

On Integrity of Insight in AI

Reproducibility and Replicatability in Machine Learning Research

The logo features the word 'HELMHOLTZ' in white and 'AI' in orange, set against a background of a blue and green network diagram with nodes and connecting lines. The background also includes abstract wavy patterns of green and blue dots.

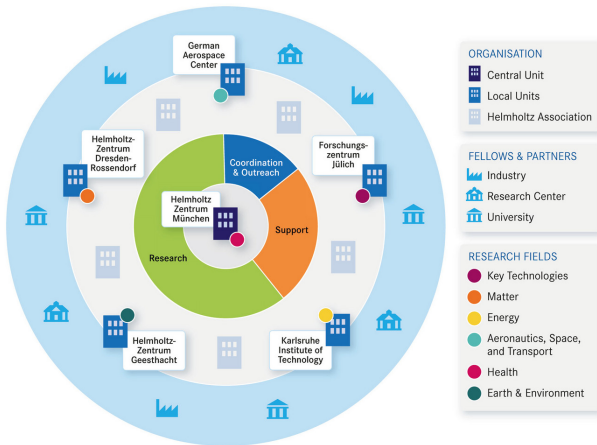
HELMHOLTZ AI

Peter Steinbach

Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf / Helmholtz-CAS Workshop @ WIKOOP-INFRA Project, June 5, 2023

Where am I coming from?

Helmholtz.AI: a Helmholtz Network across Germany



from www.helmholtz.ai

- running over 7 years
2019 - 2026
- each local unit:
 - young investigator group
 - consultant team
- planned staff:
 - 37 FTEs science
 - 35 FTEs consulting
 - 6 FTEs coordination, outreach, management

Challenges in Machine Learning

Reproducibility, Replicability, Re ... What? [Plesser, 2018] [Barba, 2018]

		Data	
		Same	Different
Analysis	Same	Reproducible	Replicable
	Different	Robust	Generalisable

Fig. 5 How the Turing Way defines reproducible research

Let's use the definitions that we teach! [Community, 2021]

Recap: Image Classification using Deep Learning

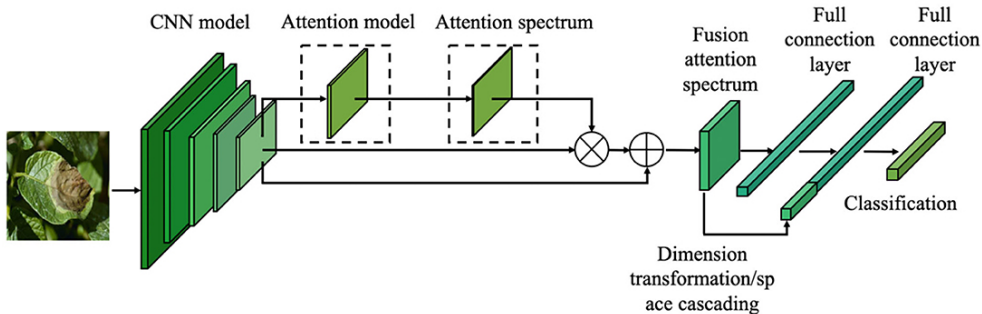
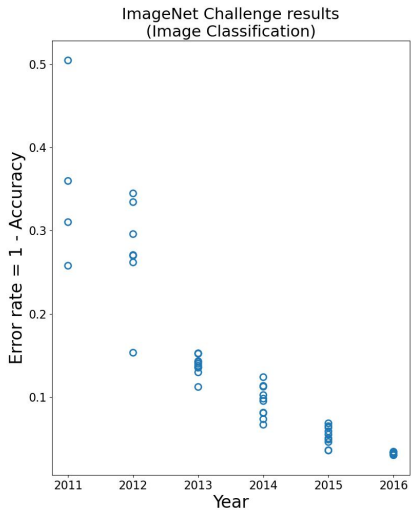
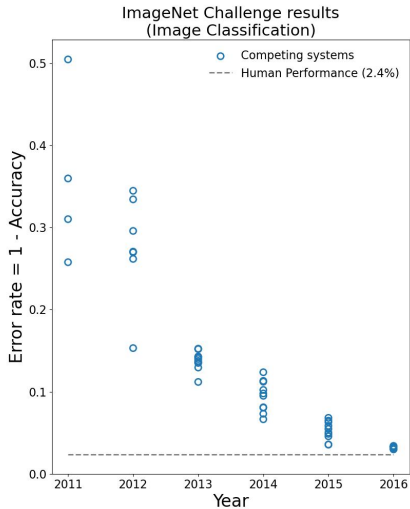
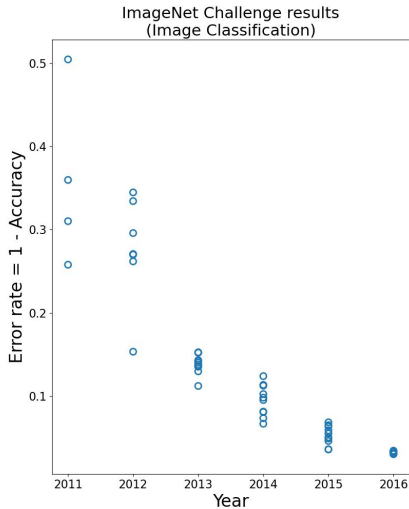


figure 4 from [Yang et al., 2020]

Human Expectations: The Imagenet Moment 2012

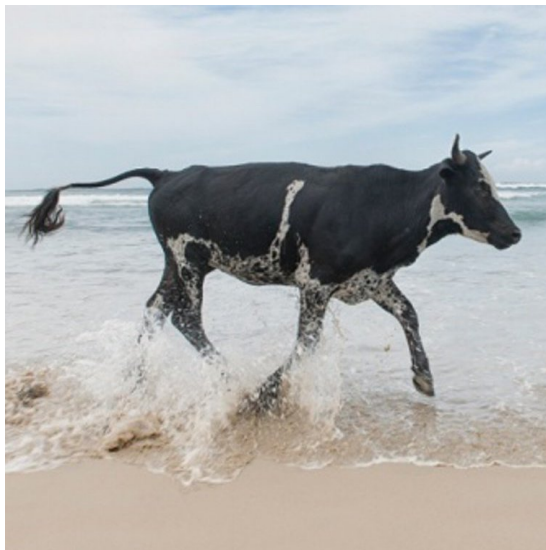


Human Expectations: The Imagenet Moment 2012



Inspired by [Wikipedia: ImageNet Error Rate History](#)

ML can be brittle: without human intervention [Geirhos et al., 2020]



Is this a cow? “AI” says “No! It’s a horse.” Replicability?

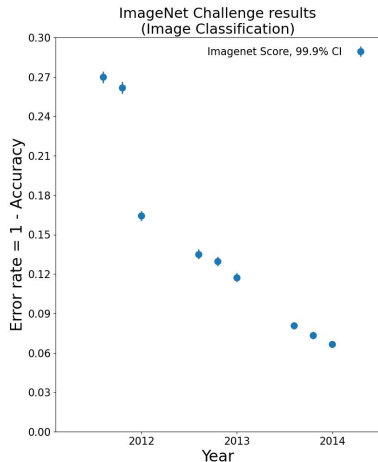
ML can be brittle: with deliberate human intervention [Lu et al., 2017]



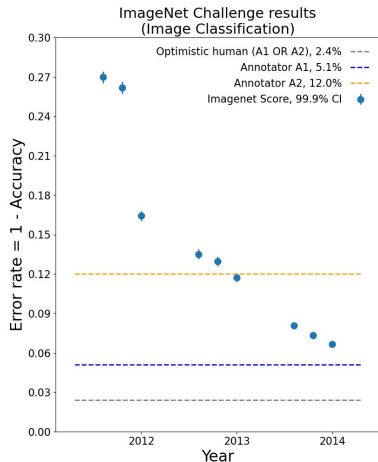
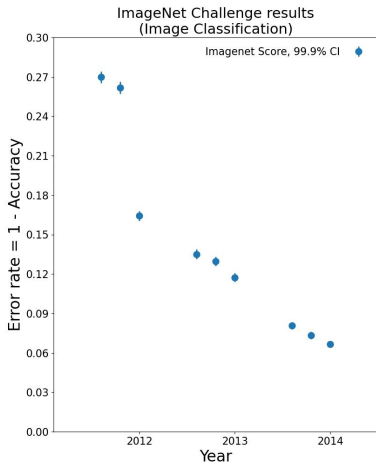
Stop sign identified as vase.
Consequences for autonomous driving?
(replicability in real-life applications)

Quality of Evidence in the Digital Age

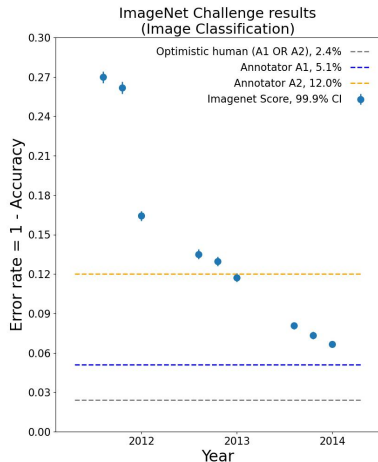
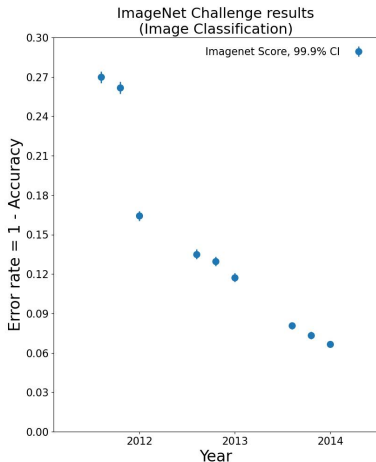
Uncertainties, expectations and myths: ImageNet^[Russakovsky et al., 2015] again



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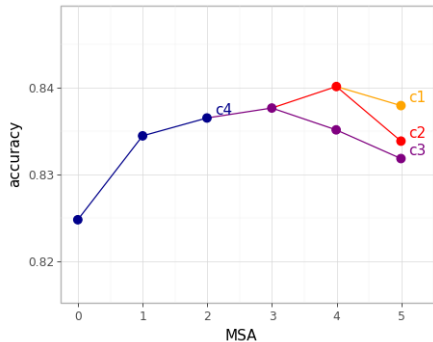


Uncertainties, expectations and myths: ImageNet^[Russakovsky et al., 2015] again



Quality of evidence: did we really reach super-human performance?
(reliability of scientific interpretation)

Uncertainties = guarantees for reproducibility and replicability



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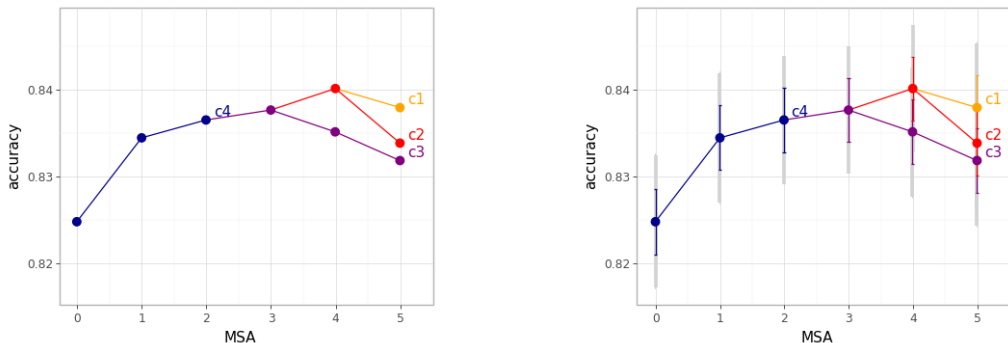


Figure 2: Reproduction of figure 12a from [Park and Kim, 2022] (left). Augmentation of the same figure with estimated accuracy calculated using eq. (1) from [Steinbach et al., 2022] using a one-sigma 68.2% (colored) and two-sigma 95% (grey) confidence interval (right). Data to reproduce these figures was obtained by using [Rohatgi, 2021] on the figures from the preprint PDF.

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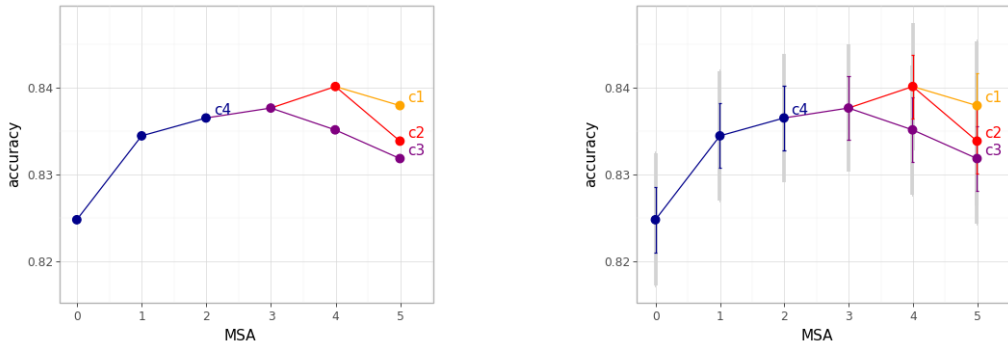


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Quality of evidence: Are the interpretations replicable?

Next steps? Connect!



Exchange, Educate, Communicate (journals, conferences), ...

Summaries

Conclusions

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Happy to hear your feedback, questions or comments!



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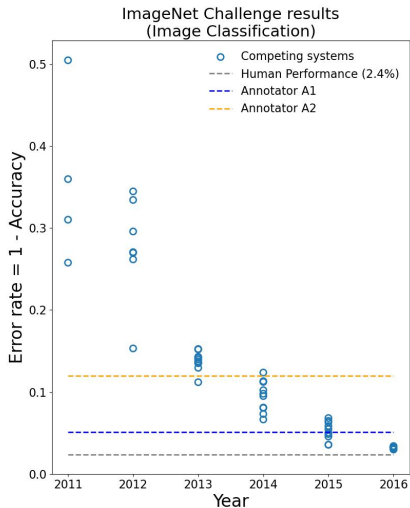
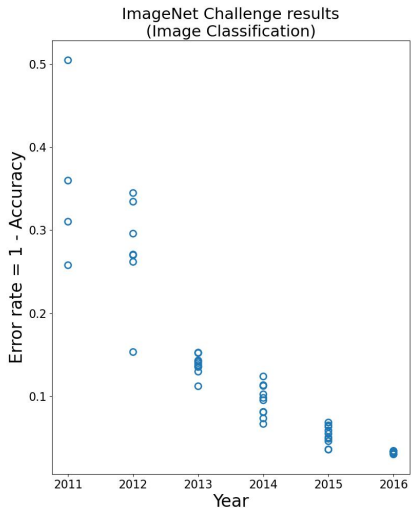
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Backup

Expectations: The Imagenet Moment 2012



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2013

- Natural Language Processing algorithm (paper: [Mikolov et al., 2013], code)
- uses a neural network model to learn word associations from a large corpus of text
- purpose:
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Humans in the loop: the Word2Vec story

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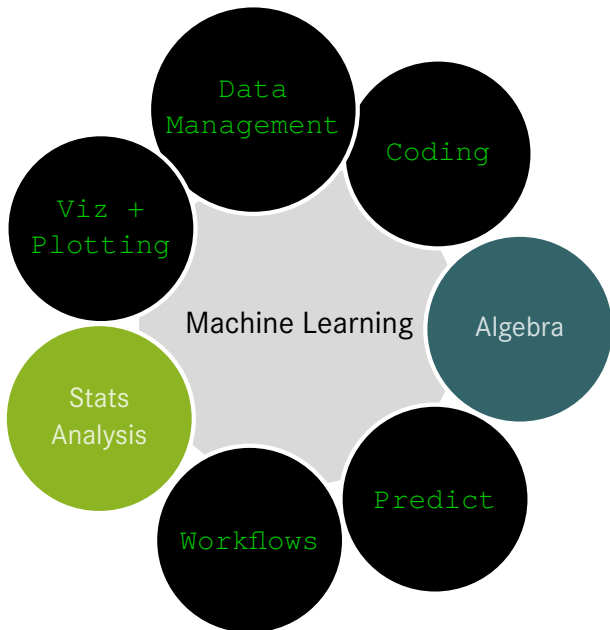
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2022: Do we need only open-source for reproduction? [Raff and Farris, 2022]

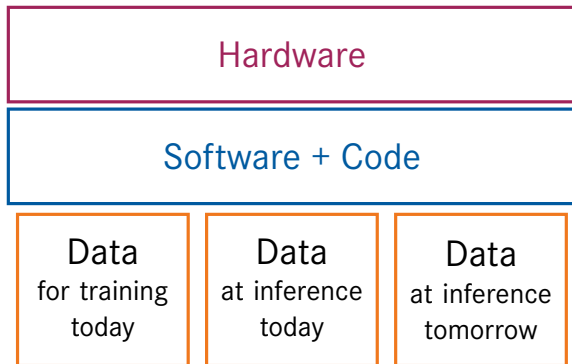
A way forward?

ML requires good (enough) software engineering [Irving et al., 2021]

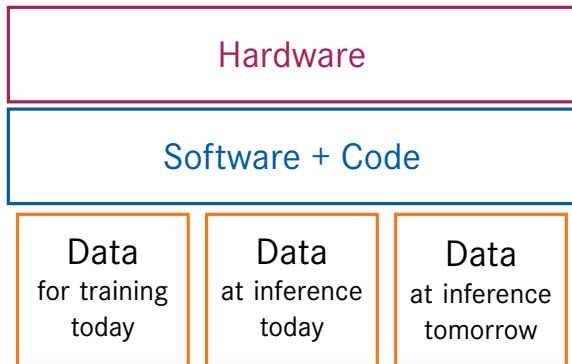


- your domain decides what good-enough is [Wilson et al., 2017]
- code needs to be reproducible
- lack of software engineering → more brittleness

ML = hardware + code + data + data + data



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- constant **retraining and introspection** required for ML products
- data today can be **corrupted** (by human or device)
- data tomorrow can be subject to **drifts** (in feature space, in concept space)
- **crucial**: flexible MLOps and data science monitoring

Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf

1200 staff, infrastructure+research: **life science**, **energy** and **matter**



Figure: HZDR/Oliver Killig

ML = a minefield for reproducibility?

Our ML software stack yields variance [Pham et al., 2020]:

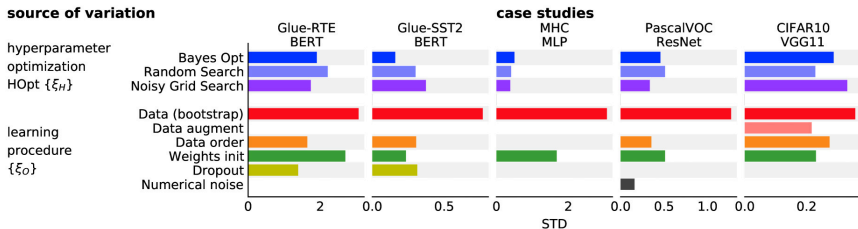
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ML has a lot of intrinsic variance! [Bouthillier et al., 2021]:



Our Helmholtz AI Network across Germany

by James Kahn, Helmholtz AI @ KIT



- 6 centers host Helmholtz AI units across Germany
- innovation: combine science teams and consulting teams

- total: 78 FTEs running
- consulting client base: 28.000 scientists

Helmholtz AI Consultant Team at HZDR



Mahnoor Tanveer



Helene Hoffmann



Steve Schmerler



Sebastian Starke