

# Citizen Science During Nuclear Emergency

## Analysis of the Fukushima-Dahichi Nuclear Accident

**Guido Cervone**

cervone@psu.edu

**Associate Director**  
Institute for CyberScience

**Associate Professor**  
Department of Geography



**Affiliate Scientist**  
National Center for Atmospheric Research



**Adjunct Professor**  
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory  
Columbia University



- Last 3 centuries: observation, theory development, experimentation
- Last 3 decades: computation and data-enabled research
- 10 years ago: CyberScience and Geoinformatics
- Far reaching repercussions in the sciences, engineering, and the humanities
- Transformative and will continue to change the way research is undertaken

# From Data to Knowledge

- Problem

- Raw data is useless

- Data: recorded information; collection of symbols
- Information: Interpreted data
- Knowledge: Patterns in data to solve a problem

- Solution

- Geoinformatics algorithms
- Methods from AI, Machine Learning, GIS, Research on databases, Mathematics, Statistics

- Largest Datasets
  - Commercial Transactions
  - Videos and Audio
  - Remote Sensing
  - Numerical Modeling
  - Volunteered Geographical Information
    - Social Media
    - Citizen Science

# Satellite Images



Post-Explosions  
17 March, 2011  
WorldView2 High-Res pan

0 50 100  
Meters  
True scale bar approximate



Post-Explosions  
19 March, 2011  
GeoEye 1

0 50 100  
Meters  
True scale bar approximate



## United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Reston, Virginia 22092

MAR 29 2011

Mr. Guido Cervone  
Center for Earth Observing and Space Research  
George Mason University  
4400 University Drive  
MS 5C3  
Fairfax, Virginia 22044

Dear Mr. Cervone:

The March 10, 2011 earthquake and tsunami was a great tragedy for the nation of Japan. I would like to commend you and your colleagues for your impressive effort and commitment made in response to the demands of the disaster and the request of the Government of Japan. Your hard work and personal sacrifices benefited the Japanese and U.S. agencies assisting in the response effort during a very busy and difficult time.

The efforts you have put forth in collecting and analyzing imagery and creating maps depicting the areas impacted by the disasters, have been recognized and appreciated by many agencies responding to the disaster. As Hiroshi Murakami of the Geospatial and Information Authority of Japan (GSI) indicated in a message:

"the image maps posted by Brenda Jones (all created by U.S. Volunteers) seem to cover most of the important coastal areas of Iwate Prefecture, and will be very helpful for understanding the impact. The weather in the region did not allow us to take air photos today, and these image maps are very helpful. I was impressed that so much information on the damaged areas becomes available on the web immediately after the earthquake by many experts in the world."

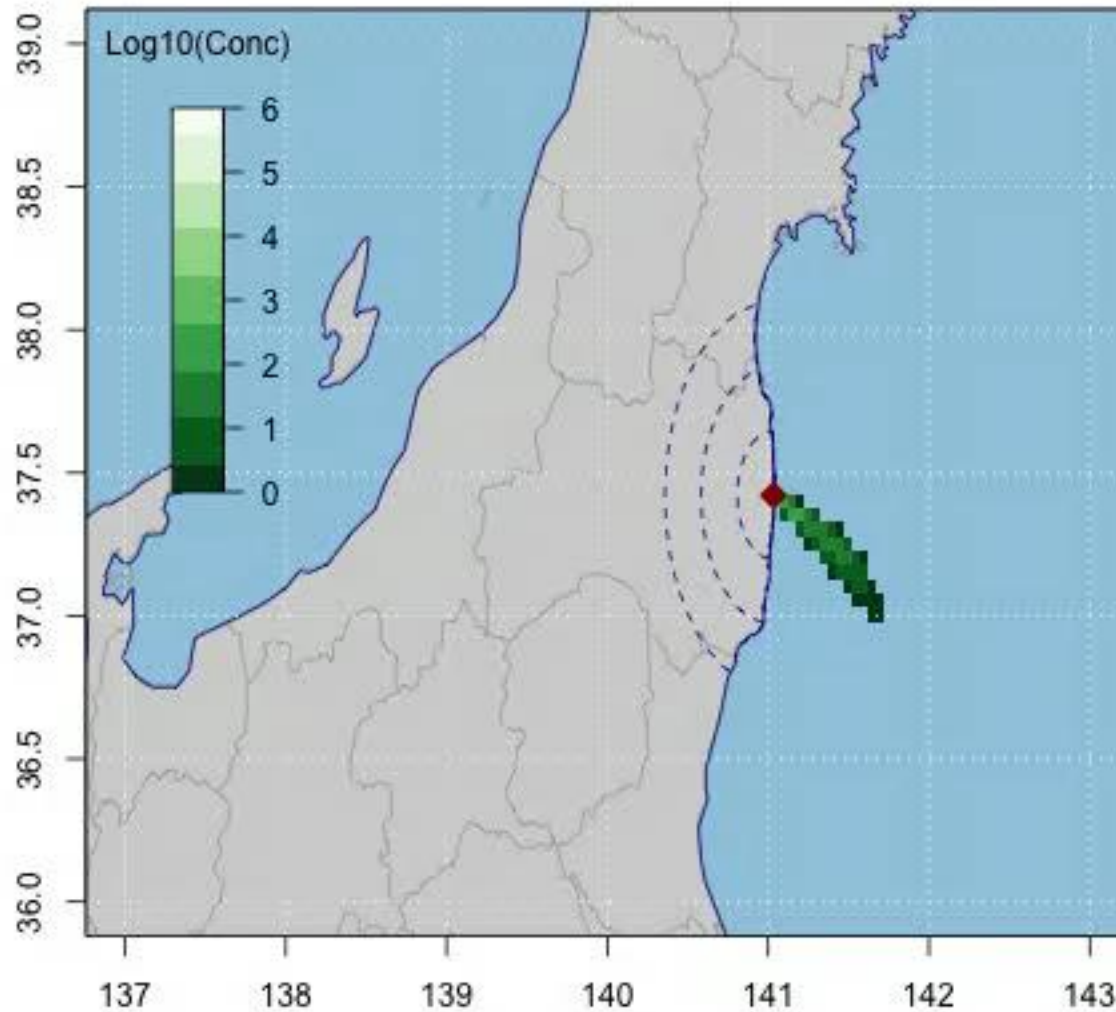
On behalf of our Japanese and U.S. agency colleagues, the USGS would like to recognize your contributions to the 2011 Japan Earthquake/Tsunami Response Effort and extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for your immediate action and quick response to the request for assistance. This positive response to the Japanese request for assistance would not have been possible without your help.

Sincerely,

William S. Leith  
Acting Associate Director for  
Natural Hazards

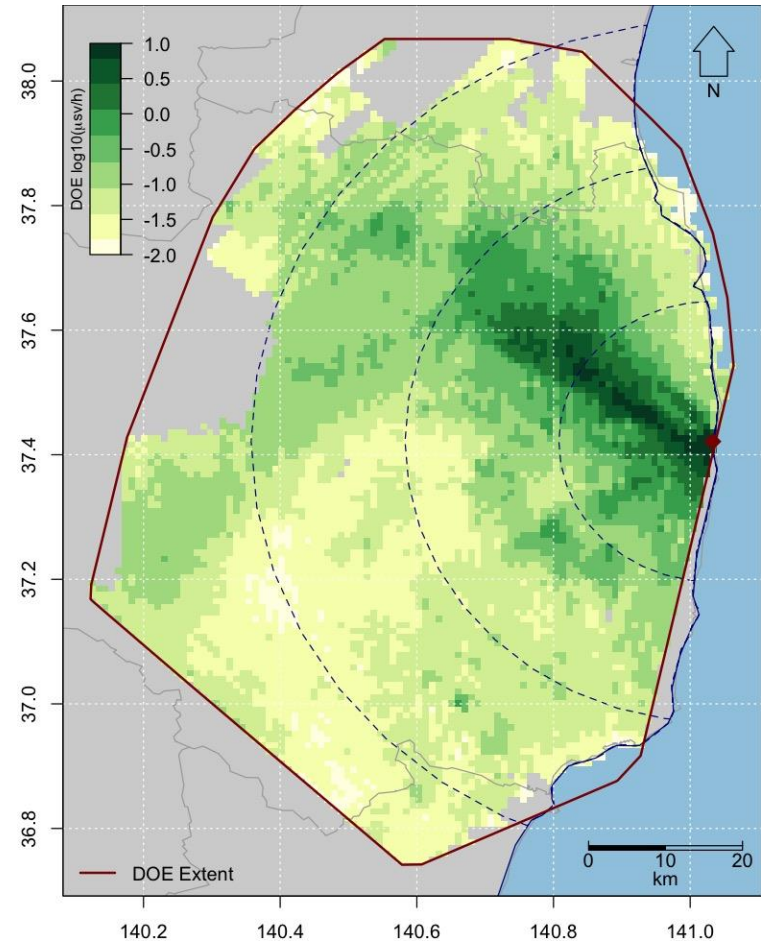
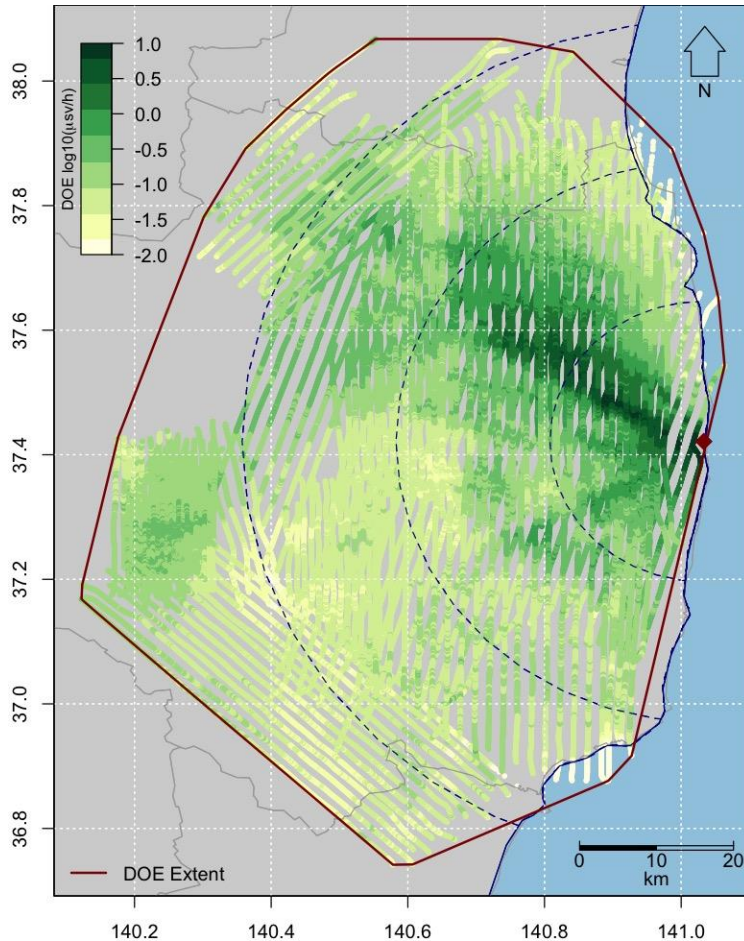
# Hysplit Animation

(03/11/11 21:00:00)



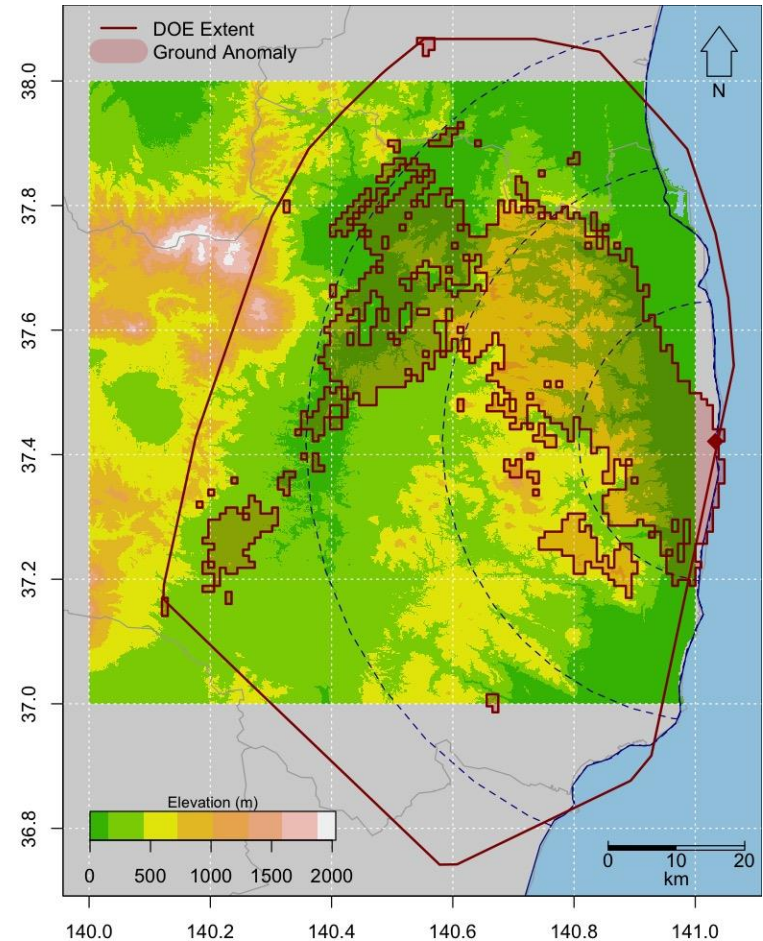
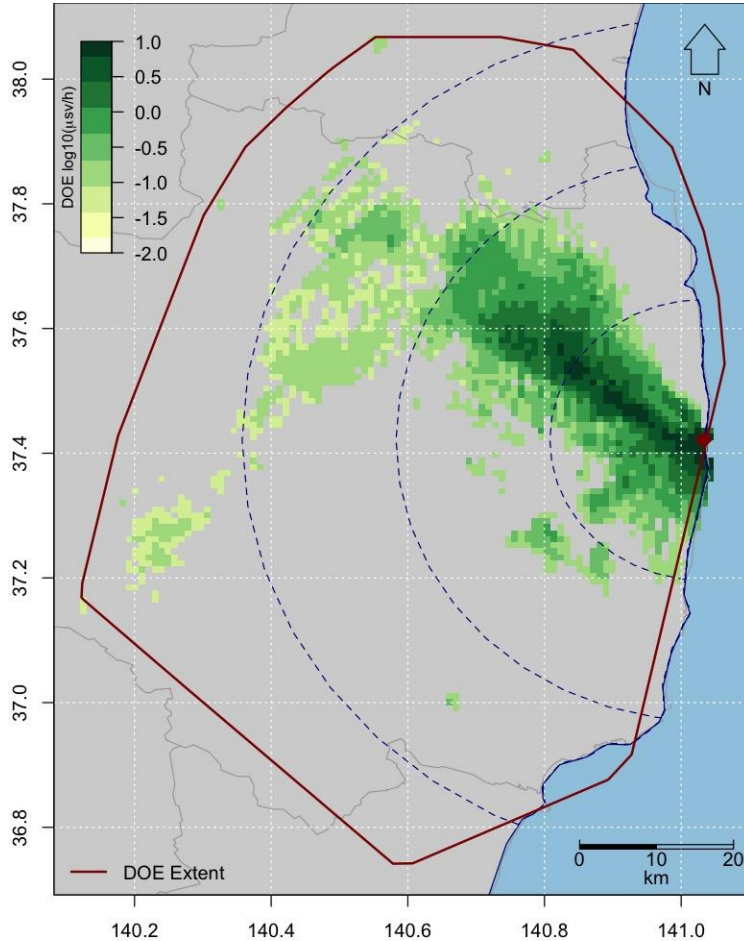


# DOE RS Measurement



Data collected over 2 months: March to April 2011  
Decayed to June 1, 2011

# DOE Anomaly



DEM: NASA/JAXA Aster

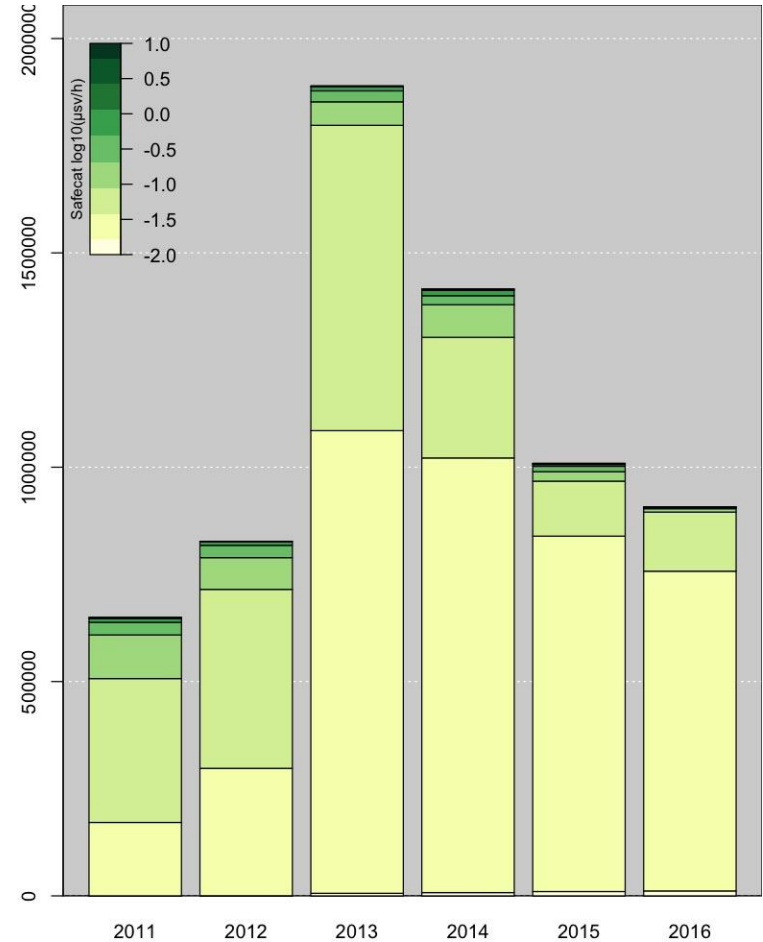
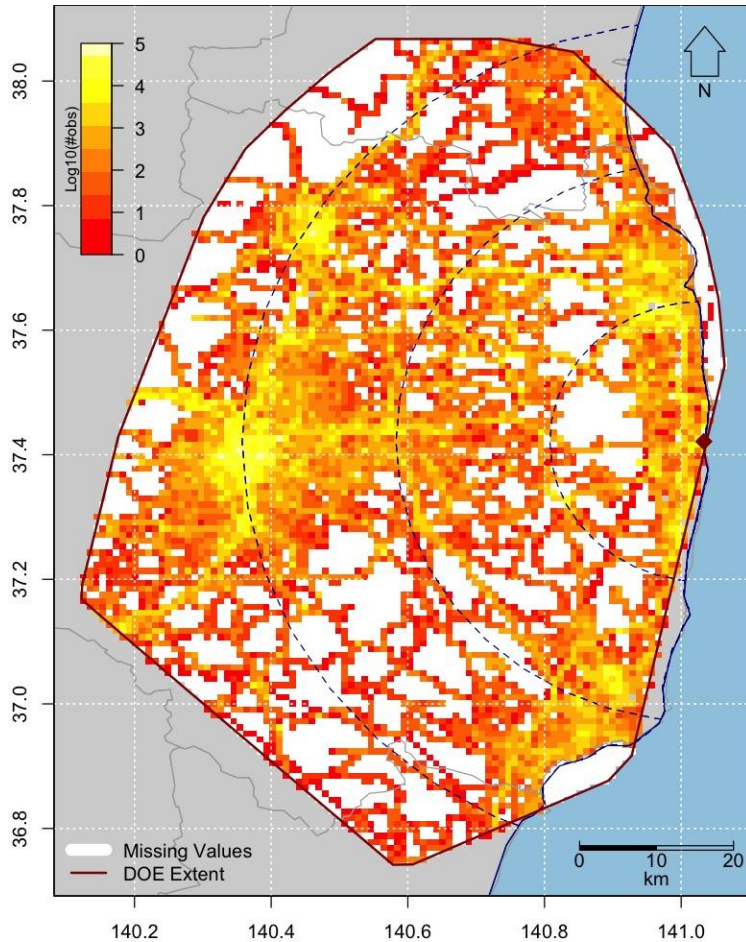


# SAFECAST Measurements

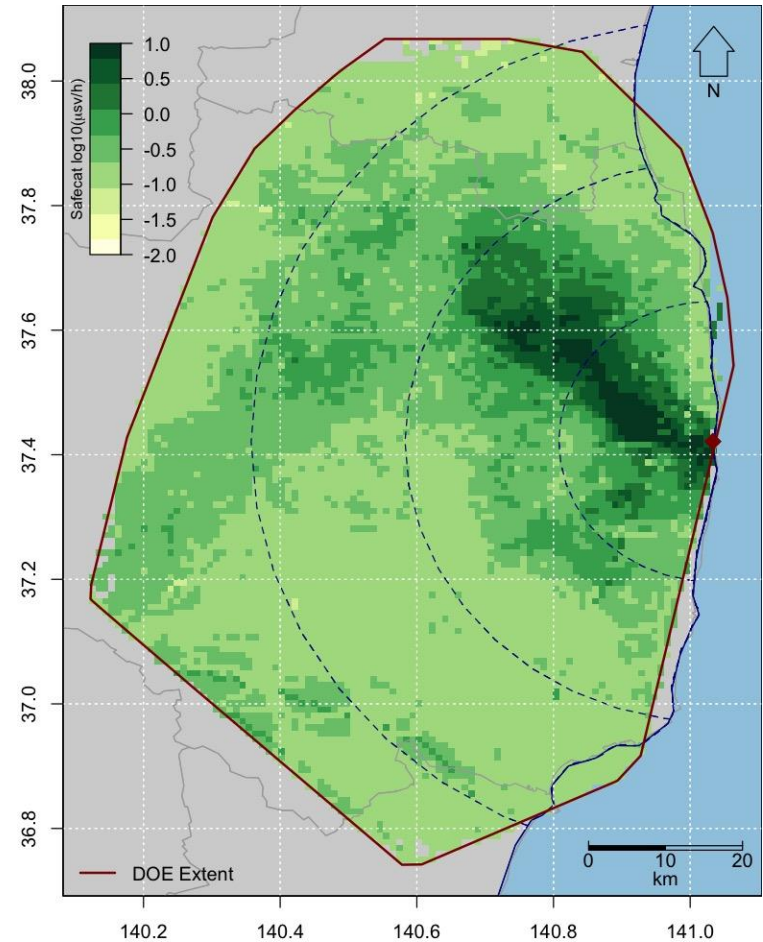
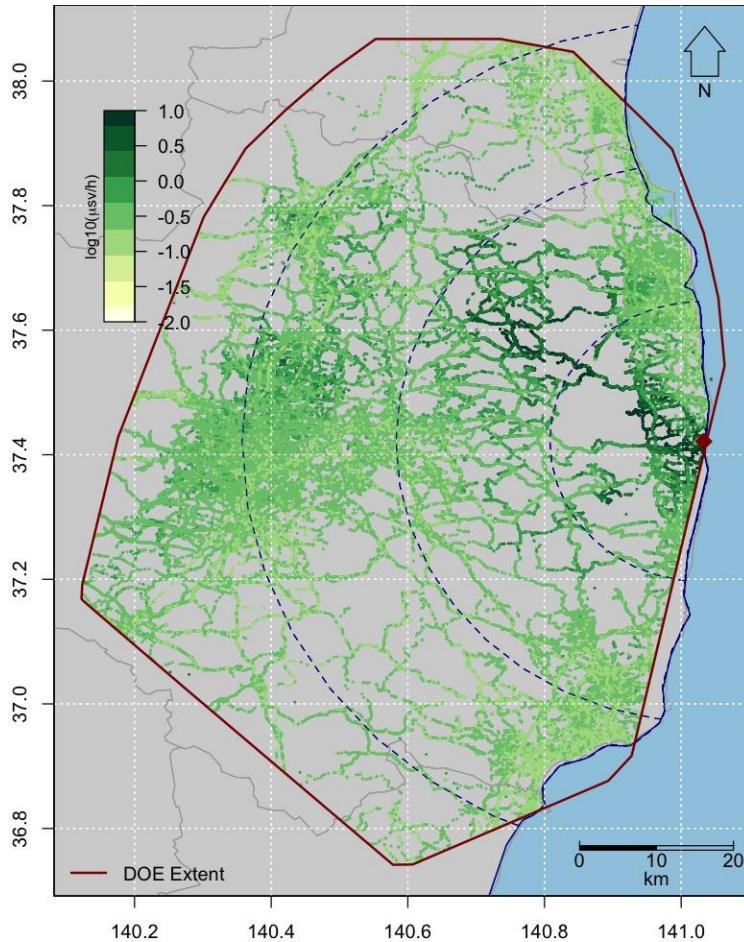


- Safecast (SC) is crowdsourced radiation sensor data.
- Available since a week after the catastrophic March 2011 Japanese earthquake
- Open Source bGeigie Nano device.
- Uses the LND7317 radiation sensor, which can detect alpha, beta, and gamma radiation
- 70 million such observations uploaded to the Safecast server

# SC Variability in Space and Time



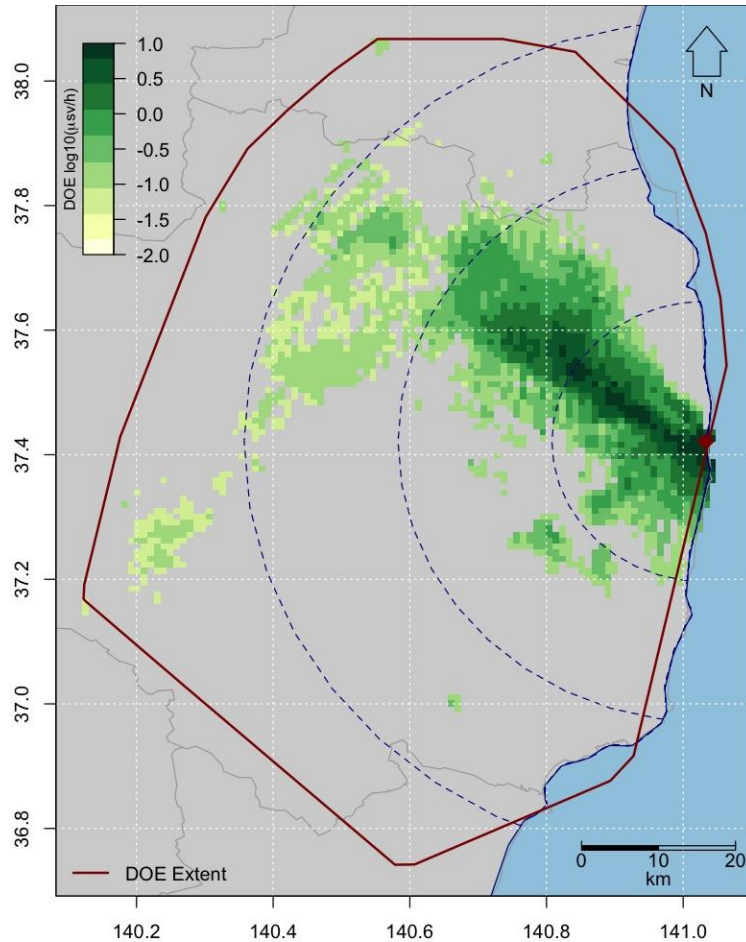
# SC Data at Fukushima



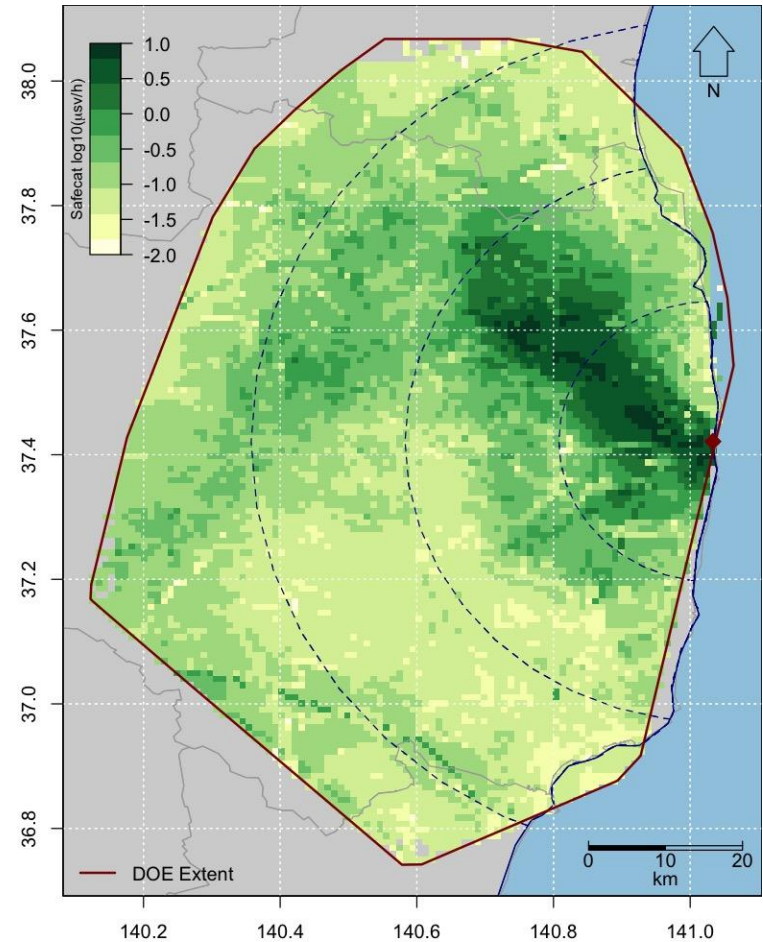
6M Observations between April 2011 and December 2016



# Anomaly (Mis) Comparison

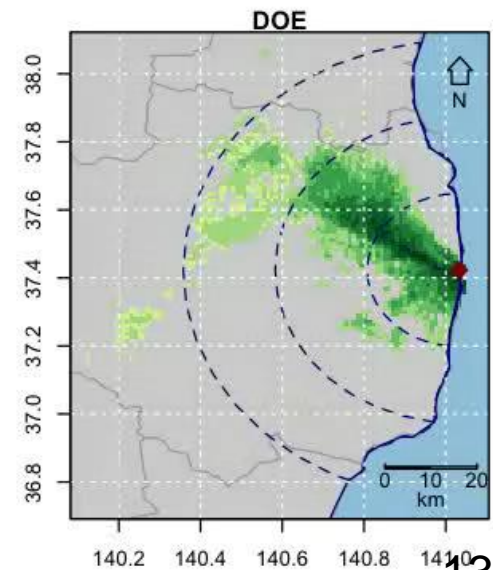
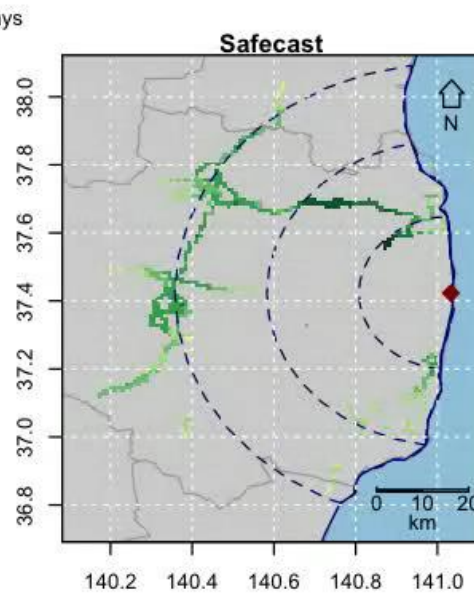
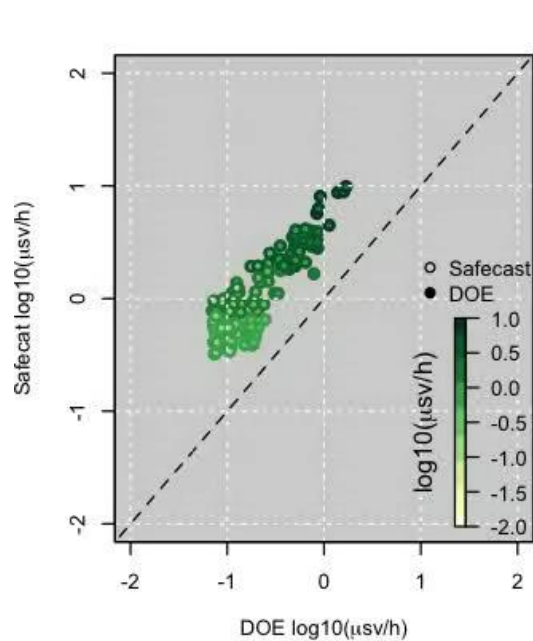
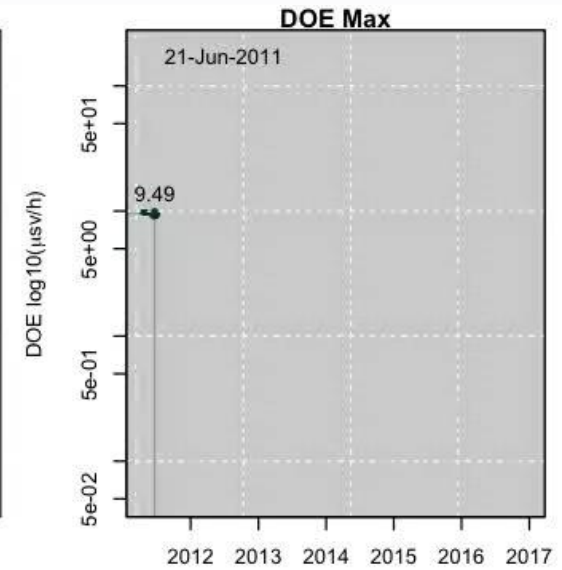
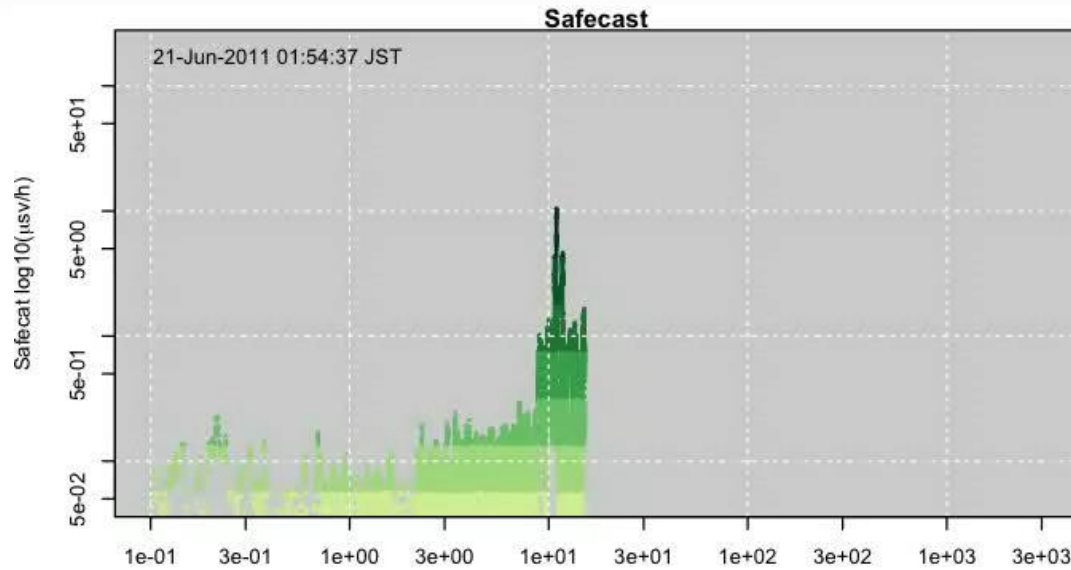


DOE



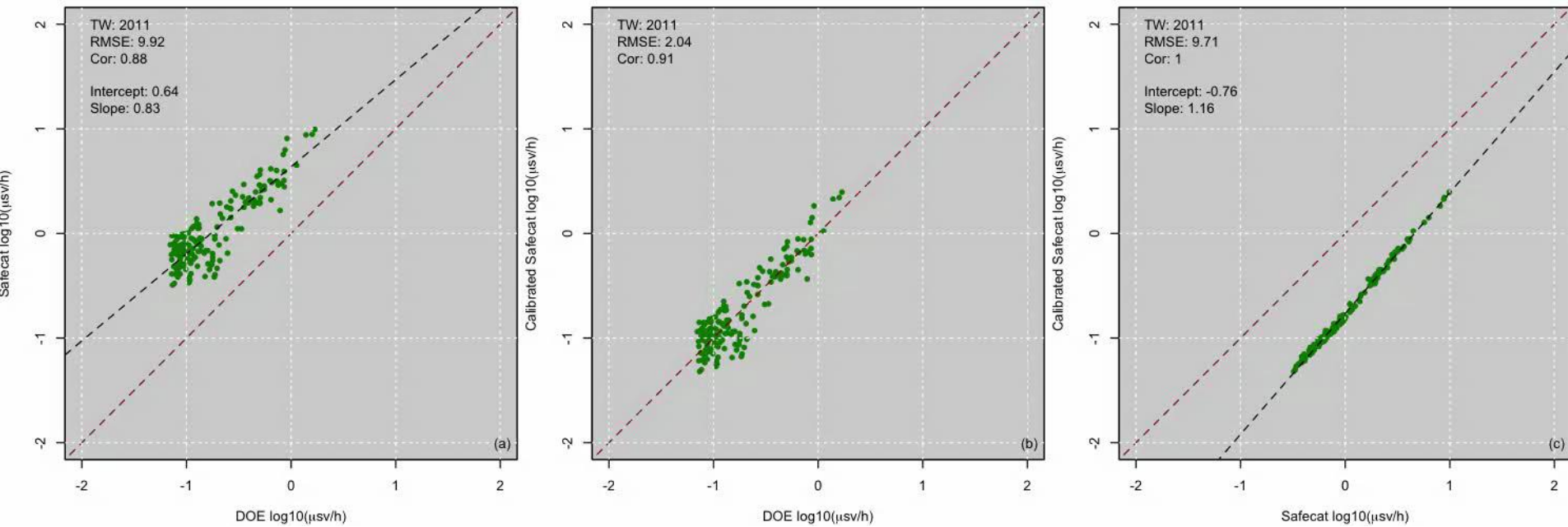
SAFECAST

# Before Calibration

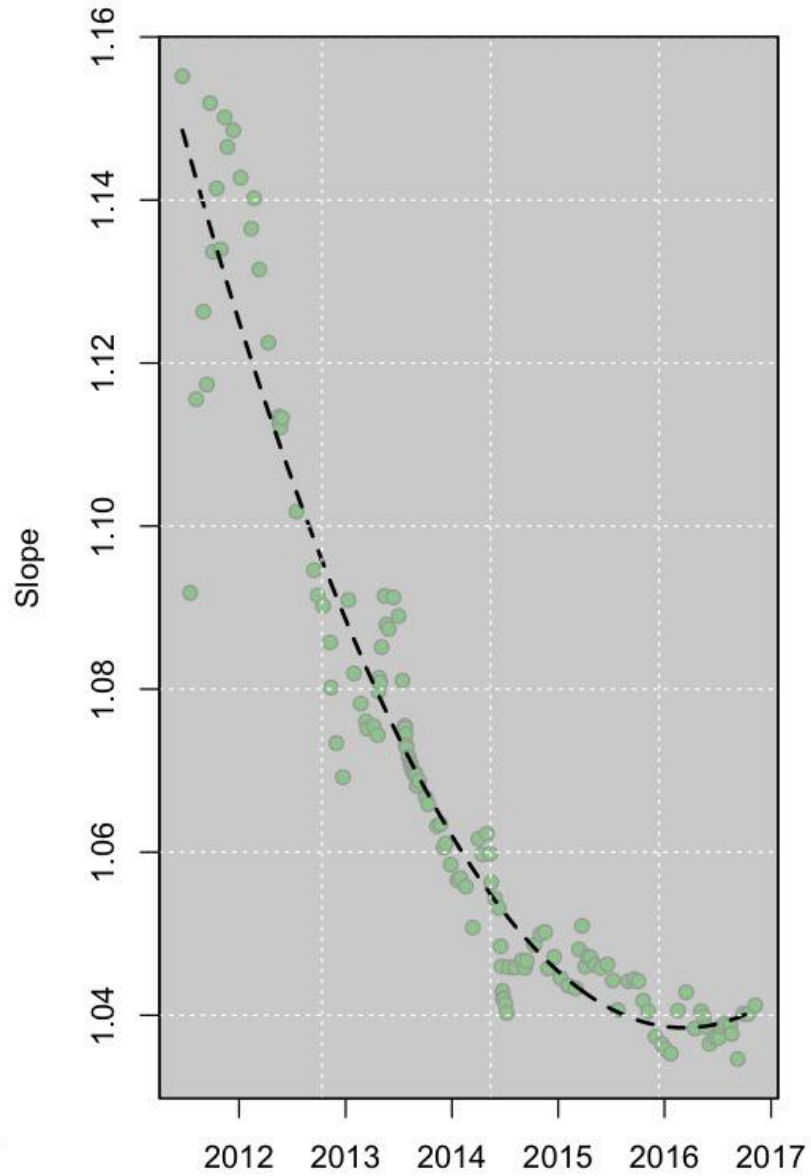
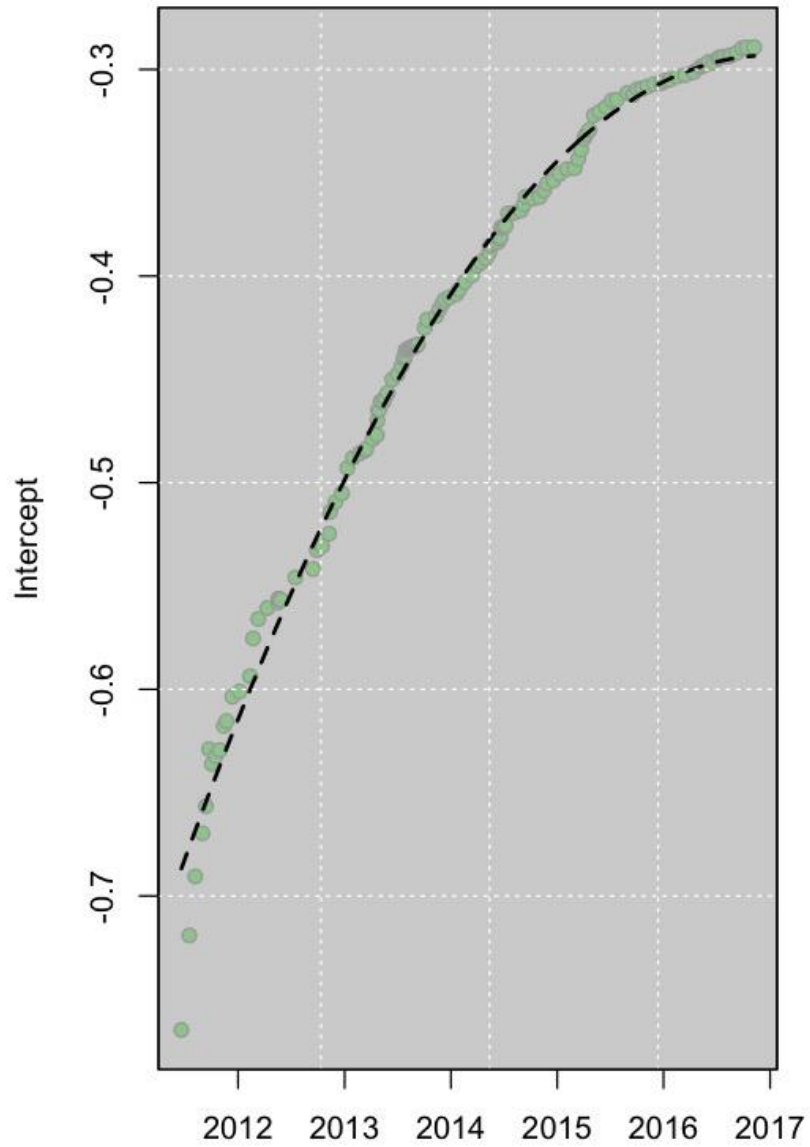




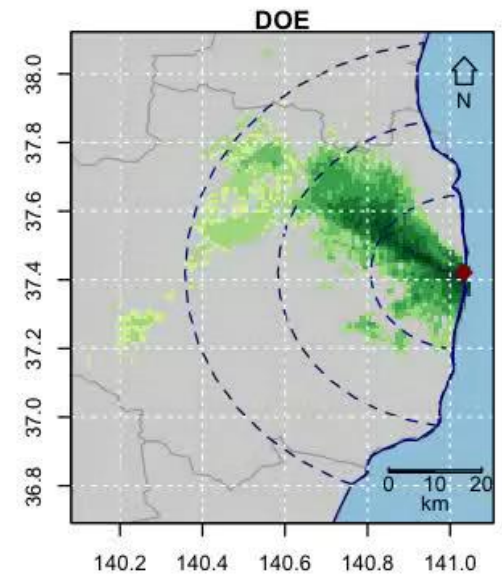
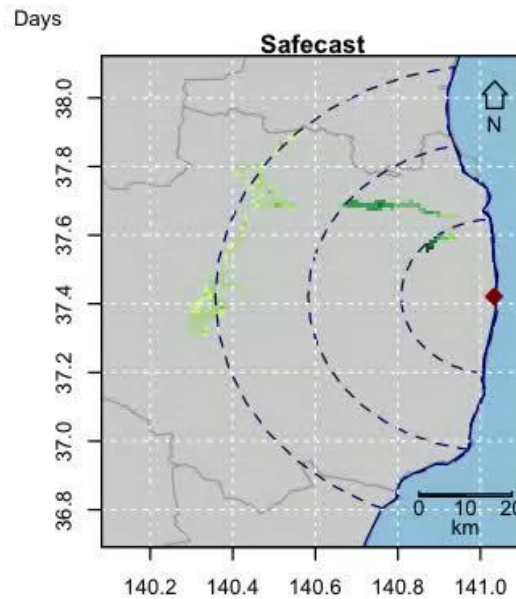
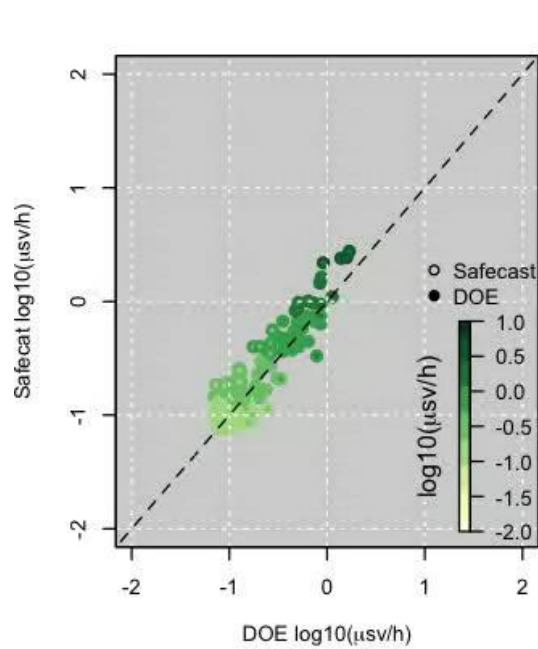
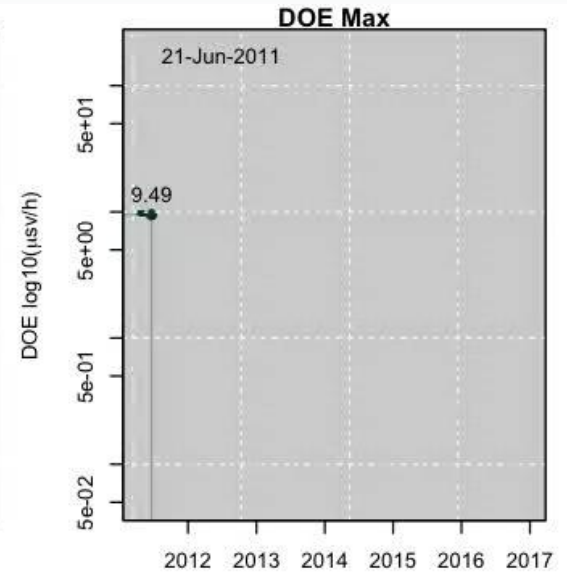
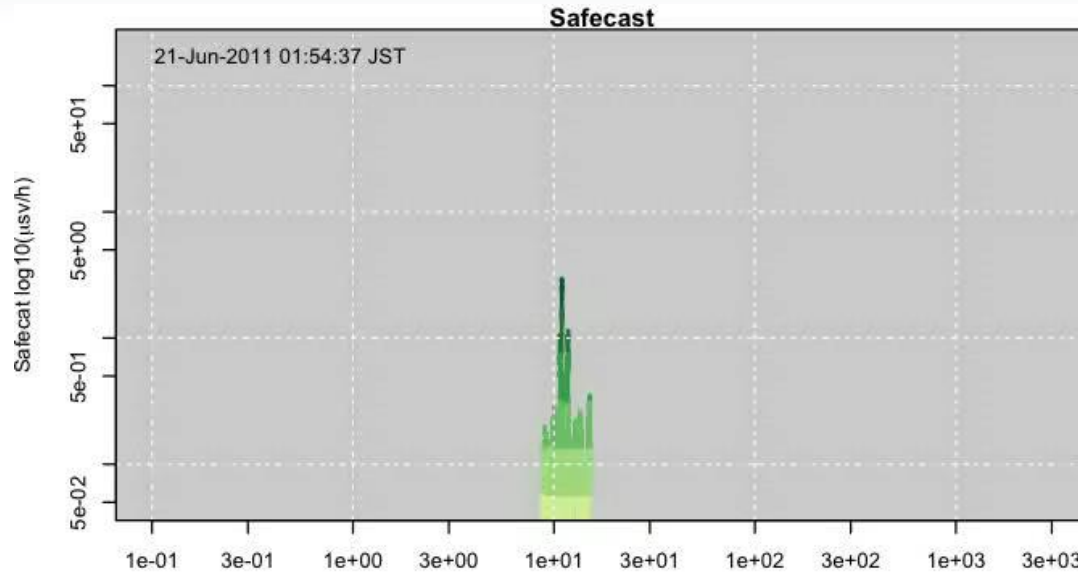
# Calibration



# Calibration Coefficients



# After Calibration



# Overall Error

