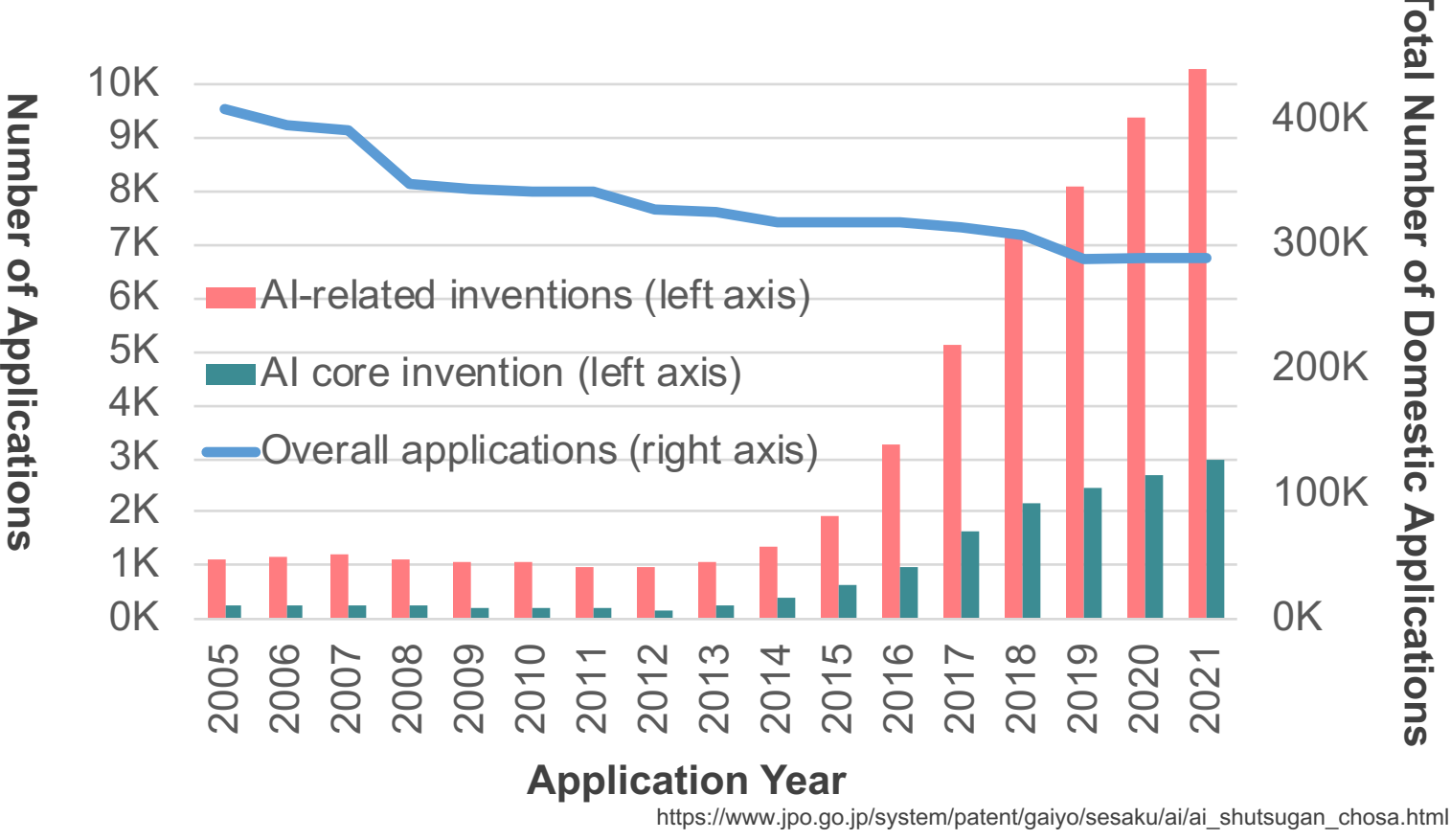


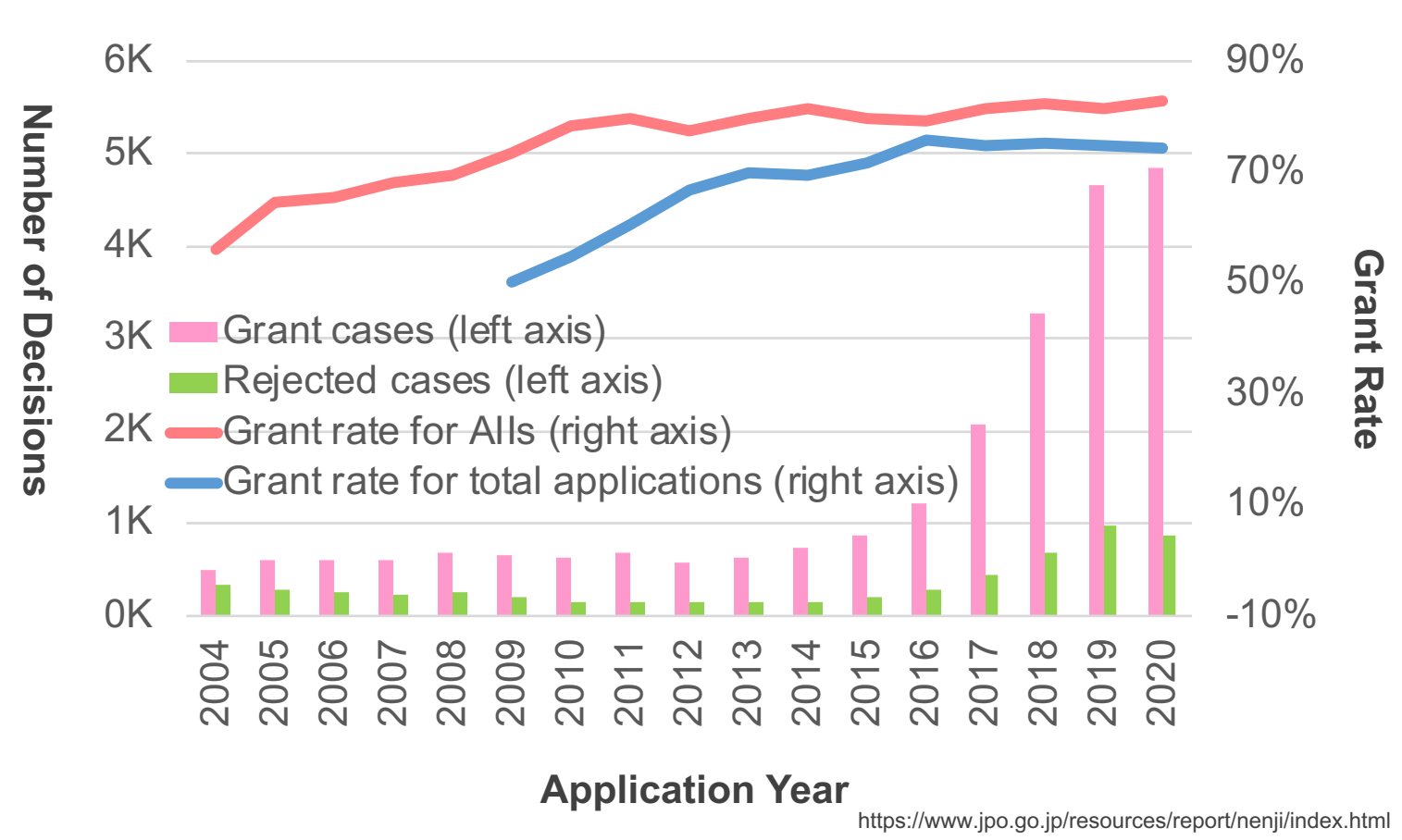
AI Innovation Starts Here — in Japan.

Patent filings for AI are soaring in Japan. With favorable examination practices and trusted patent professionals, your innovations gain stronger protection.

Applications of AI-Related inventions (AIs)



JPO examination appears favorable toward AIs



Cloud Accounting Software Patent Lawsuit

- Plaintiff: freee (Patent No. 5503795, automatic journalizing using rules & tables)
- Defendant: Money Forward (ML-based system)
- Court Decision (Tokyo, 2017): Claim dismissed. ML-based method ≠ Rule-based method
- Functional claim drafting is crucial to cover both rule-based & ML-based implementations.



https://www.courts.go.jp/app/files/hanrei_jp/011/087011_hanrei.pdf

SoftBank Group – Mass AI Patent Publications

- April 2025: 3,500+ AI-related applications published in Japan
- Wide range: telecom, autonomous driving, energy, healthcare, metaverse
- Many inventions follow structure: automatic problem extraction → automatic solution generation
- Goal: Build IP portfolio linking technology with social significance

<https://xtech.nikkei.com/atcl/nxt/column/18/03093/040200003/>

AI as Inventor? – DABUS Case in Japan

- PCT application (Aug 2020) with “DABUS” as inventor was objected by JPO
- IP High Court: under current law, inventors must be natural persons
- No statutory provision allowing AI to be named as inventor



https://www.courts.go.jp/app/files/hanrei_jp/757/093757_hanrei.pdf

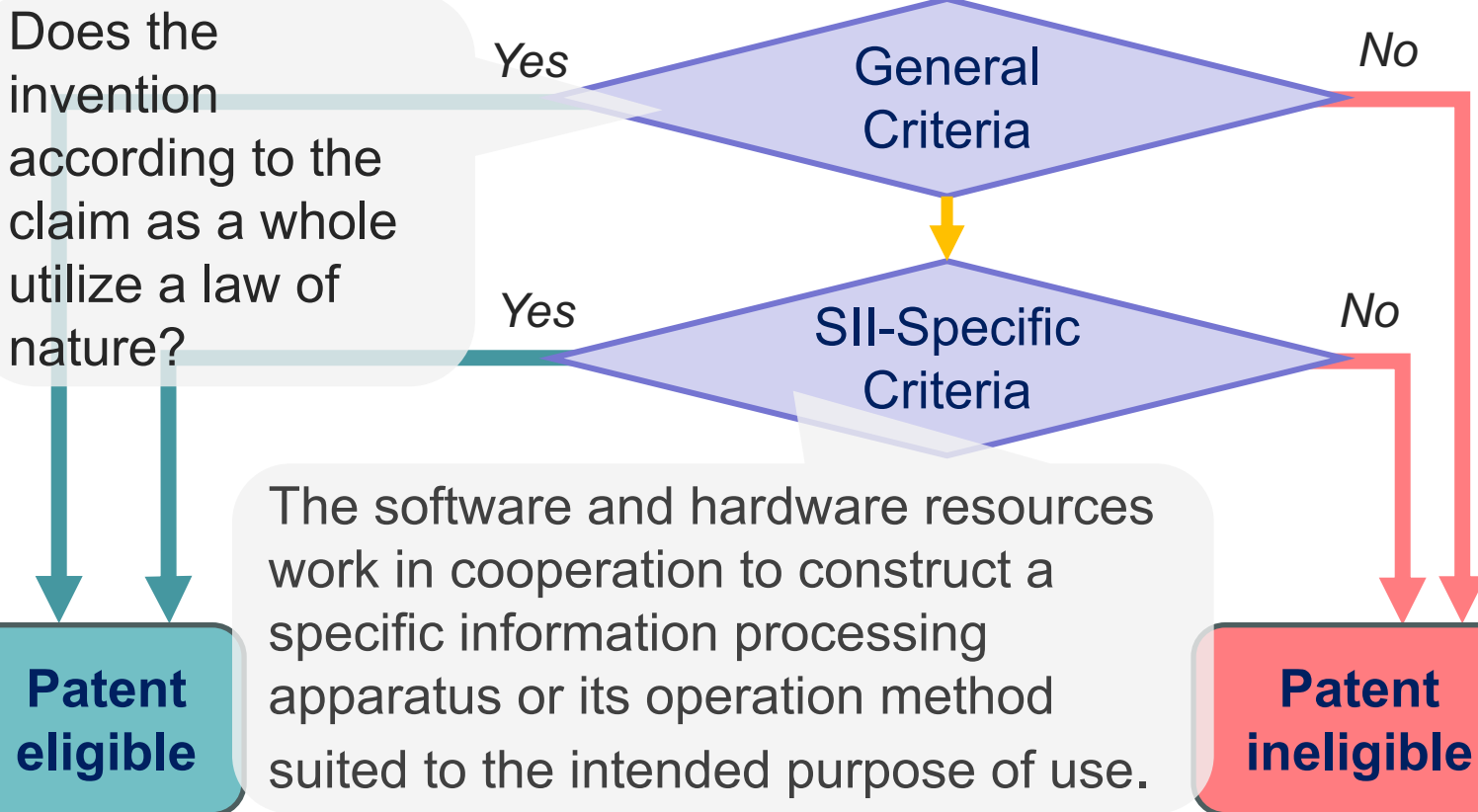
JPAA AI Utilization Guidelines (Apr 2025)

- Issued to members of the Japan Patent Attorneys Association
- Focus: understanding AI's features & risks → improve productivity & service quality
- Enhances client trust by explicitly adhering to guidelines

<https://www.jpaa.or.jp/cms/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Guidelines-for-the-Utilization-of-AI-in-Patent-Attorney-Work.pdf>

Flow for Determining Eligibility

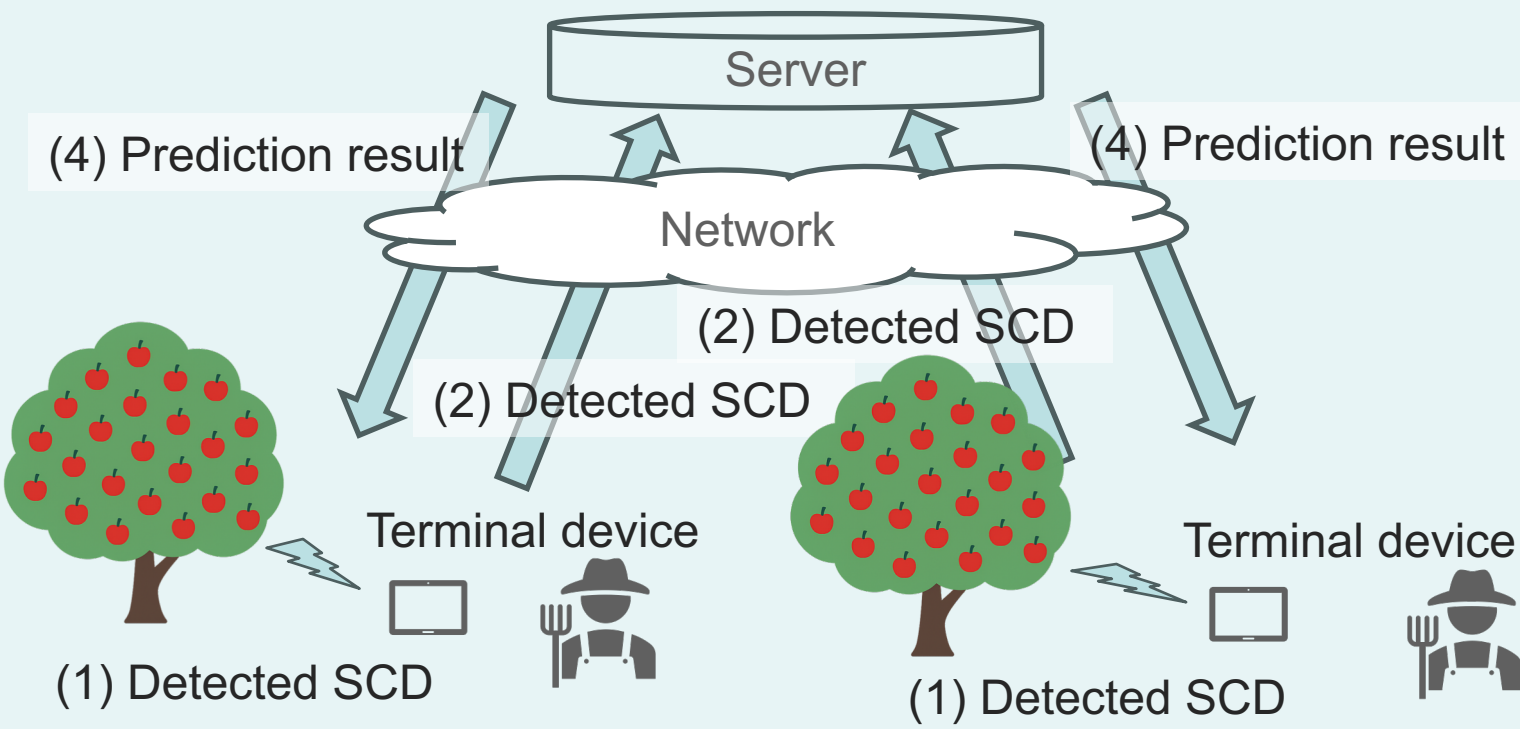
Software-implemented (incl. AI-related) inventions (SIs)



Imaginary Examination Example

Sugar Content Data of Apples and Method for Predicting Sugar Content of Apples

(3) Prediction of sugar content by machine learning



Claim 1. **Sugar content data (SCD)** of apples before harvest, measured by a portable apple sugar content sensor that performs reflective near-infrared spectroscopy analysis.

✗ **Invention** ∴ Mere presentation of information

Claim 2. **The SCD** of apples according to claim 1, received by a receiving unit of a server and stored in a storage unit of the server.

✗ **Invention** ∴ Mere presentation of information

Claim 3. **A method for predicting SCD** of apples, comprising:

an analysis step in which an analysis unit of the server analyzes the relationship between pre-harvest apple SCD and weather condition data for a predetermined period and SCD at the time of shipment, based on records;

a receiving step in which the receiving unit of the server receives the pre-harvest apple SCD for a predetermined period as described in claim 1; and

a prediction step in which the prediction unit of the server predicts and outputs SCD of apples at the time of future shipment, based on the analyzed relationship and using the received pre-harvest apple SCD and past/future weather condition data as input.

✓ **Invention** ∴ Specific information processing based on technical properties

https://www.jpo.go.jp/system/laws/rule/guideline/patent/document/ai_jirei/jirei.pdf

Granted Examples

Claim 1. **An estimation apparatus** comprising: **an approximator** configured to estimate the density of a bone based on **learned parameters** from input information having a side image of a simple X-ray image in which a human skeleton appears. (JP7217906B)

Claim 1. **A musical score writing device** according to the present invention comprises:

a reception unit that receives a musical note sequence that is composed of a plurality of musical notes, and

an estimation unit that uses **a trained model** to estimate attribute information and each musical note for writing a musical score, wherein

the trained model is a machine learning model that has learned an input-output relation between a reference musical note sequence made of a plurality of reference notes, and reference attribute information and each reference note for writing a musical score. (JP7605302B)