

Artificial Intelligence and Topology for Autonomous Wheelchairs

Javier Perera-Lago

17th July 2025



REXASI-PRO



REXASI
PRO

REliable & eXplainable Swarm Intelligence for People with Reduced mObility

REXASI-PRO partners

REXASI-PRO | Partners



Participant No. *	Participant organisation name
1 (Coordinator)	Spindox Labs
2	Italian National Council of Research
3	Deutsches Forschungszentrum für Künstliche Intelligenz
4	Dalle Molle Institute for Artificial Intelligence
5	ROYAL HOLLOWAY AND BEDFORD NEW COLLEGE
6	V-Research
7	AITEK
8	UNIVERSIDAD DE SEVILLA
9	Hovering Solution
10	EURONET
11(Subcontracting)	Scuola di Robotica (Ethics)

REXASI-PRO objectives

Use Cases



1. Navigation in crowded environments
 2. Flying robot mapping
 3. Collaborative navigation

REXASI-PRO tasks

The Cimagroup team was mainly involved in

Decision Science and Topology-based
methods for Greener AI

Specifically in the tasks:

- T6.2: Topology-based energy consumption optimization of Pedestrian Detection algorithm
- T6.3: Topology-based optimization of robot fleet behavior

T6.2

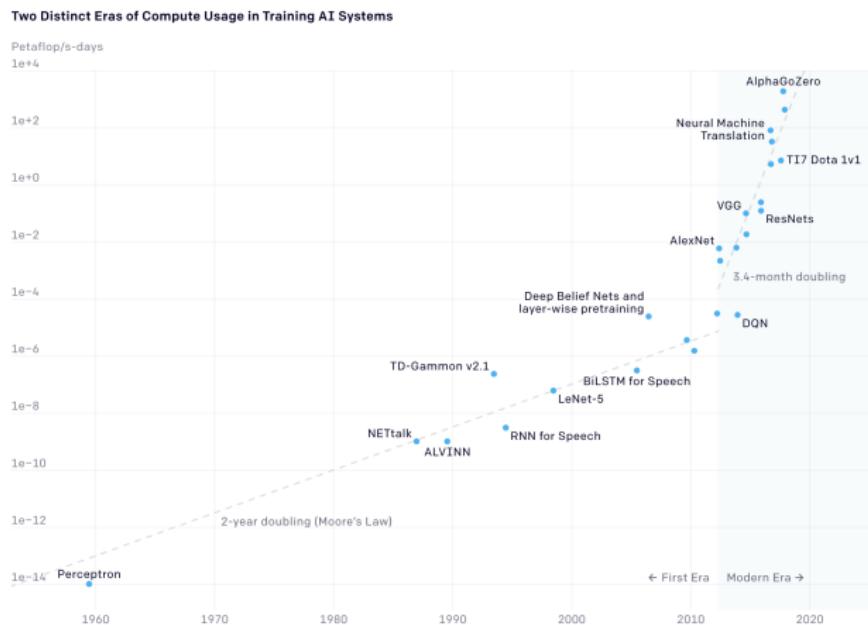
Topology-based energy consumption optimization of Pedestrian Detection algorithm

Artificial Intelligence: the training problem

Training a Machine Learning model requires a lot of real-world data.

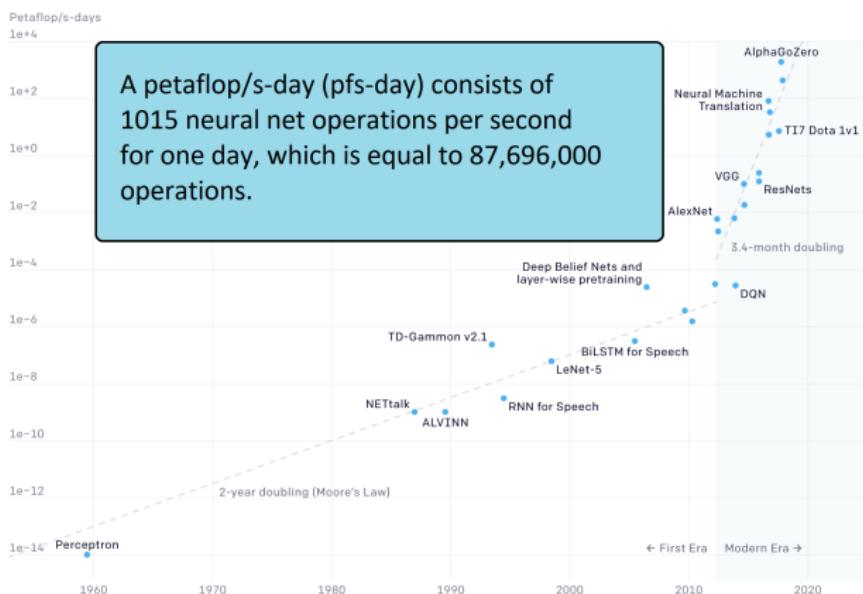
Because of this, the costs derived from developing new AI are growing continually.

Increasing computations in AI



Increasing computations in AI

Two Distinct Eras of Compute Usage in Training AI Systems



*Chart taken from the OpenAI blog: AI and compute

Red AI vs Green AI

- **Red AI**: tries to improve the performance of models by brute force.
- **Green AI**: tries to find a trade-off between model performance and energy efficiency.

Red AI vs Green AI

According to the literature, there are four main ways to reduce the costs in Machine Learning:

- Compact Architecture Design
- Energy-efficient Training Strategies
- Energy-efficient Inference
- Efficient Data Usage

Red AI vs Green AI

According to the literature, there are four main ways to reduce the costs in Machine Learning:

- Compact Architecture Design
- Energy-efficient Training Strategies
- Energy-efficient Inference
- Efficient Data Usage

Efficient data usage: Data Reduction

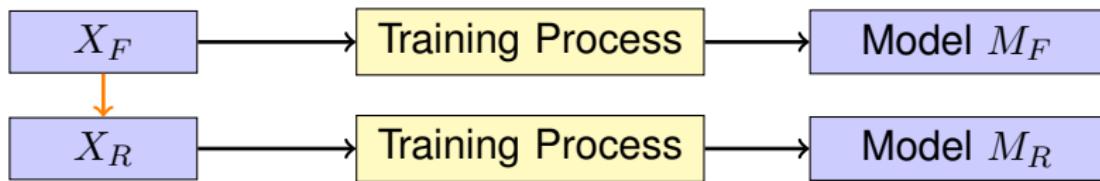
We want to reduce the size of the dataset, while maintaining its main properties.



$$\text{Properties}(X_F) \approx \text{Properties}(X_R)$$

Efficient data usage: Data Reduction

The idea is to train the model using X_R instead of X_F , saving energy but having similar results.



$\text{Properties}(X_F) \approx \text{Properties}(X_R) \Rightarrow \text{Model } M_F \approx \text{Model } M_R$

Ways to reduce a dataset

There are two main ways of reducing the size of a dataset:

■ Reducing feature size

$$X_{N \times D} \longrightarrow Y_{N \times d} \quad (d \ll D)$$

■ Reducing sample size

$$X_{N \times D} \longrightarrow Z_{n \times D} \quad (n \ll N)$$

Ways to reduce a dataset

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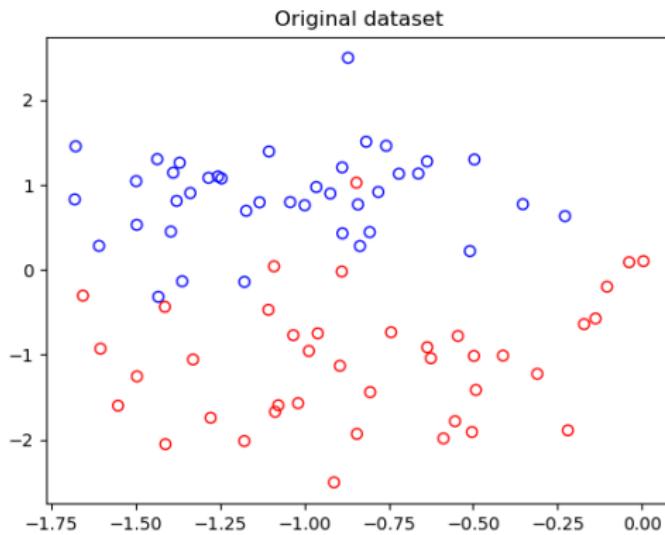
Size reduction

There are many reduction methods, which we classified into four categories:

- **Statistic-based methods**, which extract a subset either at random or using concepts from statistics and probability.
- **Geometry-based methods**, which use the distance matrix of the dataset to perform the reduction.
- **Ranking-based methods**, which order the items by some criterion and select the best ones.
- **Wrapper methods**, which perform the data reduction during the training process itself.

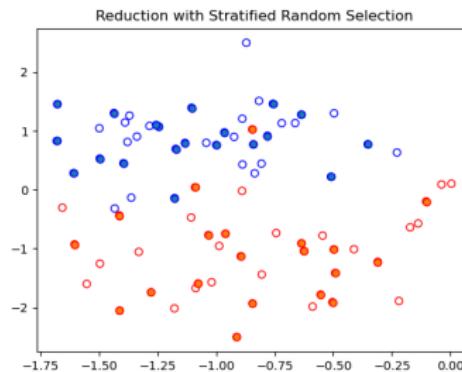
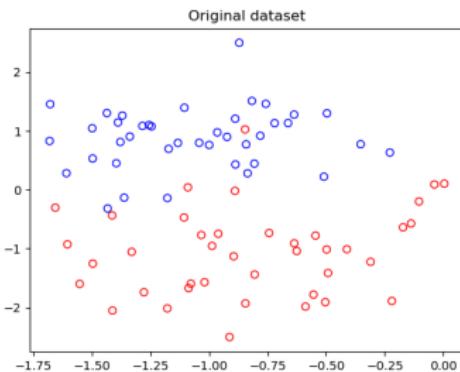
Data Reduction

Consider for example this classification dataset:



Data Reduction

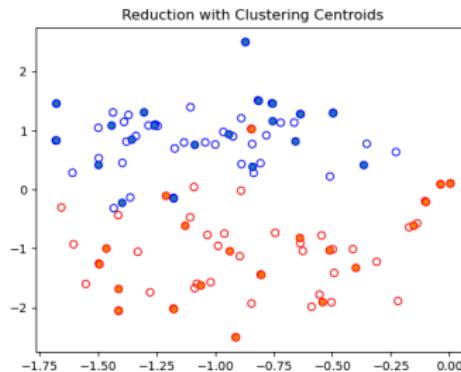
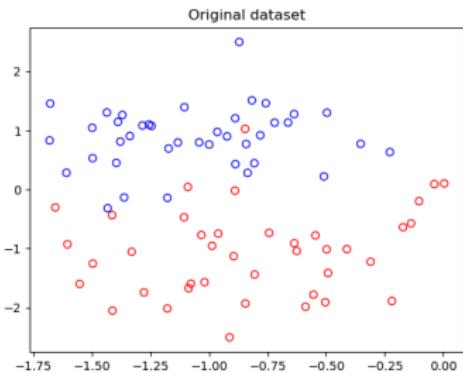
We can reduce it using many methods:



Verdeccchia R, Cruz L, Sallou J, et al.: Data-centric green AI an exploratory empirical study. In: 2022 International Conference on ICT for Sustainability (ICT4S). IEEE, 2022; 35–45.

Data Reduction

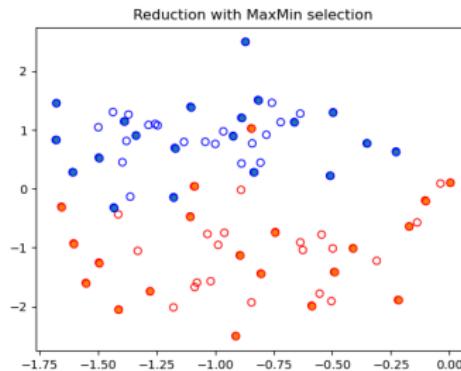
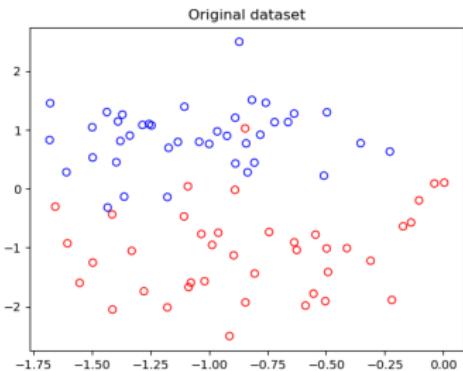
We can reduce it using many methods:



Olvera-López JA, Carrasco-Ochoa JA, Martínez-Trinidad JF, et al.: A review of instance selection methods. *Artif Intell Rev*. 2010; 34: 133–143.

Data Reduction

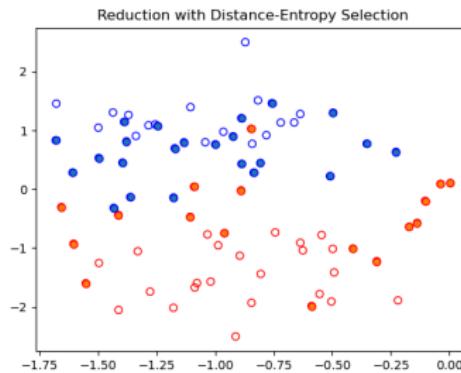
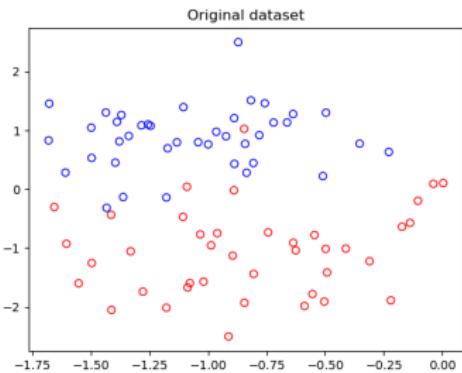
We can reduce it using many methods:



Lacombe C, Hammoud I, Messud J, et al.: Data-driven method for training data selection for deep learning. In: 82nd EAGE Annual Conference & Exhibition. European Association of Geoscientists & Engineers, 2021; 2021. : 1–5.

Data Reduction

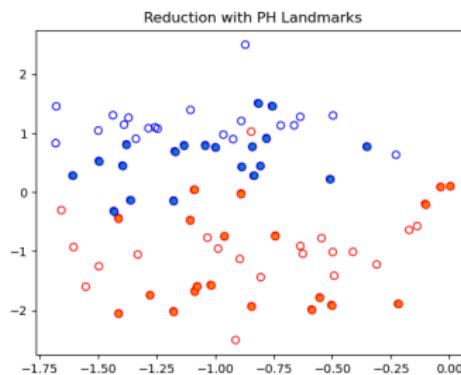
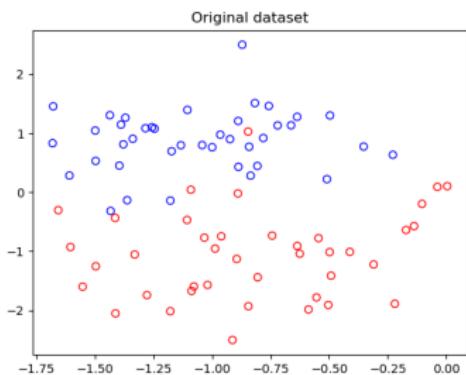
We can reduce it using many methods:



Li Y, Chao X: Distance-entropy: an effective indicator for selecting informative data. Front Plant Sci. 2022; 12: 818895.

Data Reduction

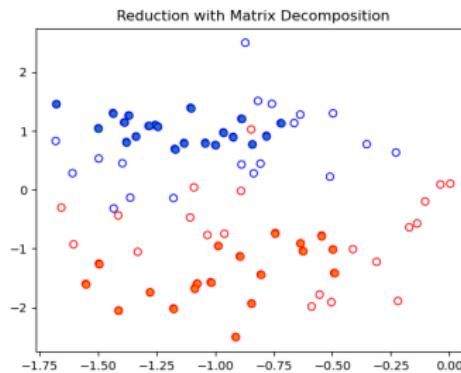
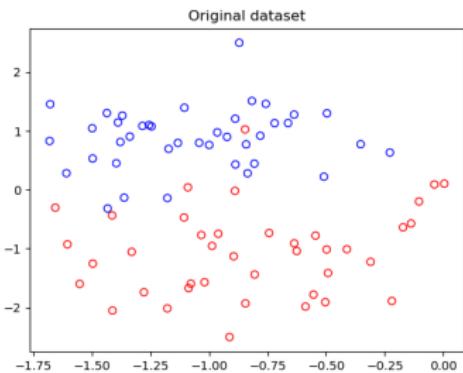
We can reduce it using many methods:



Stolz BJ: Outlier-robust subsampling techniques for persistent homology. J Mach Learn Res. 2023.

Data Reduction

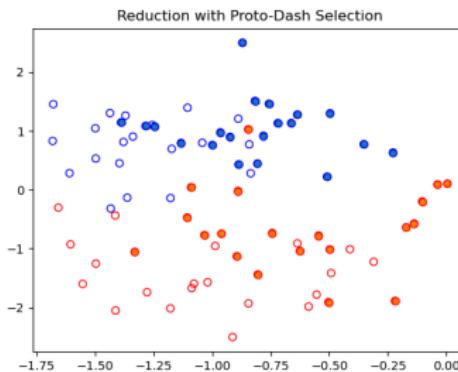
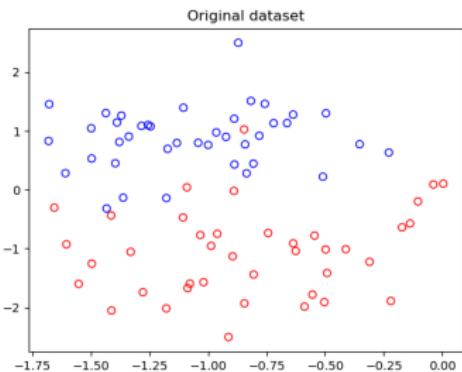
We can reduce it using many methods:



Ghojogh B, Crowley M: Instance ranking and numerosity reduction using matrix decomposition and subspace learning. In: Canadian Conference on Artificial Intelligence. 2019; 160–172.

Data Reduction

We can reduce it using many methods:



Gurumoorthy KS, Dhurandhar A, Cecchi G, et al.: Efficient data representation by selecting prototypes with importance weights. In: 2019 IEEE International Conference on Data Mining (ICDM). IEEE, 2019; 260–269.

Data Reduction

There are many reduction methods, and we created a Python module to apply and compare them.



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Published March 20, 2024 | Version V1.0 Software Open

Cimagroup/SurveyGreenAI: V1.0 Code for Deliverable 6.2 REXASI-PRO

Javier Perera-Lago  ; EduPH 

Show affiliations

Perera-Lago, J., Toscano-Duran, V., Paluzo-Hidalgo, E., Gonzalez-Diaz, R., Gutiérrez-Naranjo, M. A., & Rucco, M. (2024). An in-depth analysis of data reduction methods for sustainable deep learning. Open Research Europe, 4(101), 101.

ε -representativeness

We ask ourselves:

How can we measure if a reduced dataset gives a good representation of the full dataset?

We will use the concept of **ε -representativeness**.

Gonzalez-Diaz, R., Gutiérrez-Naranjo, M. A., & Paluzo-Hidalgo, E. (2022). Topology-based representative datasets to reduce neural network training resources. *Neural Computing and Applications*, 34(17), 14397-14413.

ε -representativeness

Let's consider a classification dataset \mathcal{D} :

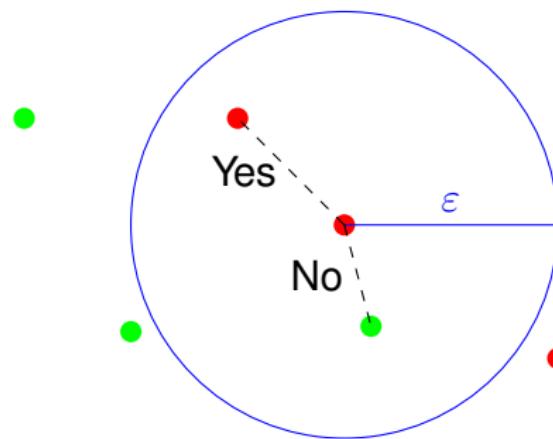
$$\mathcal{D} = \{(x, c_x) | x \in X \subset \mathbb{R}^n, c_x \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, k\}\}$$

Definition: ε -representative point

Given a real number $\varepsilon > 0$ which we call the representation error, a labelled point (x, c_x) is ε -representative of $(\tilde{x}, c_{\tilde{x}})$ if $c_x = c_{\tilde{x}}$ and $\|x - \tilde{x}\| \leq \varepsilon$. We denote $x \approx_{\varepsilon} \tilde{x}$.

ε -representativeness

Example of ε -representative points.



ε -representativeness

Definition: ε -representative dataset

A dataset $\tilde{\mathcal{D}} = \{(\tilde{x}, c_{\tilde{x}}) | \tilde{x} \in \tilde{X} \subset \mathbb{R}^n, c_{\tilde{x}} \in [[0, k]]\}$ is ε -representative of $\mathcal{D} = \{(x, c_x) | x \in X \subset \mathbb{R}^n, c_x \in [[0, k]]\}$ if there exists an isometric transformation $f : \tilde{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, such that for any $(x, c_x) \in \mathcal{D}$ there exists $(\tilde{x}, c_{\tilde{x}}) \in \tilde{\mathcal{D}}$ satisfying that $f(\tilde{x}) \approx_{\varepsilon} x$.

ε -representativeness

ε -representative datasets preserve persistent homology:

ε -representativeness

ε -representative datasets preserve persistent homology:

Theorem 1 [1]

If the dataset $\tilde{\mathcal{D}}$ is ε -representative of \mathcal{D} , then

$$d_B(\text{Dgm}_q(X), \text{Dgm}_q(\tilde{X})) \leq 2\varepsilon$$

where $q \leq n$, $\text{Dgm}_q(X)$ and $\text{Dgm}_q(\tilde{X})$ are the persistence diagrams of the Vietoris-Rips filtrations computed from X and \tilde{X} , and d_B denotes the bottleneck distance between their persistence diagrams.

ε -representativeness

Given a dataset \mathcal{D} , a reduction \mathcal{D}_R and an isometry $i : \mathcal{D}_R \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$, the minimum ε such that \mathcal{D}_R is ε -representative dataset of \mathcal{D} is:

$$\varepsilon^* = \max_{k=1, \dots, c} \max_{x: c_x = k} \min_{x': c_{x'} = k} \|x - i(x')\|$$

Applying data reduction

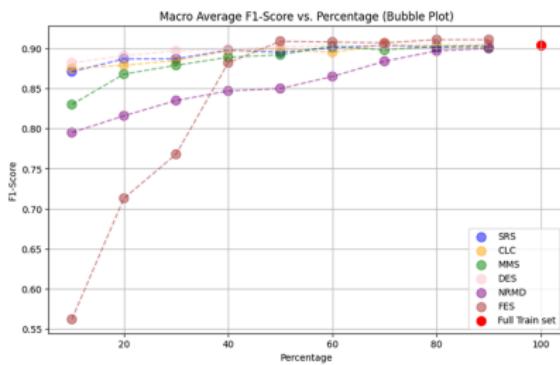
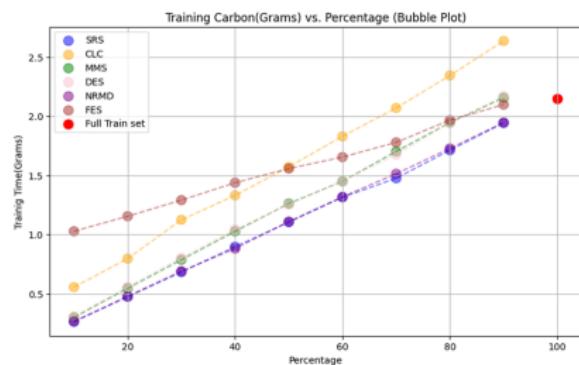
We applied some experiments about data reduction on the **Collision Dataset**.

It consists on a set of simulations where a platoon of vehicles navigates an environment. The classification task consists in deciding whether the platoon will collide based on features such as the number of cars and their speed.

Mongelli, M., Ferrari, E., Muselli, M., & Fermi, A. (2019). Performance validation of vehicle platooning through intelligible analytics. IET Cyber-Physical Systems: Theory & Applications, 4(2), 120-127.

Applying data reduction

We trained a fixed Multi-Layer Perceptron with \mathcal{D} and many reductions given by different methods and we got the following results:



Applying data reduction

We found a significant correlation between ε -representativeness of the subset and the F1-score of the trained network.

Perera-Lago, J., Toscano-Duran, V., Paluzo-Hidalgo, E., Gonzalez-Diaz, R., Gutiérrez-Naranjo, M. A., & Rucco, M. (2024). An in-depth analysis of data reduction methods for sustainable deep learning. Open Research Europe, 4(101), 101.

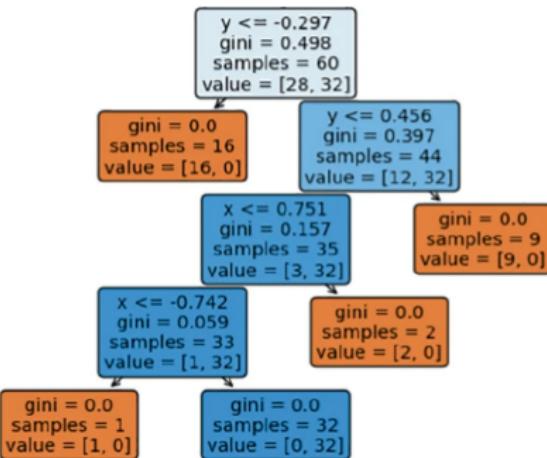
	Spearman's ρ	p-value
10%	-0.38	0.0
20%	-0.43	0.0
30%	-0.42	0.0
40%	-0.39	0.0
50%	-0.22	0.1
60%	-0.15	0.24
70%	-0.19	0.14
80%	-0.07	0.58
90%	-0.14	0.3

Applying data reduction

We also performed some experiments using Decision Trees instead of Multi-Layer Perceptrons.

Perera-Lago, J., Toscano-Durán, V., Paluzo-Hidalgo, E.,

Narteni, S., & Rucco, M. (2024, July). Application of the representative measure approach to assess the reliability of decision trees in dealing with unseen vehicle collision data. In World Conference on Explainable Artificial Intelligence (pp. 384-395). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.



Applying data reduction

In this case, we also found that:

- Subsets with better ε -representativeness train decision trees with higher accuracy
- Subsets with better ε -representativeness train decision trees more similar to the tree train with the full dataset in terms of feature importance

1. REXASI-PRO project
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2. Topology-based data reduction
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3. Optimization of robot fleet behavior
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T6.3

Topology-based optimization of robot fleet behavior

Navigation behaviors

A **behavior** is a local navigation algorithm for autonomous agents.

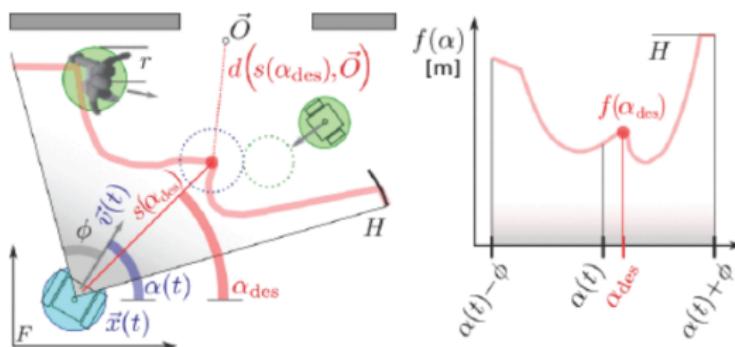


Figure from Guzzi, J., Giusti, A., Gambardella, L. M., Theraulaz, G., & Di Caro, G. A. (2013, May). Human-friendly robot navigation in dynamic environments. In 2013 IEEE international conference on robotics and automation (pp. 423-430). IEEE.

1. REXASI-PRO project
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2. Topology-based data reduction
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3. Optimization of robot fleet behavior
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Navigation behaviors

Human-Like

ORCA

Social Force

Navigation behaviors

In this task we had the following objectives:

1. To use Persistent Homology to define a measure for order and stability within a fleet of autonomous agents.
2. To use this measure to compare the performance of the three navigation behaviors shown before.

PH to distinguish behaviors

To tackle this objectives, we define the *induced matching distance*.

Consider two sets of points $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$ and $Z = \{z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n\}$ with a bijection

$$\begin{aligned} f_\bullet: X &\rightarrow Z \\ x_i &\mapsto z_i \end{aligned}$$

and two symmetric non-negative functions $d_X: X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ and $d_Z: Z \times Z \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$.

We want a distance between the barcodes $B(X)$ and $B(Z)$.

Comparing barcodes

A classical method is the q -Wasserstein distance:

$$W_q(B(X), B(Z)) = \inf_{\mu \in M} \left(\sum_{\substack{(a,\ell) \in \text{Rep } B(X) \\ \mu((a,\ell)) = (b,\ell')}} |a - b|^q \right)^{1/q},$$

M is the set of all partial matchings $\mu: \text{Rep } B(X) \nrightarrow \text{Rep } B(Z)$.

Comparing barcodes

W_q compares all the possible partial matchings in M and uses the optimal one.

However, the bijection $f_\bullet: X \rightarrow Z$ induces an isomorphism:

$$f_0: H_0(\text{VR}_0(X)) \rightarrow H_0(\text{VR}_0(Z))$$

and therefore a specific partial matching $\sigma_f^0 \in M$.

Induced matching distance

Then, we propose the q -induced matching distance:

$$d_{f_0}^q(\mathcal{B}(X), \mathcal{B}(Z)) = \left(\sum_{\substack{(a,\ell) \in \text{Rep } \mathcal{B}(X) \\ \sigma_f^0((a,\ell)) = (b,\ell')}} |a - b|^q \right)^{1/q}$$

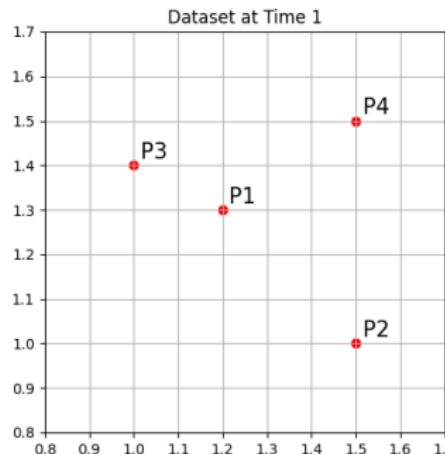
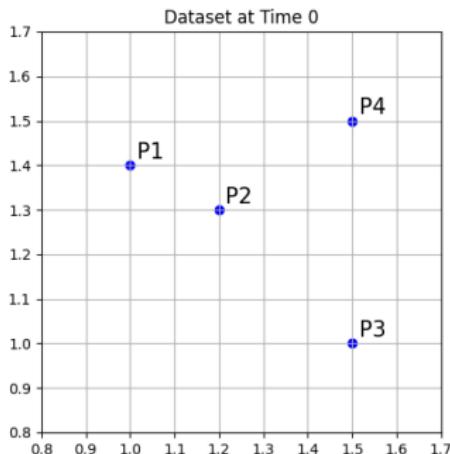
Clearly, $W_q(\mathcal{B}(X), \mathcal{B}(Z)) \leq d_{f_0}^q(\mathcal{B}(X), \mathcal{B}(Z))$

Induced matching distance

Let X_0 be the set of points P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4 at time 0.

Let X_1 be the set of points P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4 at time 1.

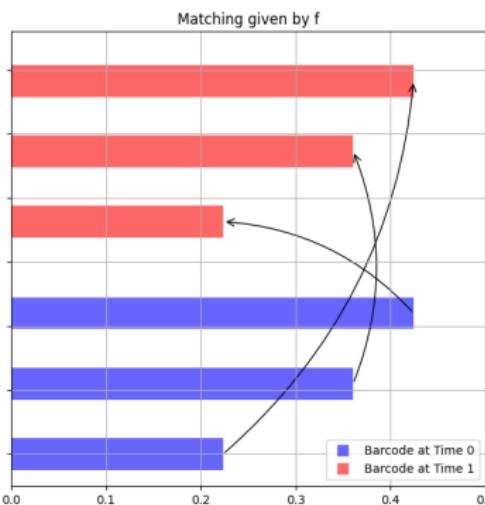
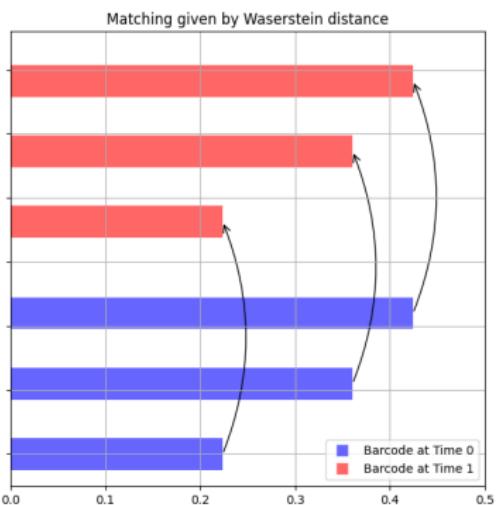
The bijection $f_\bullet: X_0 \rightarrow X_1$ is the trivial one, $f_\bullet(P_i) = P_i$.



Induced matching distance

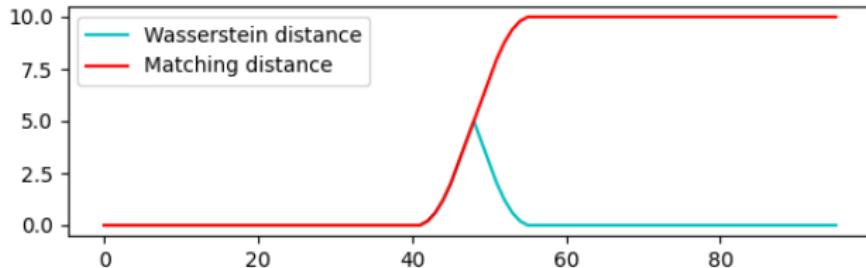
These are the partial matchings that define the distances

$$W_q(B(X_0), B(X_1)) \text{ and } d_{f_0}^q(B(X_0), B(X_1))$$



Induced matching signal

Application to a group of navigating agents.



Induced matching signal

We want to use the induced matching signal as a measure of order and stability within the fleet.

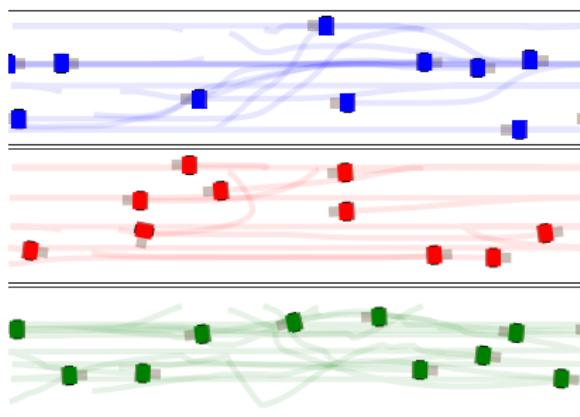
Also, we want to know if it is helpful to distinguish between Human-Like, ORCA and Social Force.

Navground

We use Navground, a Python simulator for robots navigation.

Corridor scenario:

- 15m long, 3.5m wide, both ends connected.
- 10 agents with 0.8m of diameter and 1.2m/s of optimal speed.
- 5 agents driving left, 5 agents driving right.



We run 200 simulations with 900 steps for each behavior type.

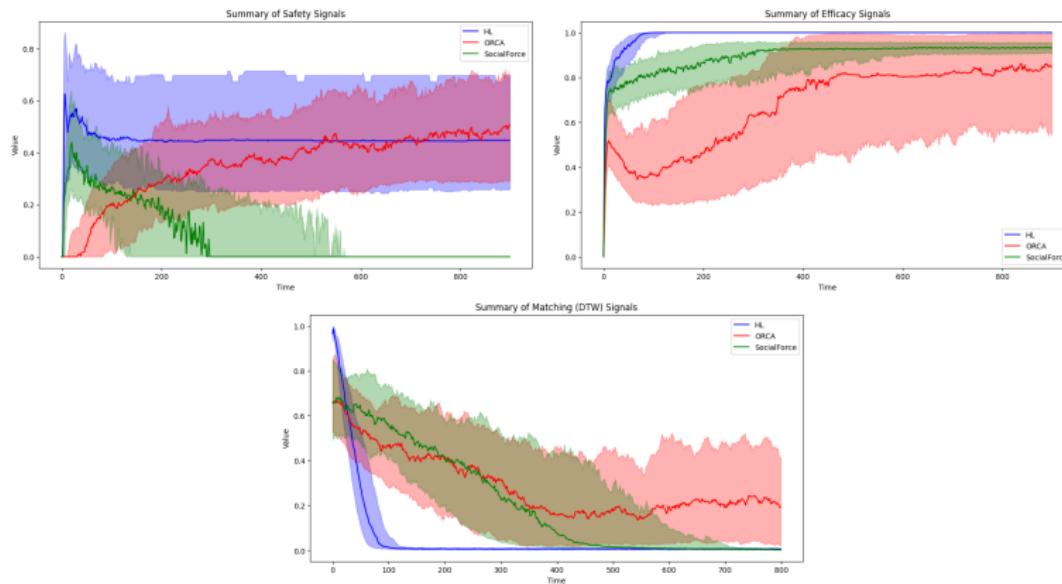
Induced matching signal

Given a simulation, we apply the following steps:

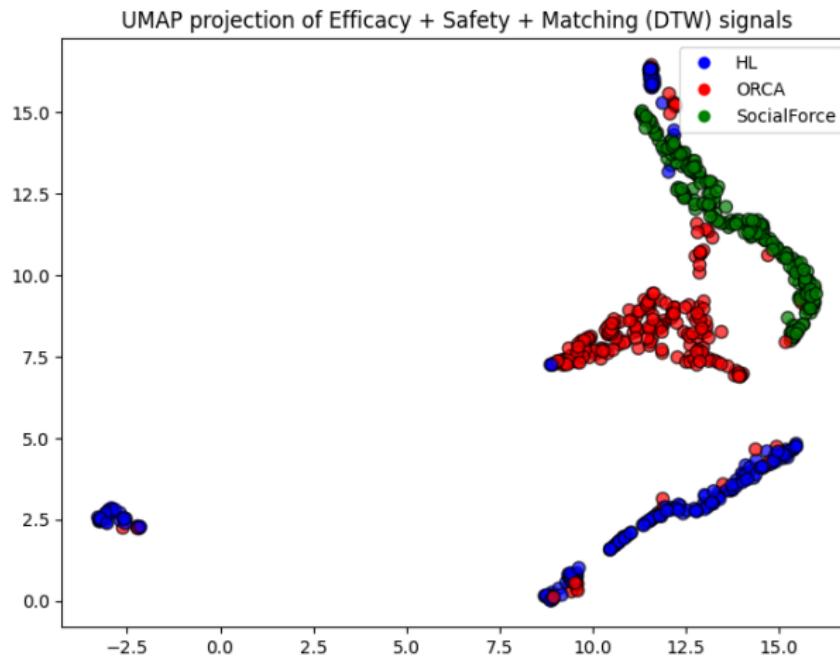
1. For $i = 1, \dots, 10$, Agent $i \rightarrow a^i = \{a_t^i = (x_t^i, y_t^i, \alpha_t^i)\}_{t=1}^{900}$
2. For $t = 1, 2, \dots, 850$, $Z_t = \{z_t^i = \{a_t^i, a_{t+10}^i, \dots, a_{t+50}^i\}\}_{i=1}^{10}$
3. DTW as distance $\rightarrow \{\text{VR}_0(Z_t)\}_{t=1}^{850} \rightarrow \{\text{B}(Z_t)\}_{t=1}^{850}$
4. For $t = 1, \dots, 800$,
 $f_\bullet^t: Z_t \rightarrow Z_{t+50} \rightarrow m = \{d_{f_0^t}^1(\text{B}(Z_t), \text{B}(Z_{t+50}))\}_{t=1}^{800}$

m is called the induced matching signal of the simulation

Induced matching signal



Induced matching signal

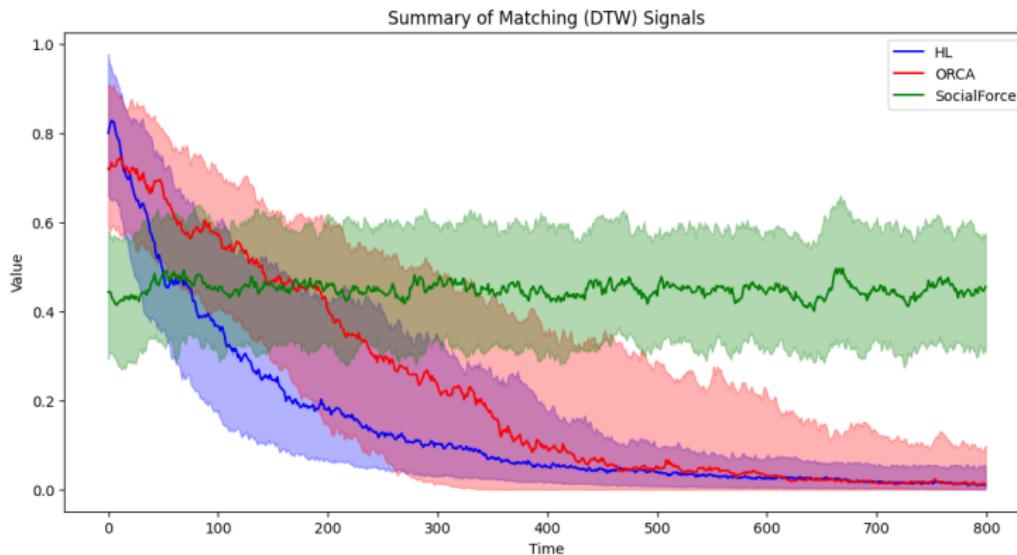


CrossTorus scenario

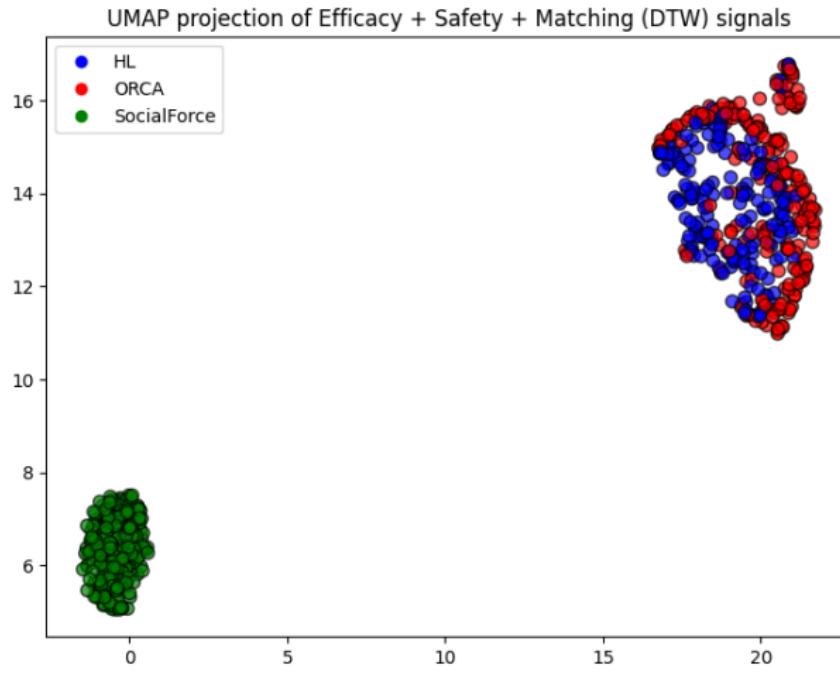
We also performed the same experiment on another scenario called CrossTorus:

CrossTorus

In this case we found more difficult to distinguish between behaviors.



CrossTorus



1. REXASI-PRO project
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2. Topology-based data reduction
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3. Optimization of robot fleet behavior
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Thanks for your attention.