



# Conditional dependence tests reveal the usage of ABCD rule features and bias variables in automatic skin lesion classification

Christian Reimers, Niklas Penzel, Paul Bodesheim, Jakob Runge, Joachim Denzler



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# Motivation



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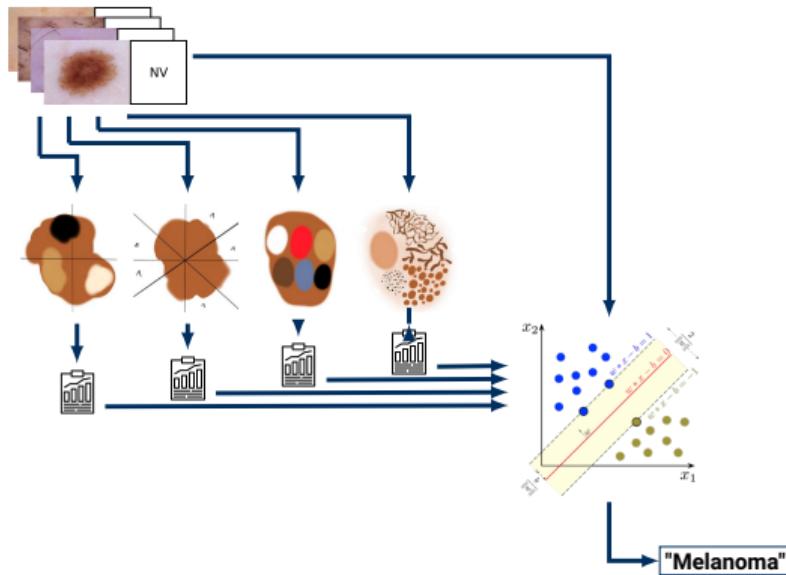
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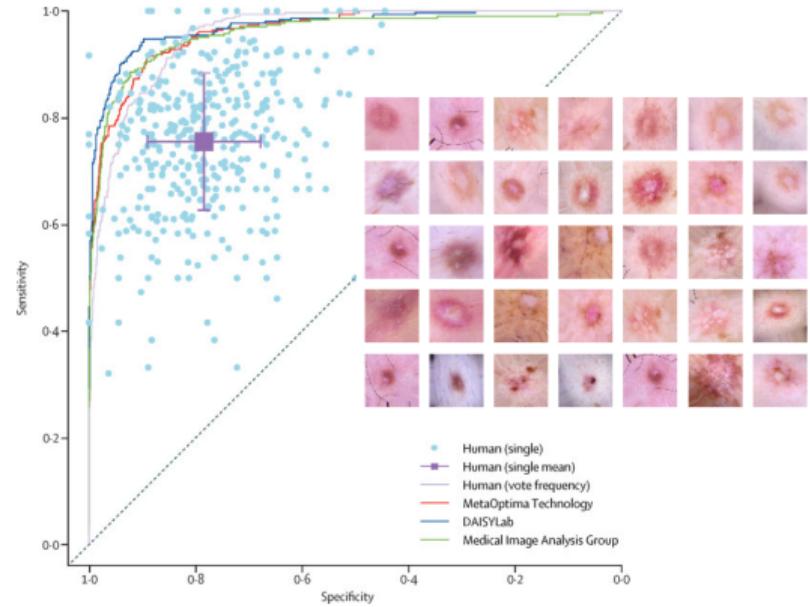
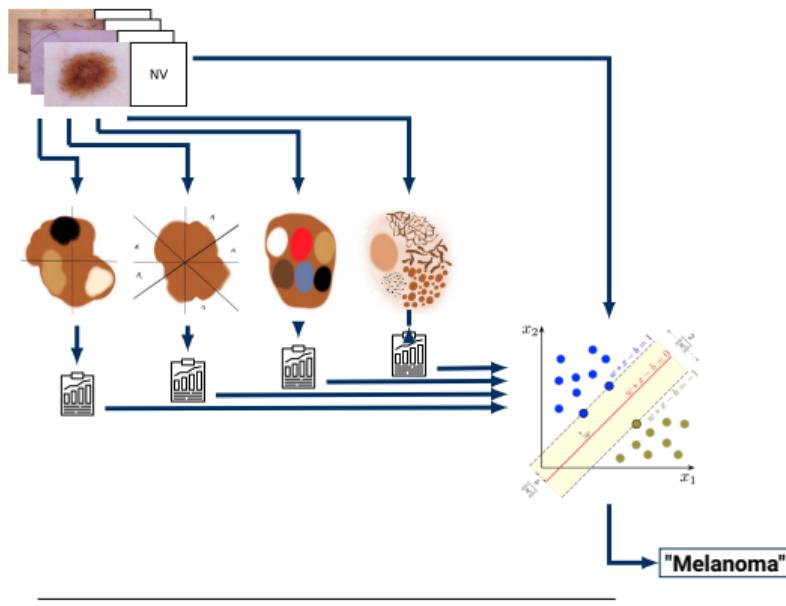
# Deep Learning is the State of the Art



[4]: Tschandl et al.: "Comparison of the accuracy of human readers versus machine-learning algorithms for pigmented skin lesion classification: an open, web-based, international, diagnostic study"



# Deep Learning is the State of the Art



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# Testing if a Feature is used



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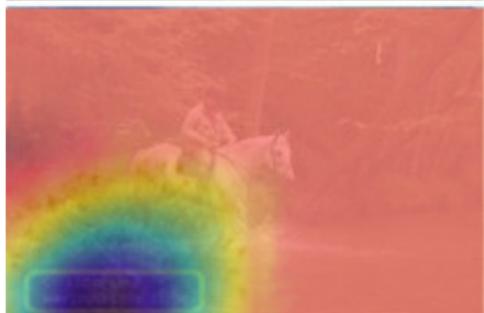


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# Testing if a Feature is used



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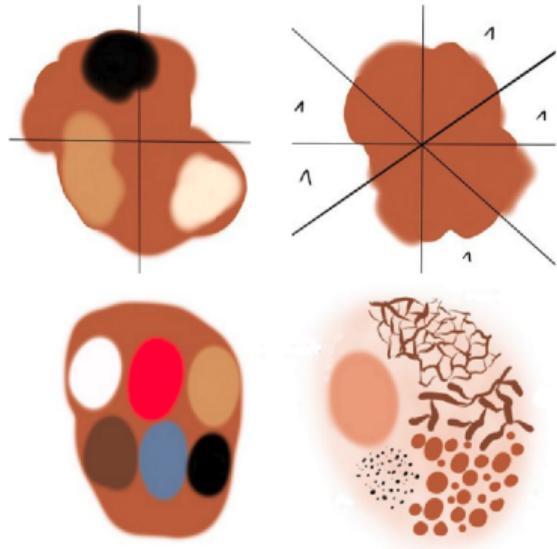


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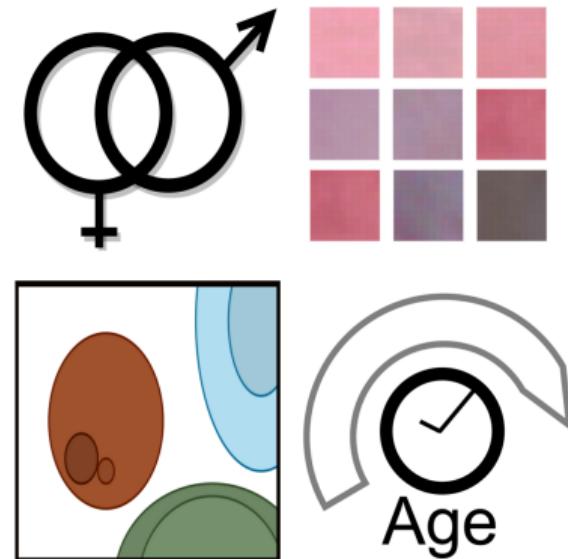


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# Medically Relevant vs. Biases



<sup>1</sup>[https://dermoscopedia.org/ABCD\\_rule](https://dermoscopedia.org/ABCD_rule)



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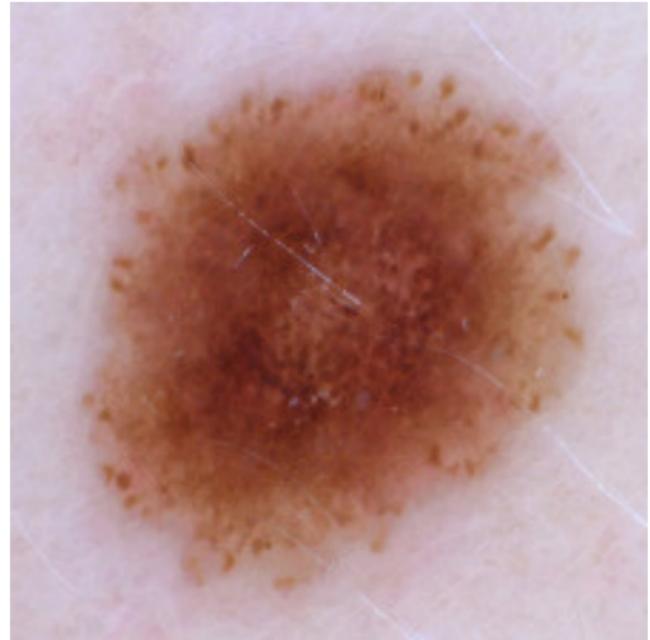
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# Saliency Maps

## MAIN APPROACHES



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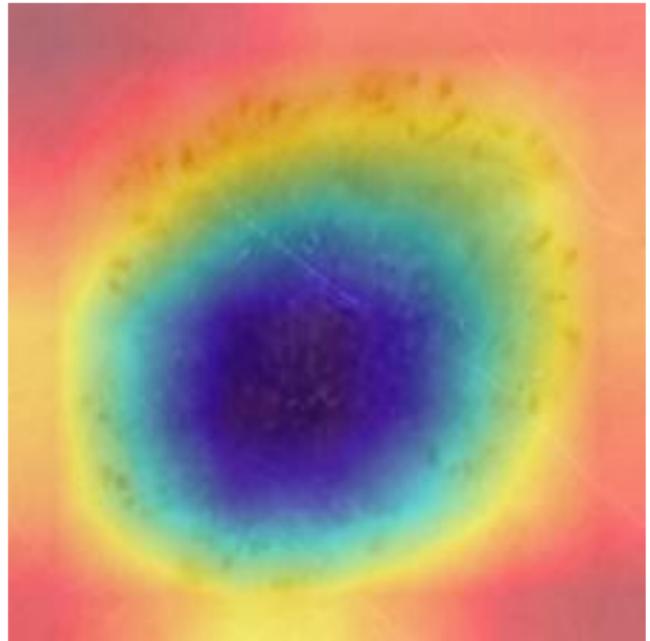


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# Saliency Maps

## MAIN APPROACHES

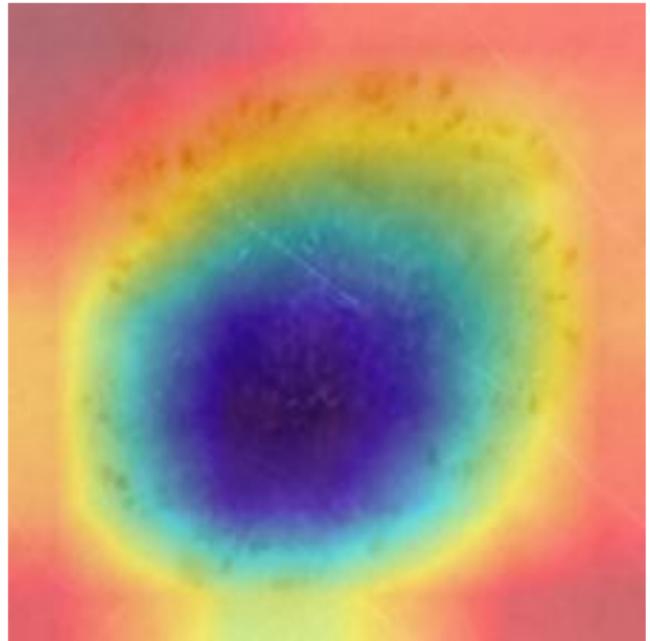
- Gradient-based ( $S = \partial F(I)/\partial I$ )



# Saliency Maps

## MAIN APPROACHES

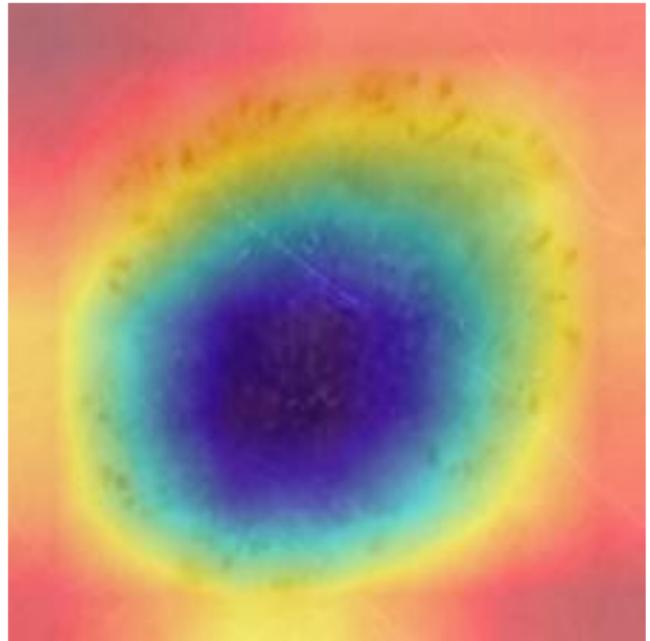
- ▶ Gradient-based ( $S = \partial F(I)/\partial I$ )
- ▶ Ablation-based ( $S = F(I) - F(I_{\setminus(x,y)})$ )



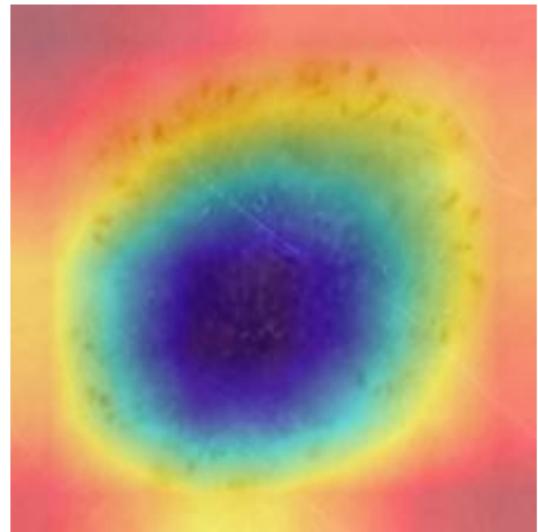
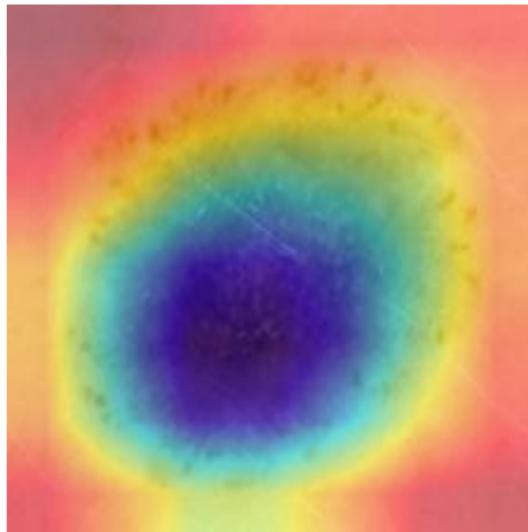
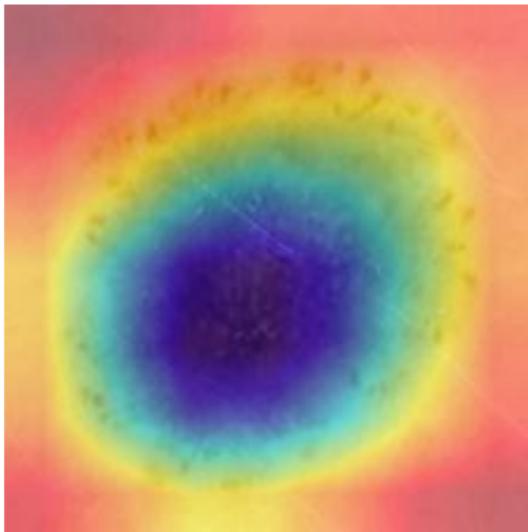
# Saliency Maps

## MAIN APPROACHES

- ▶ Gradient-based ( $S = \partial F(I)/\partial I$ )
- ▶ Ablation-based ( $S = F(I) - F(I_{\setminus(x,y)})$ )
- ▶ Gradient and Value-based ( $S = \partial F(I)/\partial I \odot I$ )



## Example: Asymmetry

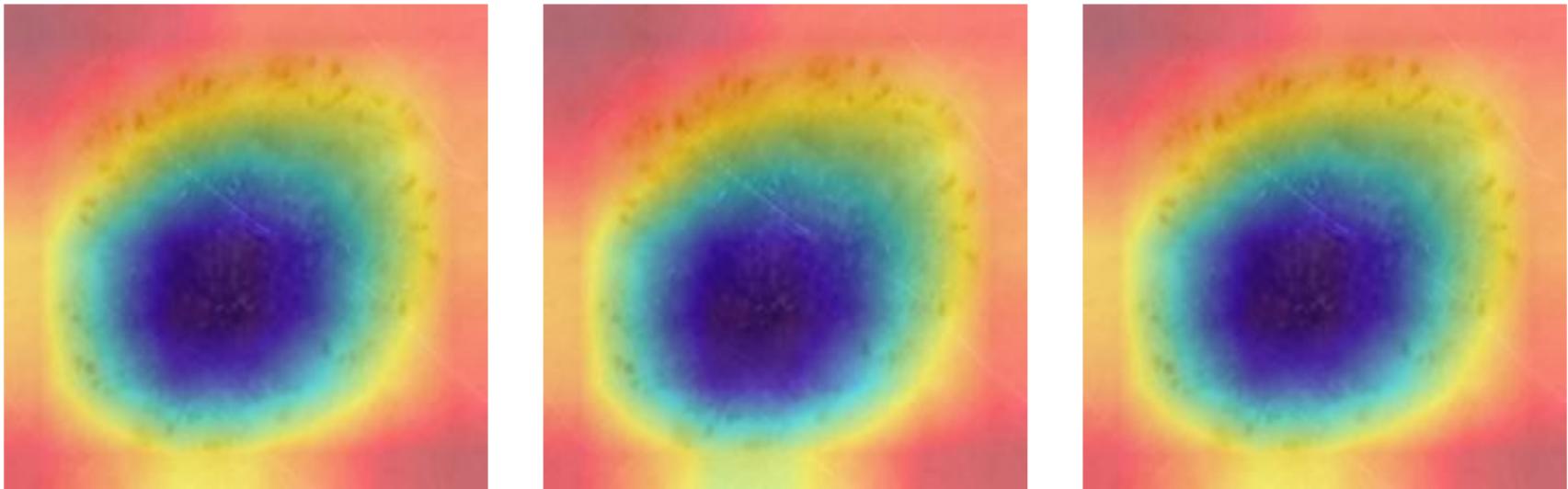


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## Example: Asymmetry



Does the Network use the Asymmetry of the lesion?



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## Method



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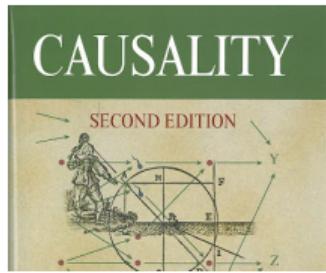
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# The Method of Conditional Dependence



[3]: Reimers et al. "Determining the Relevance of Features for Deep Neural Networks" 2020.



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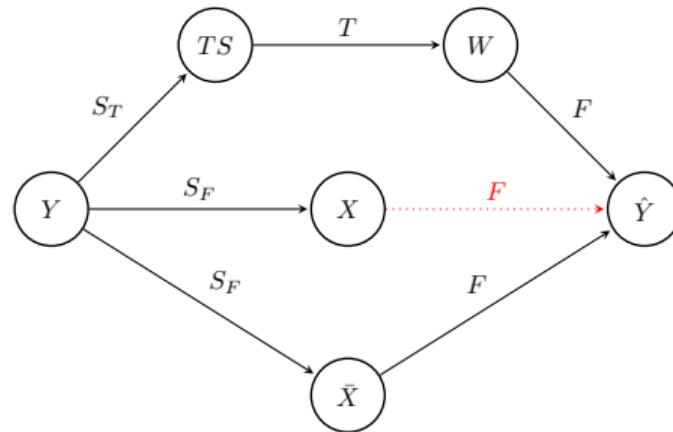
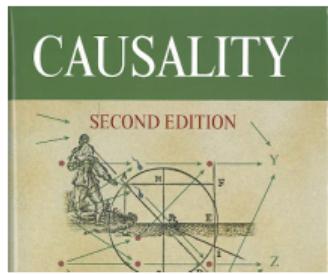


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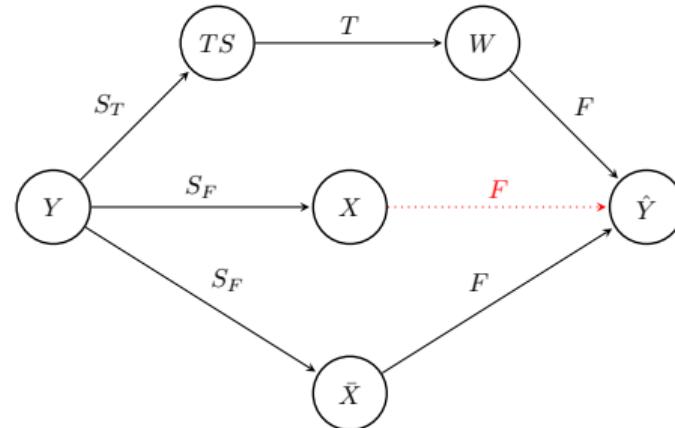
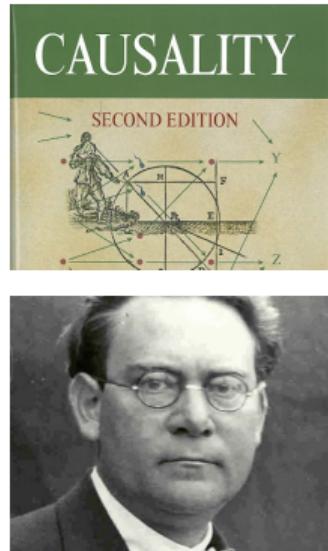


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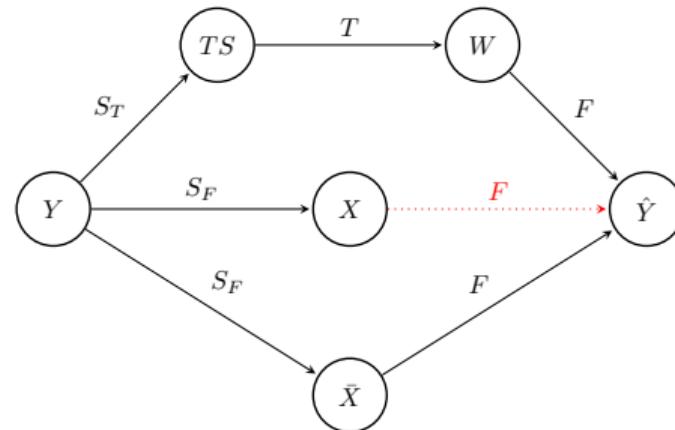
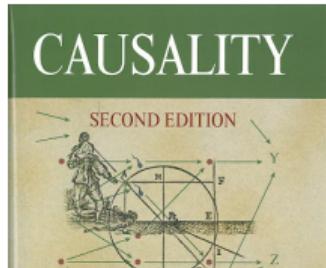


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# The Method of Conditional Dependence



$$\hat{Y} \perp\!\!\!\perp X | Y$$

[3]: Reimers et al. "Determining the Relevance of Features for Deep Neural Networks" 2020.



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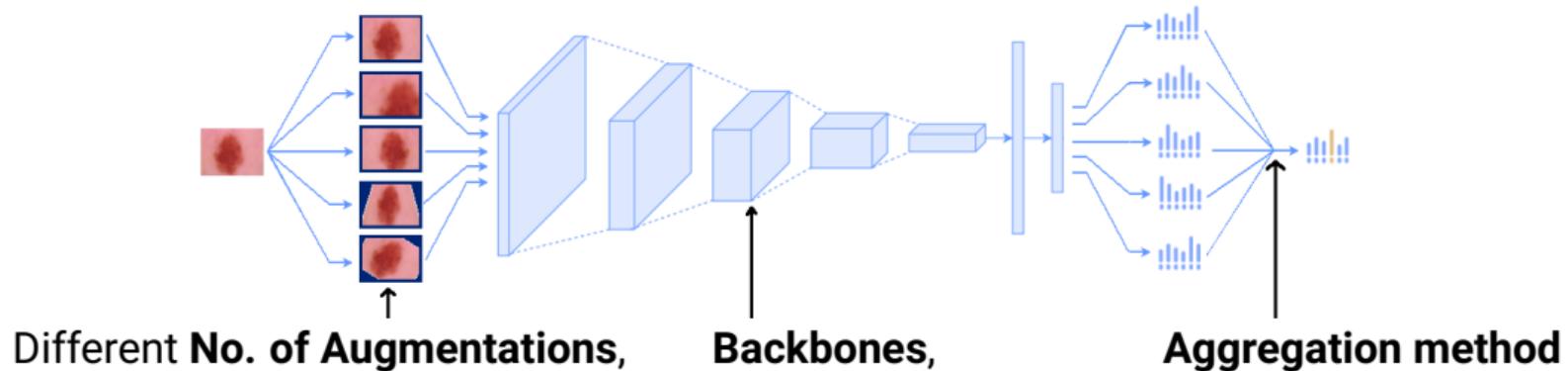


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# Classifiers: Perez et al.



Twelve binary models for melanoma prediction and twelve binary models for seborrheic keratosis.

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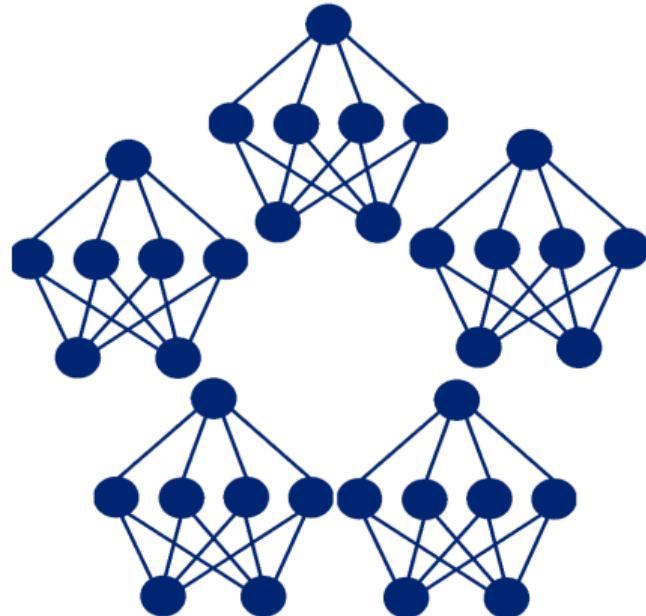
[2]: Perez et al. "Data augmentation for skin lesion analysis", 2018.



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# Classifiers: Gessert et al.



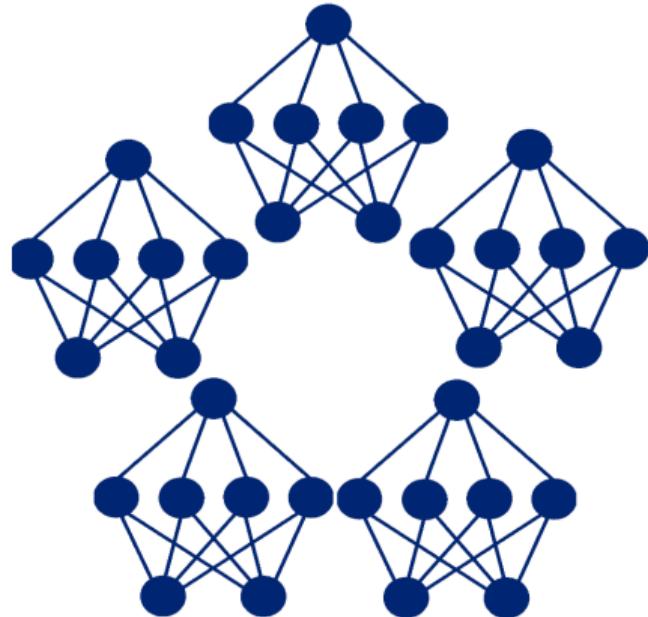
[1]: Gessert et al. "Skin lesion classification using ensembles of multi-resolution EfficientNets with meta data", 2020.

## ENSEMBLE OF EFFICIENTNETS

- ▶ Multi-class Classifier
- ▶ Ensemble of pretrained CNNs
- ▶ Recognizes 8 Classes
- ▶ Test-time Augmentation



# Classifiers: Gessert et al.



[1]: Gessert et al. "Skin lesion classification using ensembles of multi-resolution EfficientNets with meta data", 2020.

## ENSEMBLE OF EFFICIENTNETS

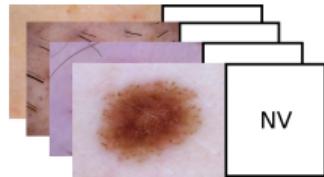
- ▶ Multi-class Classifier
- ▶ Ensemble of pretrained CNNs
- ▶ Recognizes 8 Classes
- ▶ Test-time Augmentation

### CAUTION

We did not train the full ensemble, but  
only five EfficientNet B0



# Experimental Setup



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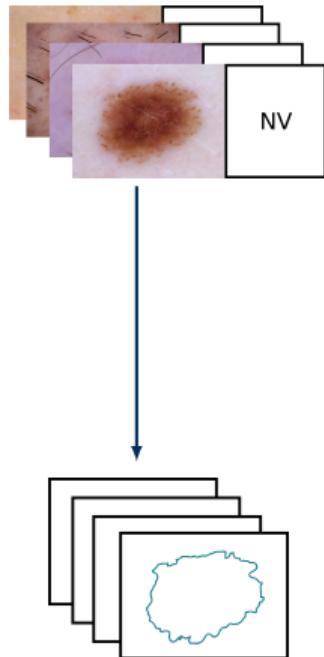


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# Experimental Setup

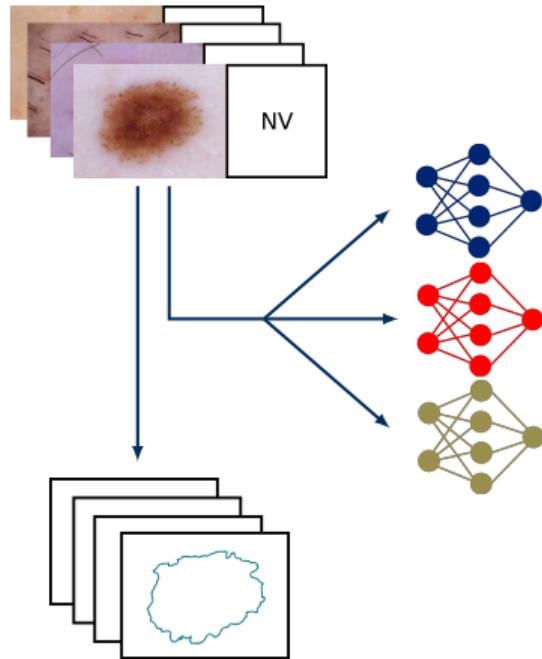


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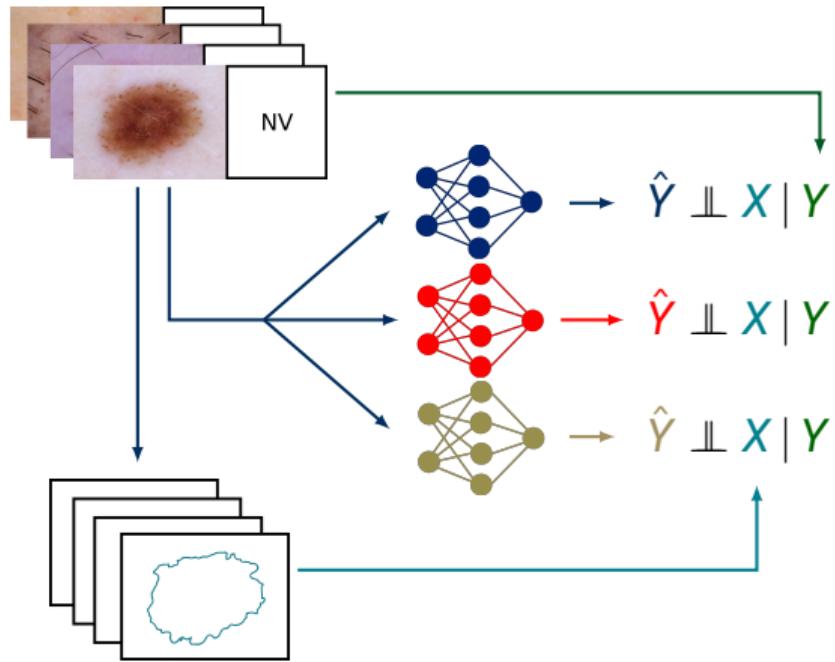


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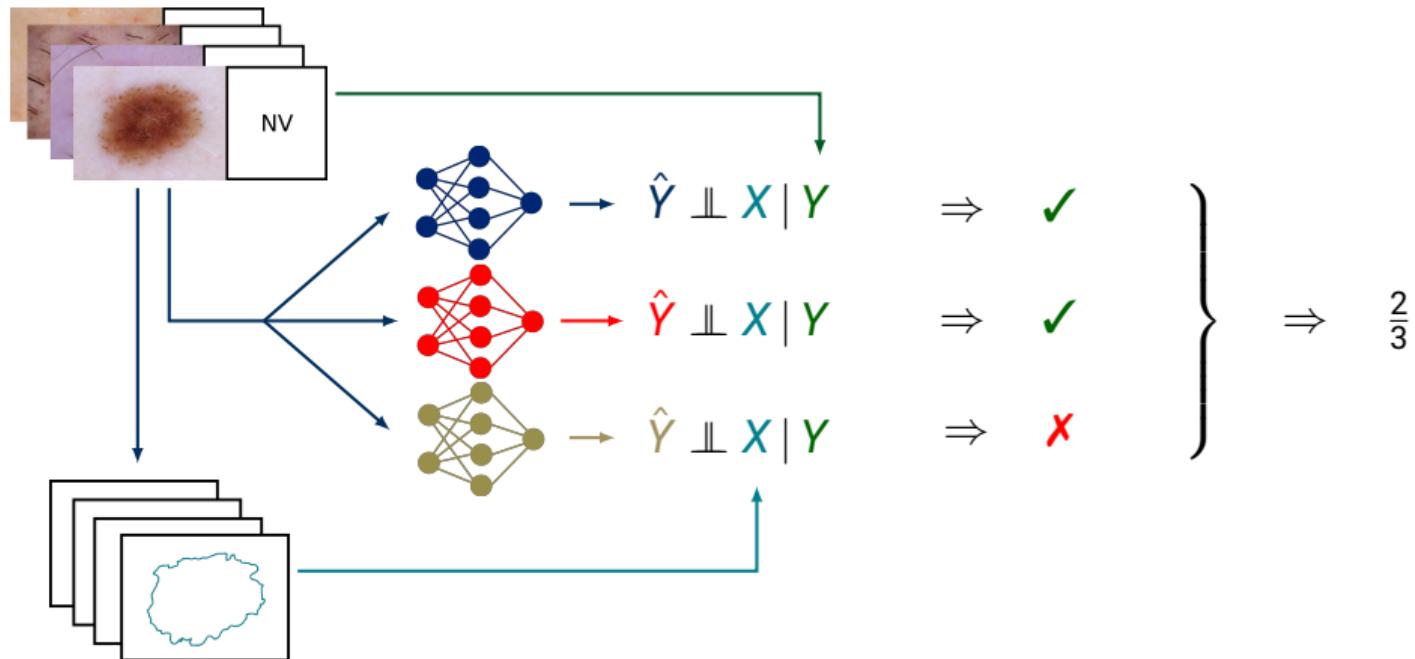
# Experimental Setup



# Experimental Setup



# Experimental Setup



## Results



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# “Placebo” Features



Orientation



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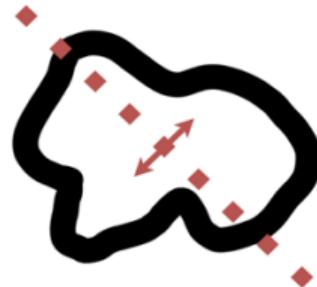


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# “Placebo” Features



Orientation



Rand. Symmetry



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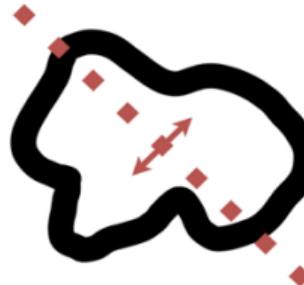


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# “Placebo” Features



Orientation



Rand. Symmetry



Image ID



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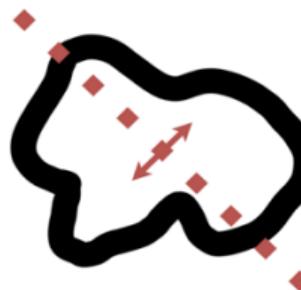


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# “Placebo” Features



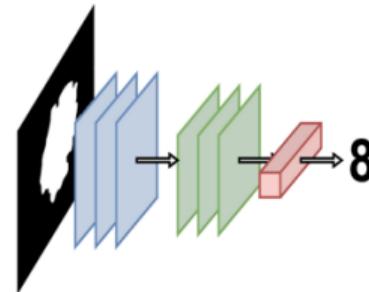
Orientation



Rand. Symmetry



Image ID



MNIST Class



# “Placebo” Features – Results

Model Group	Orientation	Rand.	Symmetry	Image ID	MNIST Class
Perez et al. [2] : Mel	0/12	1/12	0/12	0/12	0/12
Perez et al. [2] : SK	0/12	0/12	0/12	0/12	0/12
Gessert et al. [1]	0/8	1/8	2/8	2/8	0/8



[1]: Gessert et al. "Skin lesion classification using ensembles of multi-resolution EfficientNets with meta data", 2020.

[2]: Perez et al. "Data augmentation for skin lesion analysis", 2018.



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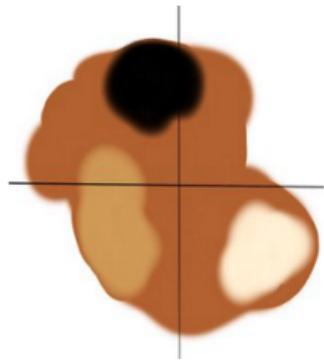


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# ABCD Rule Features



2

## Asymmetry

<sup>2</sup>[https://dermoscopedia.org/ABCD\\_rule](https://dermoscopedia.org/ABCD_rule)



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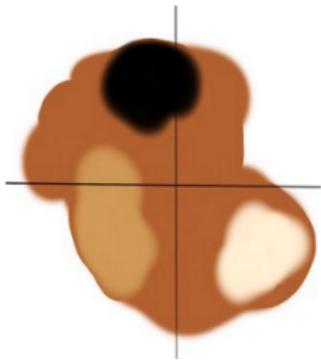


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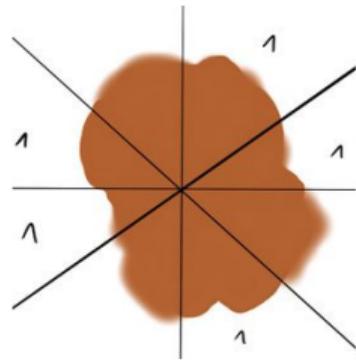


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# ABCD Rule Features



Asymmetry



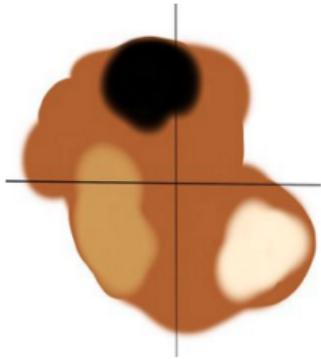
Border

2

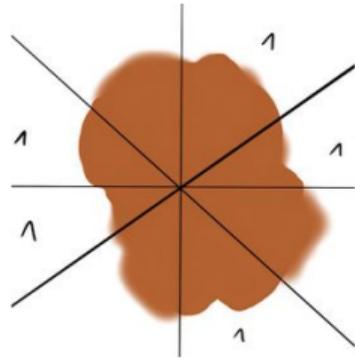
<sup>2</sup>[https://dermoscopedia.org/ABCD\\_rule](https://dermoscopedia.org/ABCD_rule)



# ABCD Rule Features



Asymmetry



Border



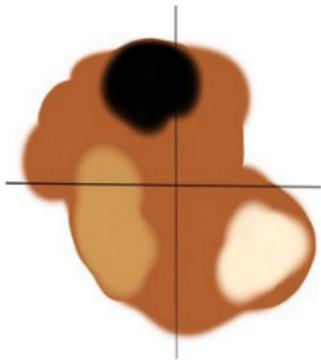
Color

2

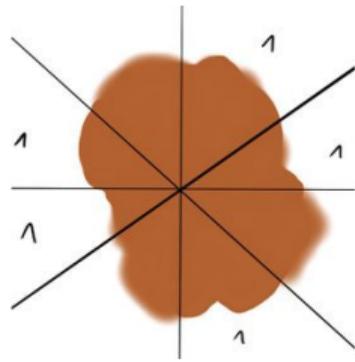
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# ABCD Rule Features



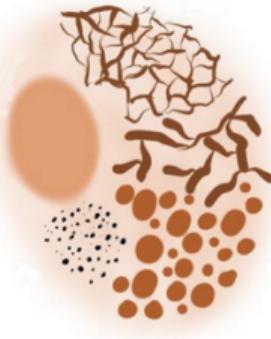
Asymmetry



Border



Color



2

Derm. Structures

<sup>2</sup>[https://dermoscopedia.org/ABCD\\_rule](https://dermoscopedia.org/ABCD_rule)

# ABCD Rule Features – Results

Model Group	Asymmetry	Border	Color	Derm. Structures
Perez et al. [2] : Mel	12/12	12/12	4/12	0/12
Perez et al. [2] : SK	0/12	0/12	0/12	5/12
Gessert et al. [1]	0/8	6/8	3/8	1/8



[1]: Gessert et al. "Skin lesion classification using ensembles of multi-resolution EfficientNets with meta data", 2020.

[2]: Perez et al. "Data augmentation for skin lesion analysis", 2018.

# ABCD Rule Features – Results

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Gessert et al. [1]	0/8	6/8	3/8	1/8

< 25%     25% - 75%     > 75%

[1]: Gessert et al. "Skin lesion classification using ensembles of multi-resolution EfficientNets with meta data", 2020.

[2]: Perez et al. "Data augmentation for skin lesion analysis", 2018.



# Bias Features



Age



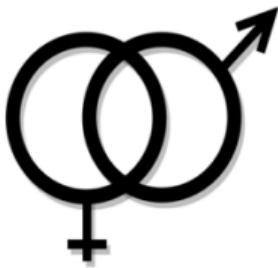
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# Bias Features



Age



Sex



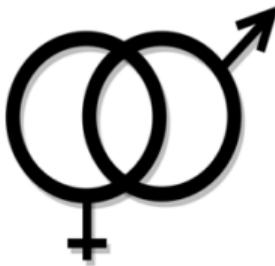
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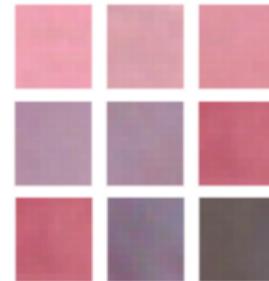
# Bias Features



Age



Sex



Skin Color



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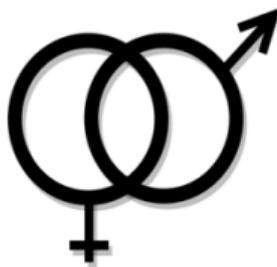


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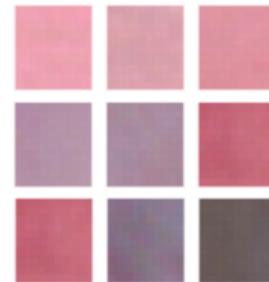
# Bias Features



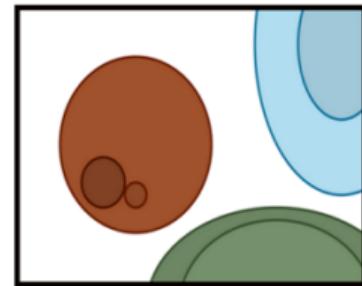
Age



Sex



Skin Color



Colorful Patches



# Bias Features – Results

Model Group	Age	Sex	Skin Color	Colorful Patches
Perez et al. [2] : Mel	12/12	4/12	2/12	12/12
Perez et al. [2] : SK	12/12	4/12	12/12	12/12
Gessert et al. [1]	5/8	1/8	6/8	5/8



[1]: Gessert et al. "Skin lesion classification using ensembles of multi-resolution EfficientNets with meta data", 2020.

[2]: Perez et al. "Data augmentation for skin lesion analysis", 2018.



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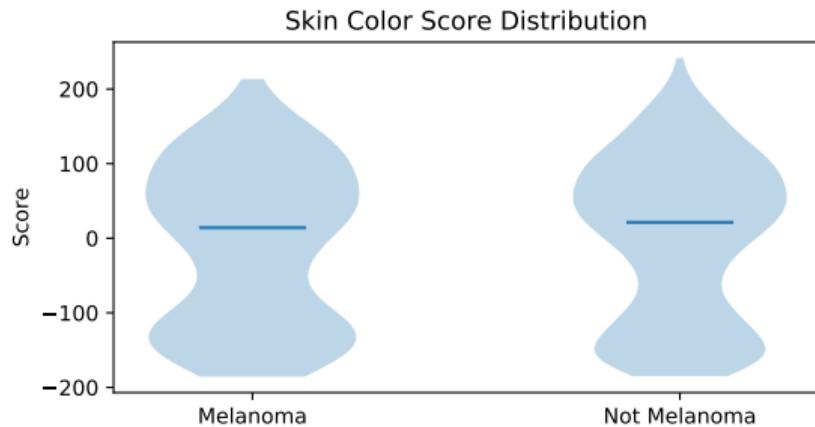


[1]: Gessert et al. "Skin lesion classification using ensembles of multi-resolution EfficientNets with meta data", 2020.

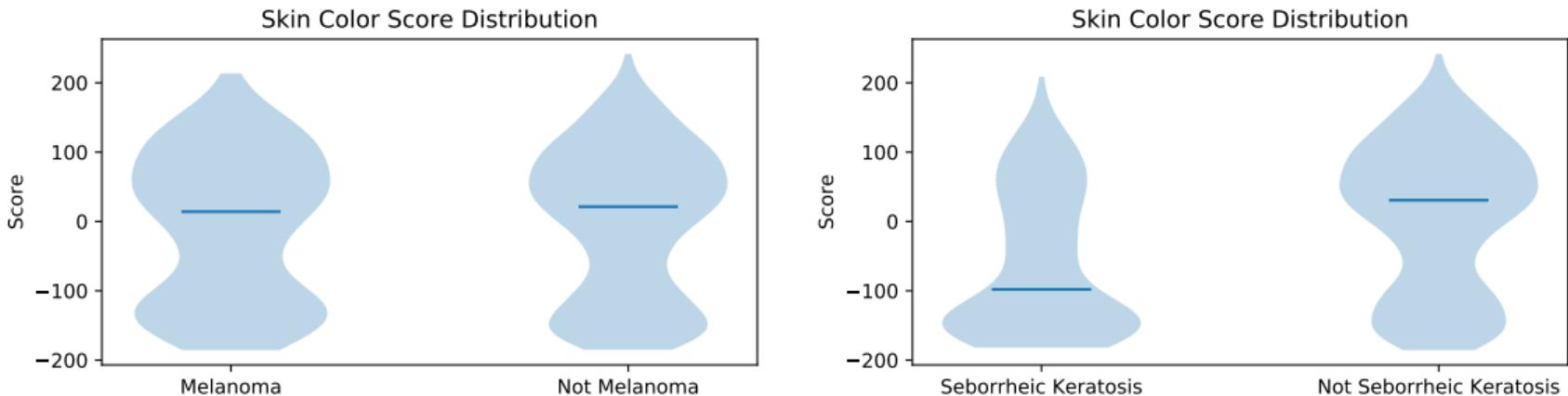
[2]: Perez et al. "Data augmentation for skin lesion analysis", 2018.



# Skin Color Bias



# Skin Color Bias



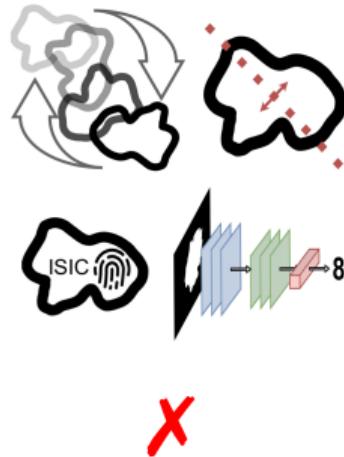
► bias in the ISIC 2017 challenge dataset



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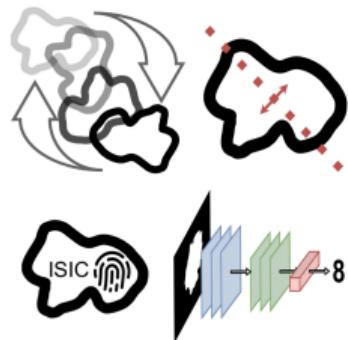
# Summary



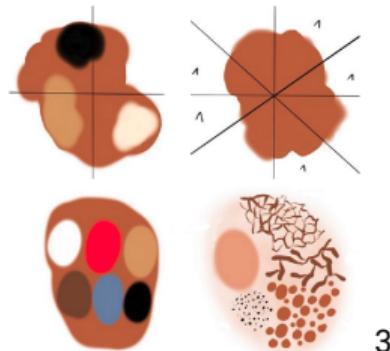
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# Summary



X



(✓)

<sup>3</sup>[https://dermoscopedia.org/ABCD\\_rule](https://dermoscopedia.org/ABCD_rule)

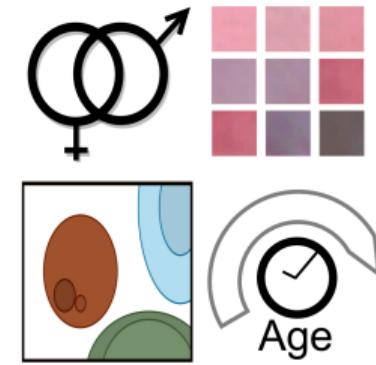
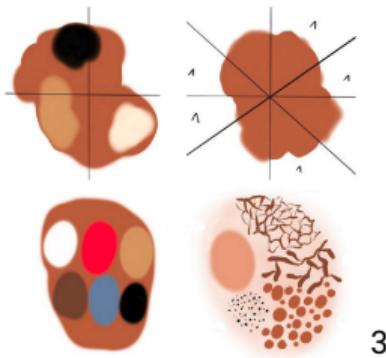
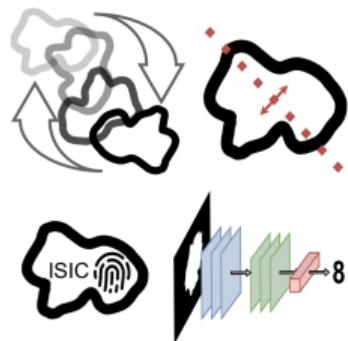


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# Summary



<sup>3</sup>[https://dermoscopedia.org/ABCD\\_rule](https://dermoscopedia.org/ABCD_rule)



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Thank You

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## References



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