

# Dr. Sebastian Lapuschkin *(né Bach)*, December 16, 1986

sebastian@lapuschkin.com • +49 (177) 483-2754 • [Google Scholar](#)  
[github.com/sebastian-lapuschkin](#) • [linkedin.com/in/sebastian-lapuschkin](#)  
Kaiserin-Augusta-Allee 92 • 10589 Berlin • Berlin • Germany



---

## Short Bio

Sebastian Lapuschkin received the Ph.D. degree with distinction from the Berlin Institute of Technology in 2018 for his pioneering contributions to the field of eXplainable Artificial Intelligence and interpretable machine learning. From 2007 to 2013 he studied computer science (B. Sc. and M. Sc.) at the Berlin Institute of Technology, with a focus on software engineering and machine learning. Currently, he is a tenured researcher and head of the Explainable AI Group at Fraunhofer

Heinrich Hertz Institute (HHI) in Berlin. He is recipient of multiple awards, including the Hugo-Geiger-Prize for outstanding doctoral achievement and the 2020 Pattern Recognition Best Paper Award. His research is focused on computer vision, (efficient) machine learning and data analysis, data and algorithm visualization, and the interpretation, holistic analysis and rectification of machine learning system behavior. Sebastian loves automation and woodland hiking (not simultaneously).

---

## Professional Experience

### Fraunhofer Heinrich Hertz Institute/HHI

BERLIN, GERMANY

#### Head of XAI Group

Jan '21 – present

*Research focus:* Development of holistic, automatable and human-centered XAI approaches for understanding, improving and debugging models, model training and datasets.

#### Tenured Researcher

Jan '19 – present

*Research focus:* Development of (meta-)analysis methods of machine learning behaviour. Improving machine learning predictors and data sources using interpretability feedback. Supervision of PhD students and student assistants.

#### Research Associate

Oct '14 – Dec '18

Affiliation to the newly founded machine learning group at Fraunhofer HHI with simultaneous continuation of PhD studies at TU Berlin.

*Research focus:* Applications and refinement of the “Layer-wise Relevance Propagation” (LRP) method, resulting in several highly cited publications and multiple open source software tools and repositories.

*Other work:* Extensions of the h.265 (HEVC) video codec towards the upcoming h.266 standard.

Conceptualization and setup of a HPC cluster with modern GPU hardware.

Implementation of multiple live demos hands-on showcasing the groups' research nation-wide and internationally.

Additional supervision by Dr. Wojciech Samek.

### Berlin Institute of Technology/TU Berlin

BERLIN, GERMANY

#### Research Associate

Sep '13 – Sep '14

*Research focus:* Formalization of the “Layer-wise Relevance Propagation” (LRP) concept for explaining individual and nonlinear decisions of machine learning methods, including Neural Networks and kernelized predictors.

Extension of LRP to one class learning and anomaly detection tasks.

Supervision by Prof. Dr. Klaus-Robert Müller and Prof. Dr. Alexander Binder.

#### Research/Teaching Assistant

Oct '11 – Aug '13

Research assistant to Prof. Dr. Alexander Binder at the department for machine learning at TU Berlin.

*Tasks:* Structure and cell type detection in large histopathology images using Bag of Words image processing pipelines and SVM classifiers.

Teaching assistant to Prof. Dr. Klaus-Robert Müller and Prof. Dr. Franz Király.

*Tasks:* Preparation and lecturing of exercise sessions complementing the lectures “Machine Learning 1” and “Machine Learning 2 – Theory and Application”.

Visualization and animation of data and learning algorithms discussed in the lecture.

## Teaching Assistant

Oct '09 – Sep '11

Teaching assistant to Prof. Dr. Marc Alexa, Prof. Dr. Odej Kao and Prof. Dr. Oliver Brock.

*Tasks:* Course instruction for algorithmic and practical foundations of computer science (B.Sc.).

*Curriculum:* Basic and advanced Java development, software engineering and OOP concepts, algorithms on image and graph data, among others.

---

## Education

Berlin Institute of Technology/TU Berlin

BERLIN, GERMANY

**PhD in Machine Learning** (with distinction / “summa cum laude”)

2013 – 2018

*Research focus* on methods and applications of *eXplainable AI (XAI)*:

Layer-wise Relevance Propagation, Deep Taylor Decomposition, Spectral Relevance Analysis, et cetera.

20 published and peer-reviewed research papers with **over 2000 citations** according to Google Scholar.

*Thesis:* “Opening the machine learning black box with Layer-wise Relevance Propagation”

Supervision headed by Prof. Dr. Klaus-Robert Müller.

**Master of Science degree in Computer Science**

2010 – 2013

Heavy focus on machine learning, computer vision and large scale data processing. Development dominantly using C++, C#, Java, Matlab and python.

My thesis introduces a precursor concept to “Layer-wise Relevance Propagation” for interpreting predictions of Bag of Words image processing pipelines with-multiple-kernel SVMs.

*Thesis:* “On Pixel-wise Predictions from Image-wise Bag of Words Classification” (Grade: 1.0 / A)

Supervision headed by Prof. Dr. Alexander Binder.

**Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science**

2007 – 2010

Focus on algorithms, software development and data analysis using imperative (Java, C, C++) and functional (OPAL) programming languages.

*Thesis:* “Keyword-Based Image Browsing of Large Image Databases” (Grade: 1.0 / A)

Supervision headed by Prof. Dr. Kristian Hildebrand.

Deutschhaus-Gymnasium/DHG

WÜRZBURG, GERMANY

**Abitur** (pre-university secondary education)

1998 – 2007

---

## Skills

**Technical:** Extensive experience in software development using various languages, tools and environments: (e.g. python, Linux, bash, git, subversion, Slurm, Sun Grid Engine, Matlab, HTML, C#, C++, C, Java, lua, SQL, ...)

Proficiency in scientific working and writing (e.g.  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , Inkscape, ...),

the development and application of machine learning methods

(e.g. SVMs, DNNs, preprocessing pipelines, embeddings, clustering, ...),

in various application domains

(text, audio, video, images, time series and biomechanical data, ...).

**Natural languages:** German (*mother tongue*), English (*full professional proficiency*).

---

## Awards

**Pattern Recognition Best Paper Award and Pattern Recognition Medal (2020)** for the paper

“Explaining NonLinear Classification Decisions with Deep Taylor Decomposition”

**Hugo-Geiger-Prize (2019, 1st place)** Förderpreis für herausragende Promotionsleistungen

**Freunde des HHI (2019)** Förderpreis für exzellente wissenschaftliche Arbeiten am HHI

**ERCIM (2019, finalist)** Cor Baayen Young Researcher Award

**Best Paper Prize (2016)** ICML'16 Workshop on Visualization for Deep Learning

---

## Patents

### Relevance Score Assignment for Artificial Neural Networks

- EP 3271863 "Relevance Score Assignment for Artificial Neural Network" (granted 2021-07-27)  
JP 6725547 "Relevance Score Assignment for Artificial Neural Networks" (granted 2020-07-22)  
KR 102130162 "Assignment of Relevance Scores for Artificial Neural Networks" (granted 2020-07-06)  
CA 2979579 "Relevance Score Assignment for Artificial Neural Networks" (granted 2020-02-18)  
RU 2703343 "Relevancy Assessment for Artificial Neural Networks" (granted 2019-10-16)
- 

## Projects

- iToBoS (2021-04 - ) Intelligent Total Body Scanner  
BerDiBa (2021-01 - ) Berlin Digital Rail Operations  
TraMeExCo (2018-09 - ) Transparent Medical Expert Companion
- 

## Publications

### Journal Articles

- Samek W, Montavon G, **Lapuschkin S**, Anders C J, and Müller K-R (2021).  
"Explaining Deep Neural Networks and Beyond: A Review of Methods and Applications".  
In: *Proceedings of the IEEE* 109(3):247-278
- Yeom S-K, Seegerer P, **Lapuschkin S**, Binder A, Wiedemann S, Müller K-R and Samek W (2021).  
"Pruning by Explaining: A Novel Criterion for Deep Neural Network Pruning".  
In: *Pattern Recognition* 115:107899
- Aeles J, Horst F, **Lapuschkin S**, Lacourpaille L, and Hug F (2021).  
"Revealing the Unique Features of Each Individual's Muscle Activation Signatures".  
In: *Journal of the Royal Society Interface* 18(174):20200770
- Horst F, Slijepcevic D, Zeppelzauer M, Raberger AM, **Lapuschkin S**, Samek W, Schöllhorn WI, Breiteneder C, and Horsak B (2020).  
"Explaining Automated Gender Classification of Human Gait".  
In: *Gait & Posture* 81(S1):159-160
- Hägele M, Seegerer P, **Lapuschkin S**, Bockmayr M, Samek W, Klauschen F, Müller K-R and Binder A (2020).  
"Resolving Challenges in Deep Learning-based Analyses of Histopathological Images using Explanation Methods".  
In: *Scientific Reports* 10:6423
- Alber M, **Lapuschkin S**, Seegerer P, Hägele M, Schütt K T, Montavon G, Samek W, Müller K-R, Dähne S and Kindermans P-J (2019).  
"iNNvestigate Neural Networks!".  
In: *Journal of Machine Learning Research* 20(93):1-8
- Lapuschkin S**, Wäldchen S, Binder A, Montavon G, Samek W and Müller K-R (2019).  
"Unmasking Clever Hans Predictors and Assessing what Machines Really Learn".  
In: *Nature Communications* 10:1069
- Horst F, **Lapuschkin S**, Samek W, Müller K-R and Schöllhorn W I (2019).  
"Explaining the Unique Nature of Individual Gait Patterns with Deep Learning".  
In: *Scientific Reports* 9:2391
- Montavon G, **Lapuschkin S**, Binder A, Samek W and Müller K-R (2017).  
"Explaining NonLinear Classification Decisions with Deep Taylor Decomposition".  
In: *Pattern Recognition* 65:211-222. *Pattern Recognition Best Paper Award and Pattern Recognition Medal winner*
- Samek W, Binder A, Montavon G, **Lapuschkin S**, and Müller K-R (2017).  
"Evaluating the Visualization of what a Deep Neural Network has Learned".  
In: *IEEE Transactions of Neural Networks and Learning Systems*
- Sturm I, **Lapuschkin S**, Samek W and Müller K-R (2016).  
"Interpretable Deep Neural Networks for Single-Trial EEG Classification".  
In: *Journal of Neuroscience Methods* 274:141-145

- Lapuschkin S**, Binder A, Montavon G, Müller K-R and Samek W (2016).  
 “The Layer-wise Relevance Propagation Toolbox for Artificial Neural Networks”.  
 In: *Journal of Machine Learning Research* 17(114):1-5
- Bach S**, Binder A, Montavon G, Klauschen F, Müller K-R and Samek W (2015).  
 “On Pixel-wise Explanations for Non-Linear Classifier Decisions by Layer-wise Relevance Propagation”.  
 In: *PLoS ONE* 10(7):e0130140

## Contributions to Conference Proceedings and Workshops

- Sun J, **Lapuschkin S**, Samek W, Zhao Y, Cheung N-M and Binder A (2021).  
 “Explanation-Guided Training for Cross-Domain Few-Shot Classification”.  
 In: *Proceedings of the 25th International Conference on Pattern Recognition*
- Goh G S W, **Lapuschkin S**, Weber L, Samek W and Binder A (2021).  
 “Understanding Integrated Gradients with SmoothTaylor for Deep Neural Network Attribution”.  
 In: *Proceedings of the 25th International Conference on Pattern Recognition*
- Kohlbrenner M, Bauer A, Nakajima S, Binder A, Samek W, and **Lapuschkin S** (2020).  
 “Towards Best Practice in Explaining Neural Network Decisions with LRP”.  
 In: *Proceedings of the IEEE International Joint Conference on Neural Networks* 1-7
- Sun J, **Lapuschkin S**, Samek W and Binder A (2020).  
 “Understanding Image Captioning Models beyond Visualizing Attention”.  
 In: *XXAI: Extending Explainable AI Beyond Deep Models and Classifiers. ICML Workshop*
- Anders C J, Neumann D, Marinč T, Samek W, Müller K-R and **Lapuschkin S** (2020).  
 “XAI for Analyzing and Unlearning Spurious Correlations in ImageNet”.  
 In: *XXAI: Extending Explainable AI Beyond Deep Models and Classifiers. ICML Workshop*
- Sun J, **Lapuschkin S**, Samek W, Zhao Y, Cheung N-M and Binder A (2020).  
 “Explain and Improve: Cross-Domain-Few-Shot-Learning Using Explanations”.  
 In: *XXAI: Extending Explainable AI Beyond Deep Models and Classifiers. ICML Workshop*
- Alber M, **Lapuschkin S**, Seegerer P, Hägele M, Schütt K T, Montavon G, Samek W, Müller K-R, Dähne S and Kindermans P-J (2018).  
 “How to iNNvestigate Neural Networks’ Predictors!”.  
 In: *Machine Learning Open Source Software: Sustainable Communities. NIPS Workshop*
- Lapuschkin S**, Binder A, Müller K-R and Samek W (2017).  
 “Understanding and Comparing Deep Neural Networks for Age and Gender Classification”.  
 In: *Proceedings of the ICCV’17 Workshop on Analysis and Modeling of Faces and Gestures (AMFG)* 2017:1629-1638
- Srinivasan V, **Lapuschkin S**, Hellge C, Müller K-R and Samek W (2017).  
 “Interpretable Action Recognition in Compressed Domain”.  
 In: *Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP)* 2017:1692-1696
- Bach S**, Binder A, Müller K-R and Samek W (2016).  
 “Controlling Explanatory Heatmap Resolution and Semantics via Decomposition Depth”.  
 In: *Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference of Image Processing (ICIP)* 2016:2271-2275
- Binder A, Samek W, Montavon G, **Bach S**, and Müller K-R (2016).  
 “Analyzing and Validating Neural Network Predictions”.  
 In: *Proceedings of the ICML’16 Workshop on Visualization for Deep Learning . Best paper award winner*
- Lapuschkin S**, Binder A, Montavon G, Müller K-R and Samek W (2016).  
 “Analyzing Classifiers: Fisher Vectors and Deep Neural Networks”.  
 In: *Proceedings of the IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)* 2016:2912-2920
- Montavon G, **Bach S**, Binder A, Samek W and Müller K-R (2016).  
 “Deep Taylor Decomposition of Neural Networks”.  
 In: *Proceedings of the ICML’16 Workshop on Visualization for Deep Learning* 2016:1-3
- Samek W, Montavon G, Binder A, **Lapuschkin S** and Müller K-R (2016).  
 “Interpreting the Predictions of Complex ML Models by Layer-wise Relevance Propagation”.  
 In: *Proceedings of the Interpretable ML for Complex Systems NIPS’16 Workshop*

## Book Chapters

- Montavon G, Binder A, **Lapuschkin S**, Samek W and Müller K-R (2019).  
 “Layer-wise relevance propagation: An Overview”.  
 In: *Explainable AI: Interpreting, Explaining and Visualizing Deep Learning* 193-209. Springer, Cham

Binder A, **Bach S**, Montavon G, Müller K-R and Samek W (2016).  
 “Layer-wise Relevance Propagation for Deep Neural Network Architectures”.  
 In: *Information Science and Applications (ICISA) 2016. Lecture Notes in Electrical Engineering* 276:913-922.  
 Springer, Singapore

Binder A, Montavon G, **Lapuschkin S**, Müller K-R and Samek W (2016).  
 “Layer-wise Relevance Propagation for Neural Networks with Local Renormalization Layers”.  
 In: *Lecture Notes in Computer Science* 9887:63-71. Springer, Berlin/Heidelberg

## Preprints

Hofmann S M, Beyer F, **Lapuschkin S**, Loeffler M, Müller K-R, Villringer A, Samek W and Witte A V (2021).  
 “Towards the Interpretability of Deep Learning Models for Human Neuroimaging”.  
 In: *bioRxiv* 2021.06.25.449906

Anders C J, Neumann D, Samek W, Müller K-R and **Lapuschkin S** (2021).  
 “Software for Dataset-wide XAI: From Local Explanations to Global Insights with Zennit, CoRelAy, and ViRelAy”.  
 In: *CoRR abs/2106.13200*

Rieckmann A, Dworzynski P, Arras L, **Lapuschkin S**, Wojciech S, Onyebuchi A A, Rod N H, Ekstrom C T (2020).  
 “Causes of Outcome Learning: A Causal Inference-inspired Machine Learning Approach to Disentangling Common Combinations of Potential Causes of a Health Outcome”.  
 In: *medRxiv* 2020.12.10.20225243

Sun J, **Lapuschkin S**, Samek W and Binder A (2020).  
 “Understanding Image Captioning Models beyond Visualizing Attention”.  
 In: *CoRR abs/2001.01037*

Anders C J, Weber L, Neumann D, Samek W, Müller K-R and **Lapuschkin S** (2019).  
 “Finding and Removing Clever Hans: Using Explanation Methods to Debug and Improve Deep Models”.  
 In: *CoRR abs/1912.11425*

Horst F, Slijepcevic D, **Lapuschkin S**, Raberger A-M, Zeppelzauer M, Samek W, Breiteneder C, Schöllhorn W I and Horsak B (2019).  
 “On the Understanding and Interpretation of Machine Learning Predictions in Clinical Gait Analysis Using Explainable Artificial Intelligence”.  
 In: *CoRR abs/1912.07737*

Becker S, Ackermann M, **Lapuschkin S**, Müller K-R and Samek W (2018).  
 “Interpreting and Explaining Deep Neural Networks for Classification of Audio Signals”.  
 In: *CoRR abs/1807.03418*

Schwenk G and **Bach S** (2014).  
 “Detecting Behavioural and Structural Anomalies in Media-Cloud Applications”.  
 In: *CoRR abs/1409.8035*