



# The Voice of the Atmosphere Forecasts the Earthquake

Earthquake prediction by GNSS-TEC Method



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

01

## INTRODUCTION

Why I started this research

02

## METHODS

The concrete steps in the research

03

## ANALYSIS

How I analyzed the data

04

## Results

The results of the data analysis

05

## PROSPECTS

How I will improve this research in the future



SECTION 1

# INTRODUCTION

N









最大震度  
**7**

9日15時 00分ごろ

**M8.3**

what if.  
IN the near  
future

This is an fake image of the news that Nankai Megathrust Earthquake has happened,  
based on the prediction by a committee inside Japanese Cabinet Office.



# Nankai TROUGH

## EARTHQUAKES

SINCE 1361 (the oldest one is OBSERVED in 684)



### SHOHEI/Koan M8.5

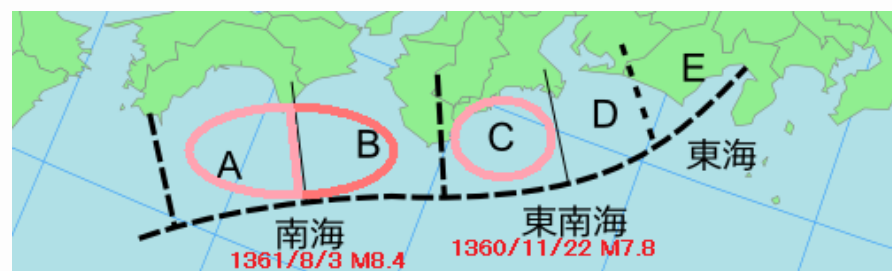
**NANKAI**

8.3.1361 (Shohei 16) M8.2 – 8.5

↑ 0.7 years

**TONANKAI**

11.22.1360 (Shohei 15) M7.8



### MEIOH M8.4

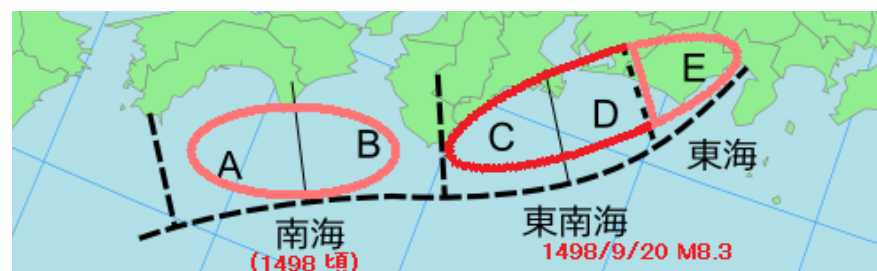
**NANKAI**

7.9.1498 (Meioh 7)

↓ 0.2 years

**TOKAI & TONANKAI**

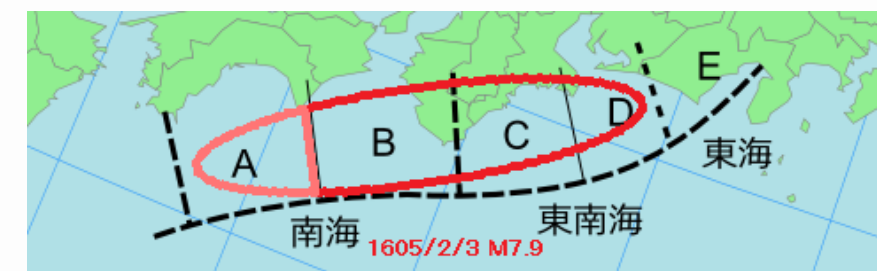
9.20.1498 (Meioh 7) M8.2 – 8.4



### KEICHO M8.0

**NANKAI & TONANKAI**

2.3.1605 (Keicho 9) M7.9 – 8.0



By User:Pekachu:derivative work:CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=8633592>





1707

147 years

1854

92 years

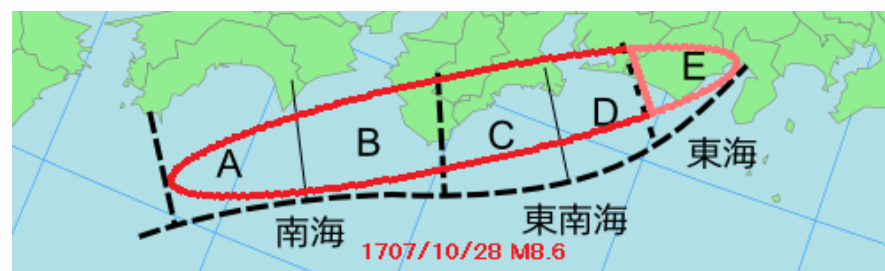
1946

76 years

# HOUEI M8.6

TOKAI & TONANKAI & NANKAI

10.28.1707 (Houei 4) M8.6



# Ansei M8.4

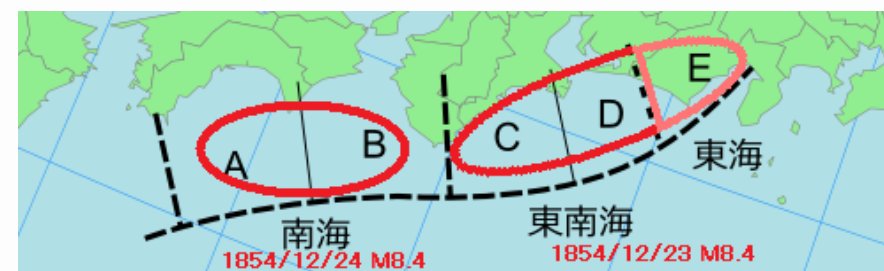
NANKAI

12.24.1854 (Kaei 7) M8.4

↑ 32 hours

TOKAI & TONANKAI

12.23.1854 (Kaei 7) M8.4



# SHOWA M8.0

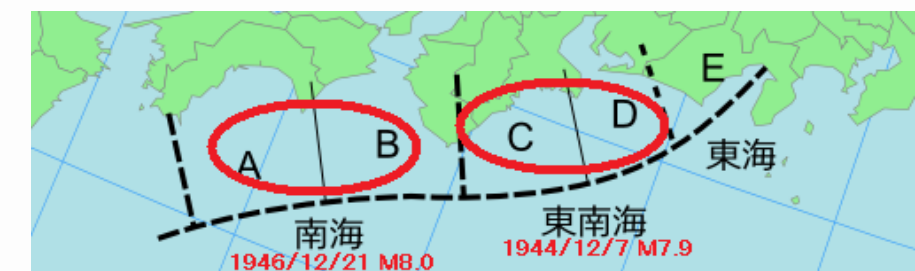
NANKAI

12.21.1946 (Showa 21) M8.0

↑ 2 years

TONANKAI

12.7.1944 (Showa 19) M7.9

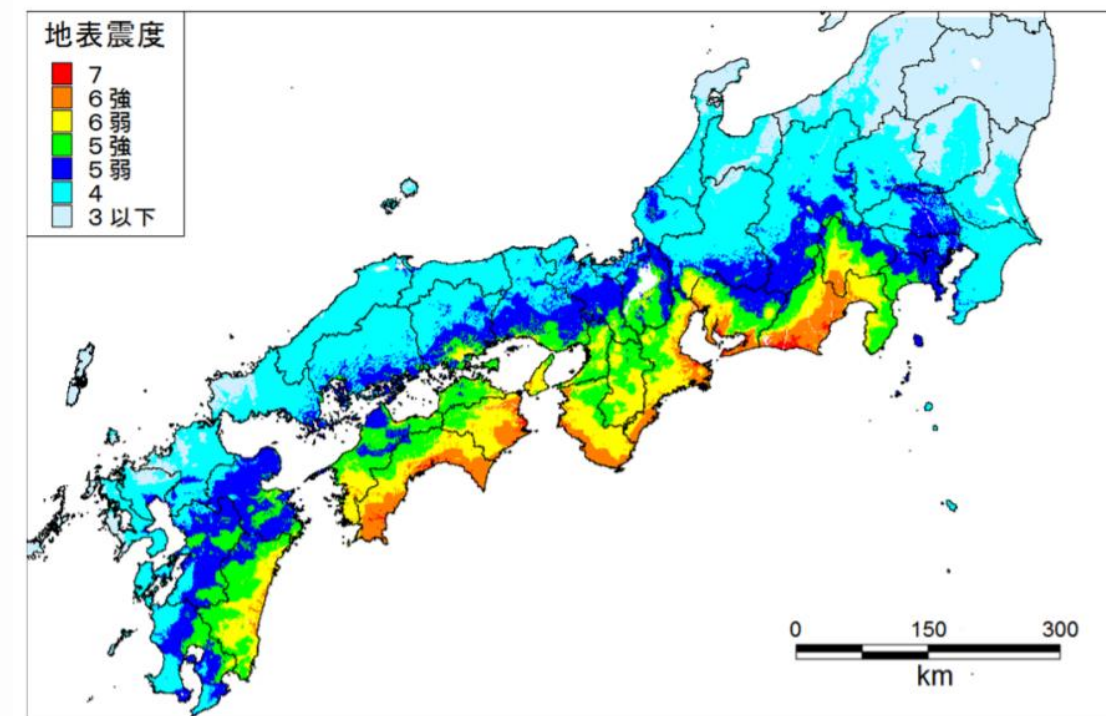


By User:Pekachu:derivative work:CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=8633592>



Within 10 years: about 30%  
 Within 30 years: 70% ~ 80%  
 Within 50 years: 90% or more

Predicted by Government of Japan, Reference 2



Made by Cabinet Office, Reference 3

2022



20XX

## NOW

Most recent earthquakes of intensity over 5 lower

2021/12/09 M6.1 Tokara Islands

2022/01/04 M6.1 Chichijima Island

2022/01/22 M6.6 Hyuga-nada

We can change the worst future

## NANKAI MEGATHRUST EARTHQUAKE

■ 185,000 people can be killed

(Case that Tokai region would be largely damaged, Midnight in winter, Average wind speed)

■ By Tsunami account for About 83%

■ 9,500,000 people would have to take refuge in a week

Reference 3

# How can we save our lives?





IS it possible  
to **PREDICT**  
earthquakeS  
**ACCURATE**  
**LY?**

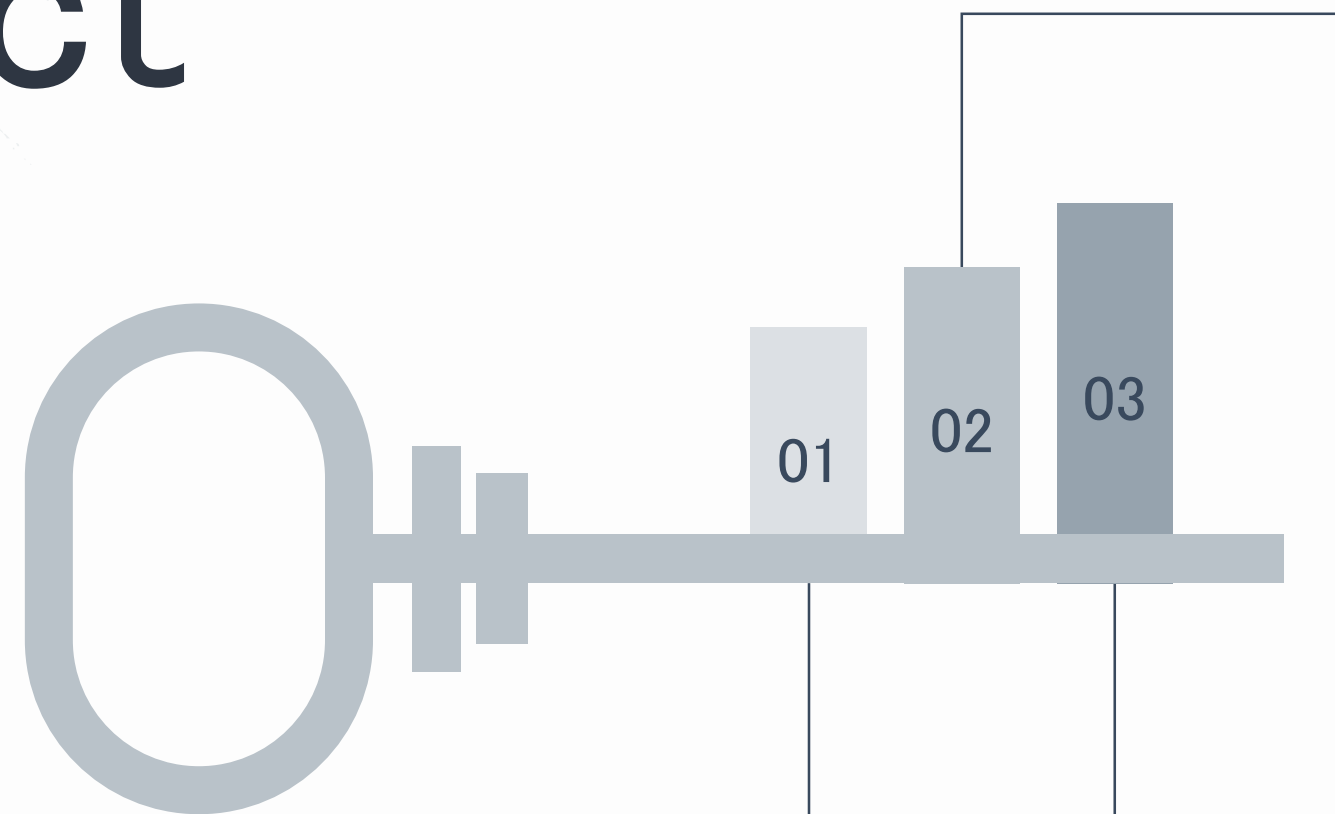
A close-up photograph of a complex LEGO Technic model, likely representing a satellite or space station component. The model is constructed from various grey, black, and blue Technic bricks and beams. It features several rectangular panels with small holes, possibly representing solar panels or sensors. The background is a bright blue sky with soft, out-of-focus clouds. Large, dark, expressive brushstrokes are overlaid on the image, particularly on the left and bottom edges, creating a sense of motion and depth. The overall aesthetic is technical and futuristic.

SECTION 2

# METHODS



# 3 KEY POINTS to predict



## OBSERVABLENESS

Using the observation device which meets the following conditions:

1. Already **available now**
2. Exist **all over Japan**

There's no time to equip new devices.

## SENSIBILITY

How minutely can we predict the earthquake?

**How large** (magnitude)

**Where** it happens

**How early** can we know

**How small earthquake** can we know

## ACCURACY

### Most important point

If an earthquake forecast was wrong, the whole society would go into a panic.

# GNSS-TEC Method FEATURES



This method is intend to predict

- In 30 mins ~ 1 hour
- Over magnitude 7

Calculate TEC (total electron content, the number of electrons in the ionosphere) and find the phenomenon that TEC increases about 30 mins ~ 1 hour before the earthquake.

1,300 observation stations all over Japan are available now, using GEONET (GNSS Earth Observation Network System) data

# GNSS-TEC Method FEATURES

GNSS =

Global Navigation Satellite System

A System which uses satellites to let us know our position

Ex. GPS, QZSS (Michibiki in Japan), GLONASS

Sensibility

method

OBSERVABLENESS

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# GNSS-TEC Method FEATURES

**TEC** = **T**otal **E**lectron **C**ontent

The number of electrons in the ionosphere

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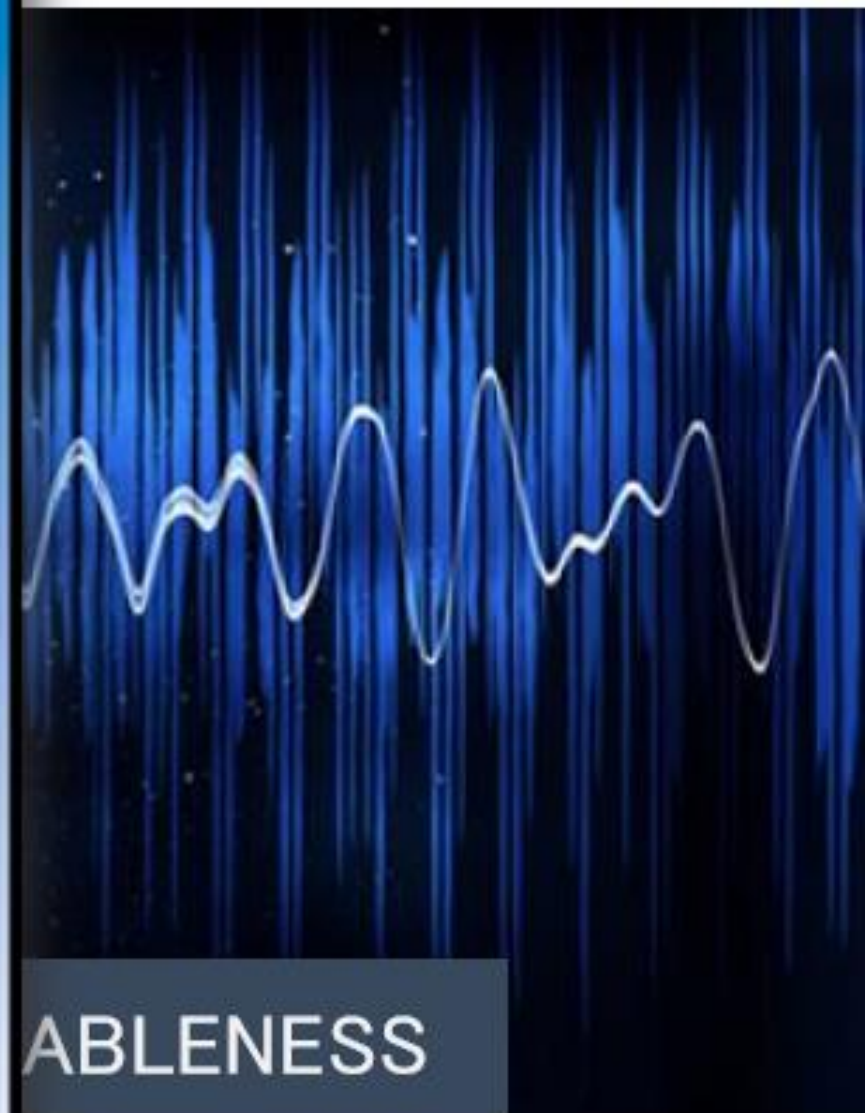
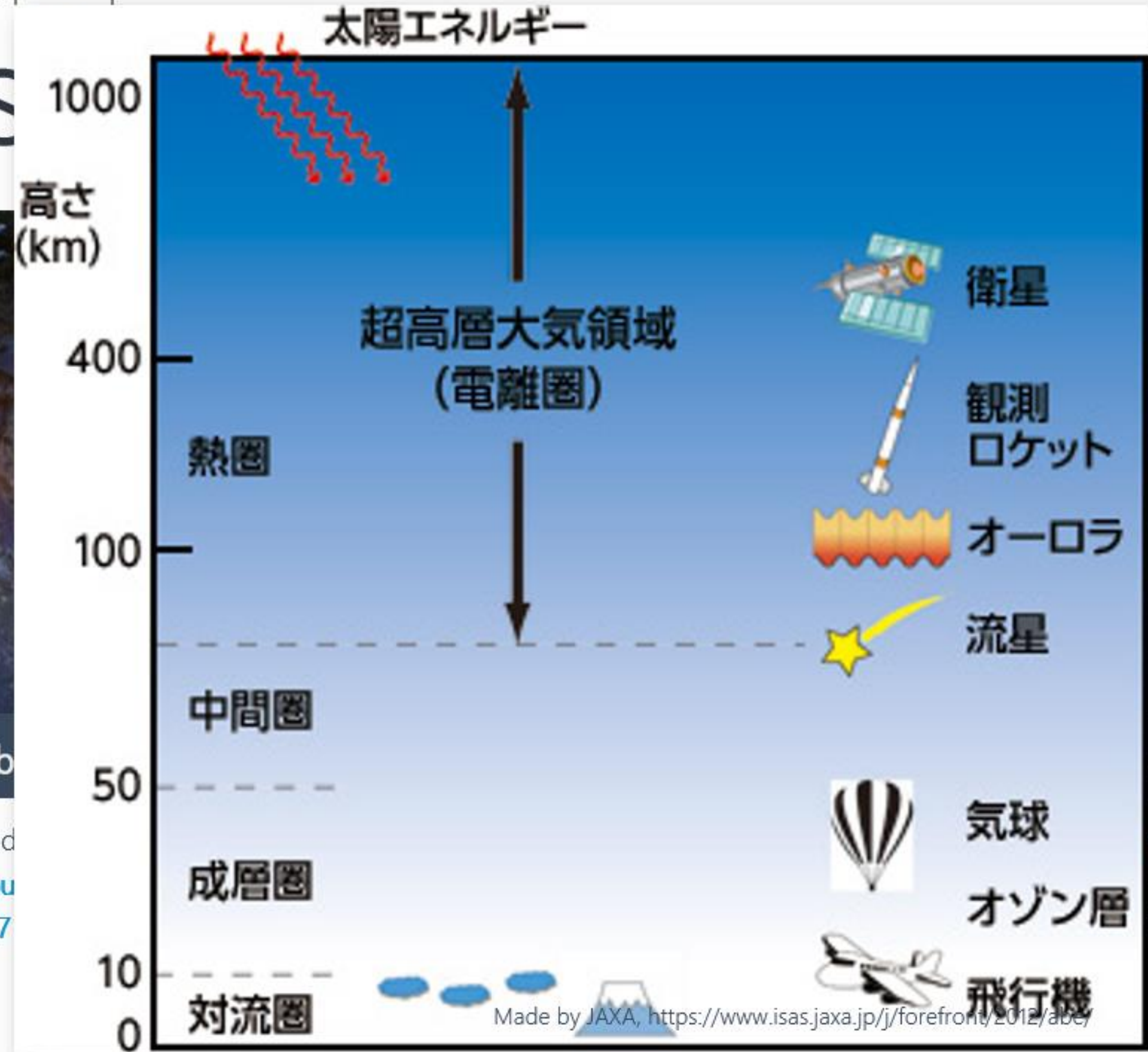
# GNS

# RES



Sensib

- This method is intended
- In 30 mins ~ 1 hour
  - Over magnitude 7



ABLENES

stations all over  
 ple now, using  
 Earth Observation  
 data



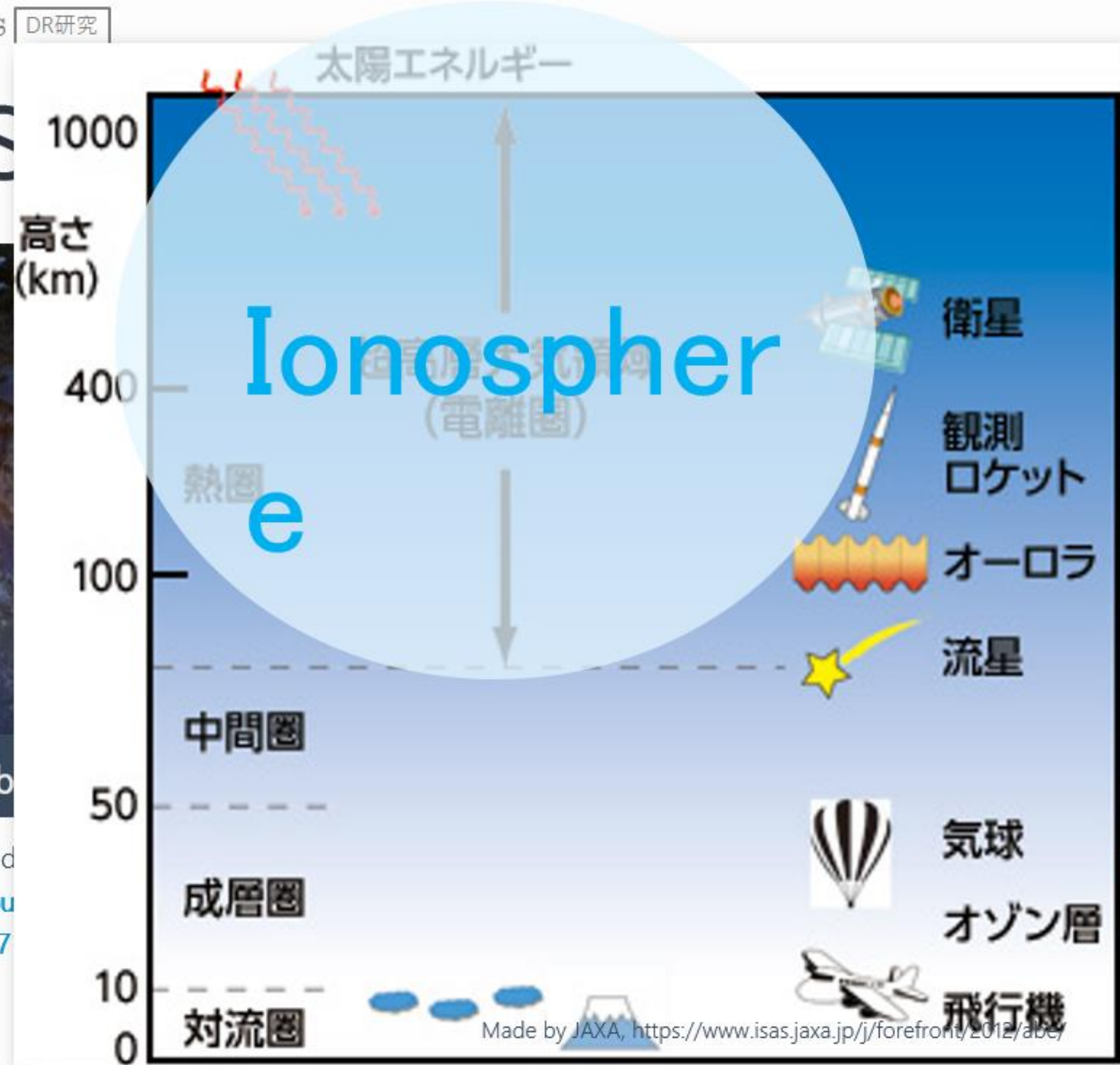
# GNS

# RES



Sensib

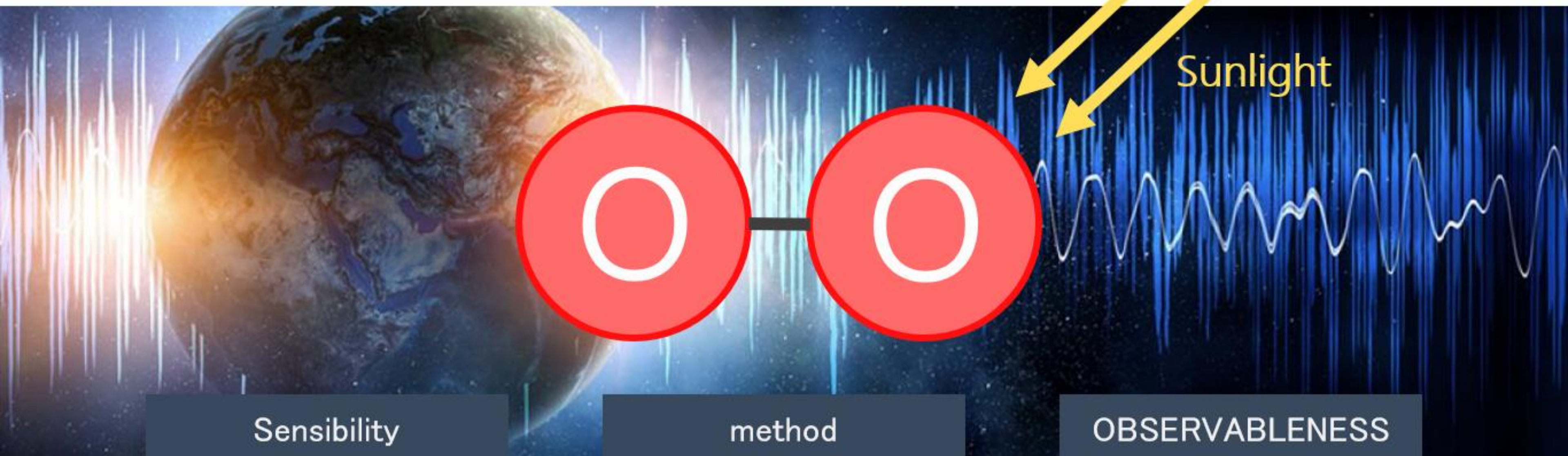
- This method is intended
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  - Over magnitude 7



ABLENESS

stations all over  
 ble now, using  
 Earth Observation  
 data

# GNSS-TEC Method FEATURES



## Sensibility

This method is intend to predict

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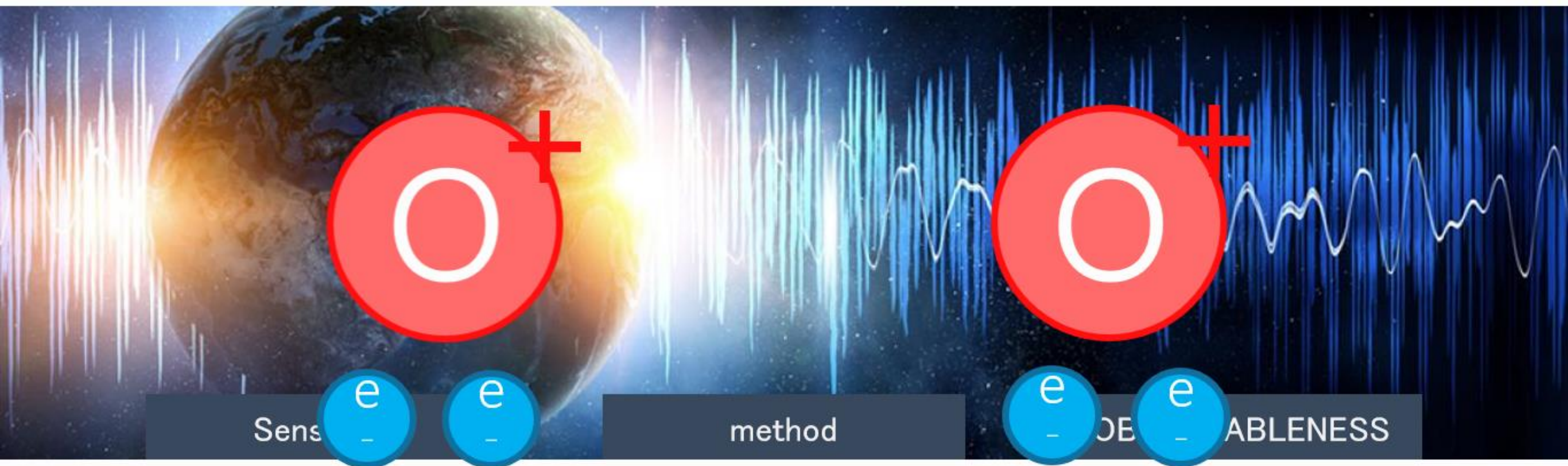
## method

Calculate TEC (total electron content, the number of electrons in the ionosphere) and find the phenomenon that TEC increases about 30 mins ~ 1 hour before the earthquake.

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1,300 observation stations all over Japan are available now, using GEONET (GNSS Earth Observation Network System) data

# GNSS-TEC Method FEATURES



This method is intended to predict

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Calculate TEC (total electron content, the number of electrons in the ionosphere) and find the phenomenon that TEC increases about 30 mins ~ 1 hour before the earthquake.

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# Researching PROCESS

01

hypothesis

We can observe increase in TEC  
in all the earthquakes of magnitude  
over 7

02

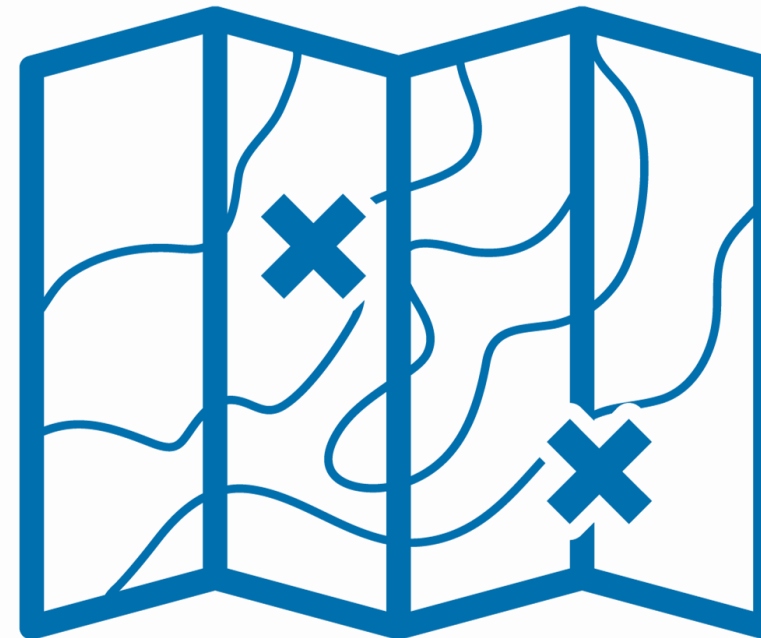
## Collect primary Data

1. Make [the list of the earthquakes](#) which occurred in Japanese territory (Unite data of magnitude, intensity, seismic center, etc.)
2. Get [GNSS data](#) from 2 hours before the earthquake to right before the earthquake from GEONET

Convert GNSS data to TEC data  
(later discussed in detail).

## Convert to TEC data

03



04

## Observe tEC anomaly

Make sure of the fact that the anomalies before the earthquake really exist.

# TODAY's presentation

See if the anomaly as the sign of earthquakes  
before the Great East Japan Earthquake





f (MEX形式ファイルを読み込みf1値, f2値を出力 (RINEX ver.3.02 用))

Copyright © Kosuke Heki <http://www.ep.sci.hokudai.ac.jp/~heki/software.htm>

```
program rdrnx3_mod
  implicit none

  integer :: site_num
  character :: fmt*128="(i4.4,i3.3,'0.','i2.2,'o')", file*128

  integer :: year=11, date=70, year=11

  site_num=1 1237
  do
    write(file, fmt) site_num, date, year
    call getf4_3x(file, 'J', 0.0, 24.0)
    site_num = site_num + 1
  end do

  stop
end program rdrnx3_mod
```

Copyright © Kosuke Heki

SECTION 3

# ANALYSIS

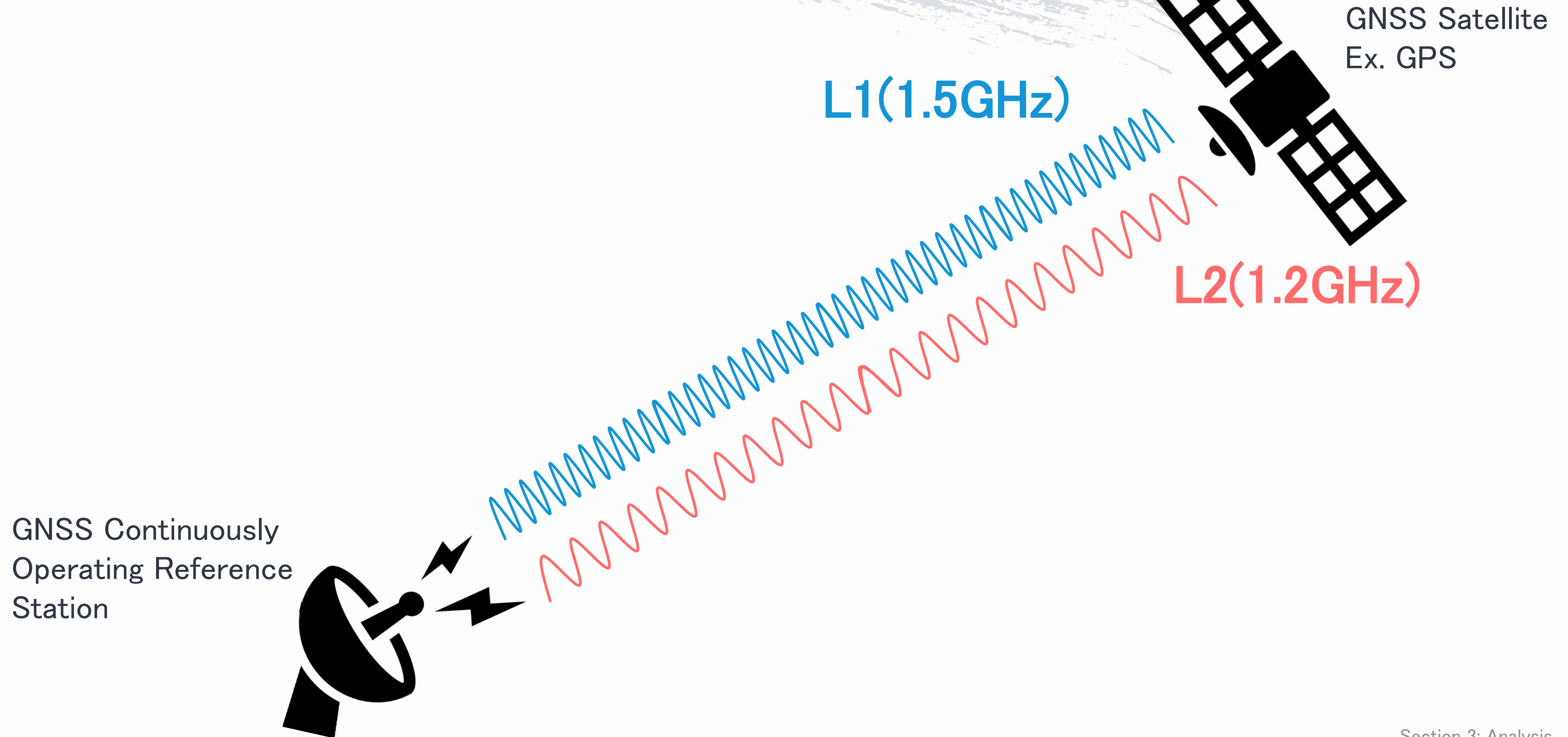


**WARNING**

**If you have an allergy to  
math,  
you should skip this section**



# Mechanism of calculating TEC



# Mechanism of calculating TEC

$$D_{iono} = \frac{40.3N_e}{f^2}$$

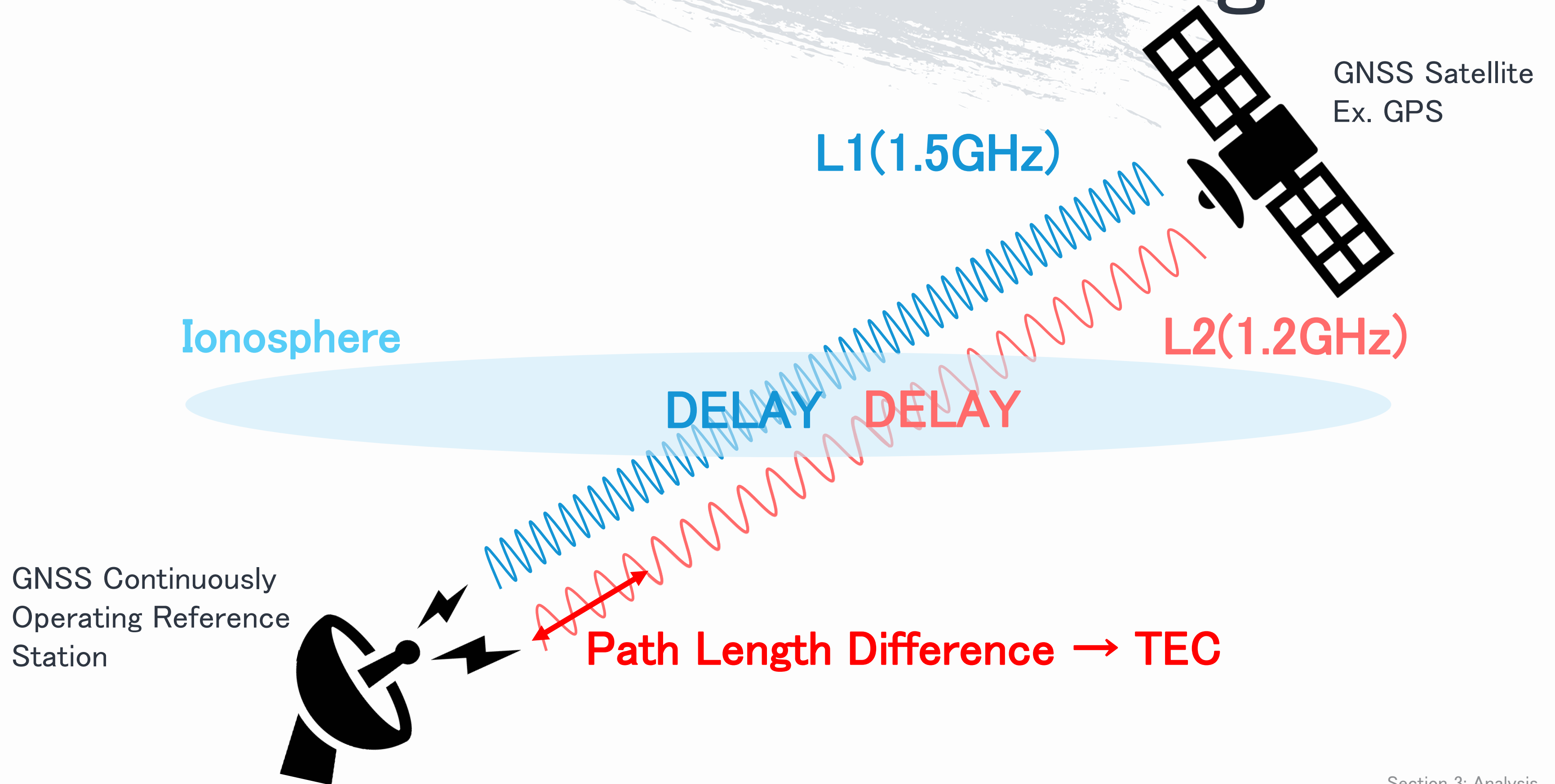
- $D_{iono}$  : Ionospheric delay
- $f$  : Frequency
- $N_e$  : Number of the electrons in the ionosphere  
= TEC (total electron content)



1. The lower frequency
  2. The more electrons in the ionosphere
- The electric wave will be **delayed longer**



# Mechanism of calculating TEC



# Mechanism of calculating TEC

$$L = \lambda\phi = \rho - \boxed{D_{iono}} + D_{tropo} + \lambda n + \varepsilon + \tau$$

Reference 4

- $L$  : Carrier phase measurement
- $\lambda$  : Carrier wavelength
- $\phi$  : Carrier phase
- $f$  : Frequency
- $D_{iono}$  : Ionospheric delay
- $D_{tropo}$  : Tropospheric delay
- $n$  : Satellite Bias
- $\varepsilon$  : Receiver Bias

$$D_{iono} = \frac{40.3N_e}{f^2}$$

$$L = \lambda\phi = \rho - \boxed{\frac{40.3N_e}{f^2}} + D_{tropo} + \lambda n + \varepsilon + \tau$$

- $N_e$  : TEC (total electron content)

# Mechanism of calculating TEC

$$L_1 = \rho - \frac{40.3N_e}{f_1^2} + D_{tropo} + \lambda_1 n_1 + \varepsilon_1 + \tau_1$$

$$\longrightarrow L_2 = \rho - \frac{40.3N_e}{f_2^2} + D_{tropo} + \lambda_2 n_2 + \varepsilon_2 + \tau_2$$

The equation with only  
TEC, L, constant numbers  
You can find these values in the GNSS data

$$L_1 - L_2 = -40.3N_e \left( \frac{1}{f_1^2} - \frac{1}{f_2^2} \right) + Const.$$

Now I'm calculating  $N_e$  (=TEC)

Reference 5, 6



# Mechanism of calculating TEC

$$N_e = \frac{1}{40.3} \frac{L_1 - L_2}{\frac{1}{f_1^2} - \frac{1}{f_2^2}} + \text{Const.}$$

$$\text{TEC} = N_e = \frac{1}{40.3} \frac{f_1^2 f_2^2}{f_1^2 - f_2^2} (L_1 - L_2) + \text{Const.}$$

# Mechanism of calculating TEC

$$\Delta TEC = \frac{1}{40.3} \frac{f_1^2 f_2^2}{f_1^2 - f_2^2} \Delta(L_1 - L_2)$$

Reference 5, 6

```

8  cm = plt.get_cmap("seismic")
9
10 for i in range(20):
11     # 地図データ読み込み
12     df = gpd.read_file(...)
13
14     # 表示
15
16
17     with plt.style.context("seaborn-whitegrid"):
18         df.plot(figsize=(12, 12), facecolor='white', linewidth=1)
19
20     # リストを読み込み
21     # csvファイル
22     f = open("{}.05 + 14.00", "r")
23     # リスト形式
24     reader = csv.reader(f)

```



# Python 3.10.2

- Easy to make graphs
- Has a lot of modules of various functions

- Runs much faster than Python
- Can be written in its very simple syntax

# Fortran 95

```

3  33.095781854355323 137.13332683906626
6  33.638462556001701 138.16456165635378
13 40.890121351 132.37854966788186
16 35.977299251 138.20788093658641
19 28.54937413 134.14814544234187
21 35.07688962 134.54217496234480
23 35.91275995 135.04227733622409
30 36.02350954 139.63627699703287
31 33.70191124 131.10973912378580
3  32.89607156 137.06577863023017
6  33.43618549 138.08959669398197
13 40.71189338 132.27837492156982
16 35.77258735 138.12653372849803
19 28.40248431 134.12740228866124
21 34.87797933551300 134.45576216223051
23 35.706234450097604 134.23722370507704

```



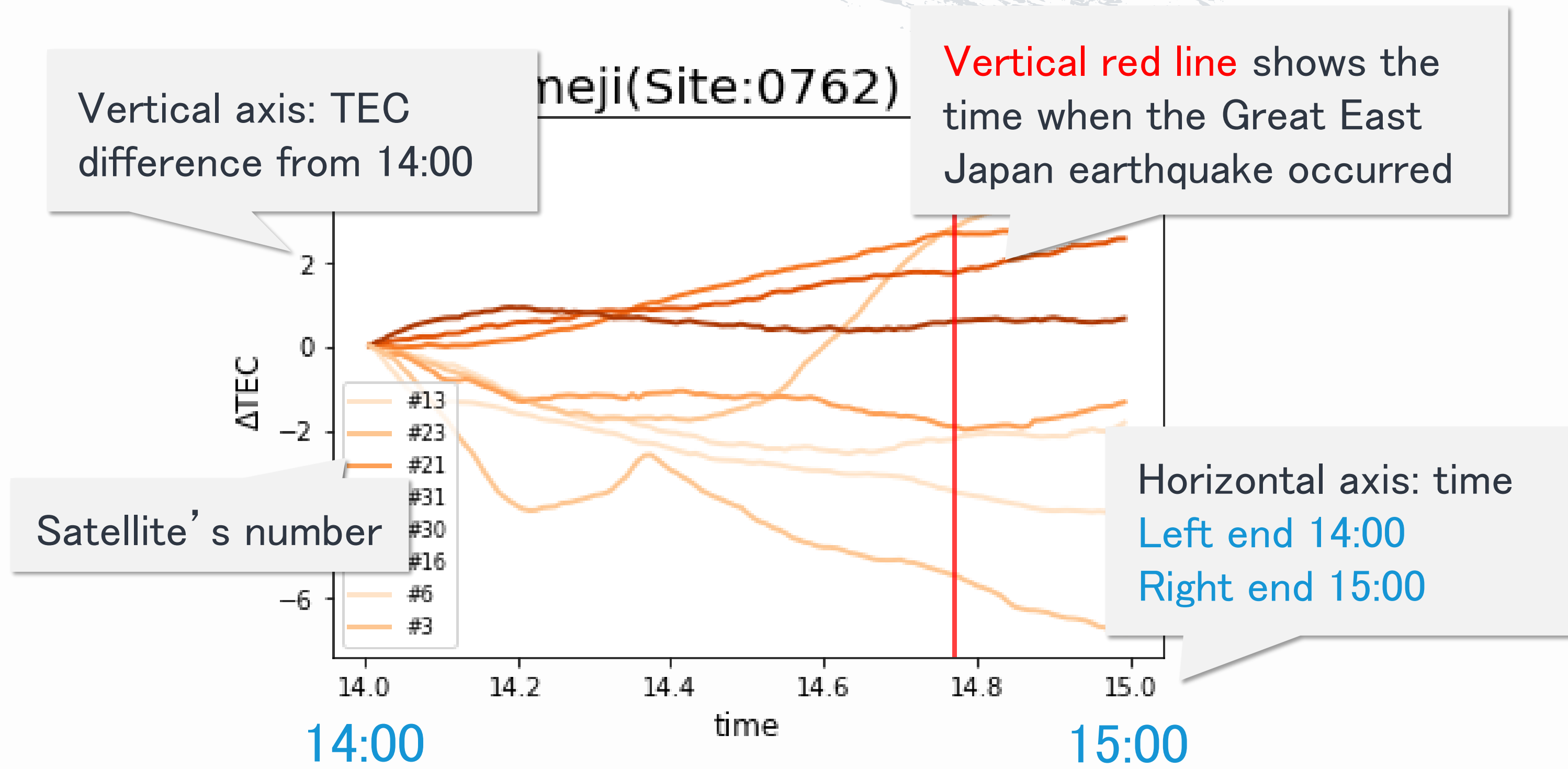
SECTION 4

# RESULTS

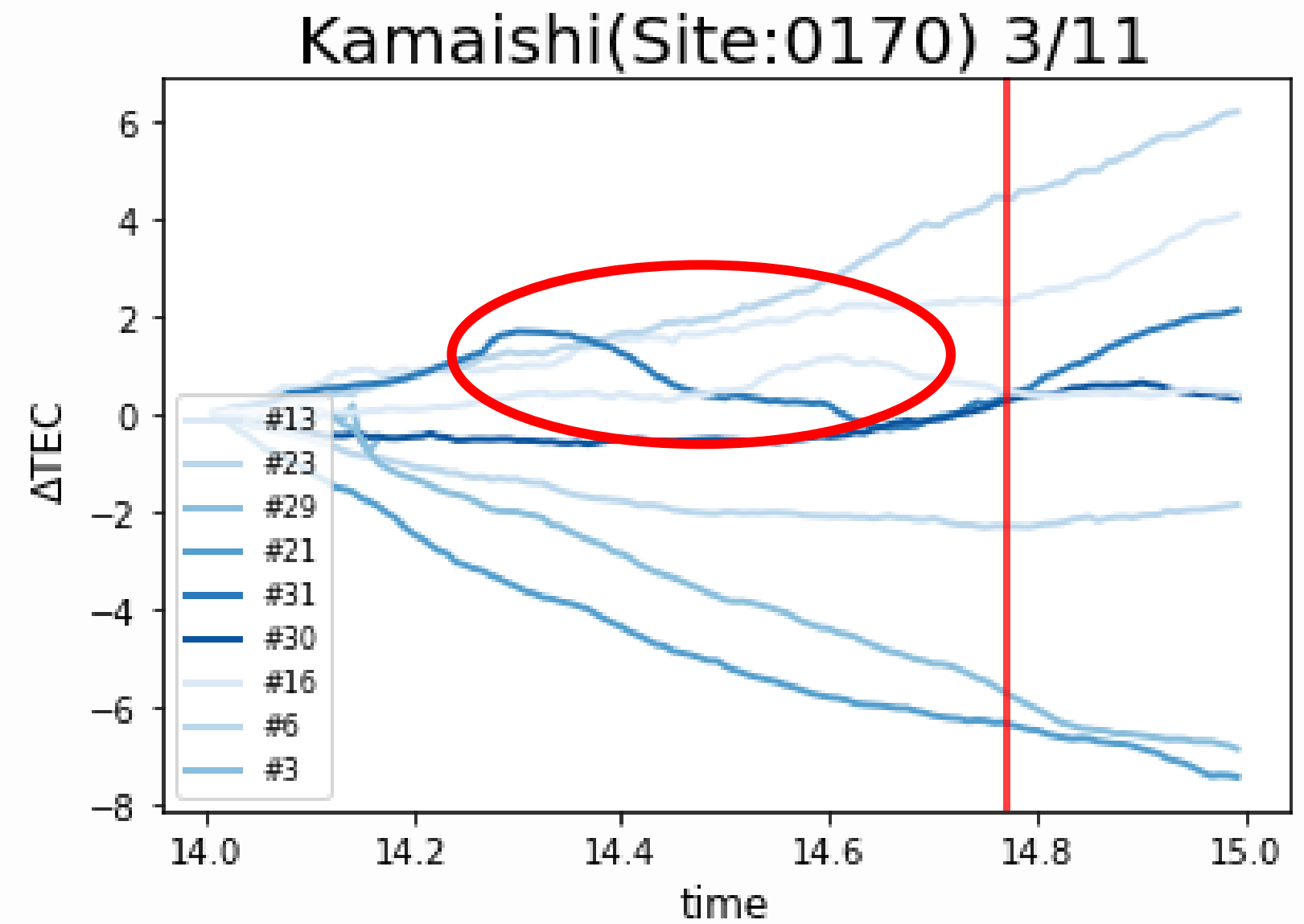
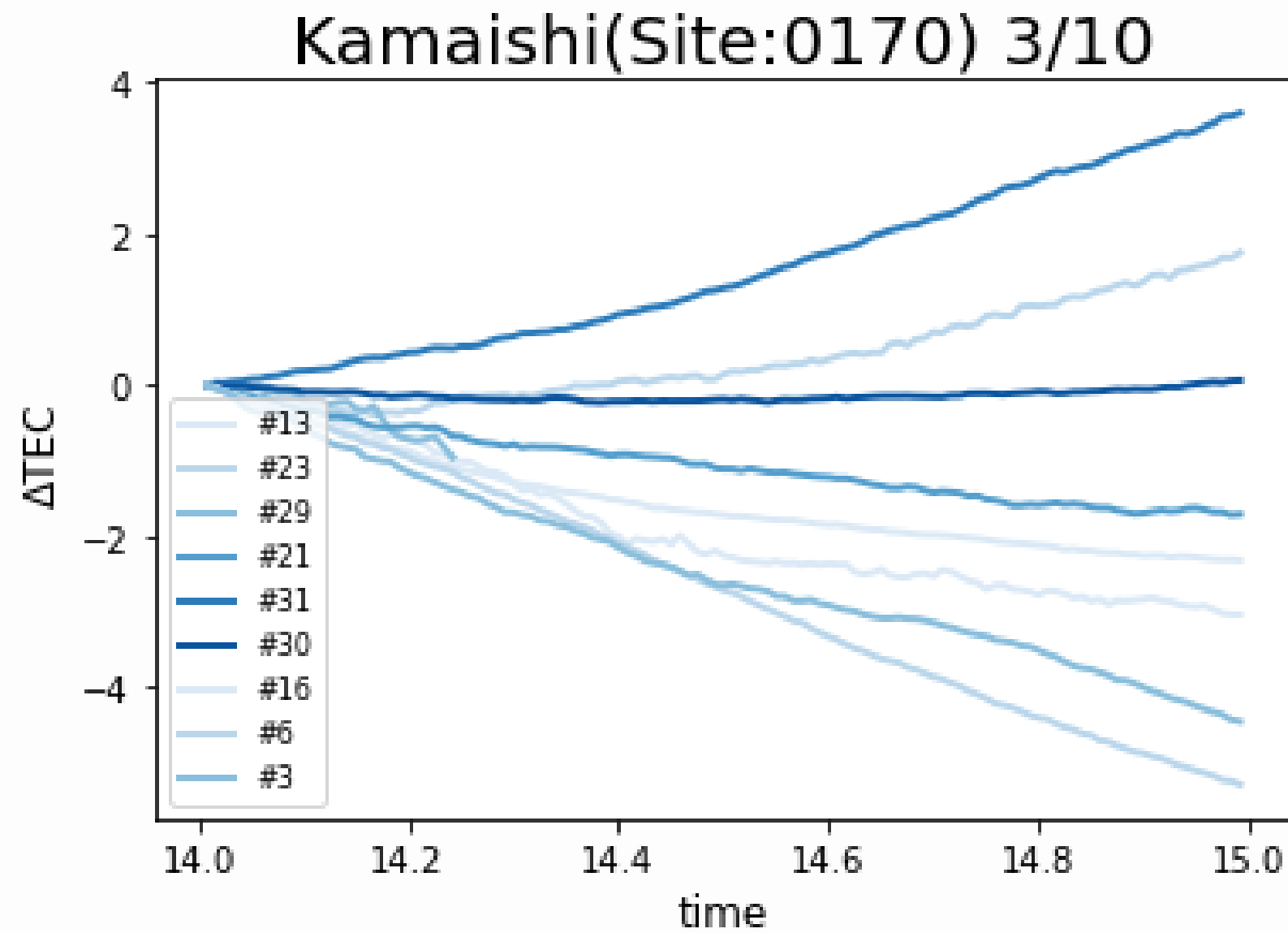




# Comparison between 3.10 & 3.11

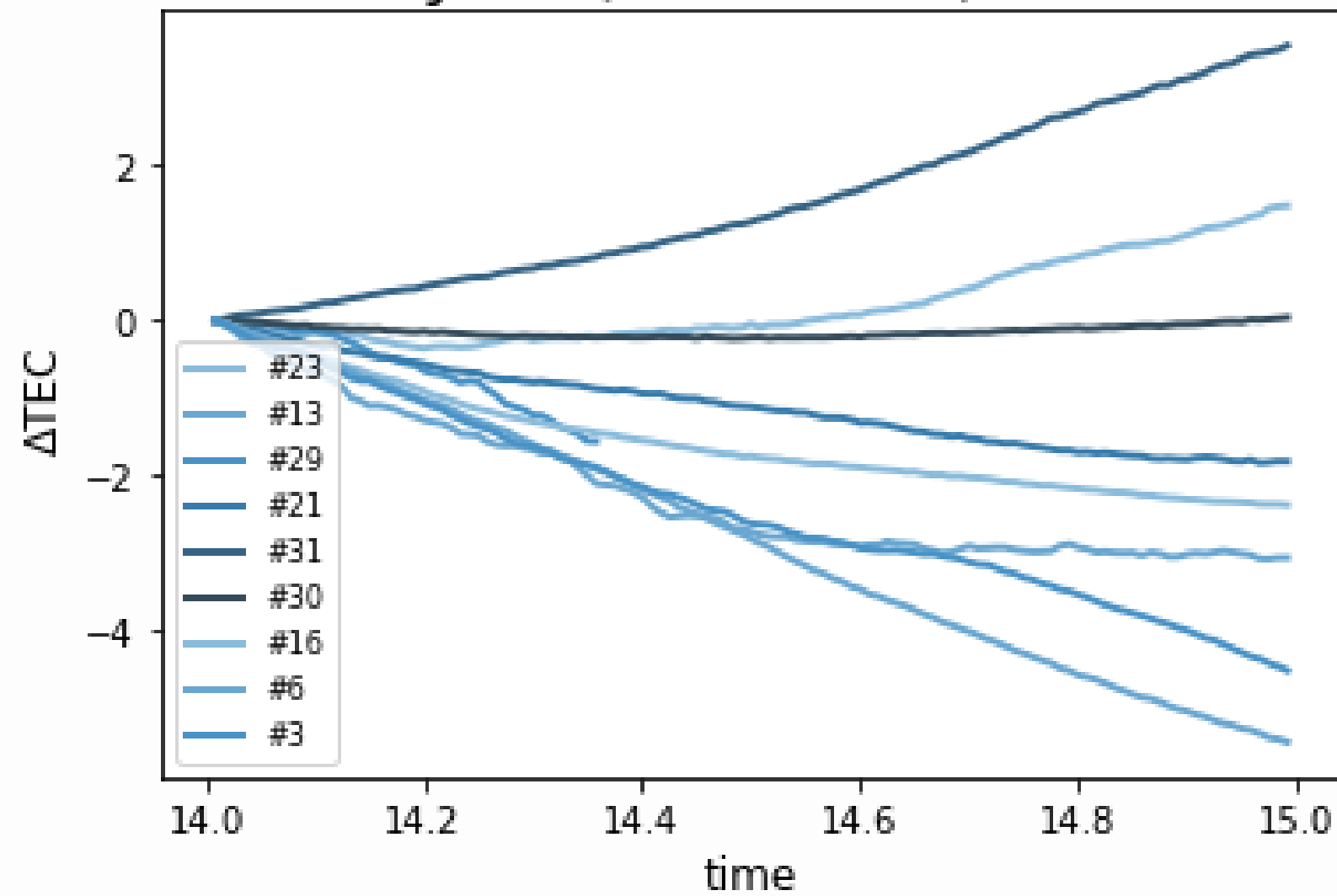


# Kamaishi, Iwate pref.

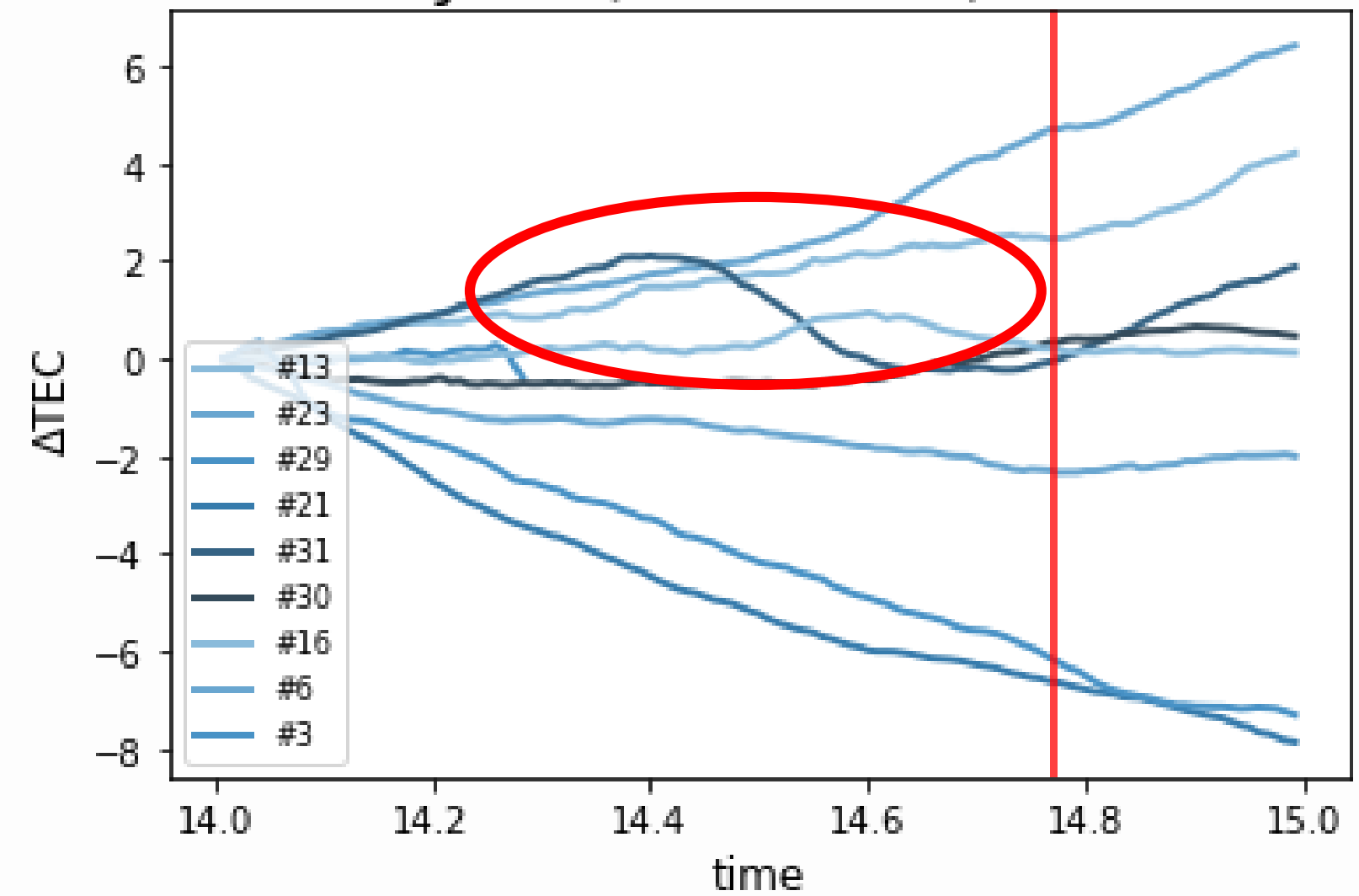


# Miyako, Iwate pref.

Miyako(Site:0028) 3/10



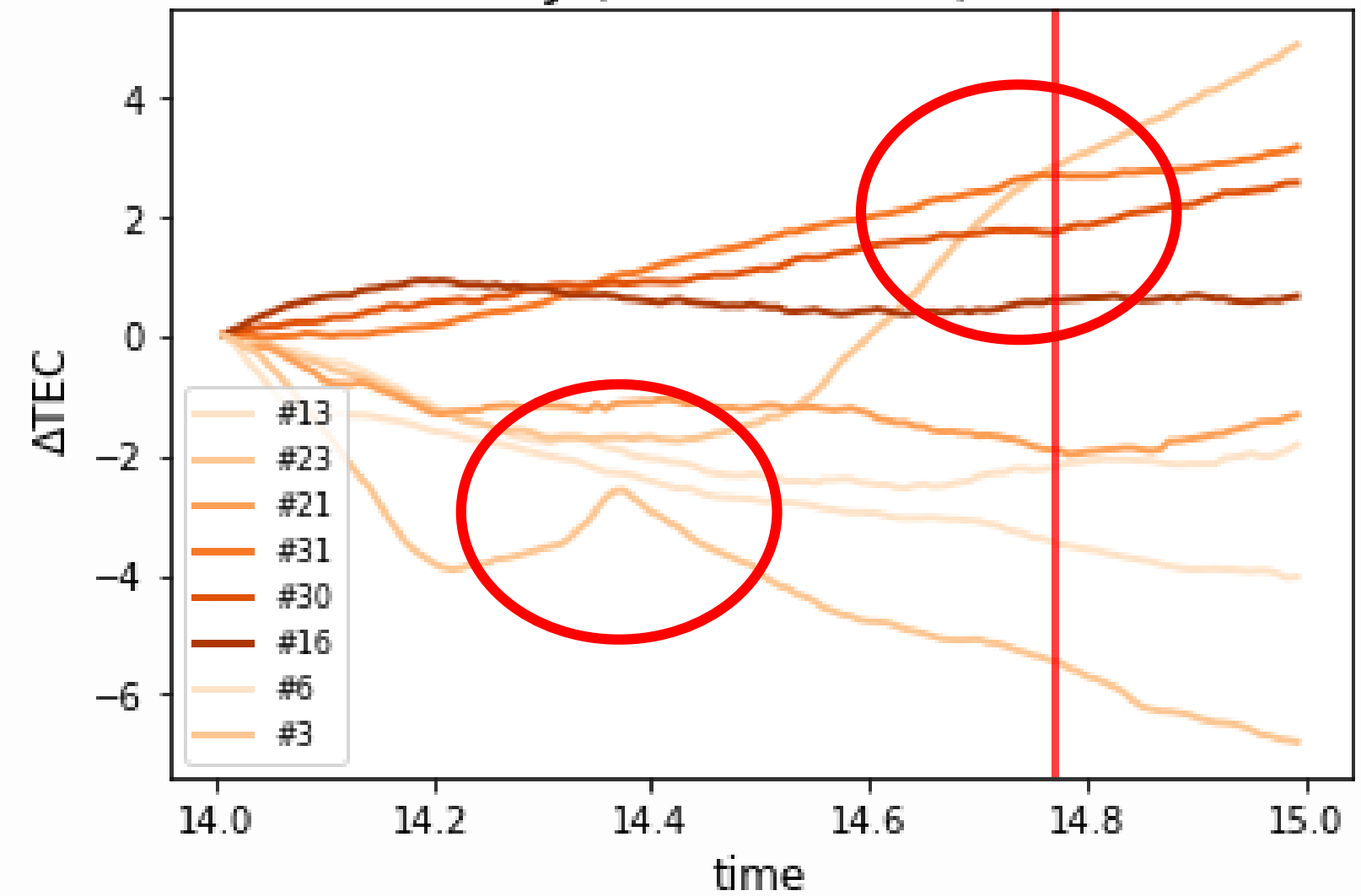
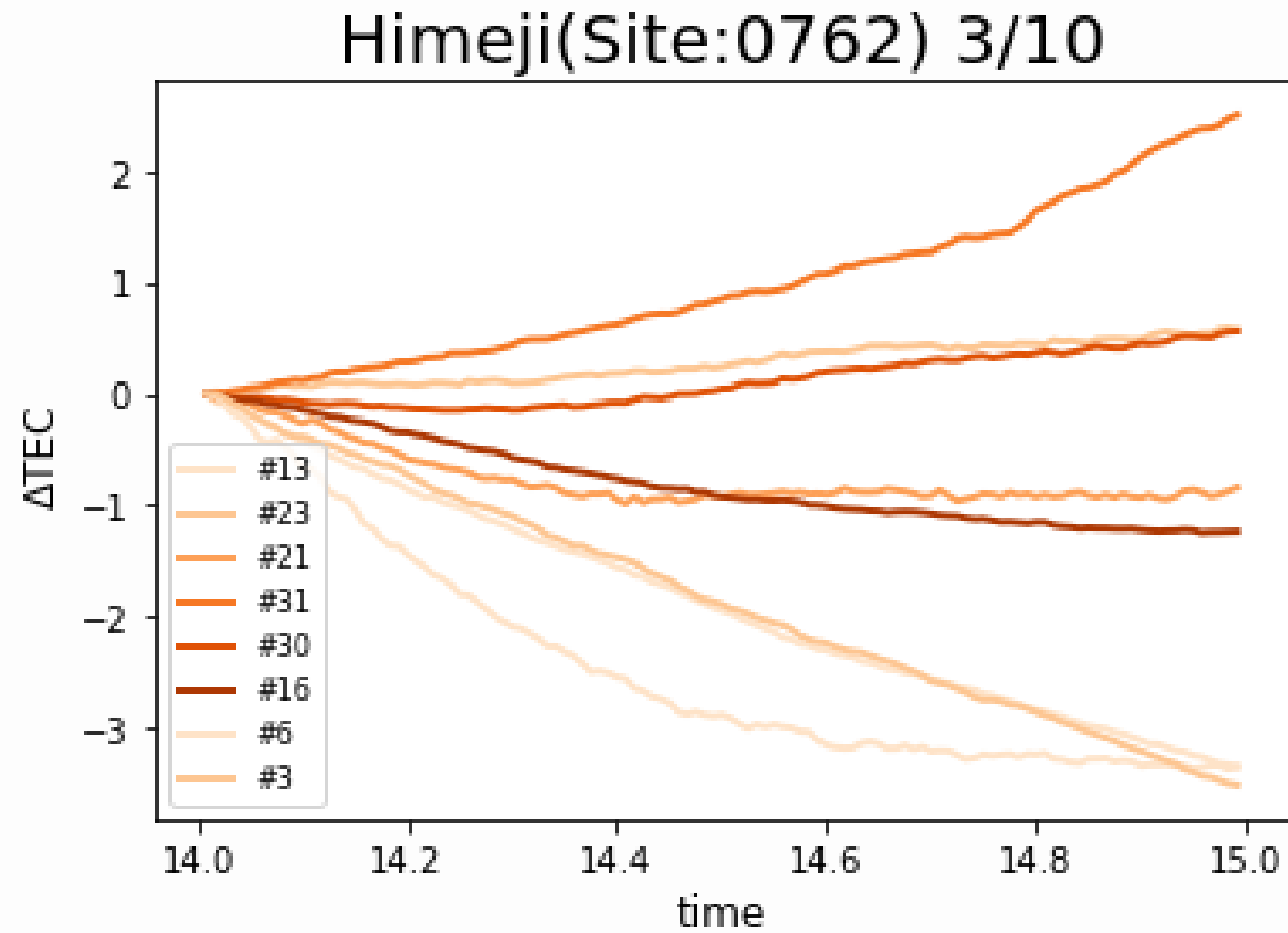
Miyako(Site:0028) 3/11



# Himeji, Hyogo pref.

**Is this the sign?**

Himeji(Site:0762) 3/11





14:00

Deeper red  
Lighter Blue than surroundings  
→ TEC increases!

Moving large stripes  
→ the anomaly from the other causes

# TEC difference From 14:00 on 3.11



Decreased

TEC in 14:00

Increased

The earthquake happened at 14:46

# Results

- Successfully managed to observe increase in TEC before the Great East Japan earthquake occurred
- I'm unable to distinguish only the sign of the earthquake from the other accurately so far



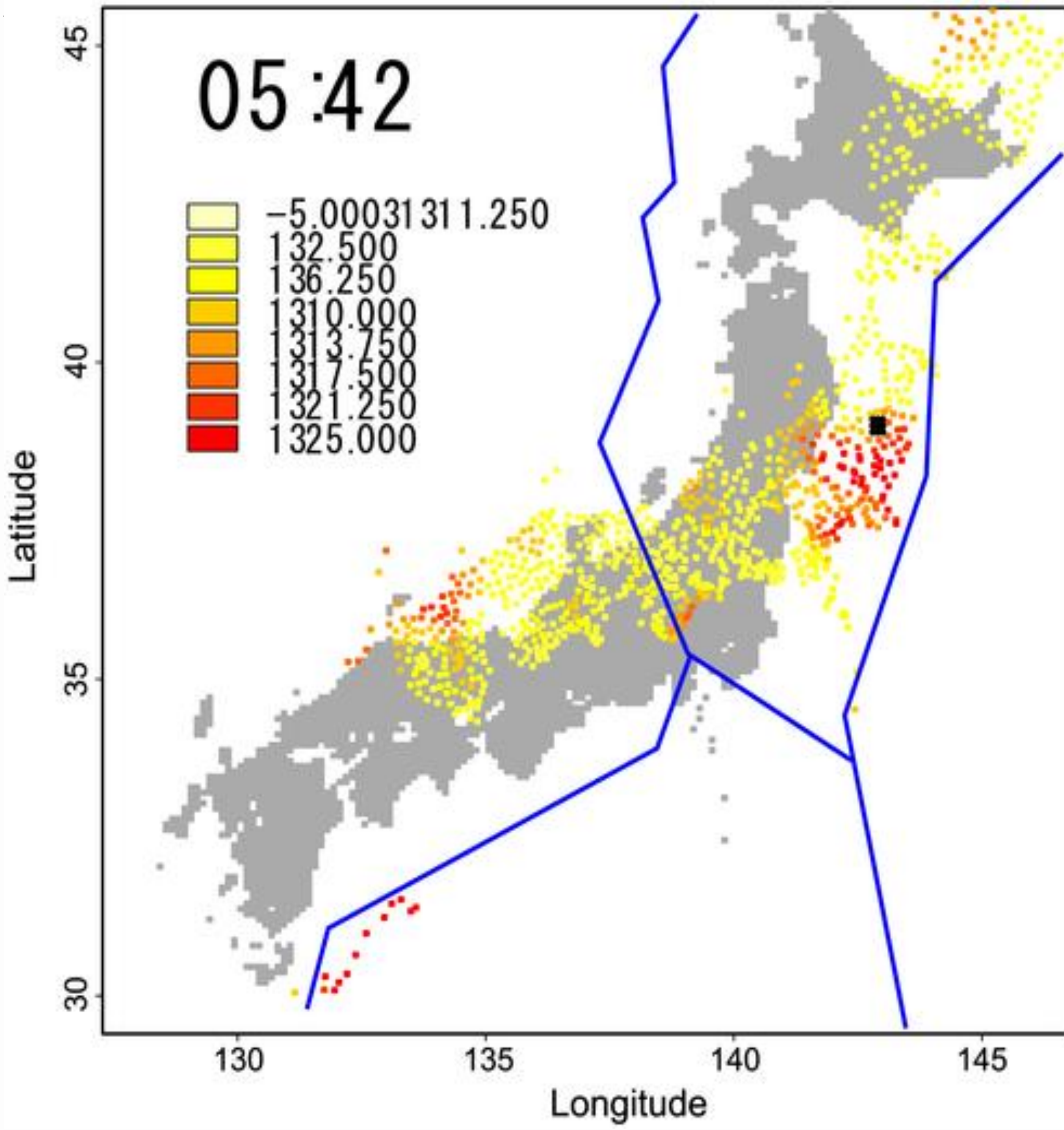
SECTION 5

# PROSPECTS

# Develop the **new way** to predict earthquakes

- Introduce **Deep Learning** to GNSS-TEC method
- Deep learning can learn what kind of anomalies is the sign of the earthquake in itself, so we **can distinguish the sign** from anomalies from the other causes more accurately.
- This idea leads to automatic prediction





# Correlation analysis

More developed GNSS-TEC method can remove noises and emphasize the sign of the earthquake, using large TEC data of observation stations around the considered station to calculate.

## There were no signs in Himeji

The anomaly I wondered if it was the sign of the earthquake in Himeji on 3.11 was likely to be a noise or a fluctuation from another causes.

“Correlation analysis for preseismic total electron content anomalies around the 2011 Tohoku-Oki earthquake” by Ken Umeno and Takuya Iwata, Reference 7



# References

1. The Video material about the damage & measures for Nankai Megathrust earthquake

[http://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/nankai/nankai\\_syuto.html](http://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/nankai/nankai_syuto.html)

Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

2. The List of long-term evaluation results of and subduction-zone earthquake faults published so far

<https://www.jishin.go.jp/main/choukihyoka/ichiran.pdf>

The Headquarters for Earthquake Research Promotion, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Government of Japan

Published on 2022/01/13

3. Working group to make Countermeasures for Nankai Megathrust Earthquake

[http://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/nankai/nankaitrough\\_info.html](http://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/nankai/nankaitrough_info.html)

Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

1<sup>st</sup> report: published on 2012/8/29

2<sup>nd</sup> report: published on 2013/3/18

4. Precise positioning theory and analysis with carrier-phase measurements

[http://gpspp.sakura.ne.jp/tutorial/html/gps\\_symposium\\_2005\\_1.htm](http://gpspp.sakura.ne.jp/tutorial/html/gps_symposium_2005_1.htm)

Tomoji Takasu

Published on 2005/6/13

5. Geophysics with GPS-TEC

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Kosuke Heki, Mamoru Sugawara, Masaru Ozeki & Ikuya Okazaki

Published on 2011/2/25

6. The Analysis of ionospheric anomalies the Megathrust earthquake and its mechanism to occur

Ken Umeno

Presented in IEEE Nagoya LMAG Symposium on 2019/8/31



# References

7. Correlation analysis for preseismic total electron content anomalies around the 2011 Tohoku–Oki earthquake

<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/2016JA023036>

Ken Umeno, Takuya Iwata

Published on 2016/8/22

Preseismic ionospheric anomalies detected before the 2016 Kumamoto earthquake

<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/2017JA023921>

Ken Umeno, Takuya Iwata

Published on 2017/2/24

Programs I used to convert gnss data (based on rinex format) to TEC Data

<http://www.ep.sci.hokudai.ac.jp/~heki/software.htm>

Kosuke Heki

Downloaded on 2021/10/30



THE FUTURE STARTS TODAY, NOT  
TOMORROW.



THANK YOU!  
ANY QUESTIONS?

Presented by Sota Kashiwagi (Leader's Number: 2711)

Used the template "pollux" designed by Jun Akizaki