

# EECS 6322: Neural Networks and Deep Learning

## Winter 2024 Course Project

### Reproducibility Challenge

This project is inspired<sup>1</sup> by the Machine Learning Reproducibility Challenge (<https://paperswithcode.com/rc2020/task>). The aim of this project is to replicate the central claim in a selected deep learning focused paper. This will include re-implementing the core methods and experiments in the paper. Importantly, your outcome can be positive (i.e., the results are reproducible) or negative (i.e., explain what was not reproducible and attempt to explain why this is the case). Keep in mind that not all results in papers are reproducible for a variety of reasons, e.g., missing details and (gasp) bugs in the code.

The project will be done in groups of two; make sure the project scope is appropriate for two people. The course does not provide any compute resources (GPU). Fortunately, there are a variety of free (but limited) online compute resources available, see <https://paperswithcode.com/rc2020/resources>. Please keep this strongly in mind in the selection of your project. The project consists of four parts: (i) paper selection, (ii) proposal, (iii) report, and (iv) code.

**i. Paper selection.** Select a deep learning focused paper that you will attempt to reproduce its reported results and have it approved by the course instructor. The paper must be chosen from the main conference proceedings from one of the following conferences between 2021 and 2023 inclusive: IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), IEEE/CVF International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV), European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV), Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), and International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML). Papers from additional venues will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**ii. Proposal (5%).** Upon paper selection approval, you will next submit a one page proposal in PDF format. The proposal will briefly summarize the paper and describe the contribution that you will attempt to reproduce. The proposal must include the following: deep learning framework to be used (e.g., PyTorch, TensorFlow, etc.), datasets required, list of experiments to be reproduced, ex-

---

<sup>1</sup>Credit to Prof. Marcus Brubaker (York University) for sharing this project.

pected compute resources, and anticipated separation of work between partners. Make sure you have the necessary compute resources available to undertake the project. In terms of the experiments to be reproduced, focus on those that target the paper's central claim.

**iii. Report (50%).** The report in PDF format produced with LaTeX will consist of a summary of the paper's main contribution and a description of your reproducibility attempt of the reported results in the paper, including: Were you successful in reproducing the results? If unsuccessful, provide conjectures of the possible source(s) of the discrepancy. Did you uncover critical details that were not clearly or at all documented in the paper? For group projects, state in detail the contribution of each team member.

**iv. Code (25%).** You must submit your code in a Git repository, e.g., GitHub. Tips for best reproducibility practices and principles can be found at <https://github.com/paperswithcode/releasing-research-code> and [https://www.cs.mcgill.ca/~ksinha4/practices\\_for\\_reproducibility](https://www.cs.mcgill.ca/~ksinha4/practices_for_reproducibility), respectively. The marks for coding will be based on proper coding structure and documentation. In addition, your commit history (including messages) will be assessed to ensure that the project was conducted at a reasonable pace. You must reimplement the core contribution yourself based on the description in the paper. In the case where special code is required that is outside the paper's main contribution (e.g., data loader and visualization), external code will be allowed but needs to be approved by the instructor.

**Presentation (20%).** You will prepare a video presentation about your project. All presentations will be made public to the participants in the course. The presentation should include an overview of the method, the experiments that were attempted to be reproduced, and the outcome of your reproducibility attempt. The time limit will be shared closer to the submission date. Make sure your presentation is at the time limit, not less and definitely not more.

**For each group, please only have one partner submit the project and clearly state both partner names and student numbers in the files.**