

---

# Time-series Modeling, Analysis, Interface, and Insight from Entomological Electropenetrography

## Auburn-USDA

**Team:** Zachary Traul (TL-S),  
Devanshi Guglani,  
Milo Knell,  
Lillian Vernooy,  
Mehrezat Abbas (TL-F)

**Advisor:** Prof. Gabriel Hope

**Liaisons:** Dr. Elaine Backus (USDA),  
Dr. Anastasia Cooper (Auburn),  
Dr. Kathryn Reif (Auburn)





# Outline

- 01 Background
- 02 Project Goals
- 03 Accomplishments
- 04 Final Steps







Aphid



Sharpshooter



Mosquito





Pierce's Disease caused by Sharpshooters  
(University of California)





Aphid



Sharpshooter



Mosquito





We can't directly observe what the mouthparts are doing

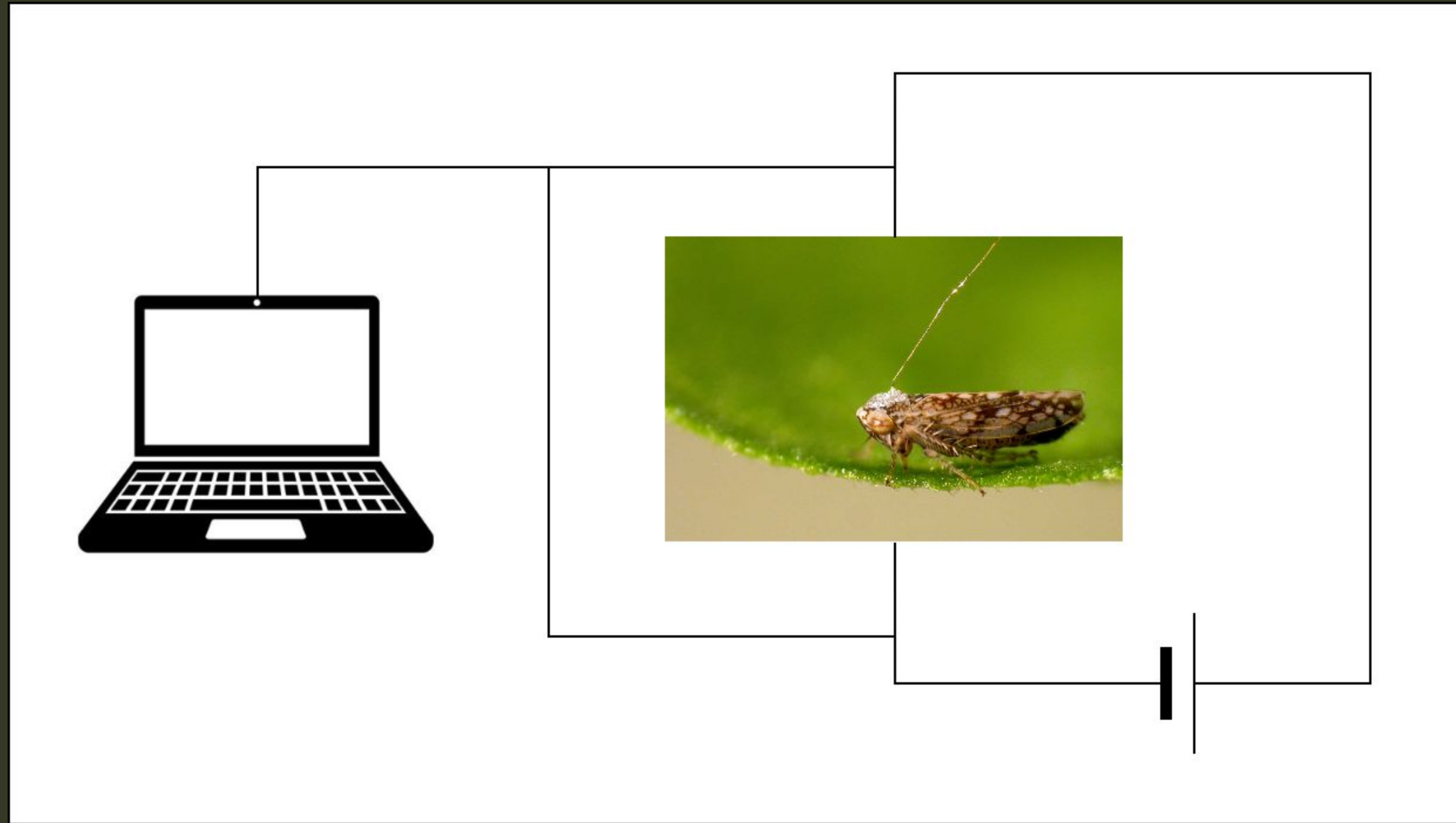
---

# Electropenetrography (EPG)



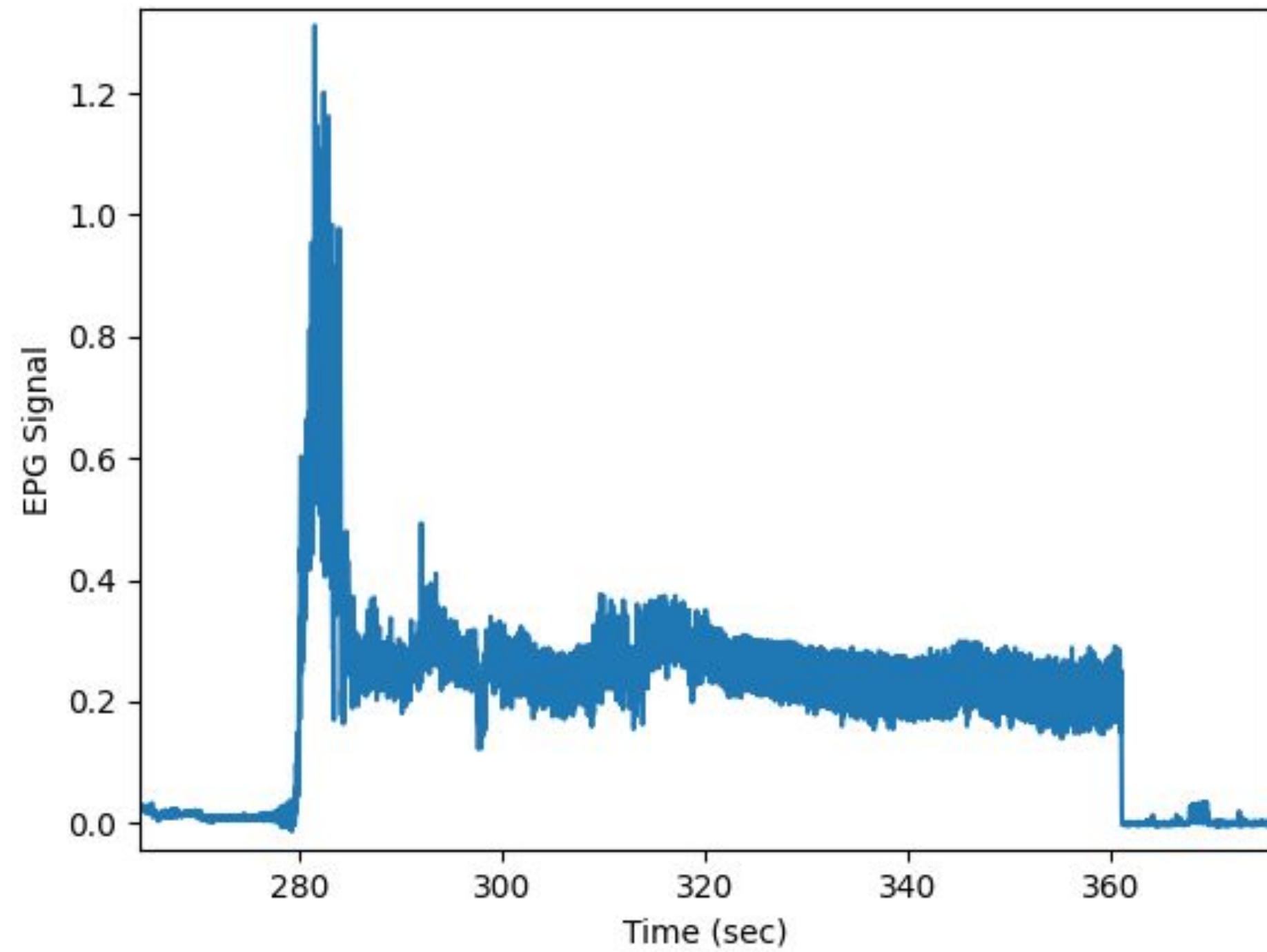


Leafhopper ready for EPG

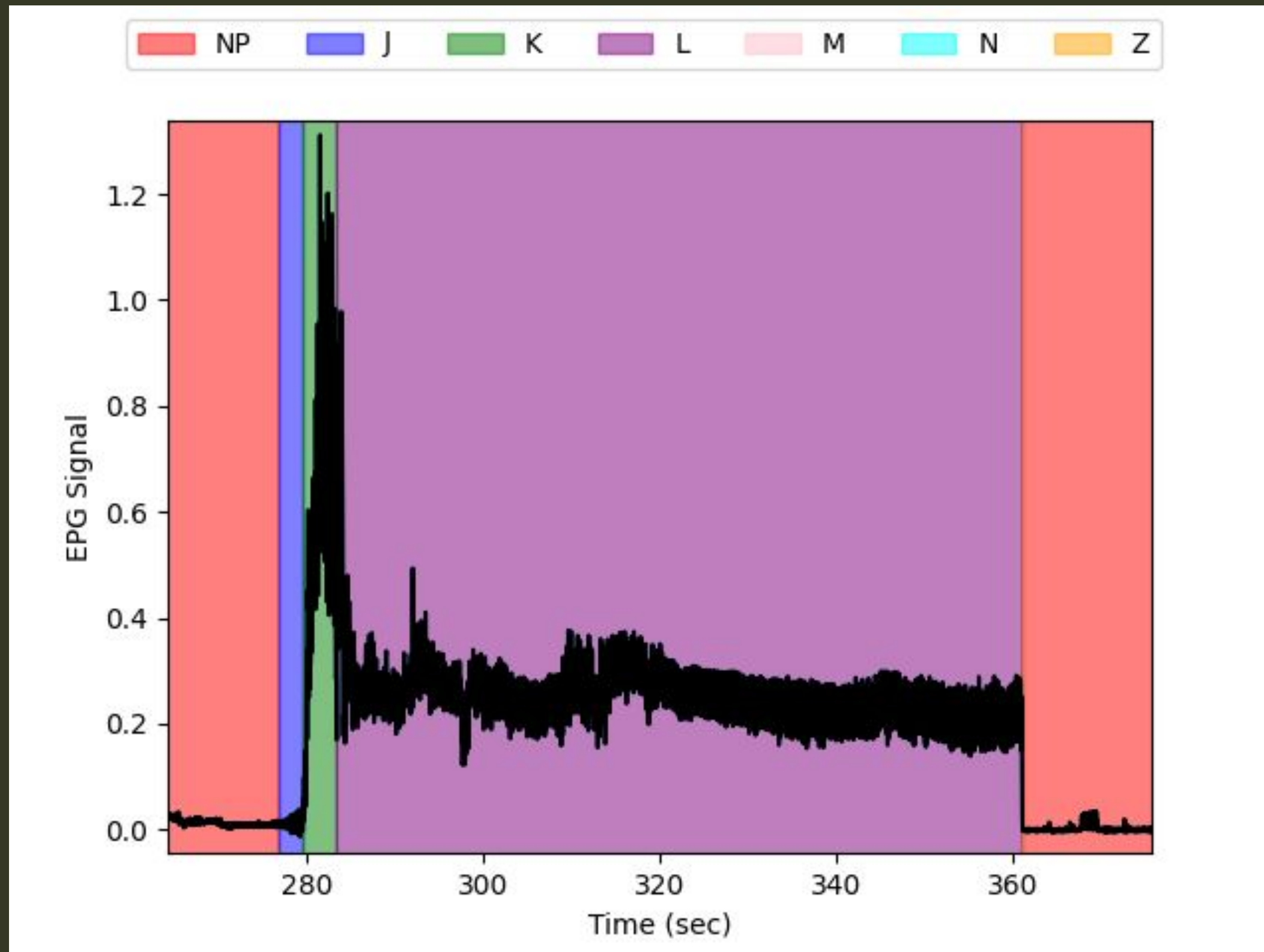


EPG Circuit



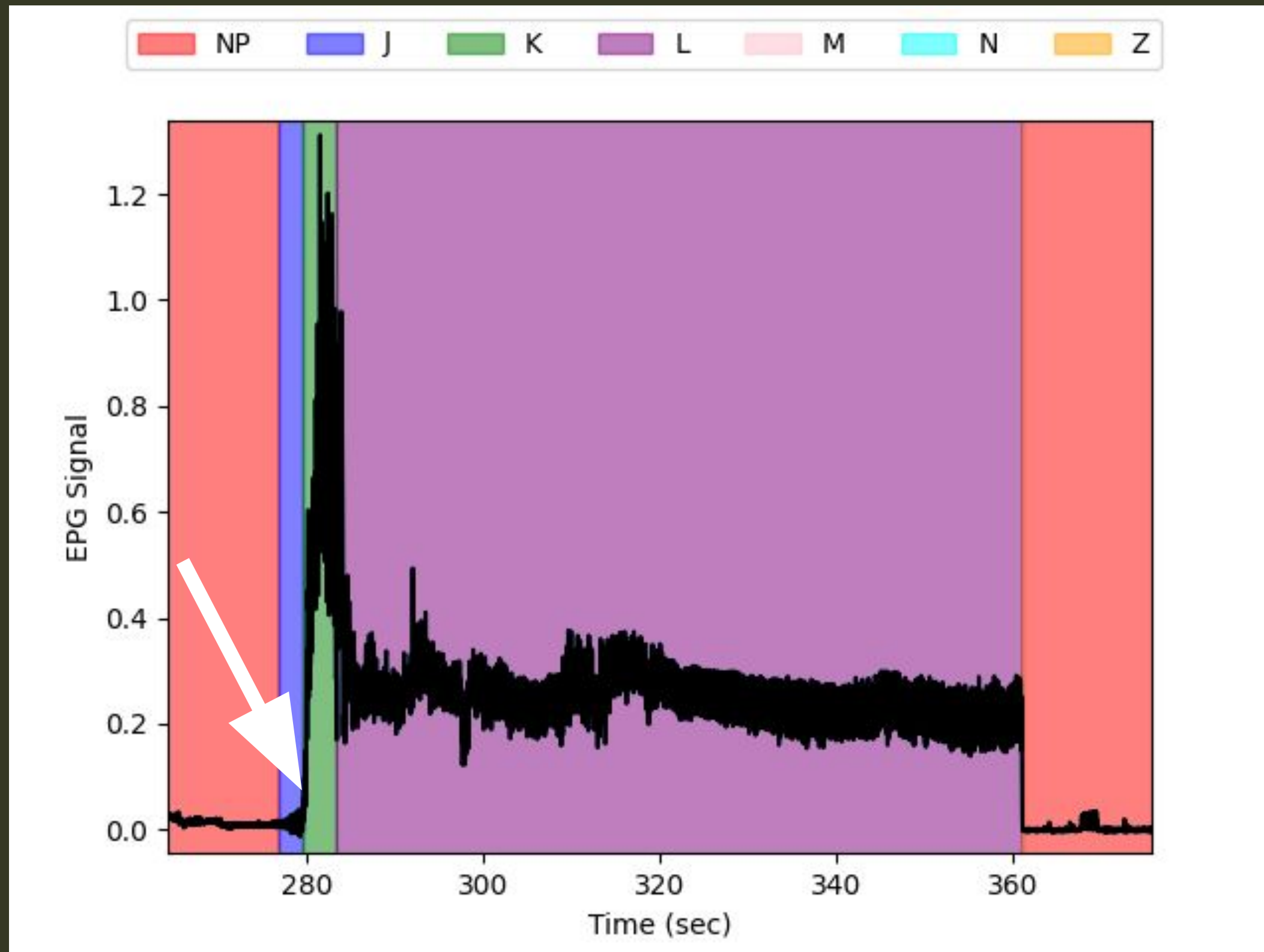


EPG Recording

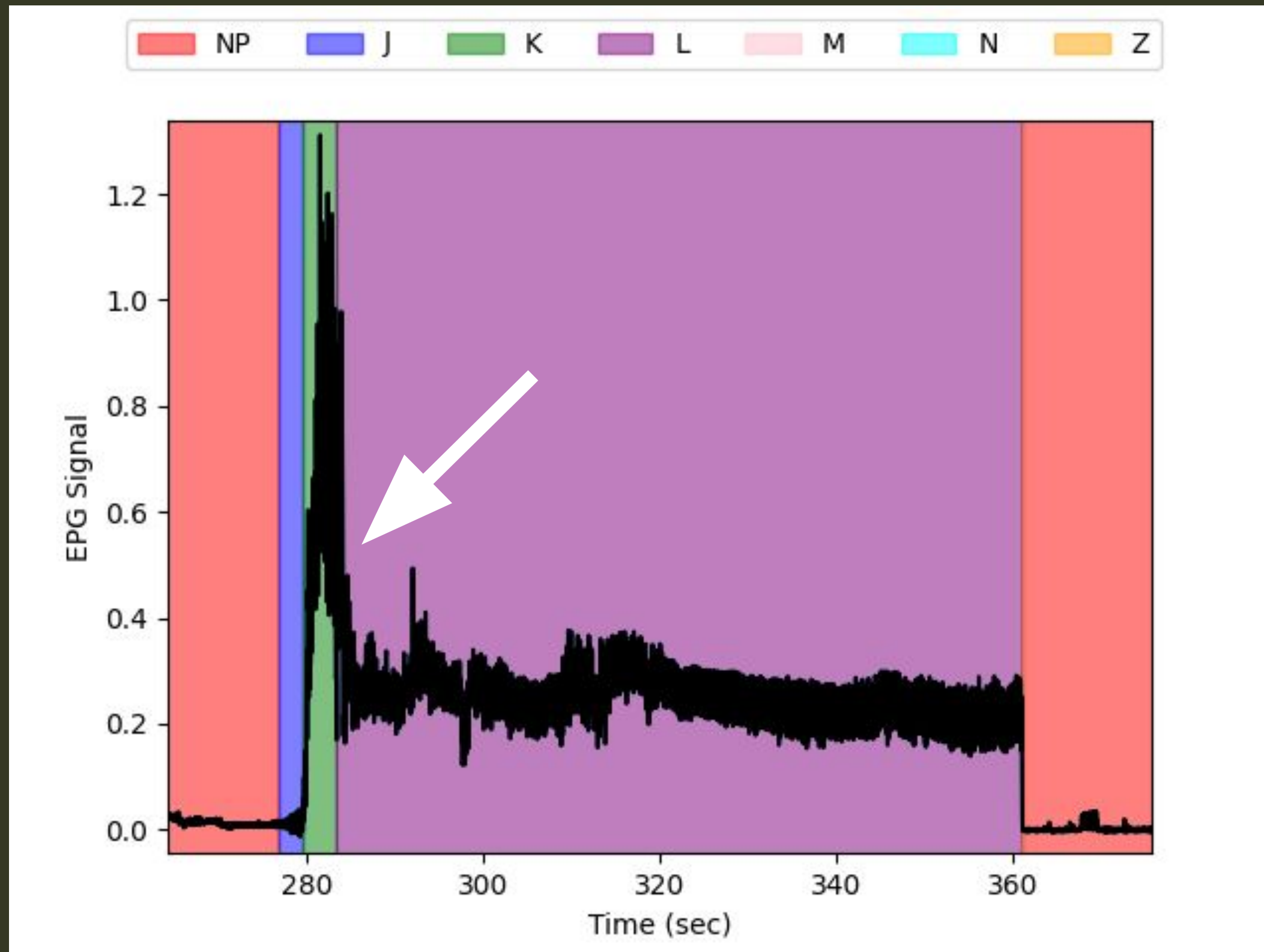


EPG Recording



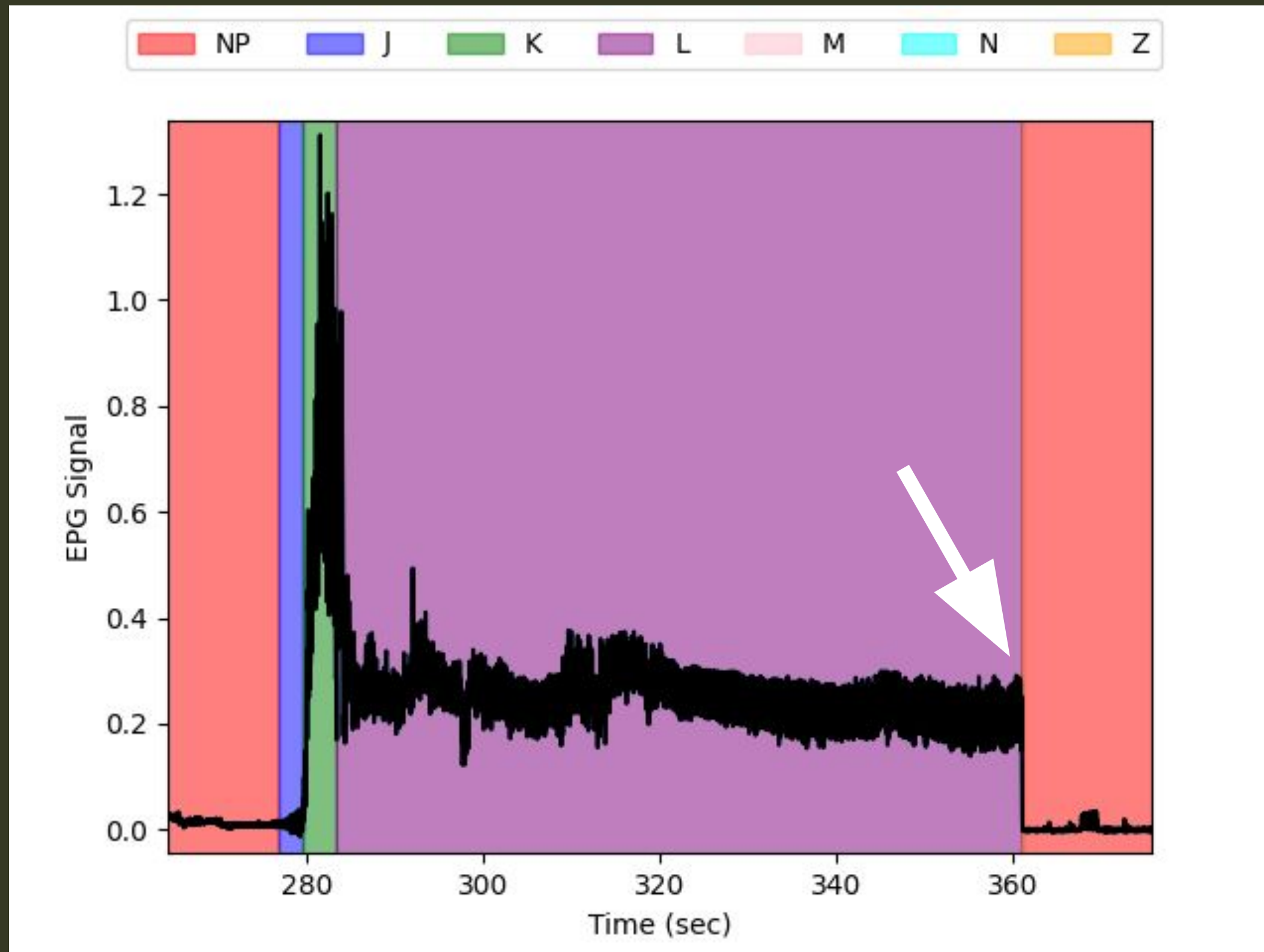


EPG Recording



EPG Recording





EPG Recording

---

Our task: Automate EPG labelling and make  
it accessible



---

# Deliverables

Train predictive ML  
model(s) for waveform  
recognition

Present it with a user  
interface

---

# Success Criteria

## Machine Learning Goals

- Accurately label EPG recordings
- Integrate seamlessly with GUI

## User Experience Goals

- Simple visualization of data
- User oversight of the automated labeling
- Tools for manual labeling

*Success = A model that is **intuitive** for scientists*

---

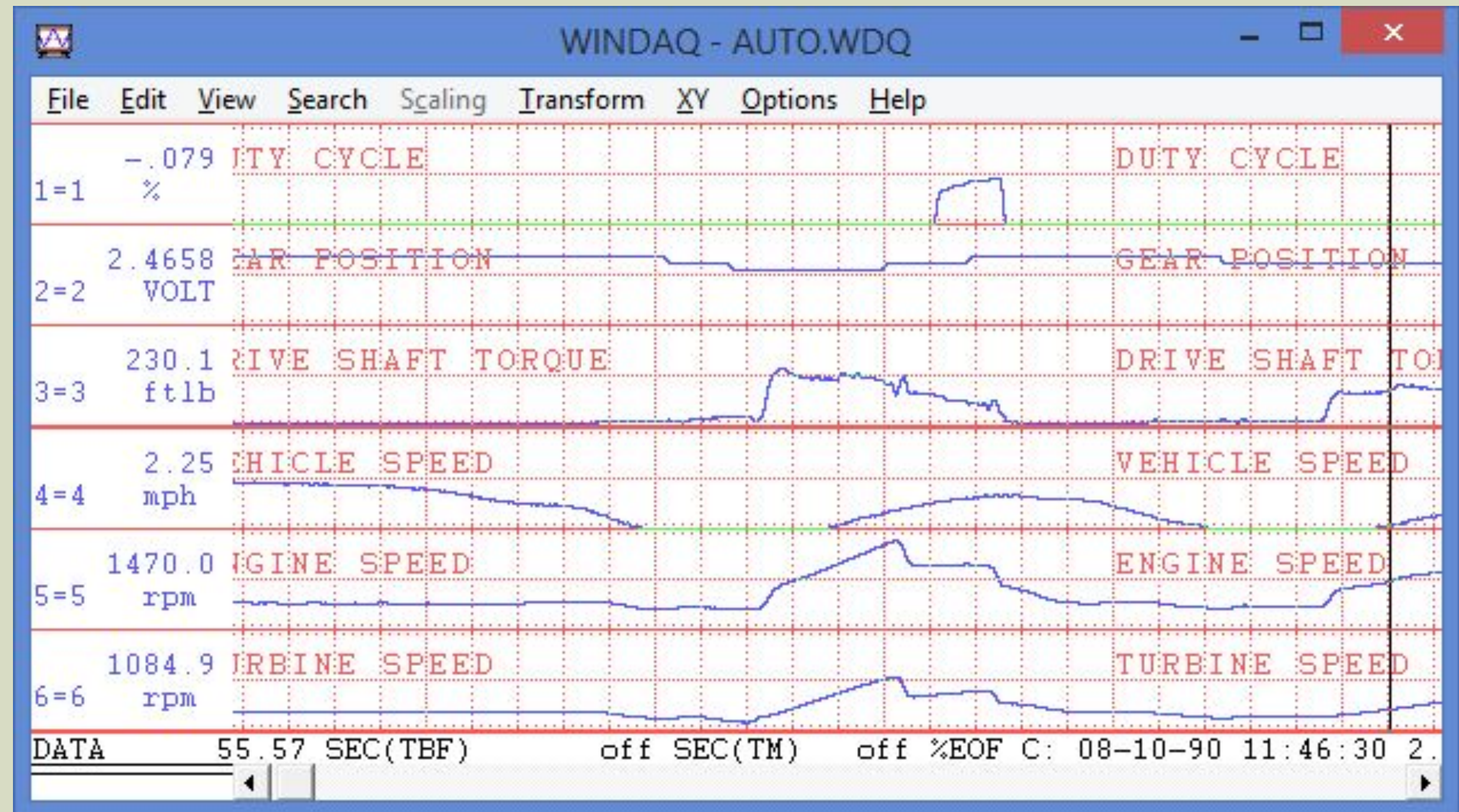
# Why ML?

- Labeling is tedious for humans
  - Not deterministic - no single algorithm
  - Makes it perfect for a ML model!
- 
- Automated recognition
  - Removes human error



# Why do they need a GUI?

- Windaq is inefficient and cumbersome
- Doesn't work with ML



# GUI

## **Visualization (data-to-user)**

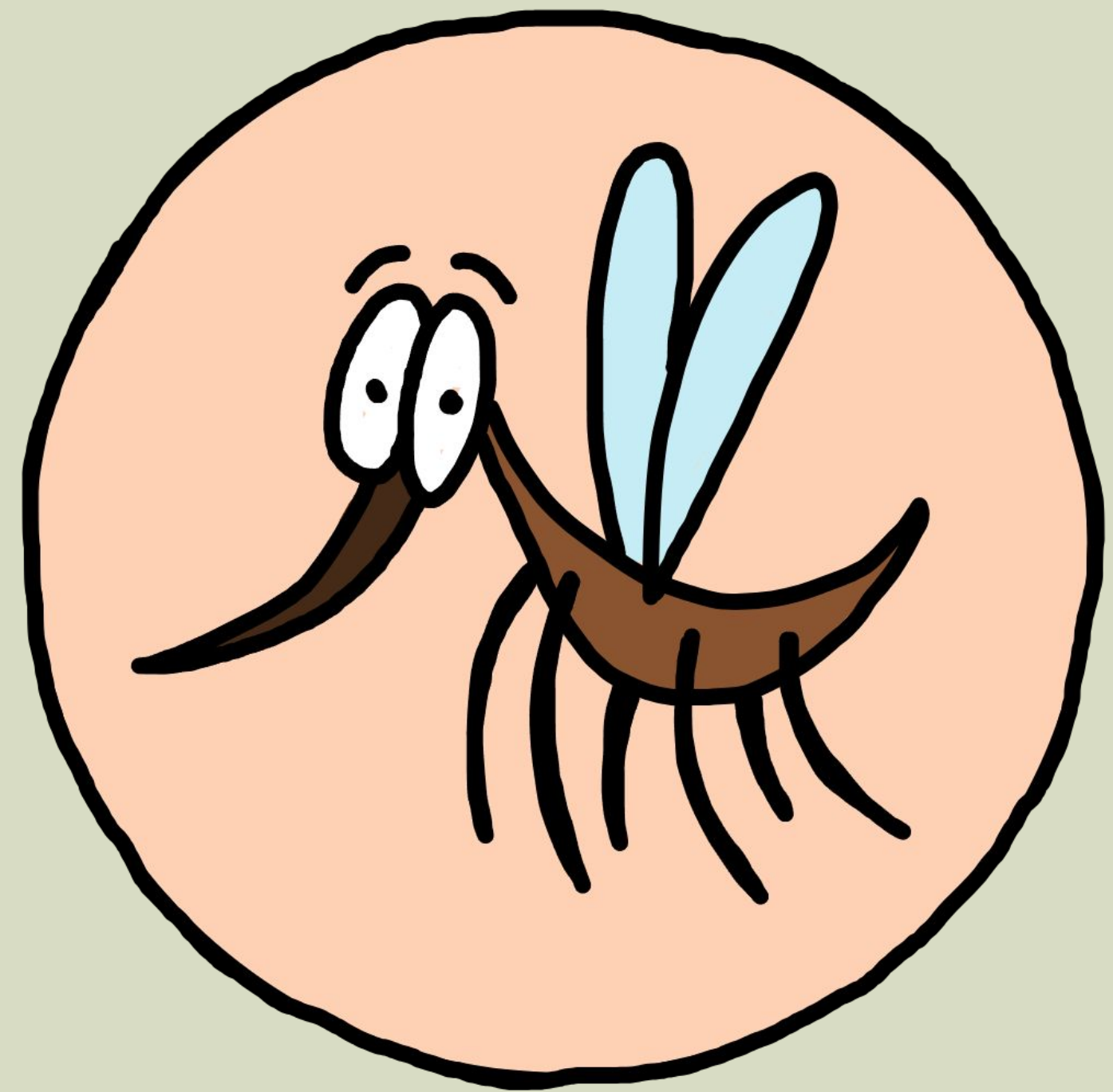
- . Labeled EPG data in time series
- . Color-coded regions highlighted
- . Overall modernized experience compared to Windaq

## **Characterization (user-to-data)**

- . Apply the ML model to data
- . Adjust, delete, modify labels
- . Characterization without alterations to dataset

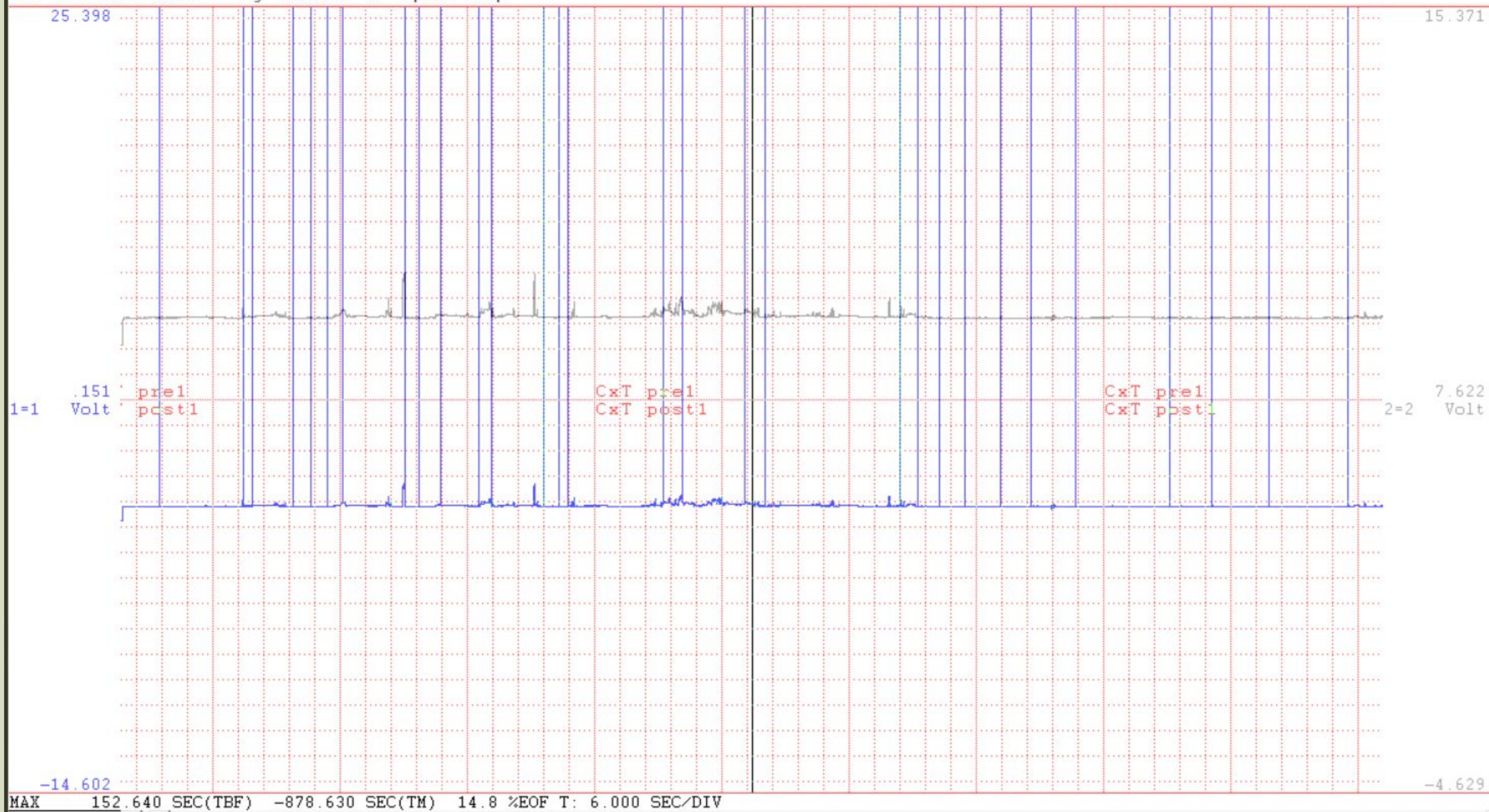
# The Software

Supervised  
Classification of  
Insect  
Data and  
Outcomes



SCIDO



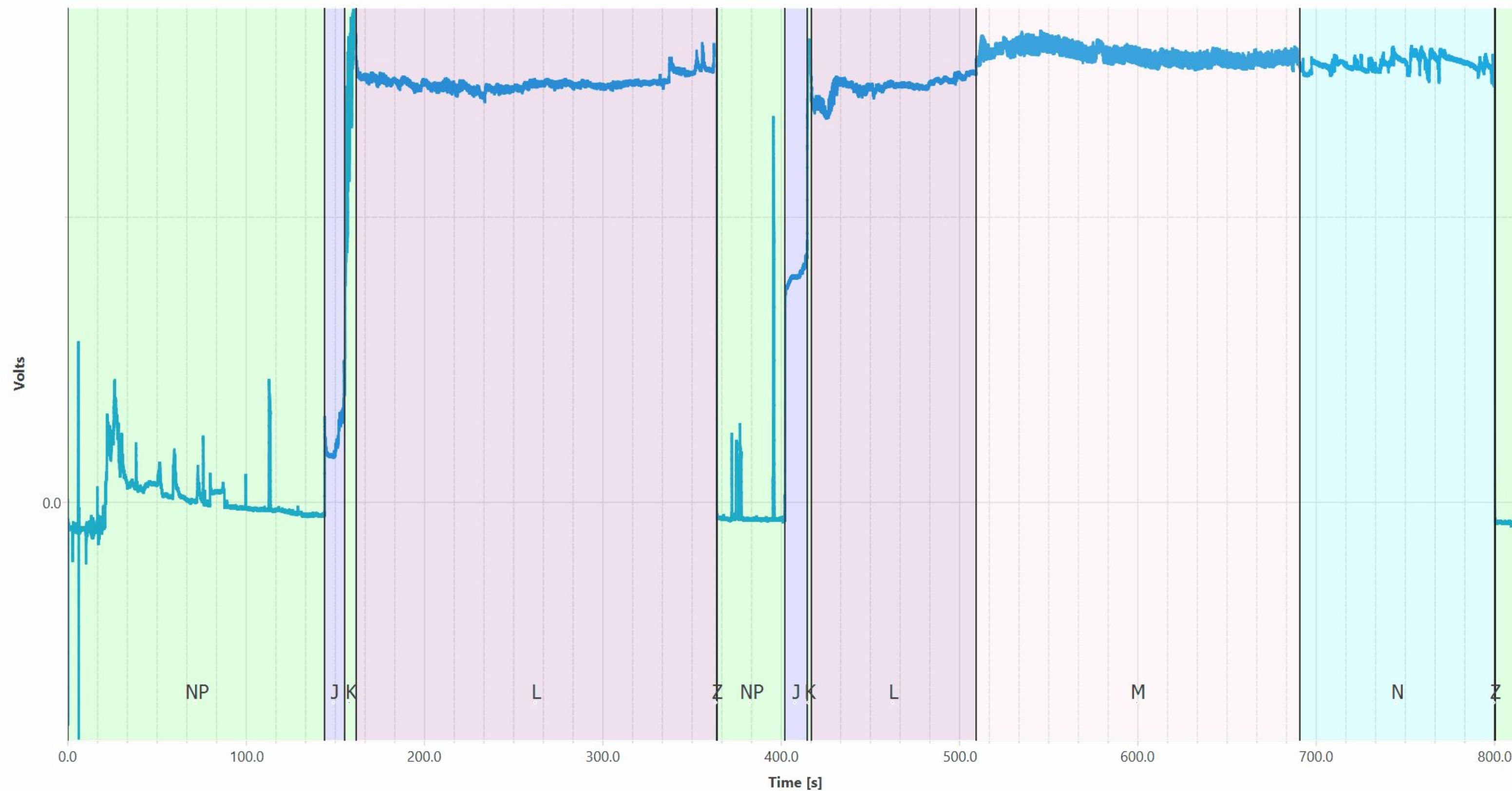




Settings

Select Model

SCITO Waveform Editor



Open Data

Start Probe Splitter

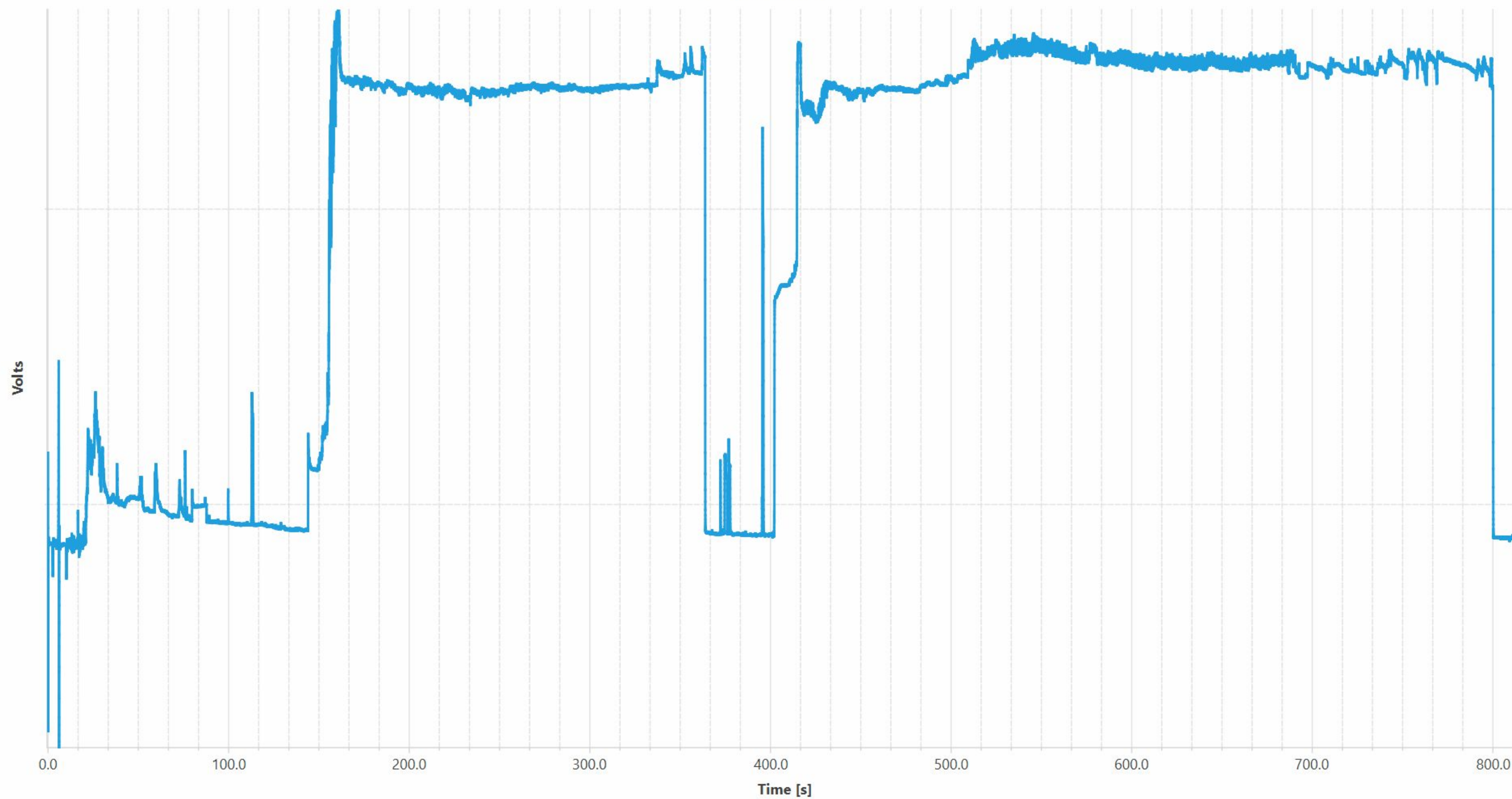
Start Automated Labeling

Save Labeled Data

Settings

Select Model

SCITO Waveform Editor



Open Data

Start Probe Splitter

Start Automated Labeling

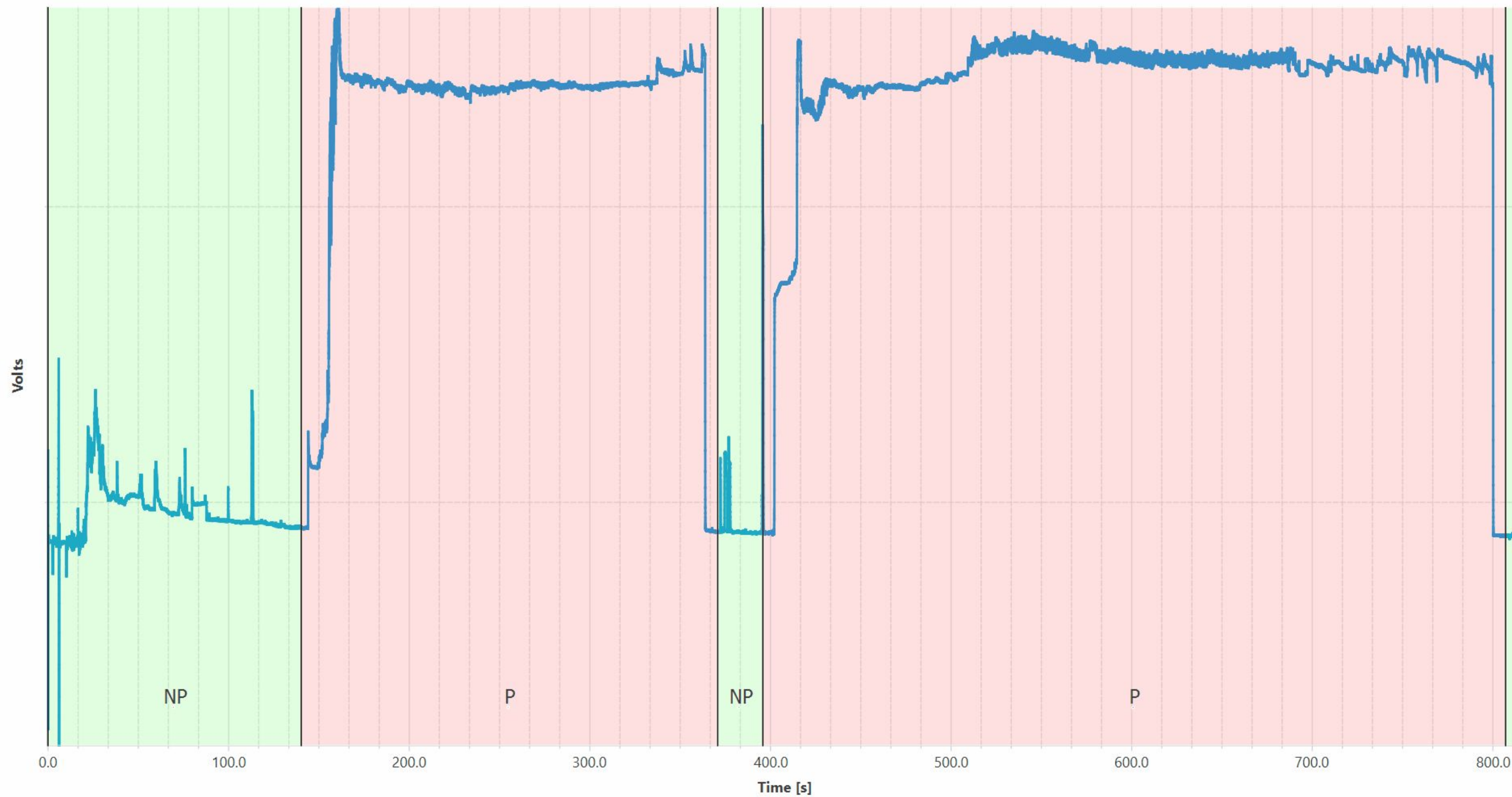
Save Labeled Data



Settings

Select Model

SCITO Waveform Editor



Open Data

Start Probe Splitter

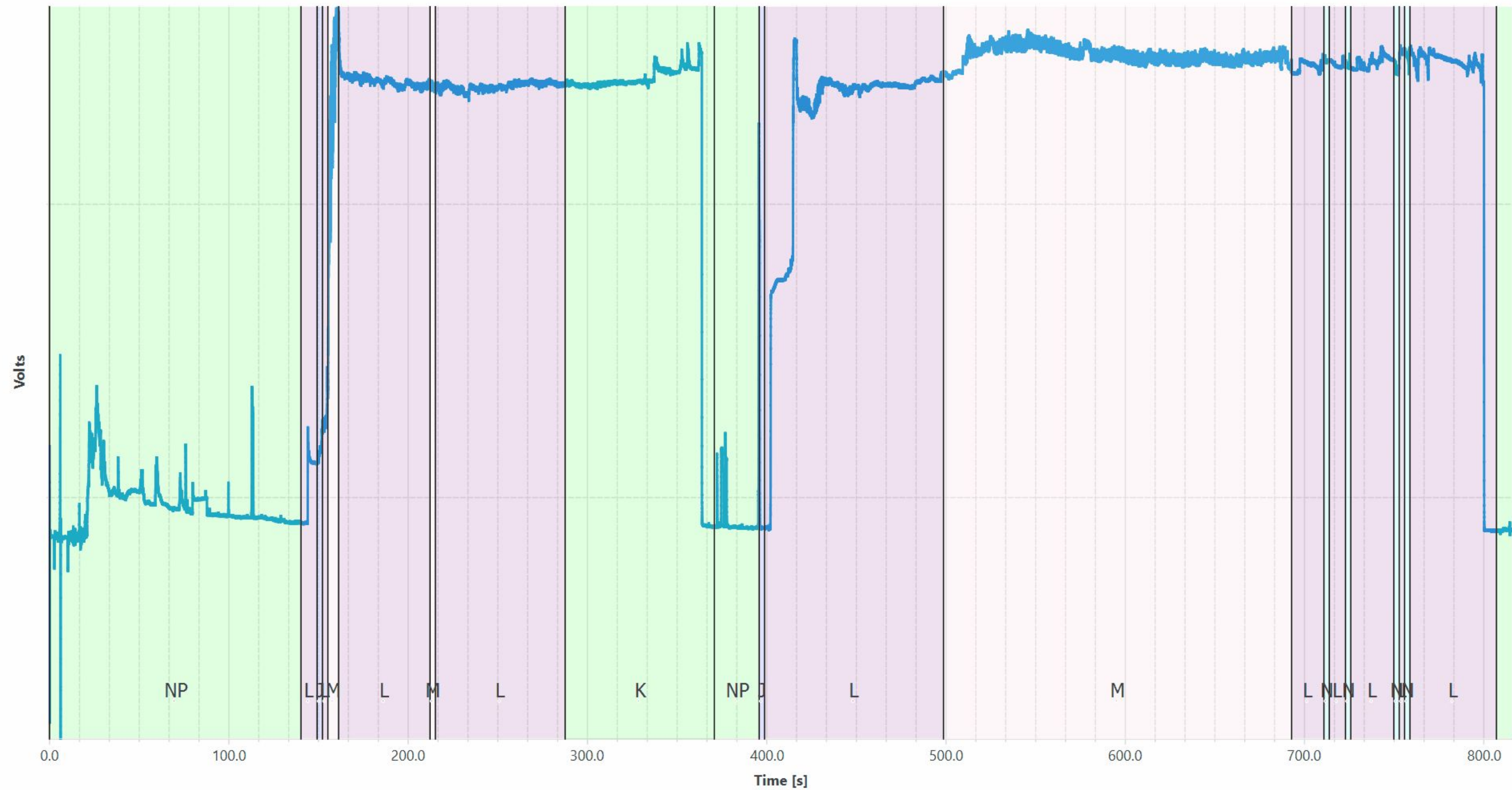
Start Automated Labeling

Save Labeled Data

Settings

Select Model

SCITO Waveform Editor



Open Data

Start Probe Splitter

Start Automated Labeling

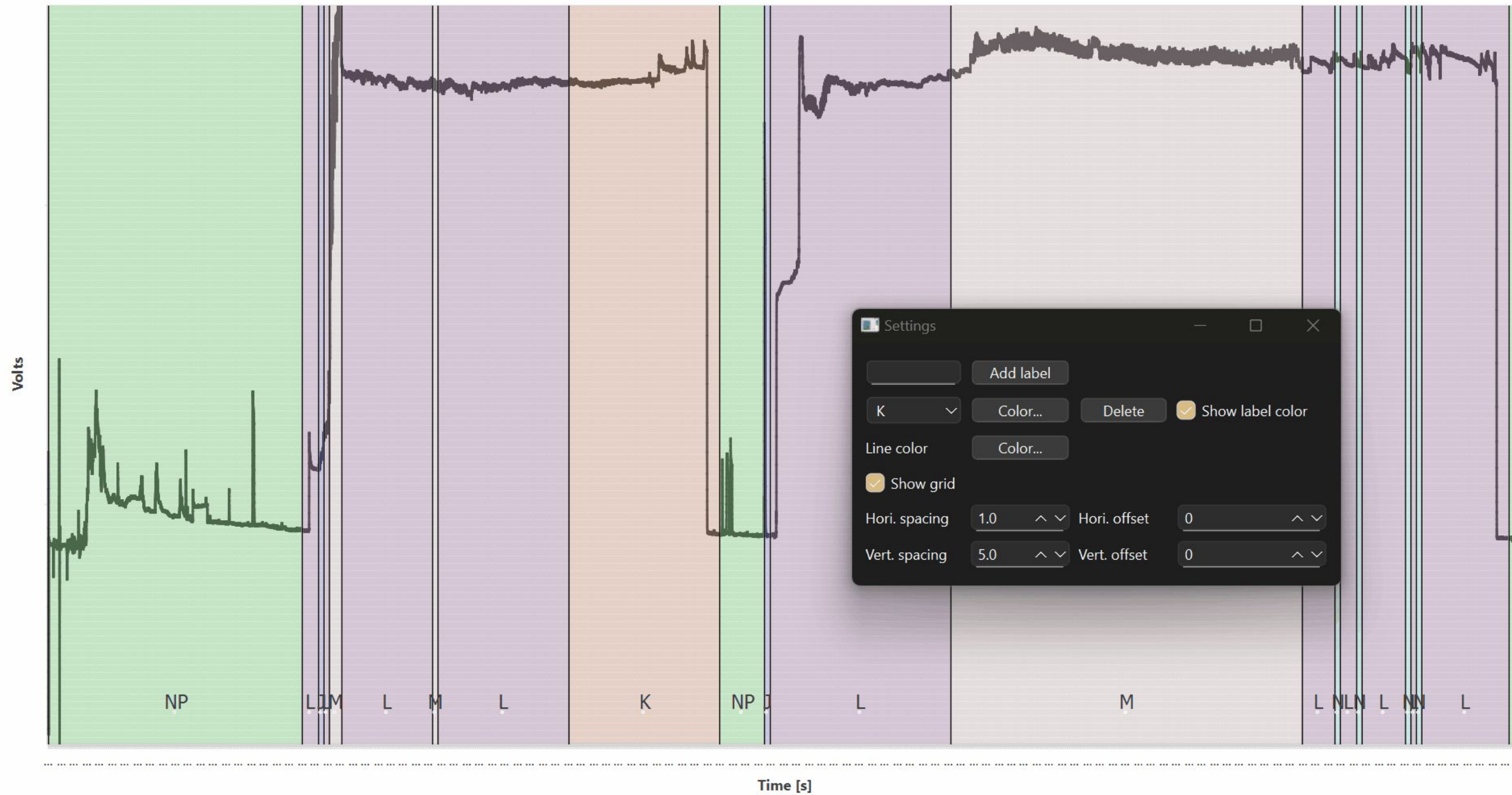
Save Labeled Data



Settings

Select Model

## SCITO Waveform Editor



Open Data

Start Probe Splitter

Start Automated Labeling

Save Labeled Data

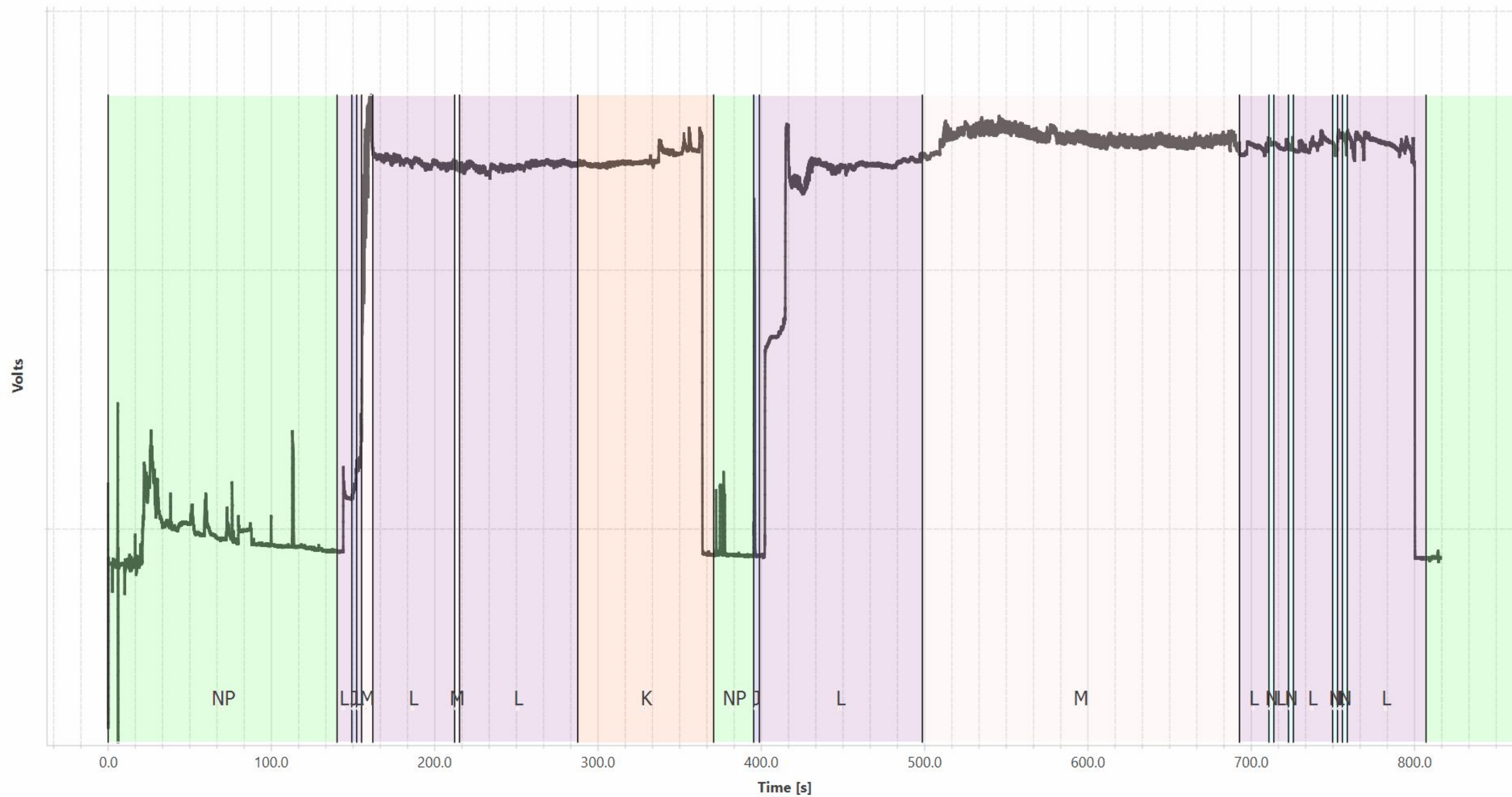
Record



Settings

Select Model

SCITO Waveform Editor



Open Data

Start Probe Splitter

Start Automated Labeling

Save Labeled Data

---

# The Data

- 62 files
- 94 probes
- about 11 hours of data

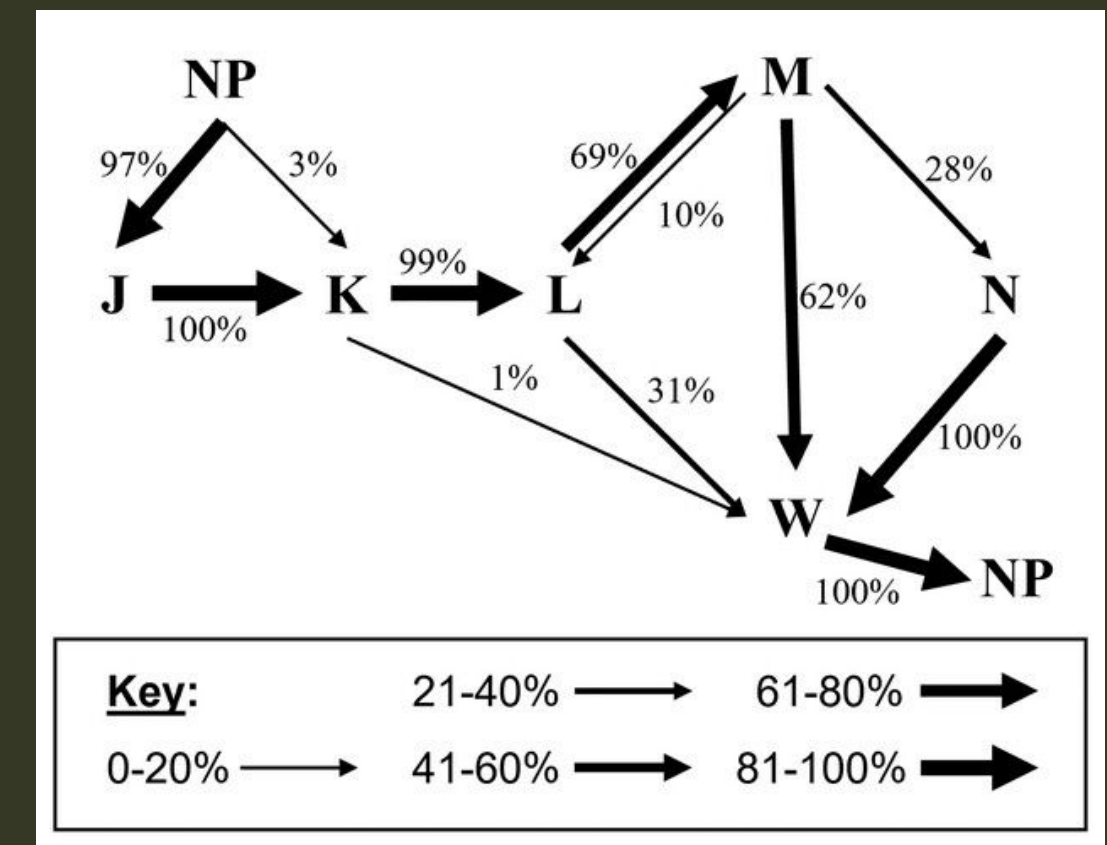
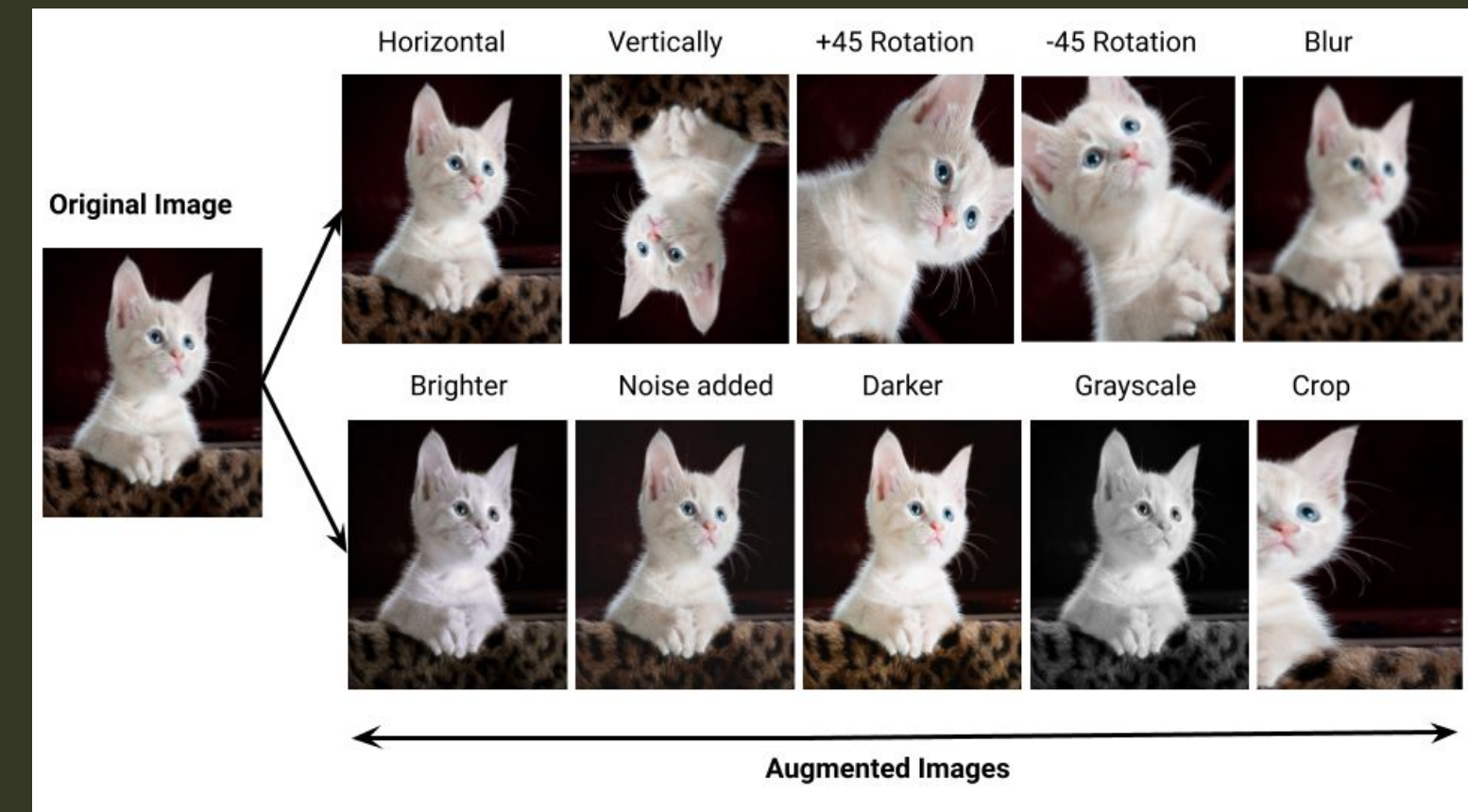
## Imbalanced data

Feeding Stage: Hours of Data

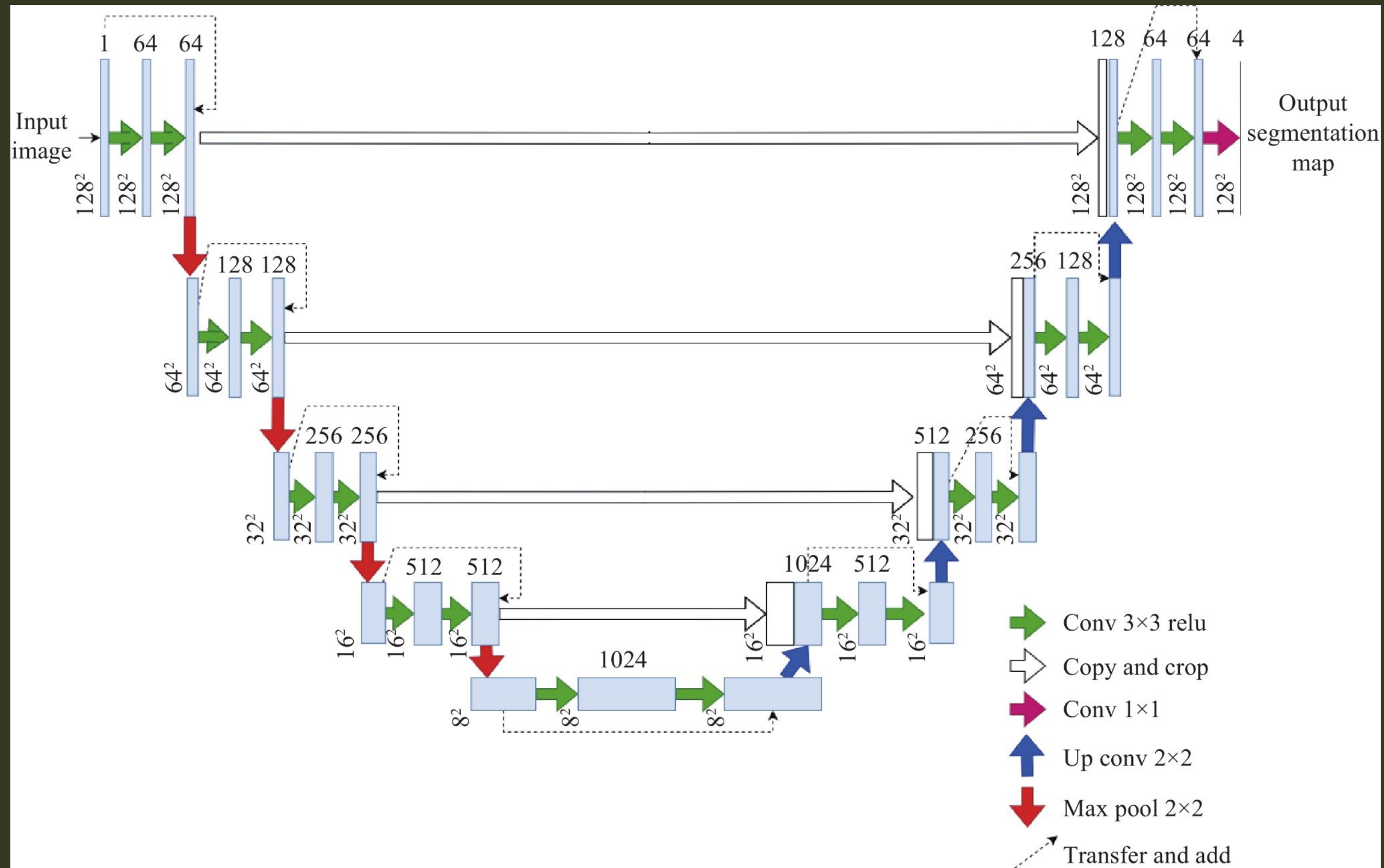
'J': 0.2,  
'K': 0.1,  
'L': 4.8,  
'M': 5.1,  
'N': 0.7,  
'W': 0.01

# Data Augmentation

- Follow “rules” of the data generating process



# The Main Model: UNet





---

# The Main Model: UNet

## Pros:

- Good at segmentation
- Large receptive field
- Highly expressive

## Cons:

- Prone to overfitting

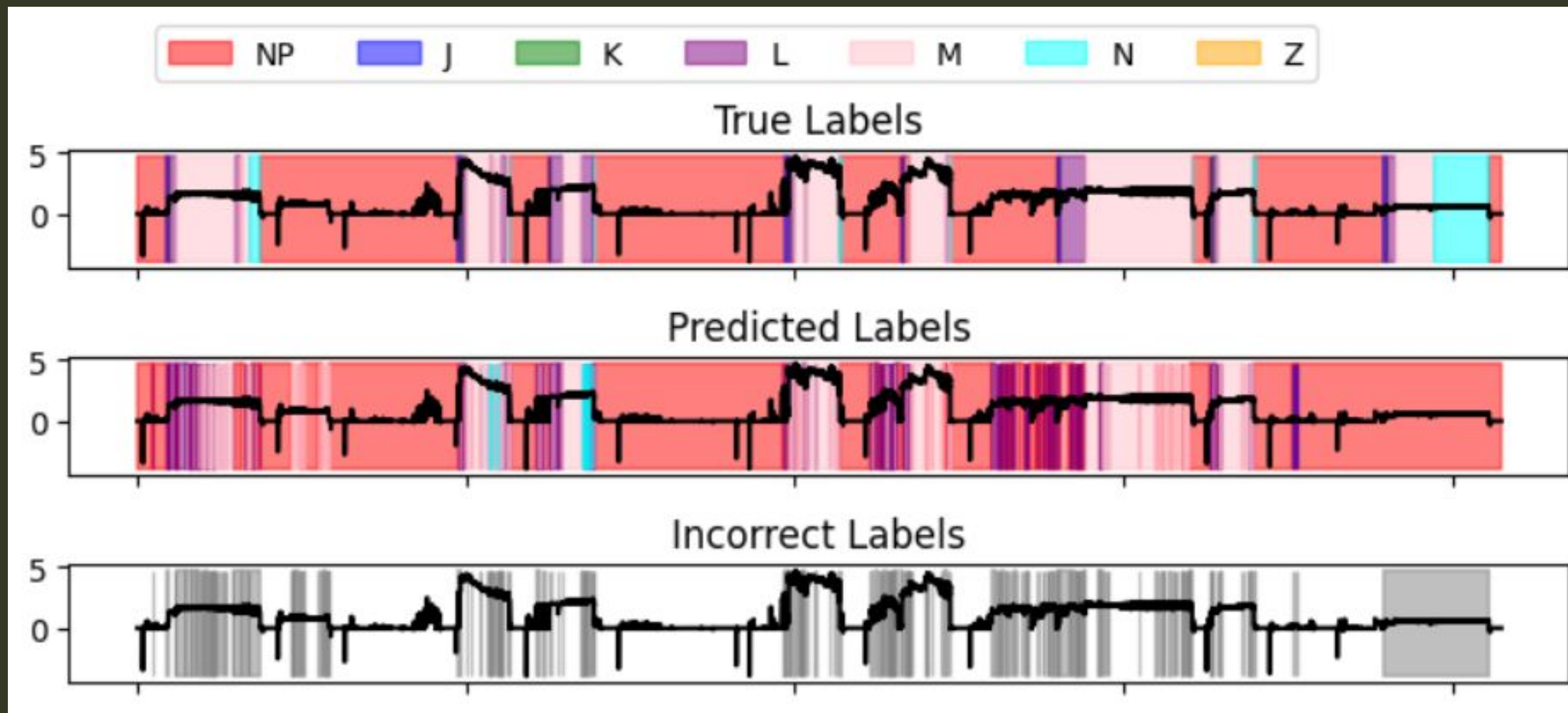
---

# The Main Model: UNet

Accuracy: ~75%

state	precision	recall	fscore
J	0.77	0.94	0.84
K	0.17	0.28	0.21
L	0.65	0.98	0.78
M	0.98	0.79	0.88
N	0.01	0.00	0.00
W	0.00	0.00	0.00

# The Main Model: UNet



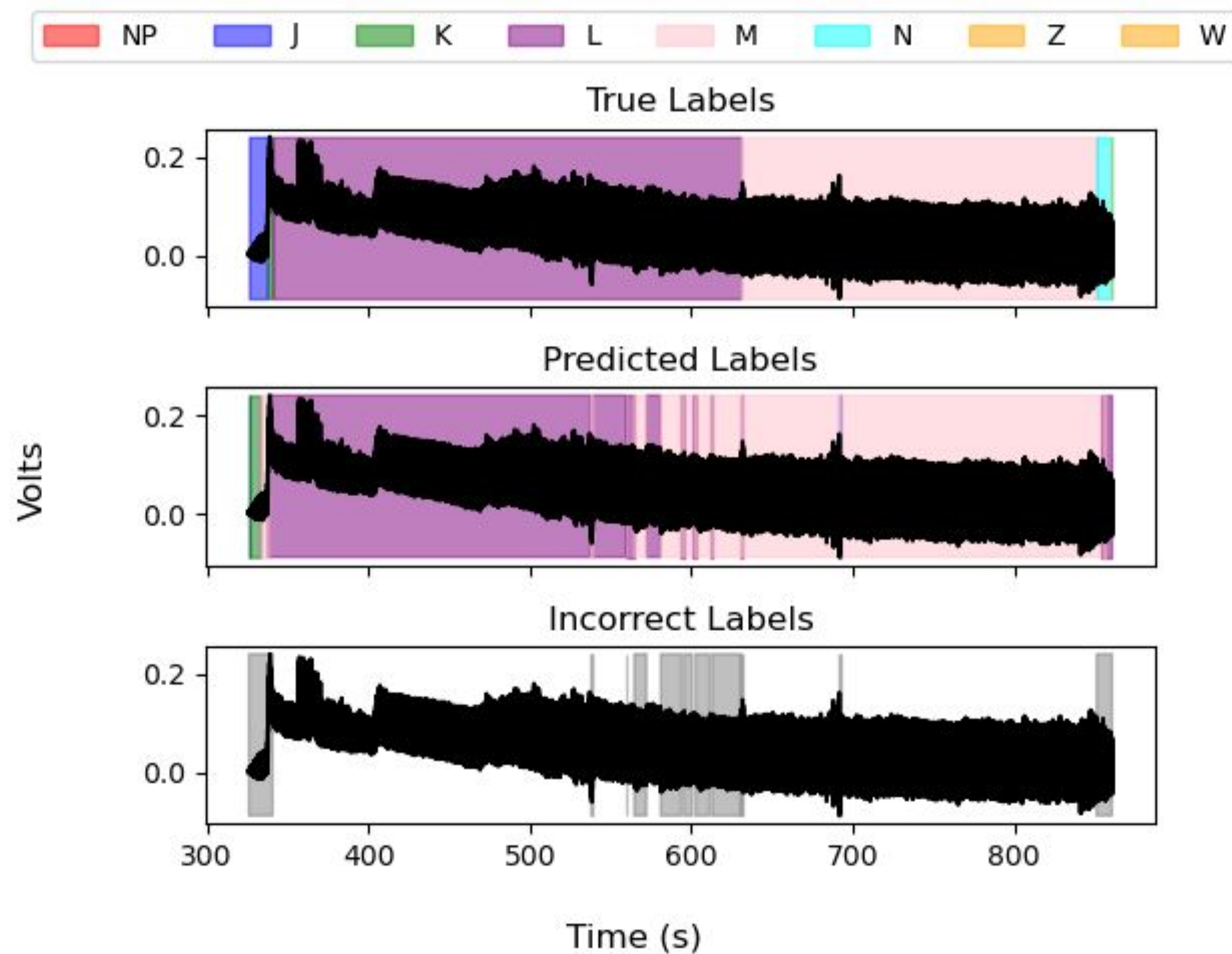
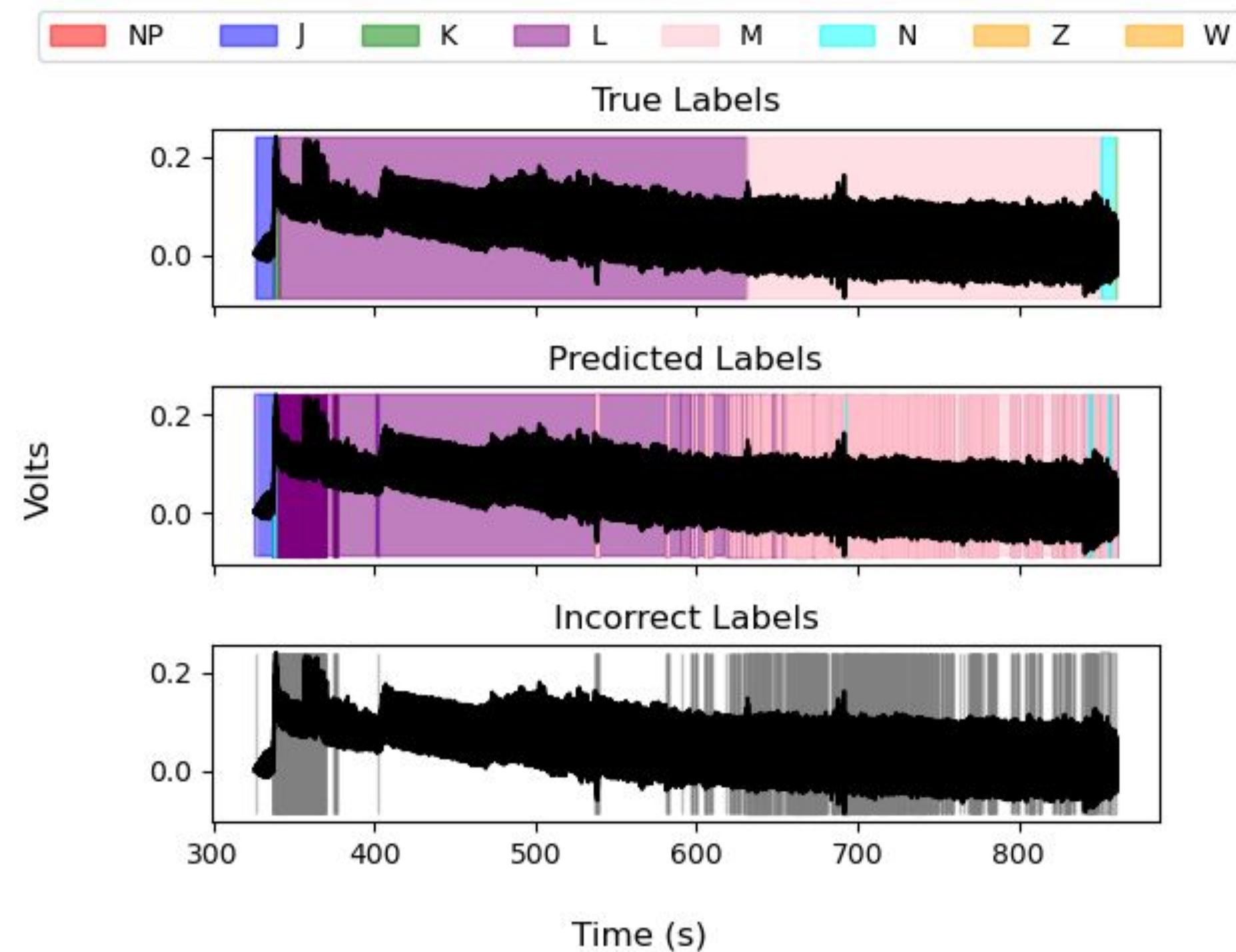


---

# Post Processing

- Problem: “Barcodes”
- Solutions
  - Smoothing filter
  - Barcode cutter
  - HMM
  - HSMM

# Example: HMM Postprocessor



---

# Limitations

- Liaisons are experts in entomology but lack computer science experience
- Model output is never perfect, usually needs some manual adjustment
- Important to convey system limitations
  - Potential for negative impact on science if output is blindly trusted



---

# Final steps

- GUI
  - Have list of features to implement from site visit feedback (mostly plot interaction)
- Machine Learning
  - Final optimizations (tuning hyperparameters)
  - Model descriptions and performance summary for use in liaison's paper
- Refactoring to improve code cleanliness
- Documentation for users and developers (important for summer research students)



# Thank you!

Questions/comments/suggestions?

We'd love to touch on ML models we've tried or next steps!

## **Acknowledgements**

USDA (58-2034-3-445)

USDA (58-3022-4-034)

NSF (DBI - 2304787)