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r/MachineLearning - [D] (Rant) What annoys me the most in a time of Machine Learning hype and the current pandemic.

2-2 minutes

First, this rant is not against people that really know their stuff, knowing the limits of ML and other approaches.

Too many people in the recent years looked at machine learning approaches as a sort of silver bullet solutions. The approach seems like: "ah you build a neural network (or whatever other technique that sounds cool) and after a bit of time it should quickly find the solutions for your". Then they proceed to mention deepmind achievements with alphazero, muzero, alphago, alphastar and so on.

Some months ago I read here, if I am not mistaken, a nice subthread in a discussion where some people pointed out that **it all depends on how good the domain is modeled. If the domain is incomplete, inaccurate or wrong, the most effective machine learning techniques won't help.** Some people, correctly, pointed out that one cannot boast ML methods if at the end the problem is not properly modeled.

The best example to me is the current pandemic. If those methods would be as effective, we *could* expect quick solutions. Instead modeling the problem of a disease in a human body is so complex that good luck. Surely it will be eventually done, even if with good approximations, but to get the point - that the domain has to be properly simulated - into the most hyped people is really hard. And even when the simulation is proper, it is not granted that a good solution will be found.

That is really frustrating at times in a discussion. Sometimes one reads "Go is incredibly complex, why shouldn't they achieve a similar goal for real life problems", and that shows how people underestimate reality.