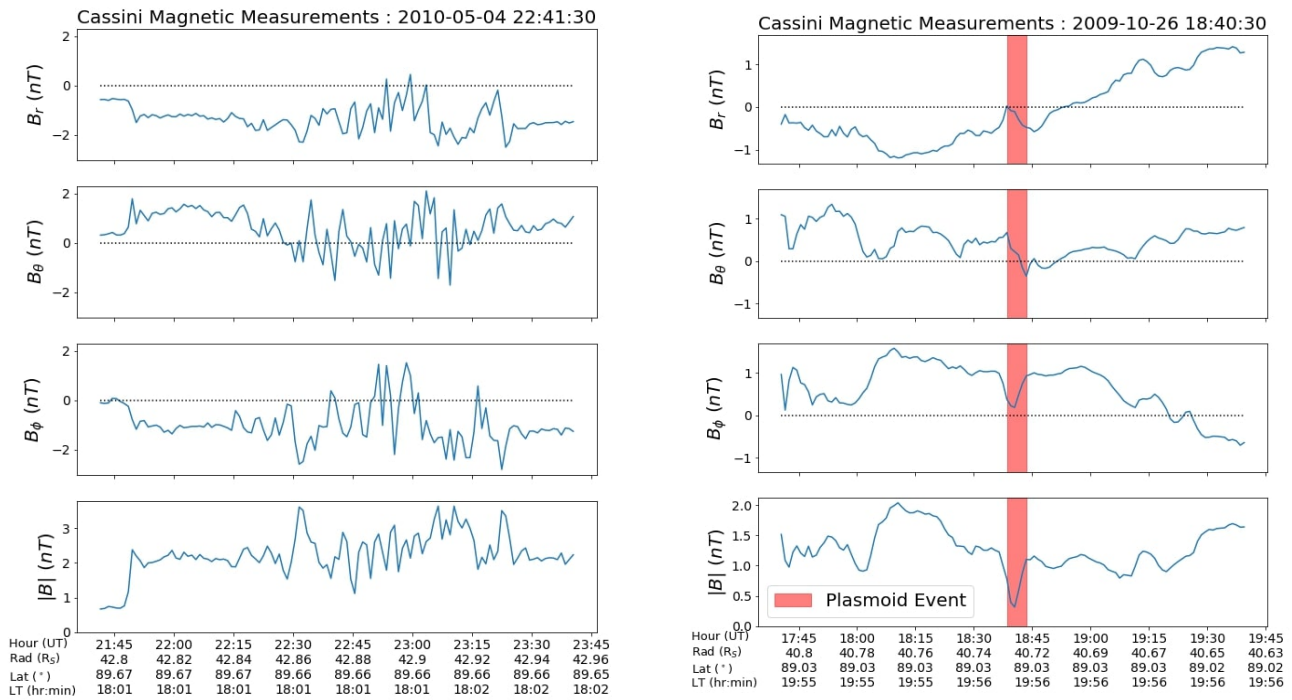
$$|B| = \sqrt{B_r^2 + B_\theta^2 + B_\phi^2} \quad (3)$$

### 3 MACHINE LEARNING ARCHITECTURE

#### 169 3.1 Class balancing and Data Augmentation

170 The greatest risk for poorly constructed ML identification of relatively rare features is the possibility  
171 of a class imbalance (Buda et al., 2017). For this case, magnetic reconnection events are only identified  
172 occupying  $\sim < 1-10\%$  of the total observing time dependant on the identification method, hence, ML  
173 training with this ratio will exhibit bias towards the majority class (Guo et al., 2008), (Johnson and  
174 Khoshgoftaar, 2019). Hence, an unbalanced ratio of non-events to events will cause the ML algorithm,  
175 in its interest of maximizing its accuracy, to simply classify all inputs as nulls to obtain an accuracy  
176 of  $\sim 90\%$  without truly learning underlying identifying signatures. To alleviate this issue, a randomized  
177 under-sampling of non-reconnection events is used to balance with the  $\sim 2000$  events in the S16. This  
178 renders  $\sim 4000$  total observations to construct training, test and validation sets, which is a low number  
179 of samples to perform ML methods to and expect the overarching reconnection features to be accurately  
180 identified, rather than the ML model simply memorizing the training set.

181 The issue of a small sample size can be solved through data augmentation, such as data synthesis, or the  
182 transformation of already existing data (Mikołajczyk and Grochowski, 2018), (Fawaz et al., 2018). Data  
183 synthesis is simply the creation of data through the combination of a model with some overlying noise  
184 in an attempt to create real-like datasets, however this method can be inaccurate if predictive models are  
185 inaccurate, or missing some underlying understanding. Data transformation takes already existing data



**Figure 4.** Examples of magnetometer data for a non event (left) and event (right) used to train a machine learning algorithm. Titles of these plots denote the time at center of these observing windows in a YYYY-MM-DD format.

186 and applies some kind of transformation, such as adding noise or filters over the existing measurements  
 187 or translating the data either spatially or temporally. Since the signatures of magnetic reconnection occur  
 188 across a number of minutes, averaging  $\sim 8$  minutes (Smith et al., 2016), it is possible to increase our  
 189 number of samples by considering every minute of an event as a unique positive identification. Hence, a  
 190 single event lasting 5 minutes would be considered as 5 consecutive positive labelled identifications every  
 191 minute between the start and end time of an event. This method increases the total available observations  
 192 to  $\sim 32000$  (16000 positive labels and 16000 randomly selected negative labels). This increased number  
 193 of samples allows for more complex ML architectures and a more robust final model. In this instance,  
 194 nulls are selected randomly from the S16 observing window with the same spatial limitations of the S16,  
 195 e.g. at distances greater than  $15 R_S$  from Saturn, etc. Finally, since these events occur and are identified  
 196 across multiple minutes of magnetic data, due to their temporal structure, for the ML model to identify  
 197 these events, it must have a time window of magnetic measurements as input. 15 minutes both before and  
 198 after the central label in the three KRTP spatial magnetic field components ( $B_r$ ,  $B_\theta$ , and  $B_\phi$ ) are used as  
 199 this window is wide enough to cover the longer duration events in the S16 catalogue, but short enough to  
 200 identify label changes occurring between event clusters. This renders a total of 90 magnetic property inputs  
 201 for each of the 32000 labels for any given ML model.

### 202 3.2 Machine Learning Types

203 A variety of ML models exist, ranging in complexity to allow for identification of more elaborate and  
 204 subtle features within datasets. This research focuses on identification of features within three singular  
 205 dimension magnetic field time series, hence, only relatively simple supervised learning ML methods will  
 206 be investigated, namely: support vector classifier with a linear (LSVC) and non-linear kernel (NLSVC),



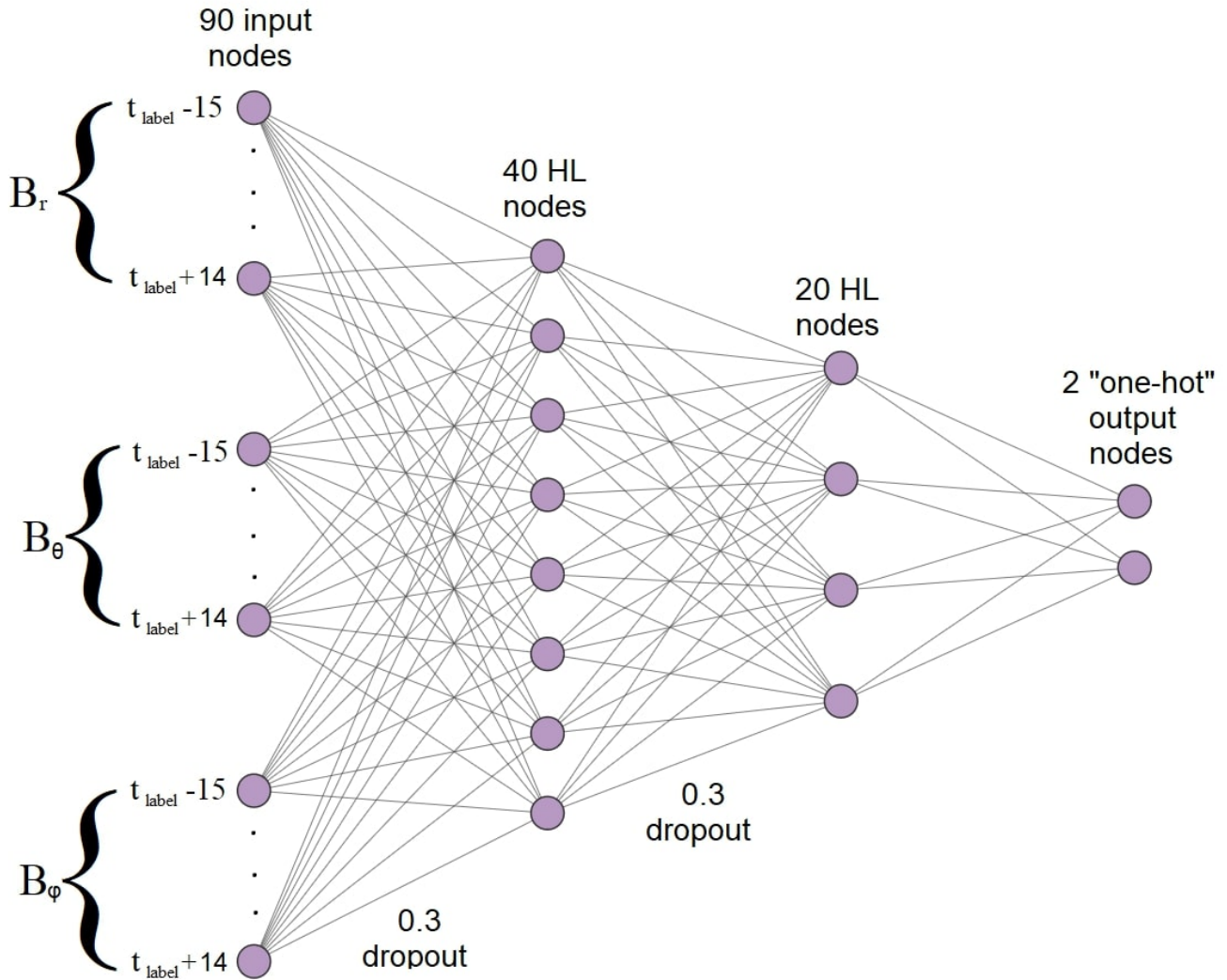
**Table 1.** Comparison of validation set accuracy for ML event classification using a linear support vector classifier (LSVC), a non-linear support vector classifier (NLSVC), a random forrest classifier (RFC), and artificial neural network (ANN). This accuracy value is calculated as the ratio of correctly identified samples to total samples.

ML type	Accuracy
LSVC	0.73
NLSVC	0.75
RFC	0.87
ANN	0.90

207 random forest classifier (RFC), and a simple artificial feed forward neural network (ANN). All of these  
 208 models are available in the sklearn python packages (Buitinck et al., 2013) and the TensorFlow libraries  
 209 (Abadi et al., 2015). A LSVC creates a multi-dimensional hyperspace of observed parameters. The labeled  
 210 data are then input into this hyperspace and a linear hyperplane is created as a decision boundary to  
 211 optimally separate data of opposing labels with the widest possible margins. This hyperplane seperator is  
 212 then stored and used to predict the labels of new datasets. A NLSVC behaves similarly to its linear variant,  
 213 by creating some hyperplane as a decision boundary, however, the kernel function utilized by a NLSVC  
 214 can non-linearly transform the feature space such that the classes become separable. RFC similarly creates  
 215 a multi-dimensional hyper space, but instead of separating data by a continuous hyperplane, a vast array of  
 216 boolean decision tree networks, of variable depth, are created to segment a training dataset non-linearly.  
 217 New data sets are then input into this array of decision trees and a classification is judged by majority vote  
 218 outcome. The final type, ANNs, rely on the creation of input (parameters) and output (labels) neural nodes,  
 219 interconnected by a collection of initially random weights and biases. This method of ML is optimized  
 220 through tuning of various hyperparameters such as: the non-linear activation function on each of the nodes,  
 221 the number of nodes within each layer, the loss and optimization functions, and the number of hidden  
 222 layers within the architecture. These hidden layers of neural nodes between the input and output nodes have  
 223 no true observable parameter, however they enable more complex feature identification by the ANN. To  
 224 judge which of these models is optimal for identification of reconnection signatures, each must be trained  
 225 and the model that exhibits the highest accuracy can be selected for further fine tuning. It is important to  
 226 note that model accuracy is not typically the greatest indicator of a model's performance, and many other  
 227 metrics will be discussed later, however this metric is significant enough to indicate a single ML model that  
 228 can be best improved, and hence will be further investigated in this research. Table 1 indicates the accuracy  
 229 for these four ML models to identify the signatures of magnetic reconnection using only the three KRTP  
 230 magnetic field components observed by Cassini for times within the spatial and temporal limitations of  
 231 the S16. Overfitting of these models was prevented by standard methods of train/test/validation splitting,  
 232 principle component analysis and algorithm complexity limitations. The train/test/validation split had a  
 233 weighted random assignment across all years in the S16 catalogue with no temporal disjoint. This means  
 234 the training set was composed of events from 2006, 2009, and 2010 allowing it to learn the structure of  
 235 reconnection from varied spacecraft orbits and trajectories. However, set assignment was performed on a  
 236 reconnection event basis, meaning all minutes of observations associated with an individual reconnection  
 237 event are assigned to a single set. Most notably, ANNs exhibit the highest accuracy rating, likely due to  
 238 their allowed higher complexity when compared to the other methods mentioned. Hence, ANNs are further  
 239 utilized for this research.

### 240 **3.3 Artificial Neural Networks**

241 Figure 5 demonstrates the architecture of a simple ANN created and trained during this research to  
 242 identify signatures of magnetic reconnection. In this architecture, input properties are directed into the



**Figure 5.** NN architecture used to train to identify reconnection signatures in Cassini magnetometer data. This structure shows 90 input nodes composed of three 30 minute time windows centered on the label time ( $t_{label}$ ), in the three KRTP magnetic field components ( $B_r$ ,  $B_\theta$ , and  $B_\phi$ ). These nodes are then fed into a 40 node hidden layer (HL) with a 0.3 dropout, which feeds into a 20 node HL with a 0.3 dropout. This final HL is then categorized using a 2 node, one-hot classification system. During training, every epoch, the weights and biases interconnecting each layer are varied to under a gradient descent to optimize the accuracy of classifications.

243 architecture in the input layer. Operations are performed on these parameters between each interconnected  
 244 layer, with the goal being to accurately recreate the desired outputs in the output layer. ANNs are generally  
 245 optimized and fine tuned through a process of trial and error, however some simple rules for their creation  
 246 exist to prevent overfitting of training data. Generally, the number of free parameters must not exceed the  
 247 number of samples used for training, i.e.

$$N_S > N_{FP} = \sum_{i=1}^i \left( (N_{i-1} \times N_i) + N_i \right) \quad (4)$$

248 where  $N_S$  is the number of training samples,  $N_{FP}$  is the number of free parameters, and  $N_i$  describes the  
 249 number of nodes in the  $i$ th layer. No strict consensus exists to decide the number of nodes in ANN hidden  
 250 layers, however it is generally accepted for the number of nodes in a hidden layer to be approximately half  
 251 way between the number of nodes in the previous and next layers. Through trial and error, it was found  
 252 that a two hidden layer ANN architecture was most efficient at identifying magnetic reconnection in the  
 253 training set, however Huang (2003) proved an upper limit to the total available hidden nodes available in  
 254 this system to be

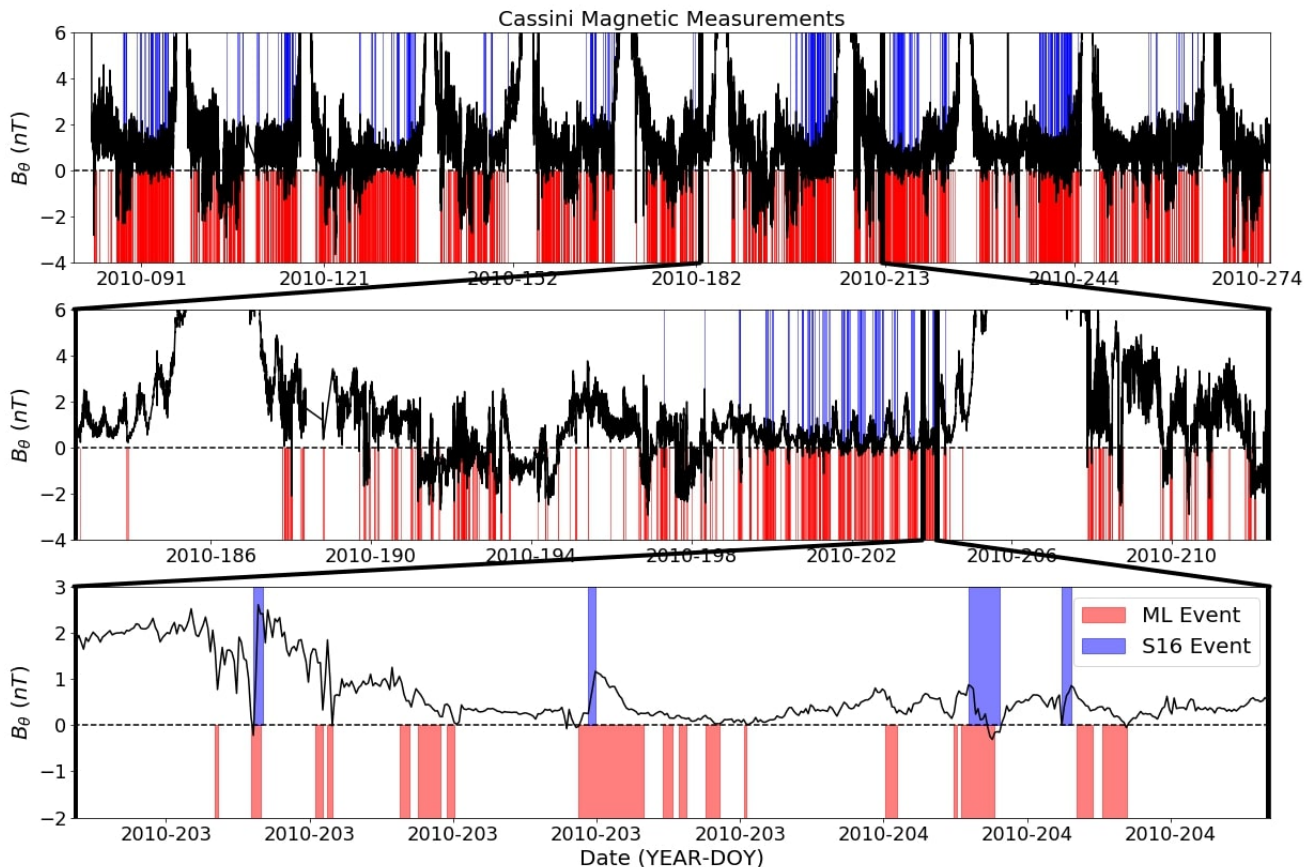
$$N_H \leq \frac{2}{\alpha} \sqrt{(N_O + 2)N_S} \quad (5)$$

255 where  $N_S$  has its previous meaning,  $N_H$  represents the total available hidden nodes,  $N_O$  is the number  
 256 of output nodes, and  $\alpha$  is a robustness factor usually between one and ten. From equations 4 and 5, and  
 257 the aforementioned 32000 samples, it is possible to train the robust two hidden layer neural network in  
 258 Figure 5: 90 input nodes with a dropout of 0.3 connected by a rectified linear units (relu) activation function  
 259 to 40 first hidden layer nodes, which are in turn connected with a dropout of 0.3 and a relu activation  
 260 function to 20 second hidden layer nodes, which connects fully with a softmax activation function to two  
 261 output nodes representing a boolean classification of reconnection occurring. After each training epoch, the  
 262 model was trained towards improving a binary cross entropy accuracy metric. During training, however, it  
 263 was observed that a significant number of events were identified outside the magnetosphere, along portions  
 264 of Cassini's orbit in the magnetosheath and solar wind. This is likely due to the ML algorithm never  
 265 encountering observations from these magnetic regions during training. Since these regions are unique  
 266 classifications and differ from null training samples within the magnetosphere, they can be included in  
 267 training as a unique classification of nulls. This means our number of samples will increase to  $\sim 16000$   
 268 reconnection events,  $\sim 16000$  magnetosphere nulls,  $\sim 16000$  magnetosheath nulls, and  $\sim 16000$  solar wind  
 269 nulls. Given a train-test-validation split of 60-20-20,  $\sim 38400$  samples are available for training.

270 The relative effectiveness of this architecture is displayed in Table 2 through four confusion matrices.  
 271 A confusion matrix exists for each of the training, test and validation set, and a fourth confusion matrix  
 272 illustrates the effectiveness of the ANN to identify reconnection events across the entirety of 2010,  
 273 replicating how the model will perform on large continuous datasets. The year 2010 was selected for this  
 274 comparison as it is one of two full years which the S16 covered, along with 2006. 2010 was selected  
 275 between these two years as the trajectory of Cassini for this year included a wider sampling of varied  
 276 magnetic environments, hence being the most stringent full year comparison possible. It is important to  
 277 recognize that this 2010 confusion matrix includes identifications from the training, test, and validation  
 278 datasets. Across each of these confusion matrices an accuracy of  $\sim 90\%$  is attained and the training, test,  
 279 and validation sets have high skill metrics: the Heidke skill score (HSS; 0.75; Heidke (1926)), the true skill  
 280 statistic (TSS; 0.76), and the threat score (TS; 0.68). It is important to reinstate, the final step of the S16  
 281 catalogue's final step is a human verification, hence our comparison in the validation confusion matrix  
 282 shows the effectiveness of the ML model against human verified data. However, in the 2010 confusion  
 283 matrix, the number of false positives (FP; 32954) significantly outweigh the number of true positives (TP;  
 284 5111) leading to a high false alarm ratio. Hence the imbalance in this confusion matrix is represented in  
 285 its HSS; 0.21, TSS; 0.75, and TS; 0.13. These skill score metrics quantifiably describe the ability of this  
 286 model to replicate the observable data. The HSS measures the fractional improvement of the forecast over  
 287 a standard forecast and ranges from  $-\infty$  to 1, with 1 being perfectly skillful, a value of 0 representing no  
 288 skill, and a value of 0.3 being considered of good skill. The TSS, also known as the Peirce's skill score,

**Table 2.** Confusion matrices for a feed-forward neural network classification of magnetic reconnection within the Kronian magnetosphere

	Train		Test	
	<i>Pred. Null</i>	<i>Pred. Event</i>	<i>Pred. Null</i>	<i>Pred. Event</i>
<i>Obs. Null</i>	26690 (0.92)	2278 (0.08)	3272 (0.94)	226 (0.06)
<i>Obs. Event</i>	1564 (0.16)	8092 (0.84)	672 (0.19)	2826 (0.81)
	Validation		2010	
	<i>Pred. Null</i>	<i>Pred. Event</i>	<i>Pred. Null</i>	<i>Pred. Event</i>
<i>Obs. Null</i>	3020 (0.93)	232 (0.07)	486400 (0.94)	32954 (0.06)
<i>Obs. Event</i>	614 (0.19)	2638 (0.81)	1134 (0.18)	5111 (0.82)

**Figure 6.** Output of reconnection signatures identified by a feed forward neural network (red areas) across half of 2010 compared to identifications from the Smith catalog (blue areas) for the same period. These areas are overplot onto the  $B_\theta$  component of the magnetic field, where reconnection signatures are easiest identified by eye. Each successive plot examines zoomed in windows to observe finer structure in magnetic field measurements and identifications.

289 compares classification to a random selection classifier and ranges from  $-1$  to  $1$ , with  $1$  being considered  
 290 perfectly skillful, and  $0$  having no skill. TS measures the fraction of observed and/or classified events  
 291 that were correctly identified and ranges from  $0$  to  $1$ , with  $0$  having no threat detecting capabilities and  $1$   
 292 being a perfect identifier. The imbalance of these classifications is illustrated in Figure 6 which compares  
 293 identification of magnetic reconnection across 2010 by the ANN architecture compared to the S16. In this  
 294 figure, events are highlighted over underlying  $B_\theta$  magnetic components as measured by Cassini. Events  
 295 from the S16 are highlighted in blue, whereas events classified by the ML algorithm are highlighted in red.

## 4 DISCUSSION

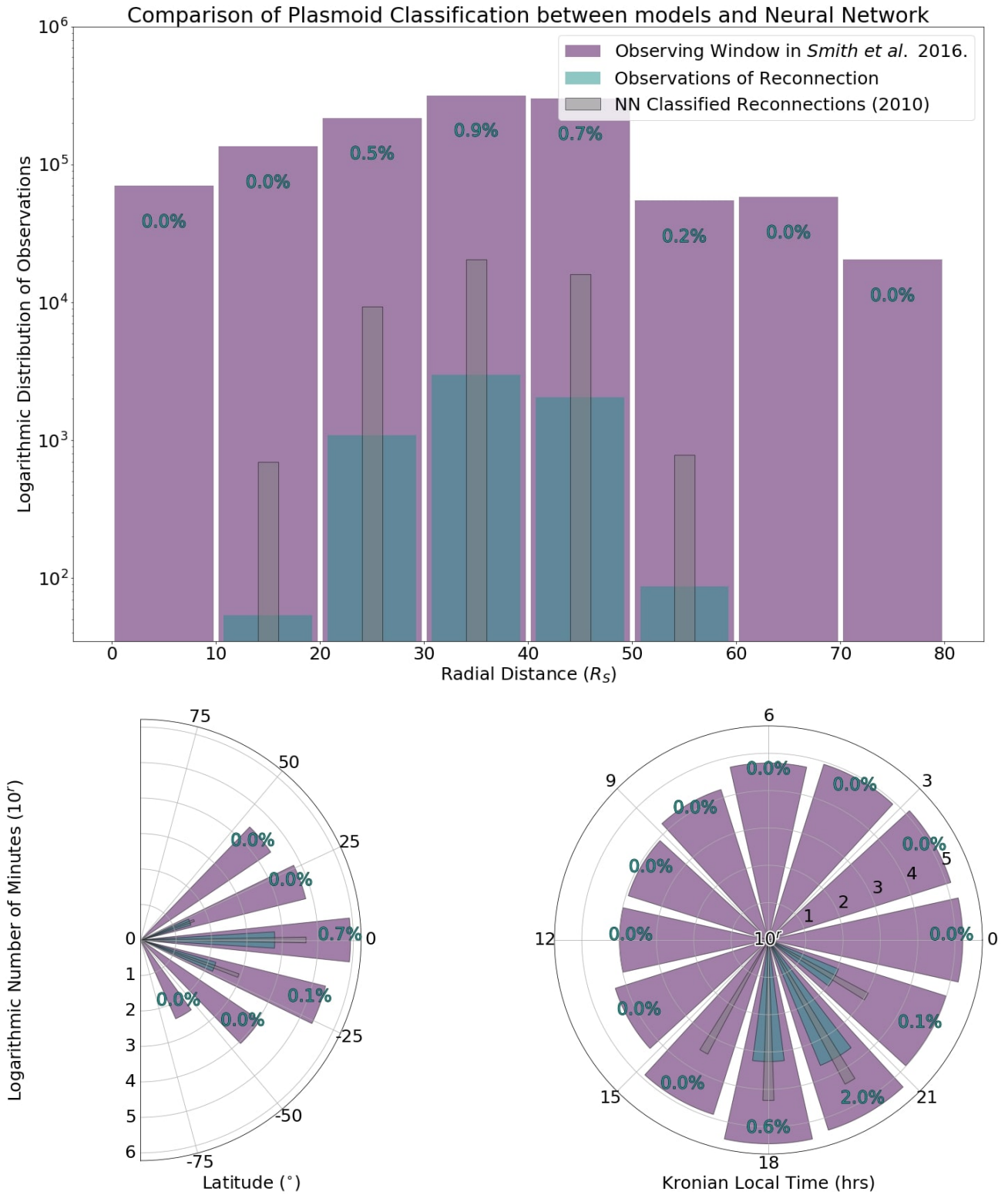
296 The results and corresponding skill scores from Table 2 would imply a significant bias of the neural network  
 297 to mis-classify null observations, as classified by the S16 catalogue, as events. Investigations into the  
 298 spatial distribution of events to identify the cause of this large number of mis-classification are illustrated  
 299 in Figure 7. This figure demonstrates the distribution of total time during the observation window of  
 300 Smith et al. (2016) (purple) across radial distance, latitude and the Kronian local time. Additionally, the  
 301 time spent observing reconnection related events as stated by the S16 (blue) and the time spent observing  
 302 reconnection products as classified by the ANN (gray) are displayed for comparison. Blue percentile  
 303 values illustrate the percentage of total time of a given distribution spent observing reconnection as found  
 304 by S16. As is illustrated, the ANN observations have a similar spatial distribution of identifications to  
 305 the S16, simply the ANN recognizes more minutes of reconnection occurring due to more events being  
 306 identified. In the local time distribution, all events identified by both S16 and the ANN for 2010 are located  
 307 on the planetary dusk side due to the orbital trajectory of the Cassini spacecraft at this time, being very  
 308 close to the planet ( $<15R_S$ ) at other local times. Most notably, the local time distribution of the ANN  
 309 identifications shows a non-zero rate of reconnection on the day-side of Saturn, while the Smith et al.  
 310 model maintained a strict cut-off of dayside events due to its hard coded spatial limitations. Evidence for  
 311 dayside reconnection has been identified previously (Delamere et al., 2015), (Guo et al., 2018), hence,  
 312 inclusion of dayside reconnection identification within this catalogue allows for more future exploratory  
 313 research to be performed.

### 314 4.1 Evaluation of ANN Performance and Identifications

315 As previously mentioned, the S16 is constructed from numerous hard coded spatial and magnetic  
 316 limitations within their semi-automatic identification method that significantly limit their identifications. In  
 317 the ML model, these limitations are not in place, which leads to a substantial number of ML identifications  
 318 that cannot otherwise be identified by the S16 method, thus leading to our abundance of apparent FPs.  
 319 Hence, the confusion matrix for 2010 in Table 2 does not accurately compare the results of the neural  
 320 network to the S16, and it must be corrected. By examining only the neural network reconnection  
 321 identifications that could be recognized by the S16 (i.e. events with  $\delta B_\theta \geq 0.25 nT$ , and a significant  
 322 signal to noise ratio:  $\delta B_\theta / B_{rms} \geq 1.5$ ), and comparing events as a whole, by considering sequential  
 323 positive minute-by-minute classifications as part of the same event, a new confusion matrix is obtained for  
 324 the entirety of 2010. Table 3 demonstrates the corrected confusion matrix for 2010, only comparing events  
 325 that the S16 could identify. This enables us to more fairly assess the performance of our approach. To  
 326 calculate the value of true negatives (TN; 1008), the same method could not be used as TN measurements  
 327 are not considered discrete events, and are not privy to the same parametric limitations that events are. To  
 328 obtain this value, TNs are considered to be all of the periods when a TP, FP, or FN is not applicable, hence:

$$TN = TP + FP + FN + 1 = 1008 \quad (6)$$

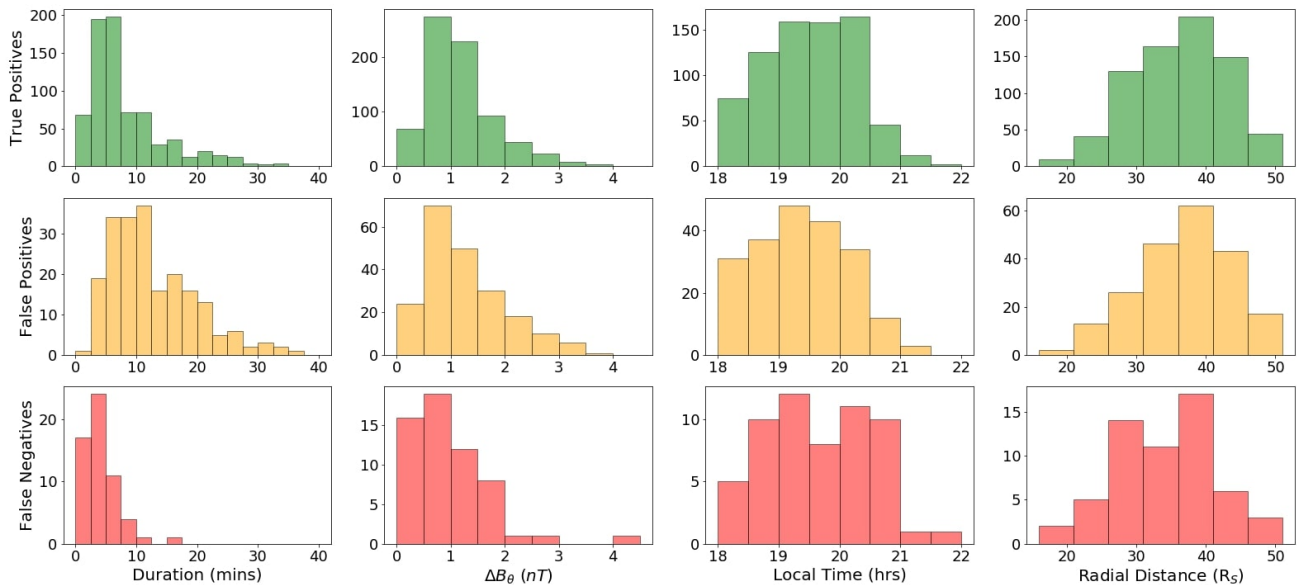
329 This corrected confusion matrix for eligible 2010 events has a significant increase in accuracy (87.0%),  
 330 HSS (0.73), TSS (0.76), and TS (0.74). Figure 8 displays distributions of temporal (duration), magnetic ( $B_\theta$   
 331 deflections), and spatial (radial distance and local time of event) properties of TP, FP, and FN events from  
 332 Table 3. No significant discrepancy is evident between these categories spatially or magnetically, however,  
 333 the differences between the ANN and Smith et al. method is visible in the distributions of event duration.  
 334 The ANN identifies a higher number of longer duration events, while finding difficulty in identifying short  
 335 duration events ( $< 10$  minutes). However, as evident by the distribution of  $\Delta B_\theta$  for FNs, these missed  
 336 events represent smaller deflections, which are least likely to be identified by eye, and most likely to be



**Figure 7.** Total time of Cassini observations of Saturn’s magnetosphere during the 2010 observing window (purple) with radius, latitude and local time respectively. This distribution is compared to the time classified as magnetic reconnection signatures by Smith et al. (blue) and as classified by a neural network method (grey). Percentiles indicate relative time spent near reconnection events as found in the Smith et al. catalogue to the total window.

**Table 3.** Confusion matrices of neural network classification considering only events that the Smith et al. catalogue could have identified

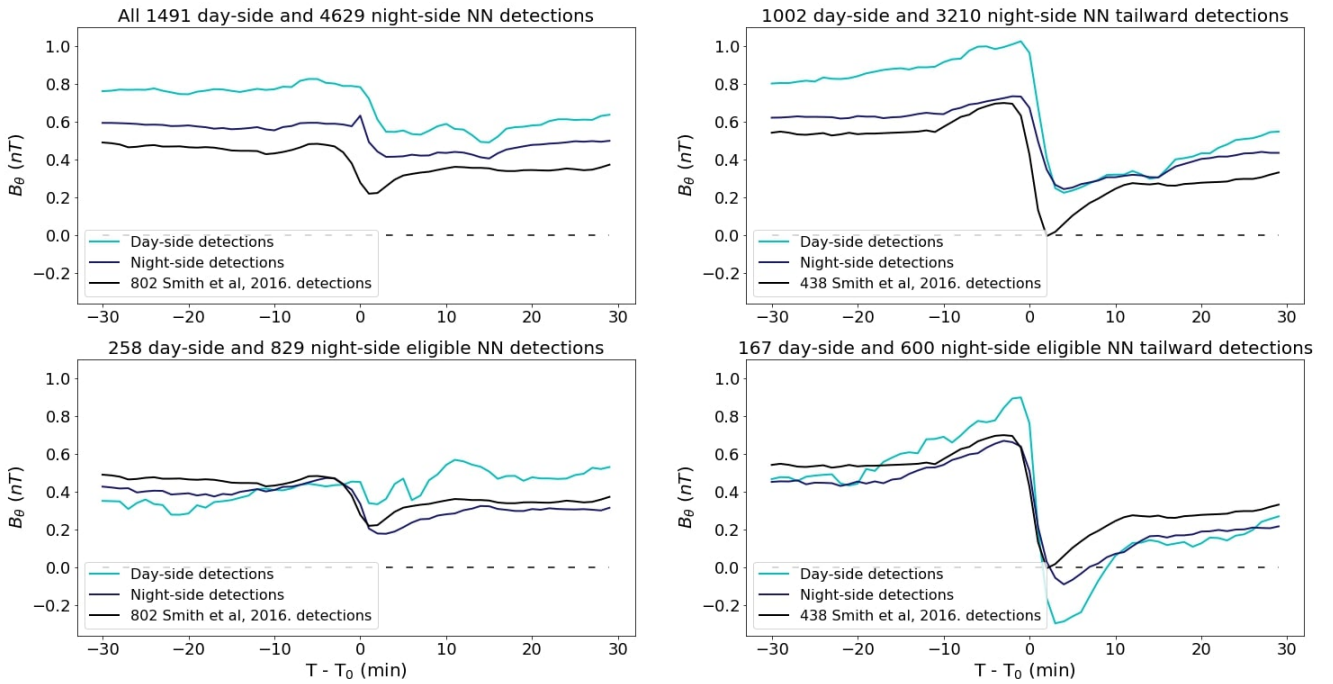
	2010	
	<i>Pred. Null</i>	<i>Pred. Event</i>
<i>Obs. Null</i>	1008 (0.82)	208 (0.17)
<i>Obs. Event</i>	58 (0.07)	741 (0.93)

**Figure 8.** Temporal, magnetic and spatial properties of reconnection events that are classified as true positives (green), false positives (orange), and false negatives (red) when comparing the neural network classifications to those of the S16.

337 spurious identifications. The plotted distribution of FPs is very similar to TPs, excluding the longer average  
 338 durations ( $\sim 10$  minutes). This discrepancy may be due the quadratic fitting and identification method  
 339 of the Smith et al. model, coupled with their model not identifying the inclining and declining phases  
 340 of reconnection which implies a shorter average duration of identifications. Hence, the neural network  
 341 is considered to accurately identify magnetic reconnection events solely from magnetic field component  
 342 measurements, not only under the same restrictions as the S16, but also across the total spatial and magnetic  
 343 domain of Cassini's lifetime.

344 Figure 9 displays an epoch analysis for events classified by this NN for both day-side (light blue) and  
 345 night side detections (dark blue) compared to the events from the S16 (black). These events are compared  
 346 across 4 criteria: all events for 2010 (top left), all tailward event for 2010 (top right), all event for 2010  
 347 that all within the human built thresholds for S16 (bottom right) and all tailward events that fall within  
 348 this threshold (bottom right). The term tailward here is defined as a reconnection event occurring with a  
 349 negative slope in the deflection phase ( $B_\theta(t_0) > B_\theta(t_1)$ ). The average day-side and average night-side  
 350 epochs are similar in all panels. The main difference between the two is the higher average  $B_\theta$  in the  
 351 day-side events and the larger  $\Delta B_\theta$  deflections, however this is more likely due to the Cassini spacecraft  
 352 being closer to the planet on the day-side on average for 2010, and hence within a stronger magnetic field  
 353 region. The ANN epochs have a similar structure compared to the Smith et al. epoch, however the ANN  
 354 epochs do not become negative until the S16 criteria is applied. This is likely due to the more numerous  
 355 small scale  $B_\theta$  deflections ( $\Delta B_\theta < 0.5$  nT) occurring within a relatively strong magnetic field regions

Epoch analysis of reconnection events in 2010 for NN and S16



**Figure 9.** Epoch analysis of all 2010 events (top left), tailward events (top right), all 2010 events that meet the S16 criteria (bottom left), and meet the S16 criteria while also being tailward (bottom right) identified by the NN. Identifications are split onto the day-side (light blue) and night-side (dark blue) and are compared to the average of events from the S16 for 2010. (left) and tailward.

356 ( $B_\theta > 1$  nT) for the ANN method than the S16 model, which skews the average. Similarly, events identified  
 357 by the ANN have higher average  $B_\theta$  than events identified by the S16, however this is likely due to the  
 358 ANN not spatially limiting its detections. Interestingly, a secondary deviation is visible in both top panels  
 359 (no limitations on identifications) at  $T \approx 12$  minutes after the central deviation. This deviation may imply a  
 360 propensity for reconnection events to occur in clusters with a  $\sim 12$  minute delay. However, it is uncertain if  
 361 this secondary deviation is simply a statistical anomaly in the data, or if this  $\sim 12$  minute delay is related to  
 362 the orbital trajectory of Cassini for 2010, particularly since this feature is not visible in the bottom panels  
 363 (S16 limits in place).

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

364 Here, the operations and effectiveness of ML approaches to magnetic reconnection identification have  
 365 been discussed. A new ANN model has been constructed to identify reconnection signatures in Saturn's  
 366 magnetosphere through spherical magnetic field measurements with a  $HSS \sim 0.73$ , and hence is considered  
 367 an effective identifier. This ML approach identifies deflections in the  $B_\theta$  field component with no hard-coded  
 368 limitations that a human-built model may otherwise impose and can identify small scale  $B_\theta$  deflections  
 369 that a human, or human made model, would find difficult. This new model has been used across the entire  
 370 Cassini near-Saturn lifetime to identify  $\sim 46000$  reconnection events and their associated properties which  
 371 have been compiled and catalogued. This model and associated reconnection catalogue is available at  
 372 Garton (2020).



373 Further study is required on events within this catalogue to identify statistical properties and spatial  
374 likelihood of magnetic reconnection in Saturn's magnetosphere to improve predictive modeling. The  
375 13 years catalogue created from this research can be used to identify long-term magnetospheric trends  
376 and create a statistical predictive model of reconnection occurrence for extreme and rare events. This  
377 ANN was constructed using a limited sample of events (~2000) which may be insufficient to cover the  
378 spectrum of reconnection signatures, hence this model can be further improved through the inclusion of  
379 additional samples of manually selected reconnection signatures, or through the inclusion of additional  
380 particle property observations, should they be available. Furthermore, the training of this ANN involved the  
381 inclusion of additional null sets which corresponded to non-reconnection events within the magnetosphere,  
382 the magnetosheath and the solar wind. It is possible other such unique magnetic environments exist  
383 that could cause spurious identifications where characteristic magnetic field deflections are observed,  
384 such as during a Cassini flyby of Titan (Simon et al., 2010) or Enceladus (Dougherty et al., 2006).  
385 Hence, inclusion of datasets within these environments as nulls in the training set could improve the  
386 overall accuracy and skill of the ANN. Finally, through transfer learning, it is possible to retrain this  
387 model to identify similar reconnection signatures in other planetary magnetospheres given fewer training  
388 samples of identification. Through this established method it is possible to create a similar operational  
389 ML model to identify reconnection signatures at Mercury, or Earth. It is our intention to explore such  
390 approaches in future, to realise the full capability of ML for uncovering reconnection signatures for a  
391 variety of planetary magnetospheres. Datasets observing various planetary magnetospheres is abundant,  
392 e.g. MESSENGER (Solomon et al., 2001) at Mercury, and Galileo (Young, 1998)/Juno (Bagenal et al.,  
393 2017) at Jupiter, however, exploration of these datasets has only been partially completed by the wider  
394 community. This insufficient exploration is partly due to the required time to manually investigate the  
395 datasets and the lack of manpower available. ML infrastructure, of the kind discussed in this paper, will  
396 enable the processing and full exploration of these large datasets with minimal required human intervention.  
397 Furthermore, ML identification methods allow the extrapolation of catalogues and allow for an investigation  
398 of more diverse events at different locations, and even make more accurate estimations of the mass budget  
399 of magnetospheres. As we rapidly approach a period of data flooding, developing tools to address this issue  
400 before it arises is essential for the future of planetary research (Azari et al., 2020).

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

401 The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial  
402 relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

403 T. M. G was responsible for development and application of machine learning methods to create a neural  
404 network reconnection classifier

405 C. M. J. sourced datasets and applied physical insights into the model's creation

406 A. W. S. applied physical insights into the model's creation and laid groundwork for its creation

407 K. L. Y validated machine learning methods and applied insight into machine learning theory

408 S. A. M validated machine learning methods and applied insight into machine learning theory

409 J. V validated machine learning methods and applied physical insights into the model's creation

## FUNDING

- 410 C. M. J.'s work at Southampton was supported by the STFC Ernest Rutherford Fellowship ST/L004399/1.  
411 C. M. J.'s work at DIAS was supported by the Science Foundation Ireland Grant 18/FRL/6199.  
412 T.M.G.'s work is supported by the Science and Technology Facilities Council Opportunities Fund Grant  
413 ST/T002255/1.  
414 A. W. S was supported by STFC Consolidated Grant ST/S000240/1 and NERC grant NE/P017150/1

## DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

- 415 Calibrated data from the Cassini mission are available from the NASA Planetary Data System at the Jet  
416 Propulsion Laboratory [<https://pds.jpl.nasa.gov/>].  
417 The datasets created from this study can be found on Zenodo [DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.3978252].

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## FIGURE CAPTIONS