

# AUTOMATED BUILDING ENERGY CONSUMPTION ESTIMATION FROM AERIAL IMAGERY

A BASS CONNECTIONS IN ENERGY PROJECT TEAM





# Team Members 2016-17

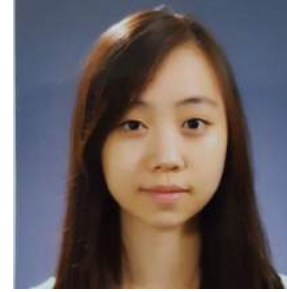
## Student Researchers



Mitchell Kim  
Pratt '18



Sebastian Lin  
Trinity '18



Sophia Park  
Pratt '17



Eric Peshkin  
Trinity '18



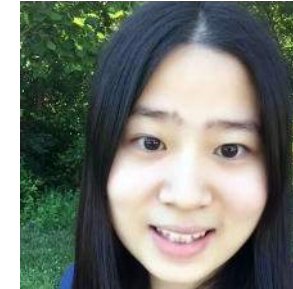
Samit Sura  
Economics '17



Nikhil Vanderklaauw  
Pratt '18



Hoël Wiesner  
Nicholas '17



Yue Xi  
Trinity '19

## Faculty Advisors



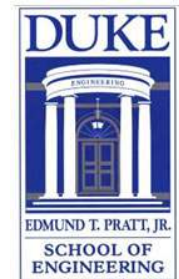
Dr. Timothy Johnson  
Nicholas School



Dr. Kyle Bradbury  
Energy Initiative



Dr. Leslie Collins  
Pratt School





# AUTOMATED BUILDING ENERGY CONSUMPTION ESTIMATION FROM AERIAL IMAGERY

A BASS CONNECTIONS IN ENERGY PROJECT TEAM







What can an image  
tell us about our  
energy consumption?





**Commercial and  
Industrial Activitiy**





Transportation





**Buildings**



Governments and  
policy makers





Governments and  
policy makers



Businesses and  
NGOs





Governments and  
policy makers



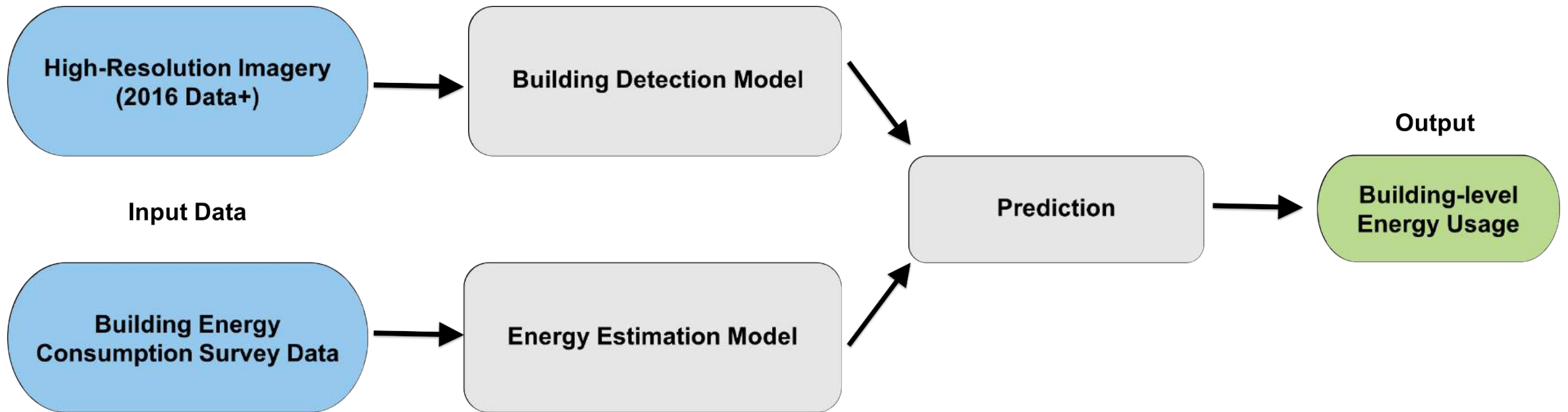
Businesses and  
NGOs



Researchers



## Our Process



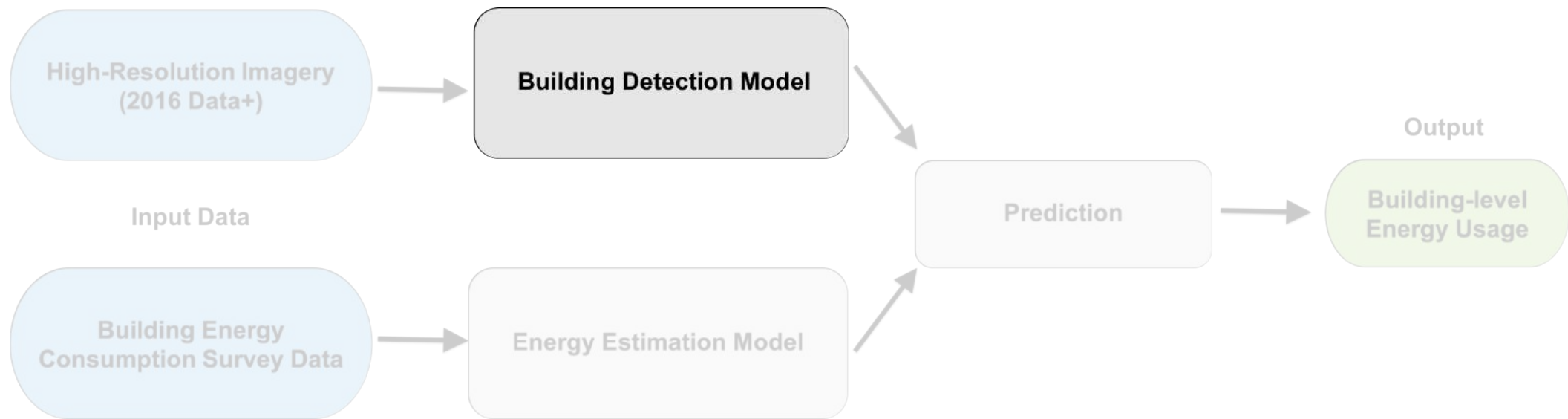




From a high resolution aerial image...

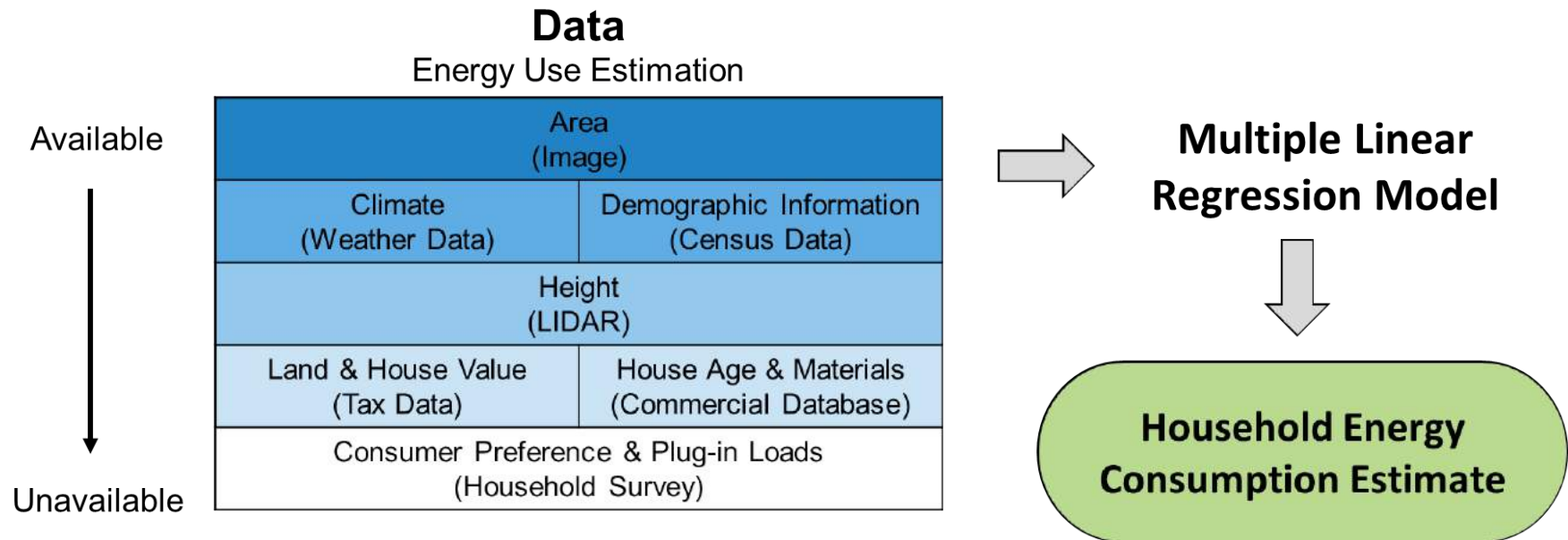
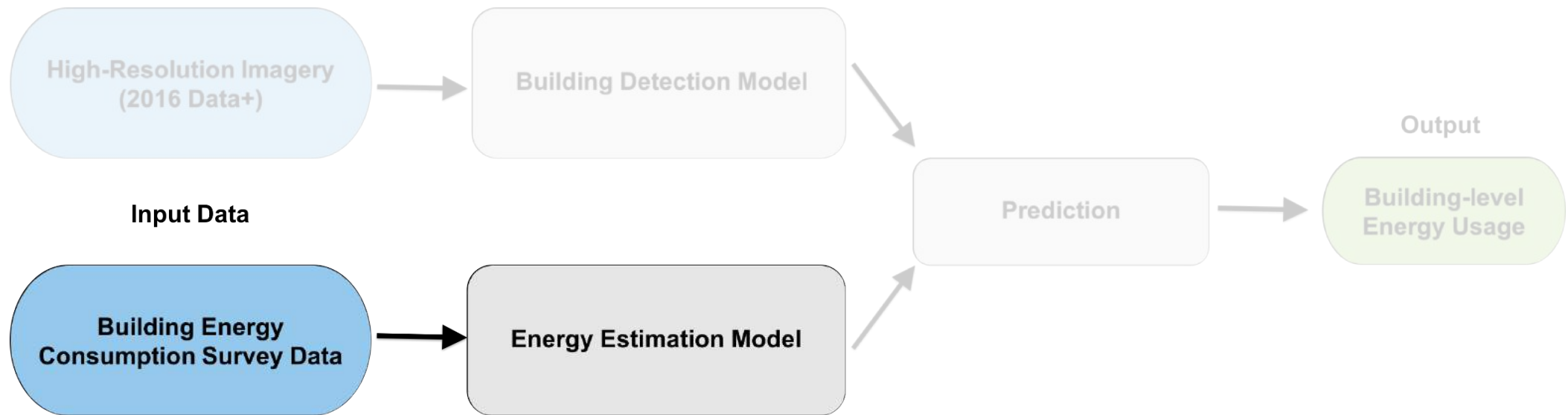




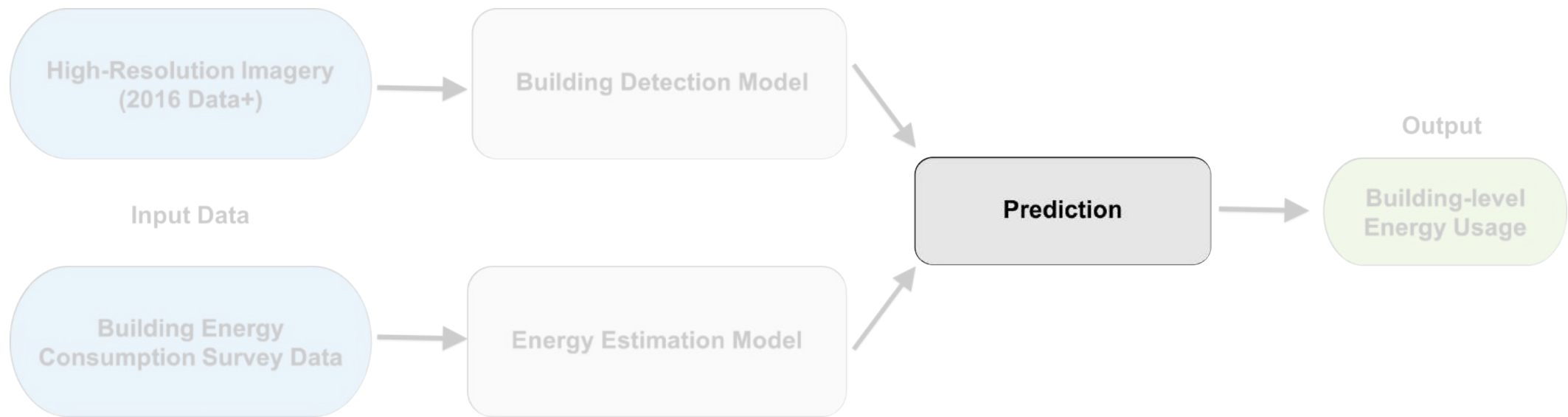


Detect building outlines and calculate their area





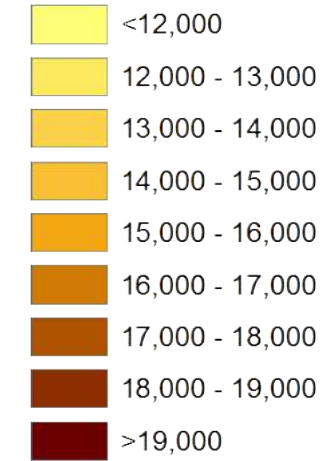


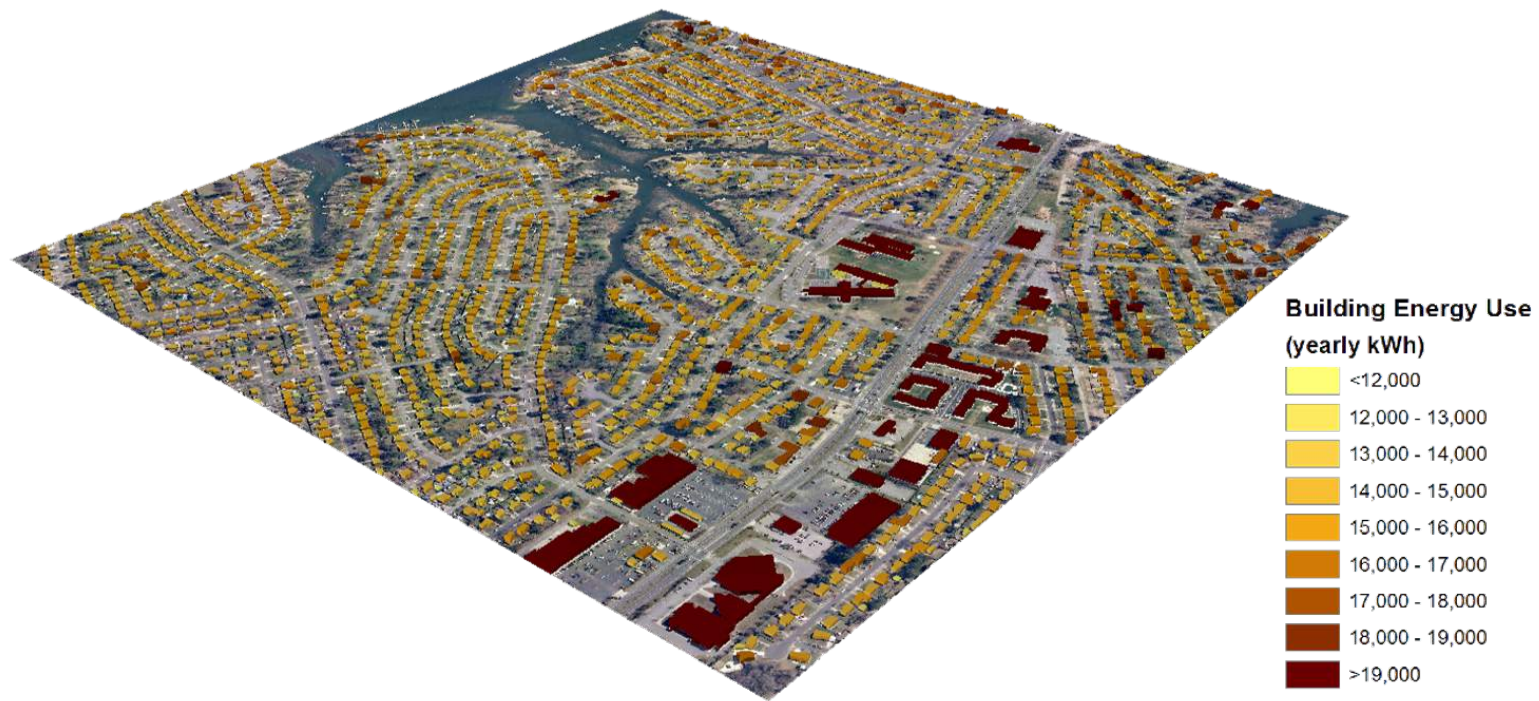


Use area of detected buildings for energy use estimation

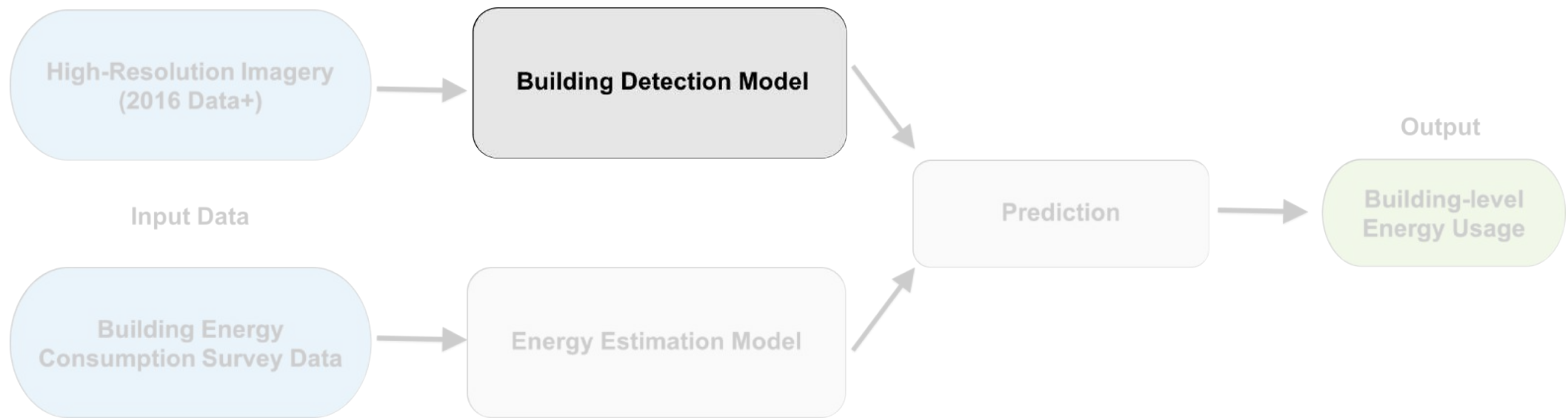


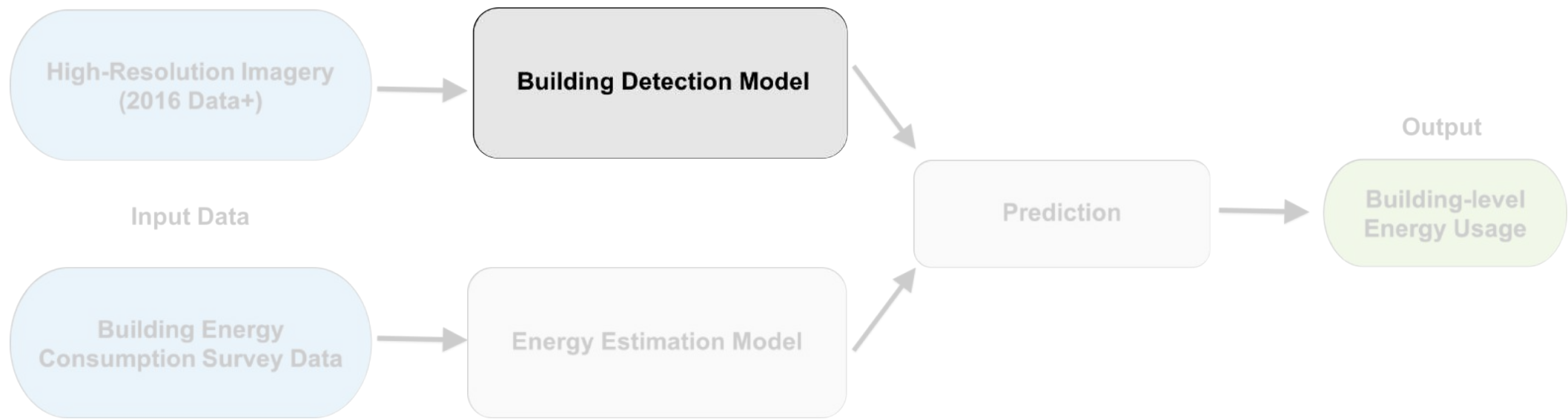
**Building Energy Use (yearly kWh)**







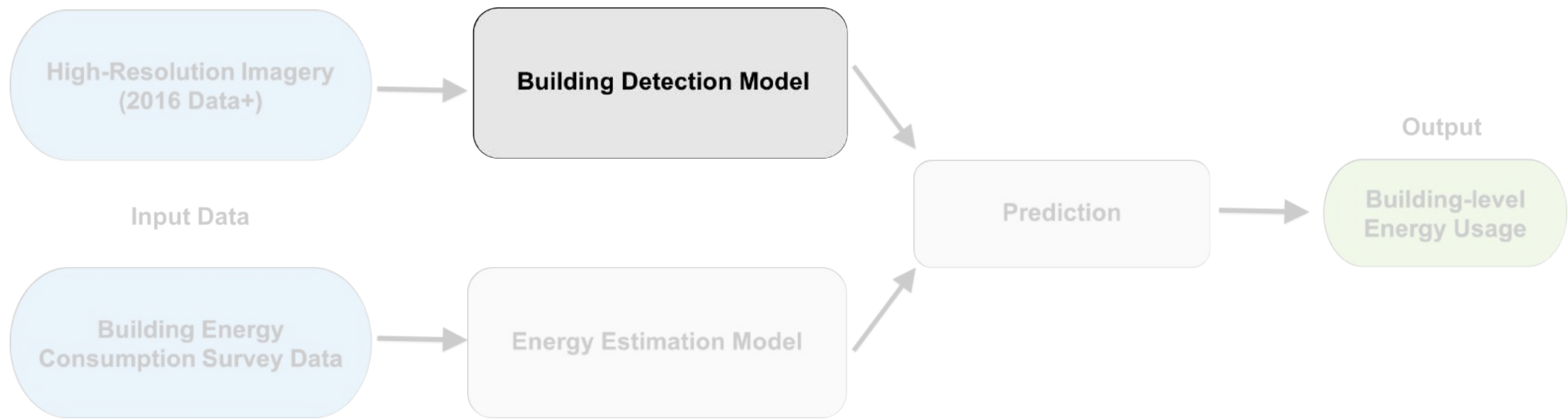




**Approach 1:**  
Random Forests

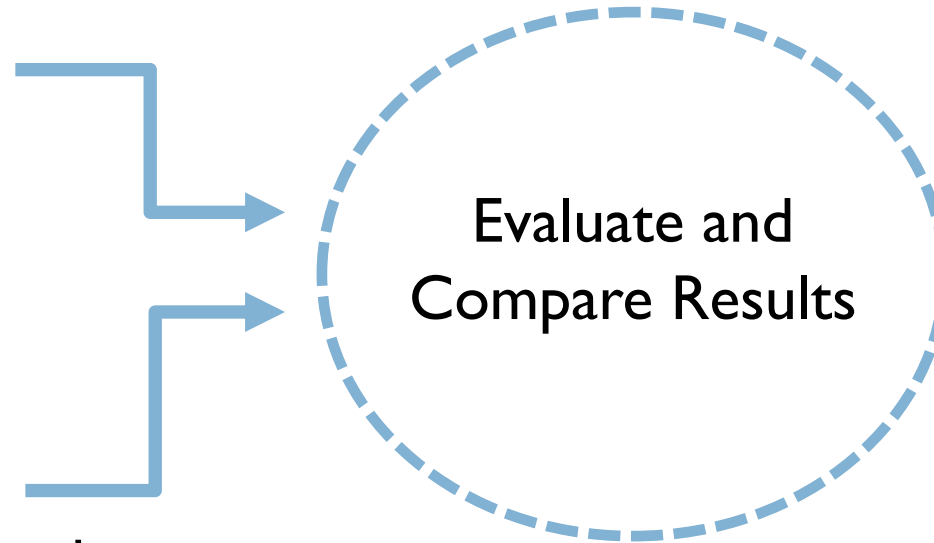
**Approach 2:**  
Convolutional Neural Network

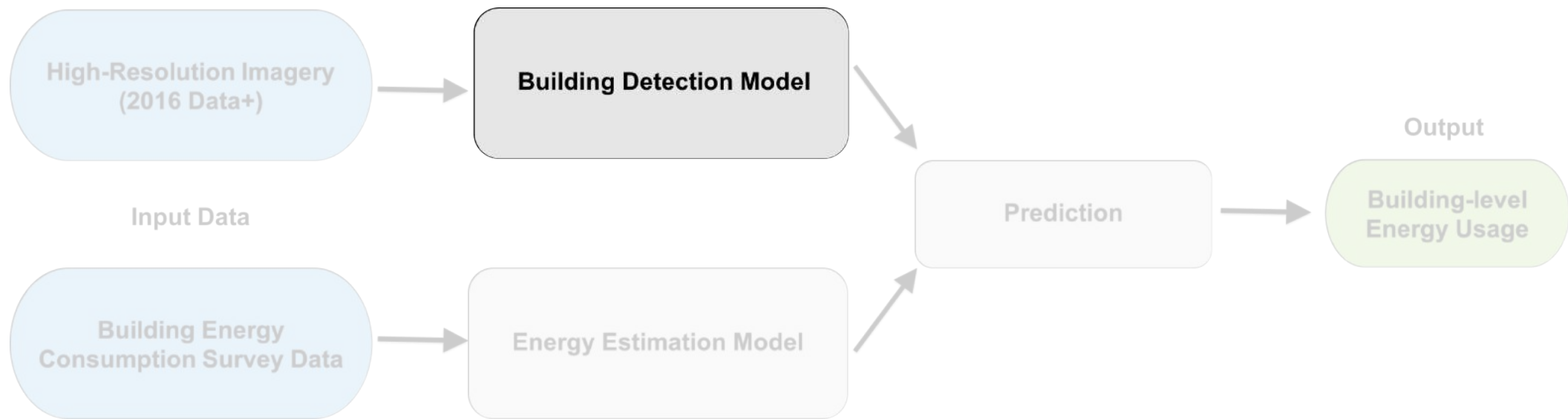




**Approach 1:**  
Random Forests

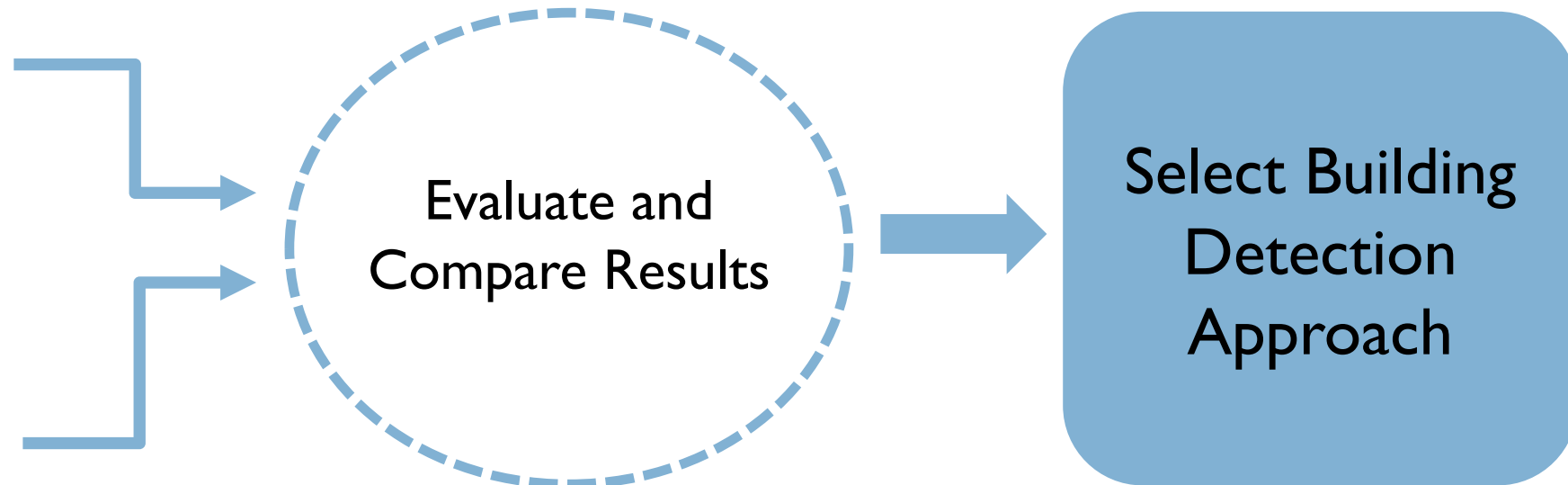
**Approach 2:**  
Convolutional Neural Network





**Approach 1:**  
Random Forests

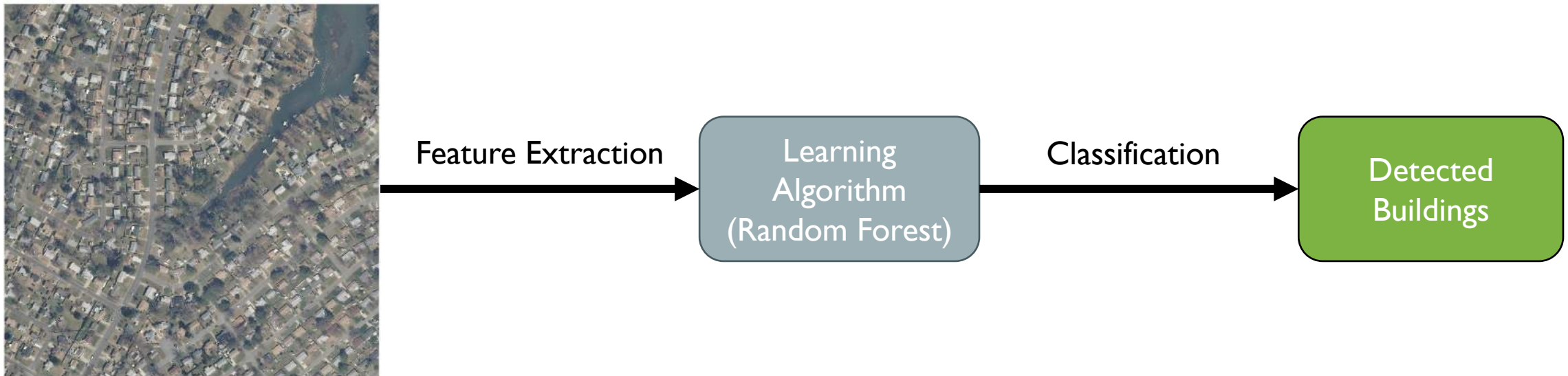
**Approach 2:**  
Convolutional Neural Network





# Approach I: Classical Machine Learning

How Can We “Teach” a Computer?



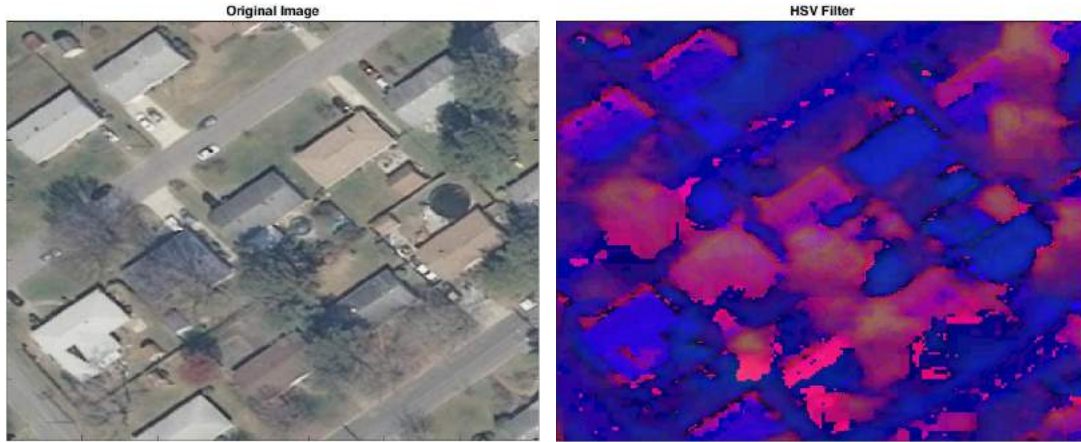
# Approach I: Classical Machine Learning



Features:



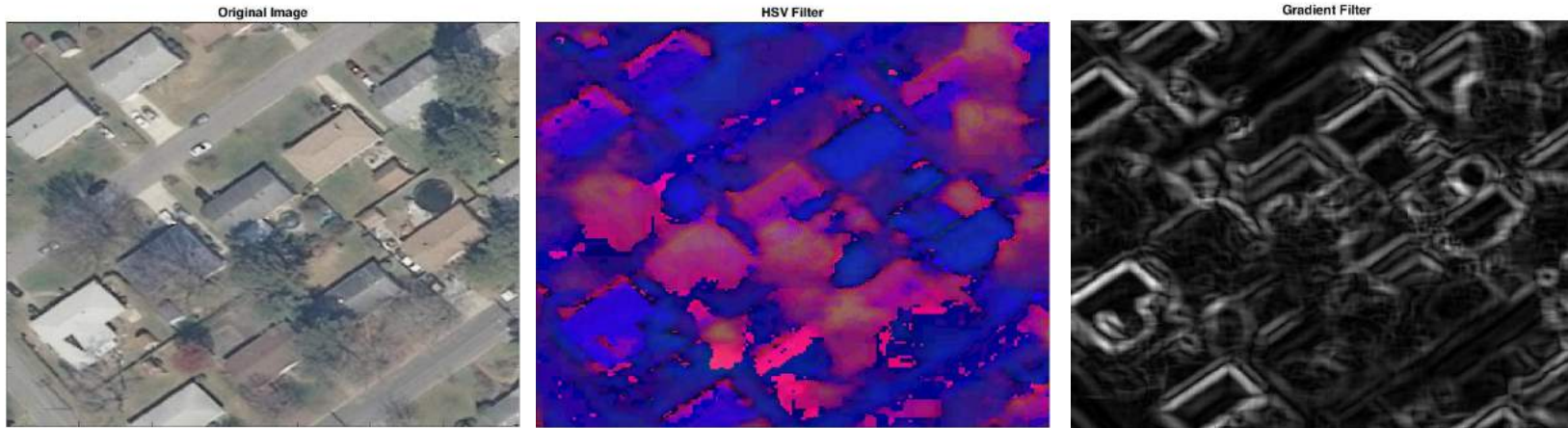
# Approach I: Classical Machine Learning



Features:

- Color Data (HSV)

# Approach I: Classical Machine Learning

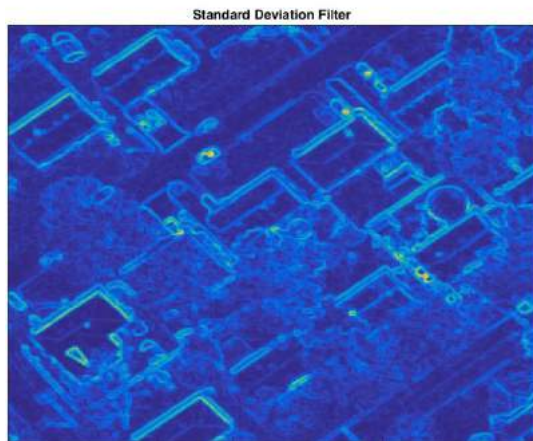
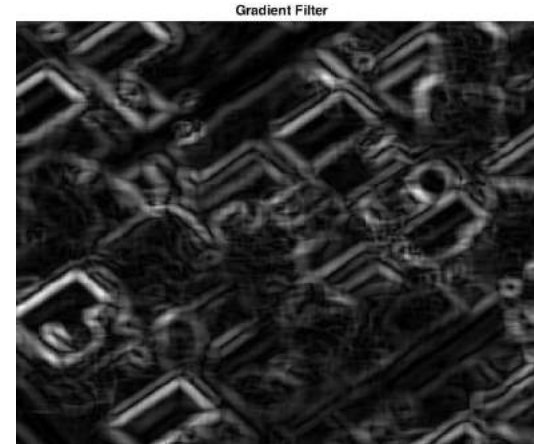
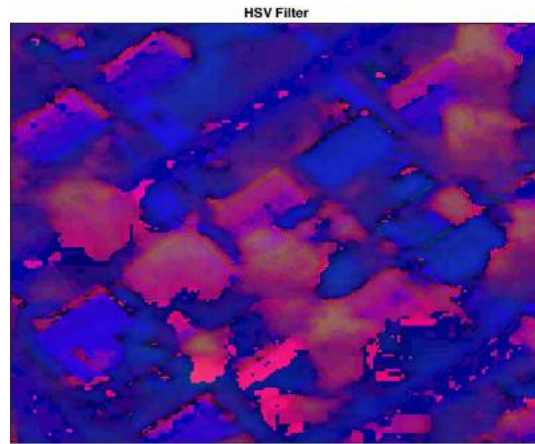


Features:

- Color Data (HSV)
- Edges (Gradient)



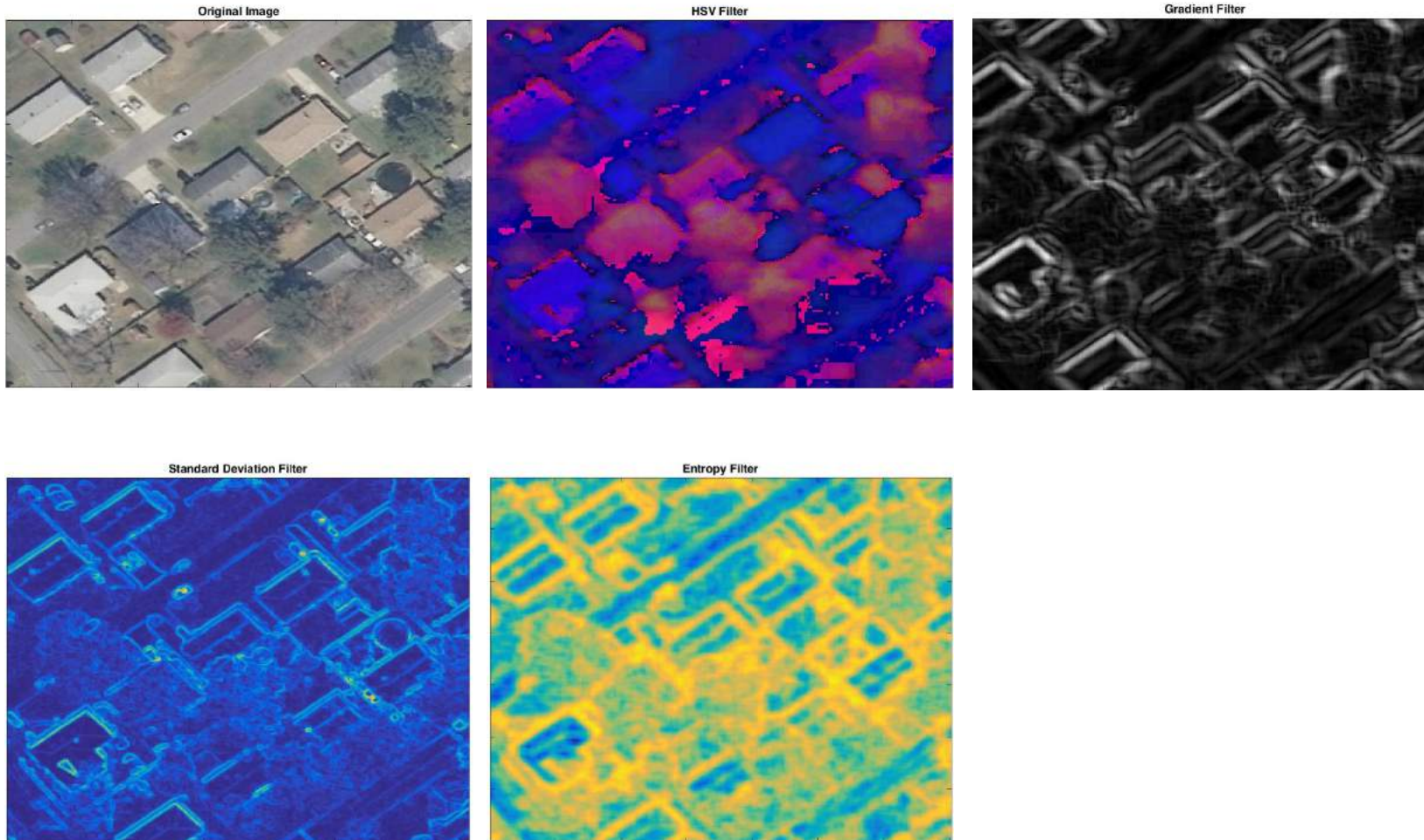
# Approach I: Classical Machine Learning



Features:

- Color Data (HSV)
- Edges (Gradient)
- Variation in Pixels (STDev)

# Approach I: Classical Machine Learning

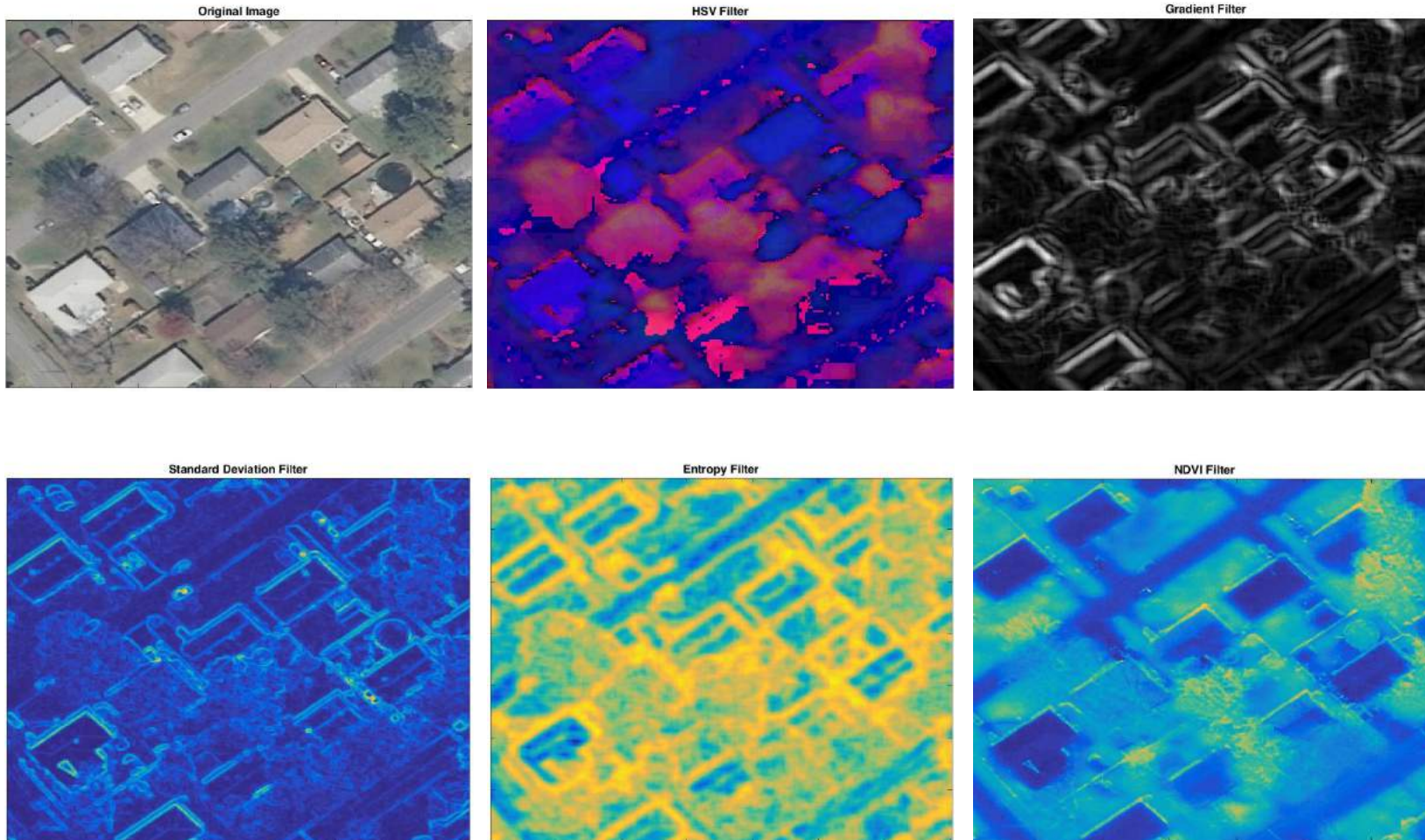


Features:

- Color Data (HSV)
- Edges (Gradient)
- Variation in Pixels (STDev)
- Texture (Entropy)



# Approach I: Classical Machine Learning



## Features:

- Color Data (HSV)
- Edges (Gradient)
- Variation in Pixels (STDev)
- Texture (Entropy)
- Vegetation Detection (NDVI)

# Approach I: Classical Machine Learning

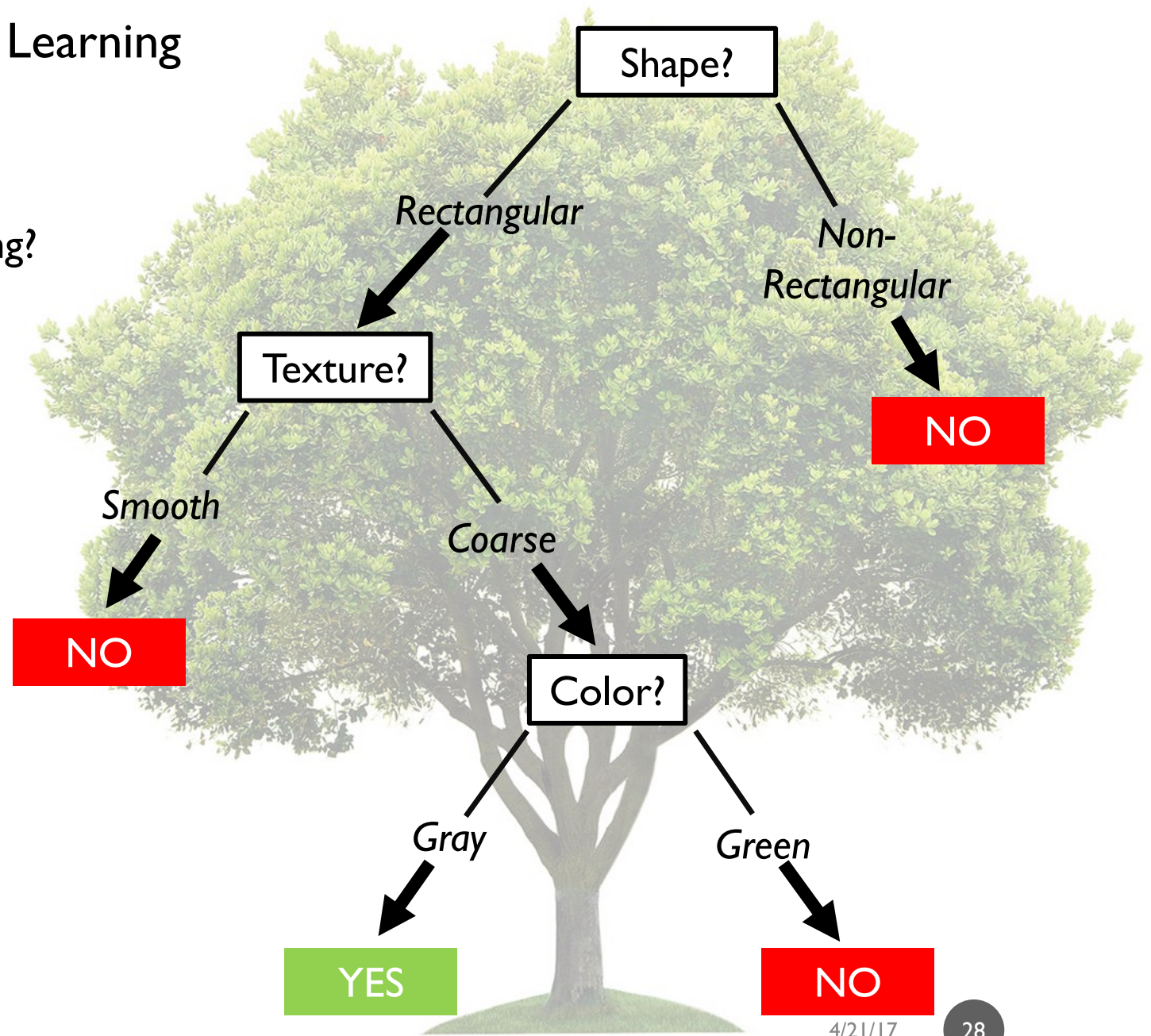
Decision Tree:

Question: Is the pixel part of a building?

Answer:

YES

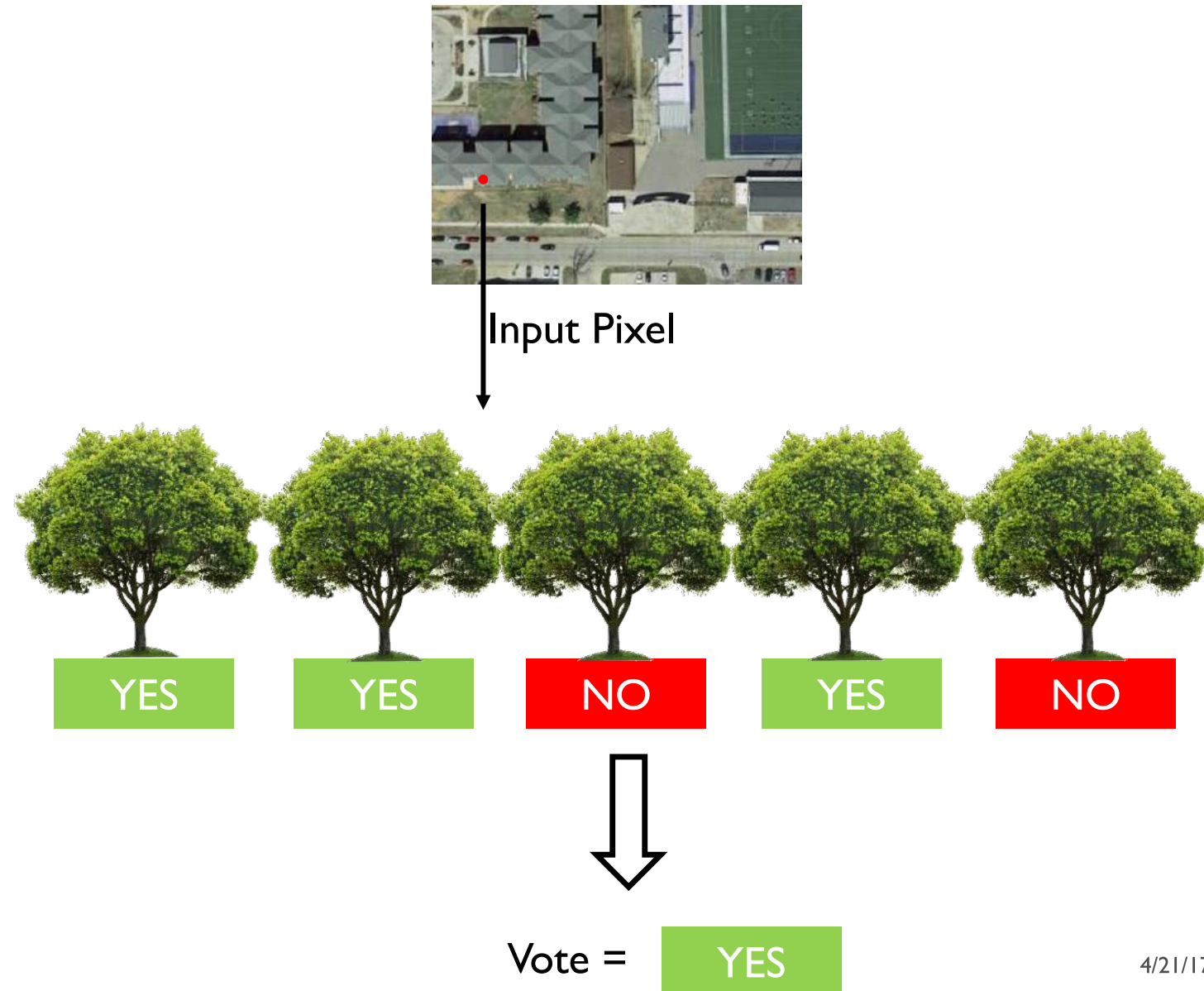
NO





# Approach I: Classical Machine Learning

## Random Forest



## Approach II: Convolutional Neural Network



## Approach II: Convolutional Neural Network





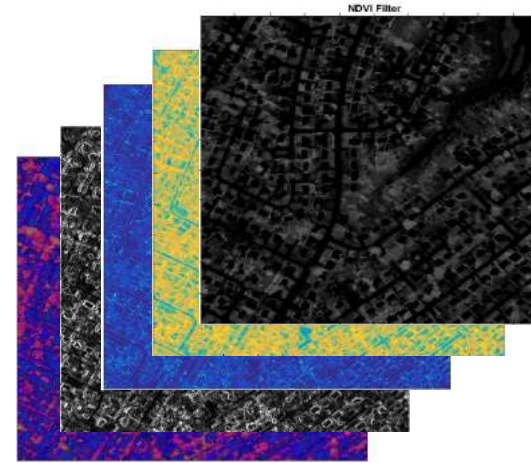
## Approach II: Convolutional Neural Network



# Approach II: Convolutional Neural Network

## Neural Network vs. Random Forest Classifier

Features?

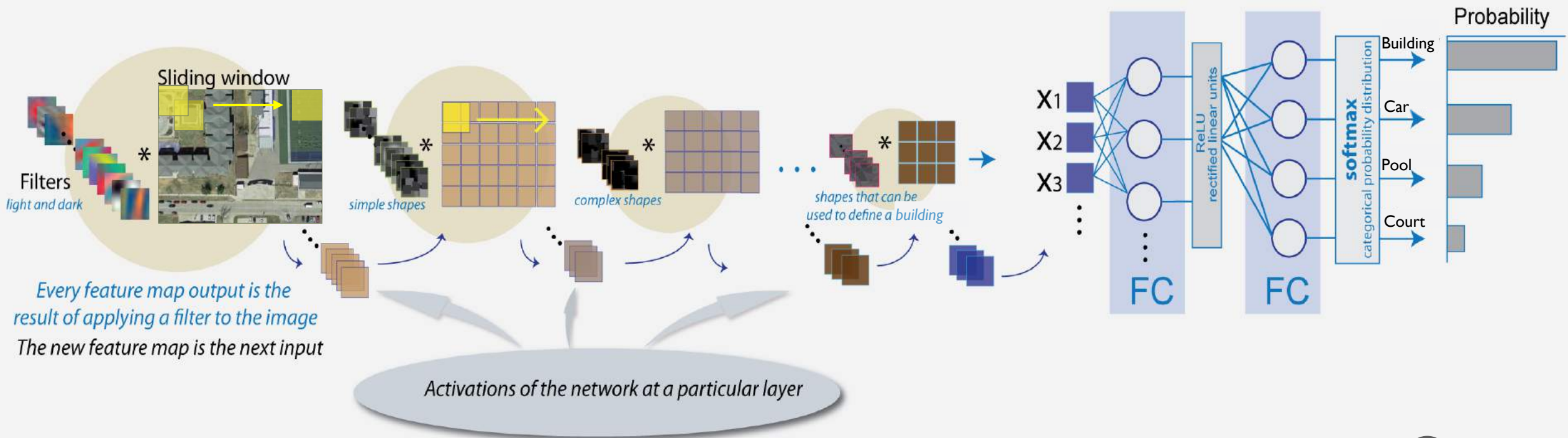
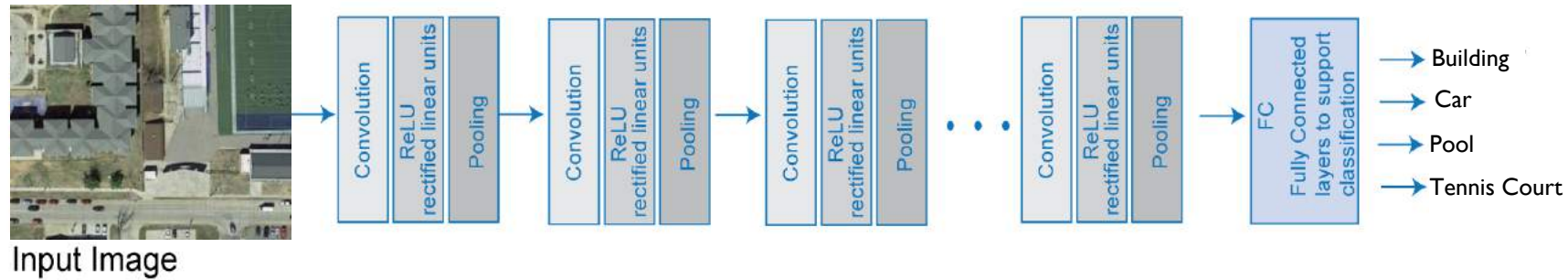


Time?



# Approach II: Convolutional Neural Network

## Our Neural Network: Overview





## Comparing Approaches:



**Ground truth** building outlines,  
i.e., the ideal classification output



Building outlines detected by  
**random forest classification**



Building outlines detected by  
**convolutional neural network**



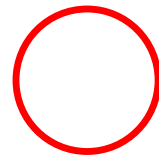
# Comparing Approaches:



**Ground truth** building outlines,  
i.e., the ideal classification output



Building outlines detected by  
**random forest classification**



Misclassified building pixel  
"islands"



Building outlines detected by  
**convolutional neural network**



# Comparing Approaches:



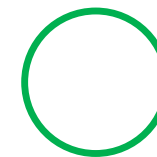
**Ground truth** building outlines,  
i.e., the ideal classification output



Building outlines detected by  
**random forest classification**



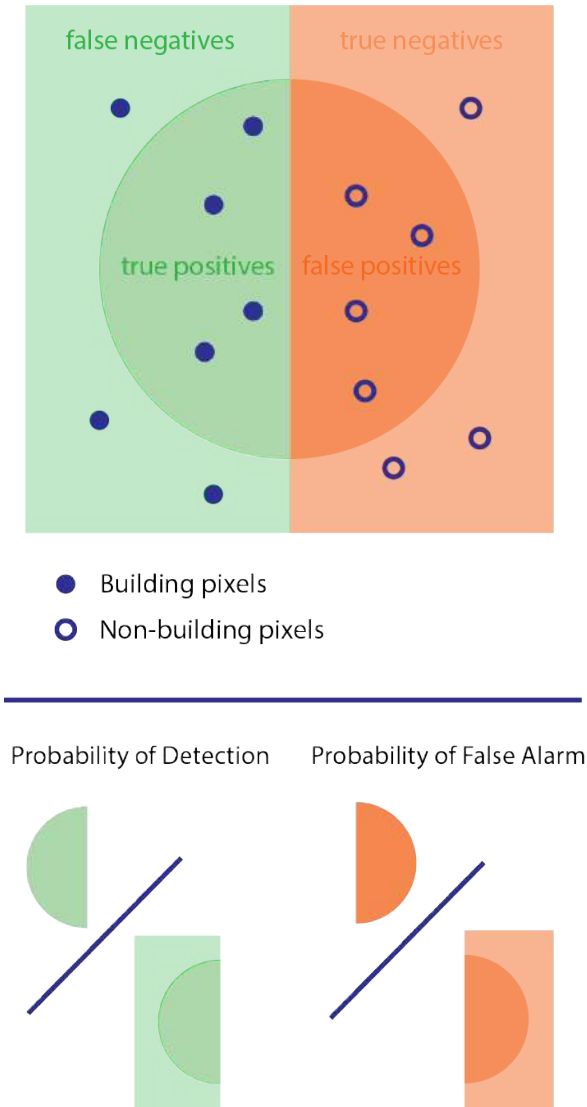
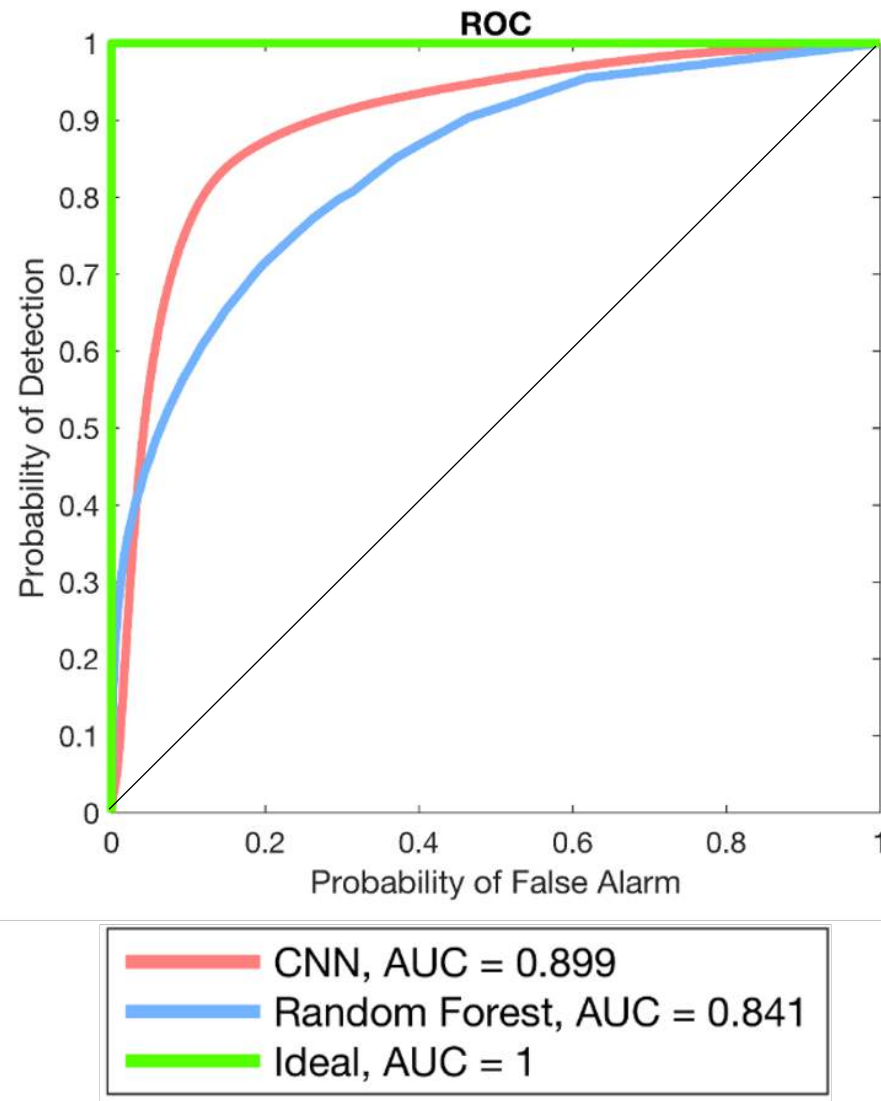
Building outlines detected by  
**convolutional neural network**



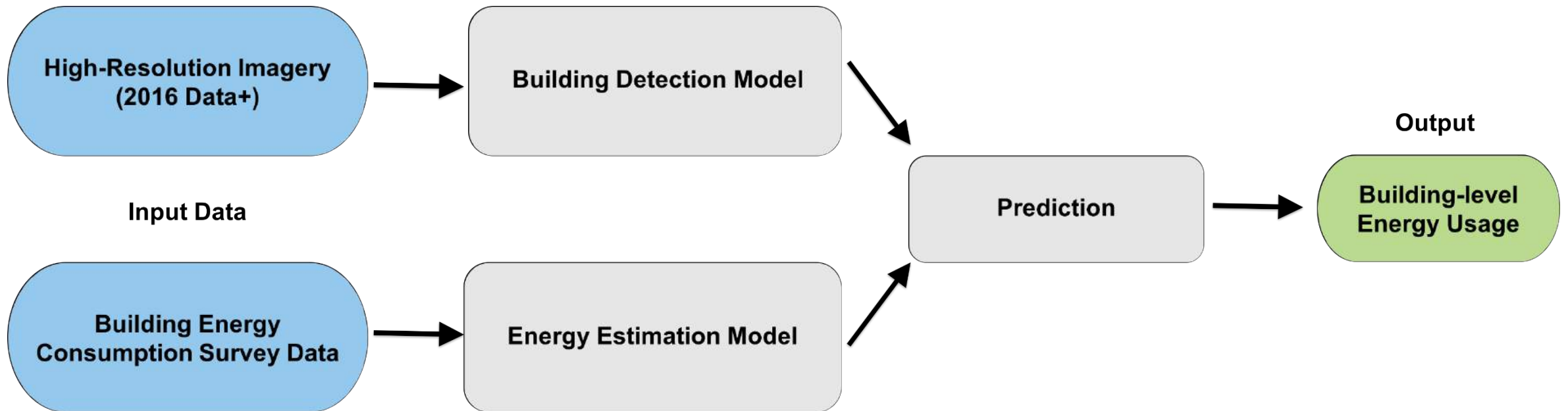
Irregular edges & merged  
buildings



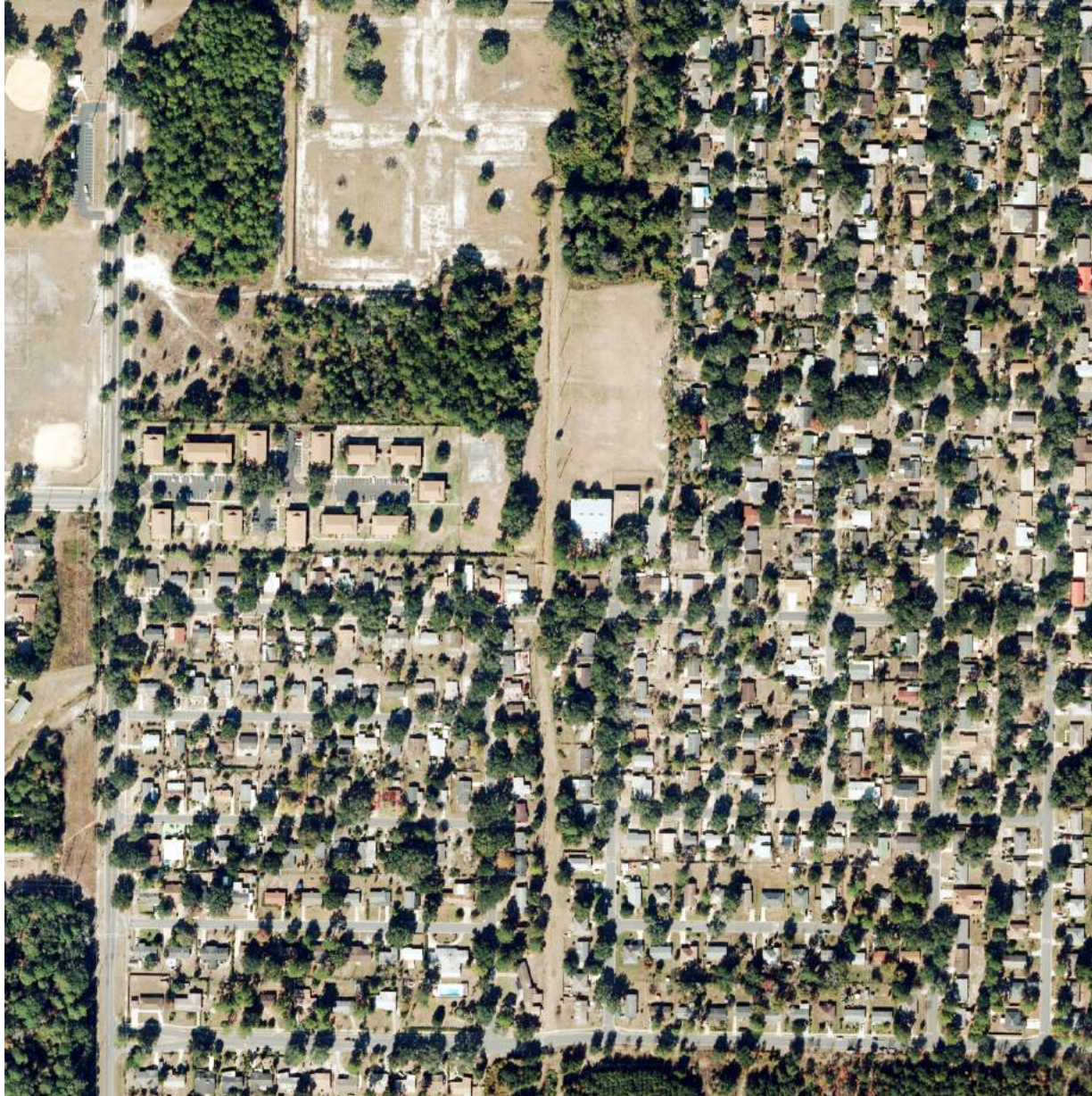
# Comparing Approaches:



## Our Process



How good is the model?





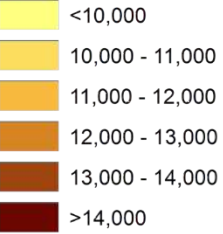
How good is the model?



# Actual Buildings and Energy Consumption



Household Energy  
Yearly Consumption  
(kWh)



Number of Buildings	388
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Average Energy Use (kWh/yr)	10,237
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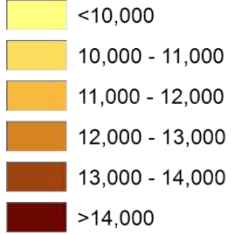
Total Energy Estimation Error (%)	-
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Actual Buildings and  
Energy Consumption



Household Energy  
Yearly Consumption  
(kWh)



Actual Buildings and  
Estimated Energy Consumption



Number of Buildings

388

388

Average Energy Use  
(kWh/yr)

10,237

11,977

Total Energy  
Estimation Error (%)

-

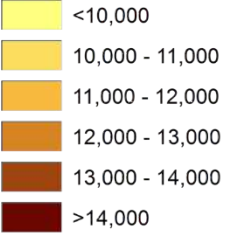
17%



Actual Buildings and  
Energy Consumption



Household Energy  
Yearly Consumption  
(kWh)



Actual Buildings and  
Estimated Energy Consumption



Detected Buildings and  
Estimated Energy Consumption



Number of Buildings

388

388

299

Average Energy Use  
(kWh/yr)

10,237

11,977

12,405

Total Energy  
Estimation Error (%)

-

17%

-7%



# Conclusion



From a high  
resolution aerial  
image...

# Conclusion



From a high resolution aerial image...



Detect building outlines and calculate their area



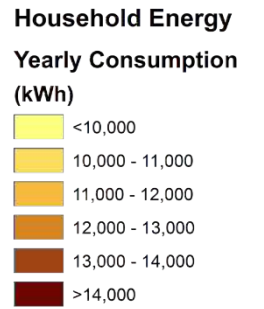
# Conclusion



From a high resolution aerial image...



Detect building outlines and calculate their area

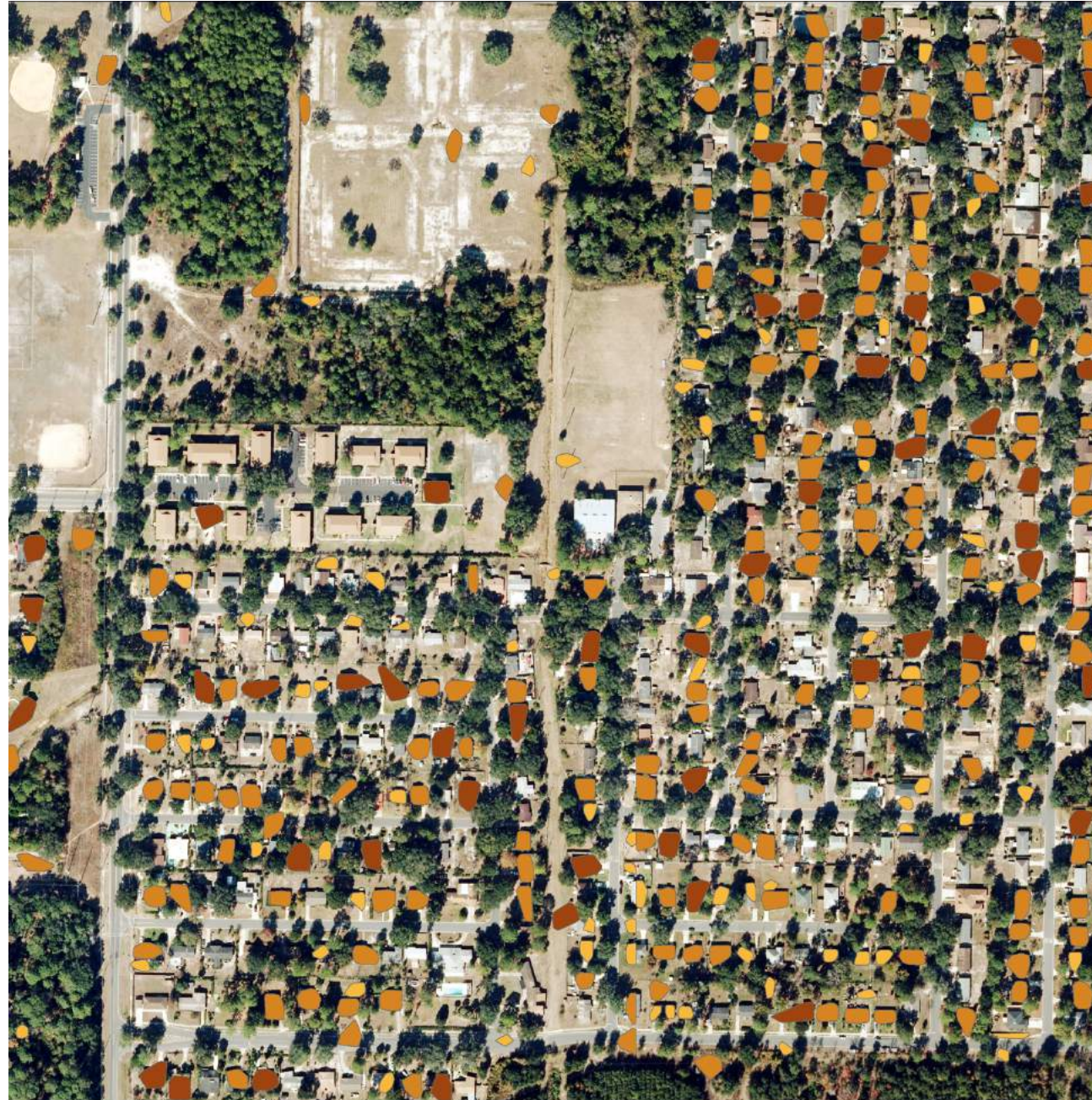


Use area of detected buildings for energy use estimation

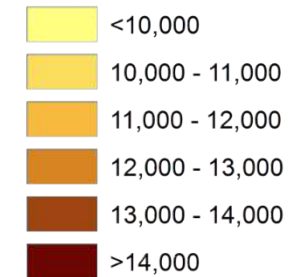


# Conclusion

Scale up to gather this data for whole cities, with thousands of buildings, anywhere in the world!



**Household Energy  
Yearly Consumption  
(kWh)**





Solving Murders!







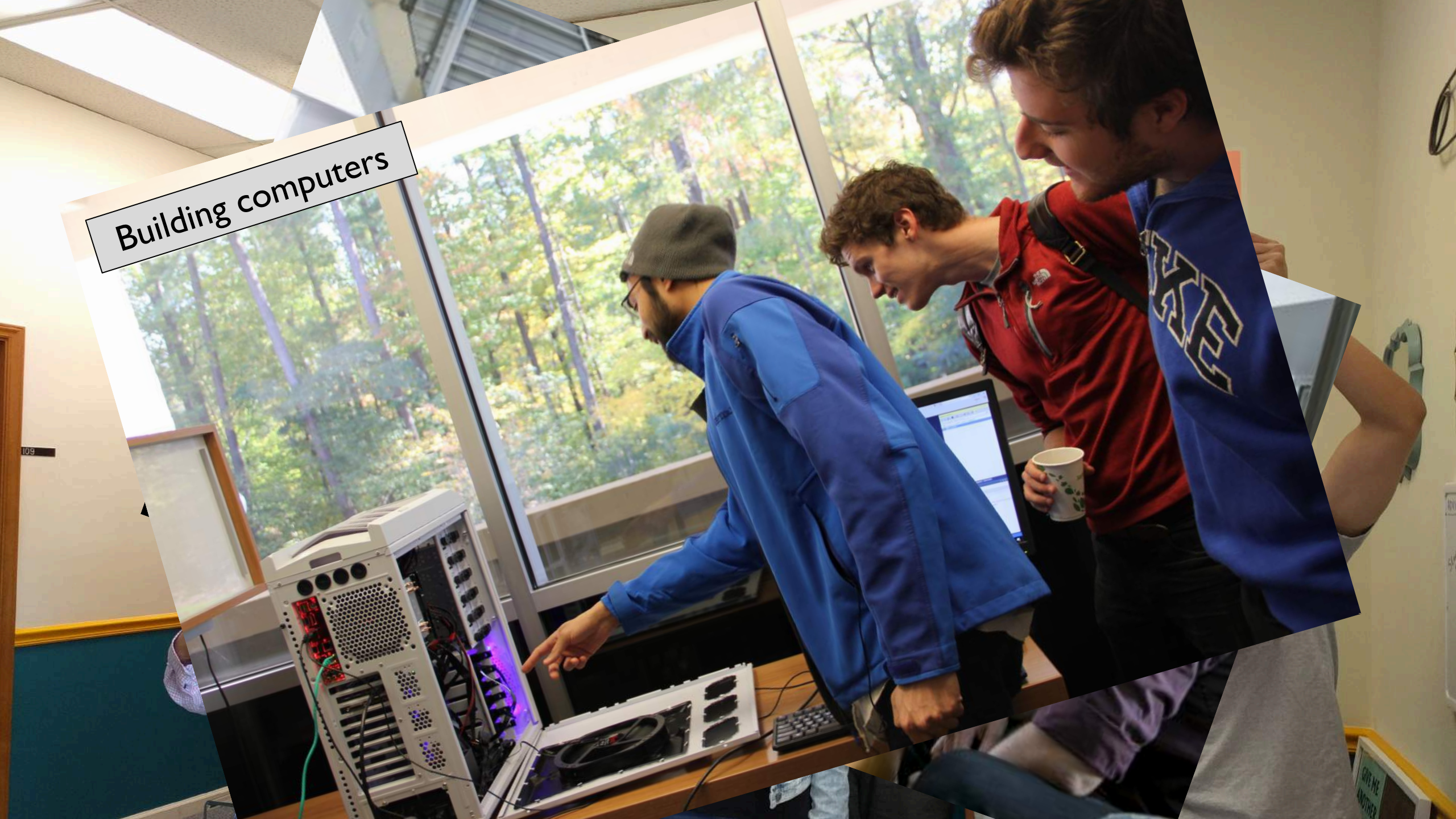
Modeling!

GENIUS

SUCCESS!!

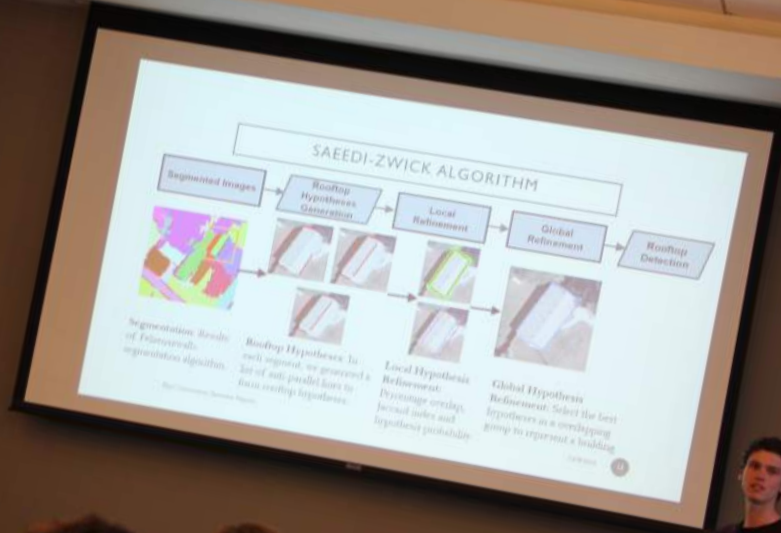


Building computers



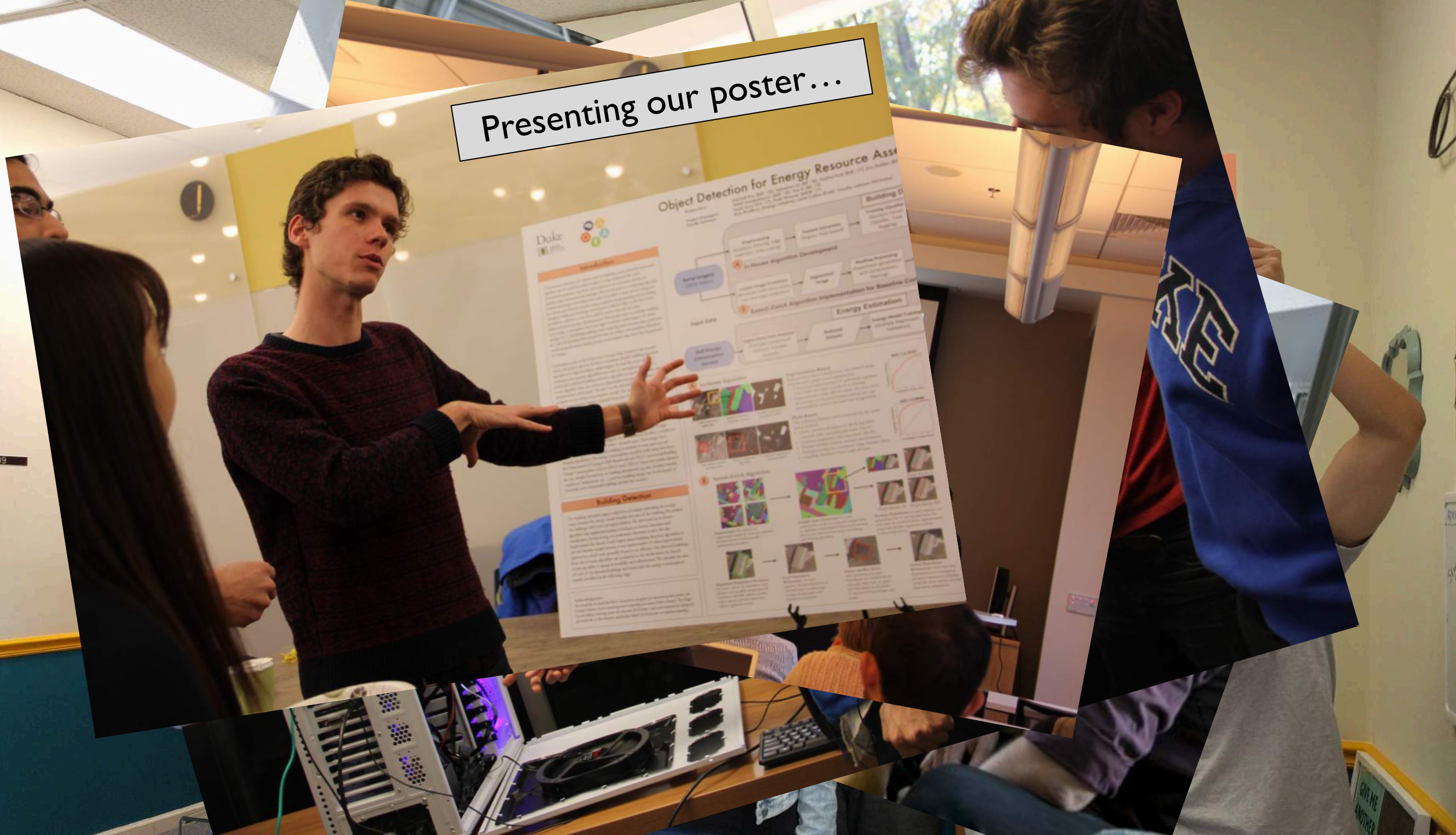


Presenting our research

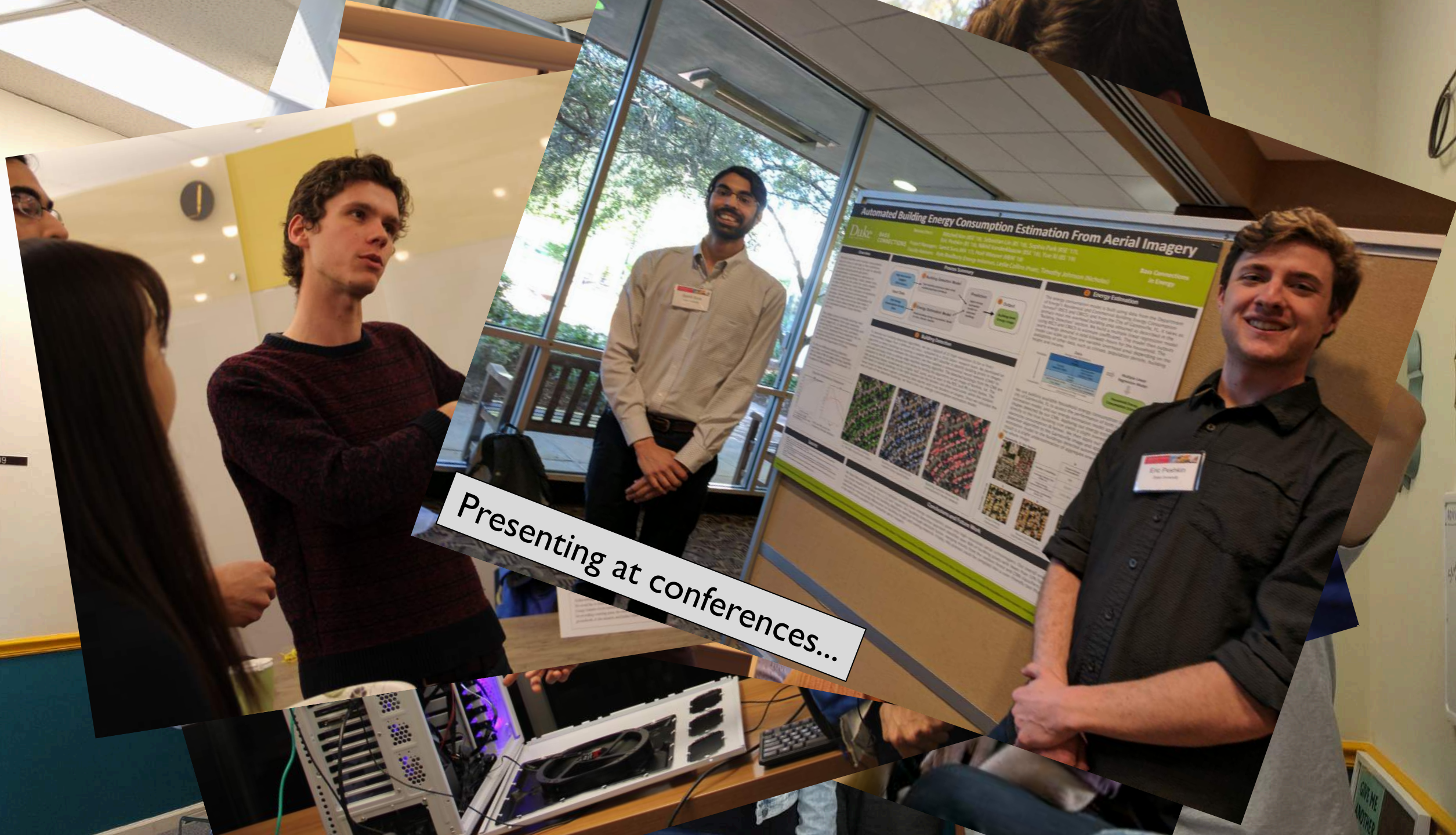




Presenting our poster...



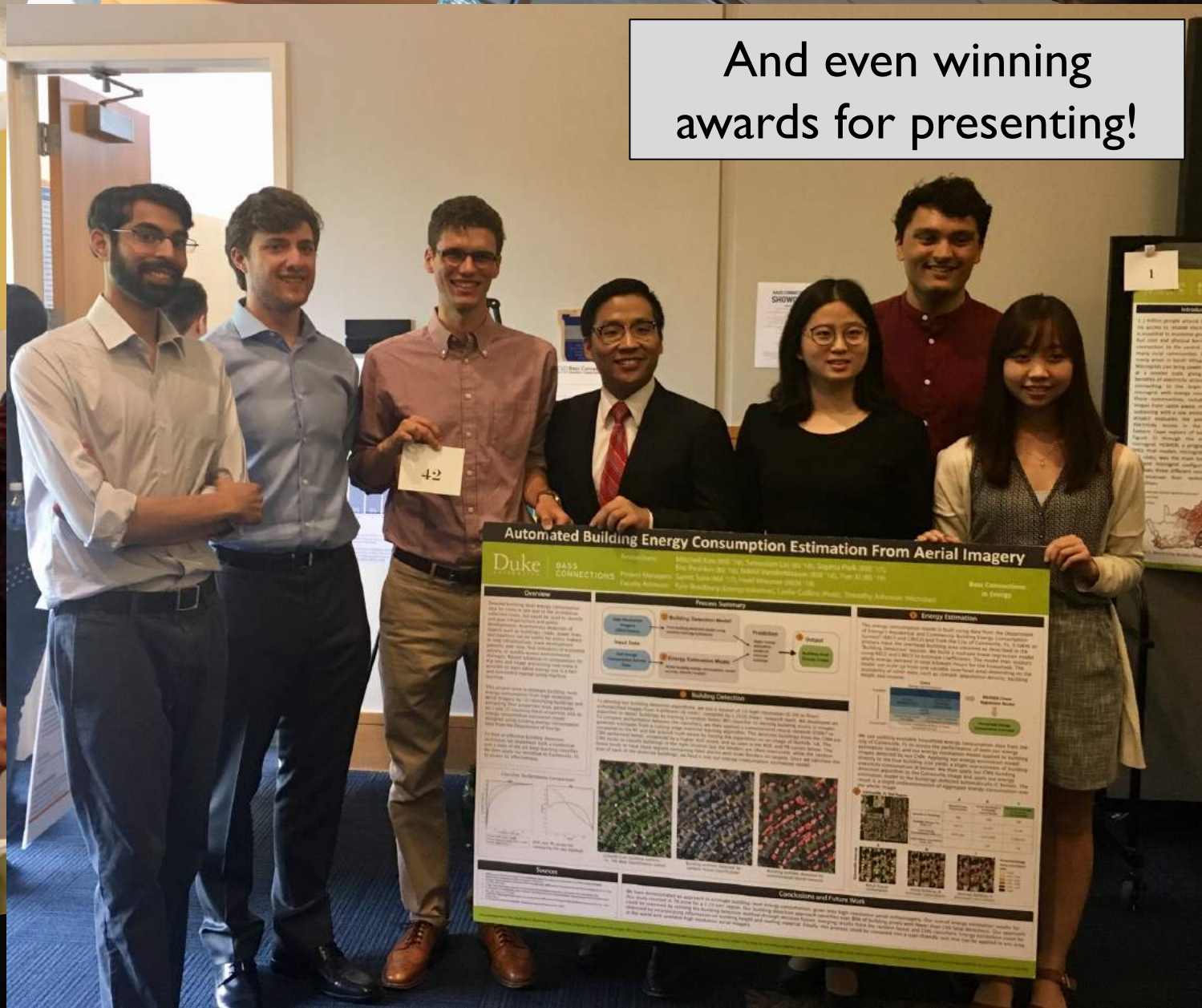




Presenting at conferences...



And even winning  
awards for presenting!



THANK YOU