

# Addressing scientific debt in deep learning research: 4 aspects of our neural nets that made us wonder, and what we learned

*Colloquium of the UZH/ETH Institute of Neuroinformatics, March 18, 2022*

*Thilo Stadelmann*



# Agenda



**1. Computer vision  
architecture design**



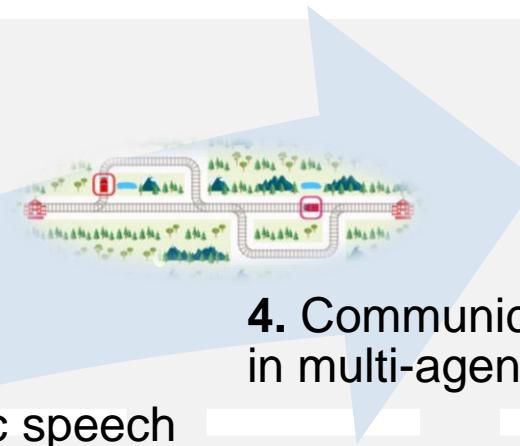
**2. Bias in face  
recognition**



**3. Dynamic speech  
features and sequence  
learners**



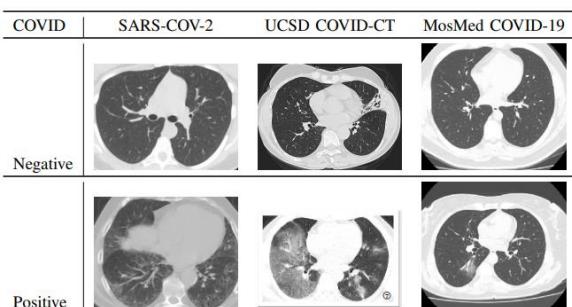
shuffle  
→



**4. Communication  
in multi-agent RL**

**5. Discussion**

# We created a number of practical deep learning applications over the years...



**Medical imaging:**  
domain adaptation for diagnosis



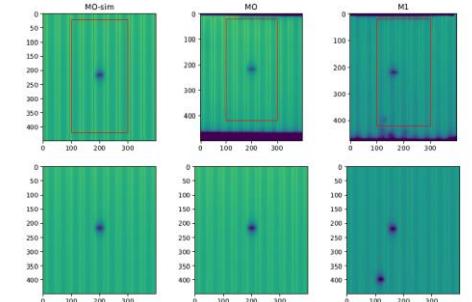
**Document analysis:**  
article segmentation



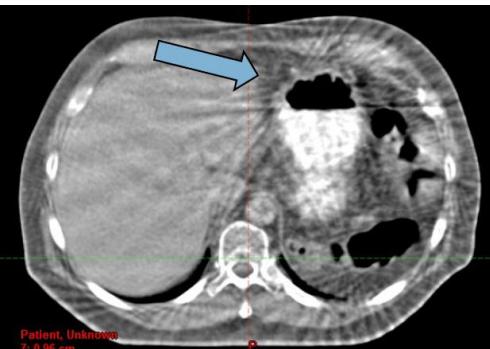
**Document analysis:**  
optical music recognition



**Industrial vision:**  
quality control



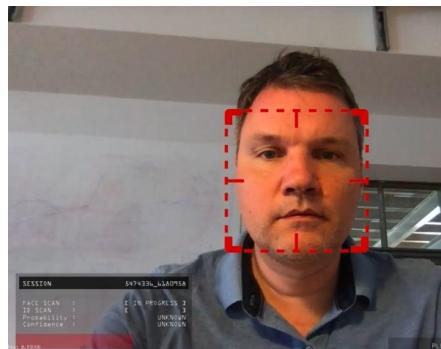
**Industrial vision:** prediction of solar cell simulation parameters from a real-world picture



**Medical imaging:**  
motion artifact reduction



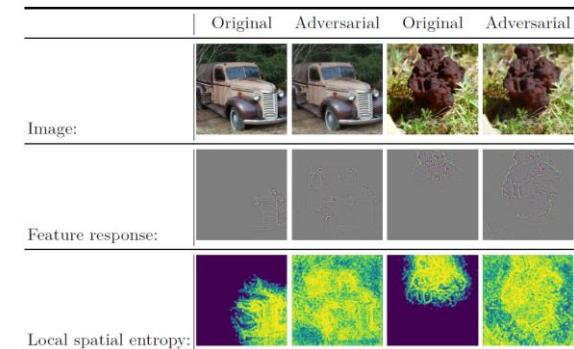
**Medical imaging:**  
vertebrae detection



**Biometrics:**  
robust face recognition



**Industrial vision:** food waste segmentation



**Industrial vision:** explainability and adversarial attack detection

# Is ImageNet a good basis for deriving CNN architectures for other use cases?

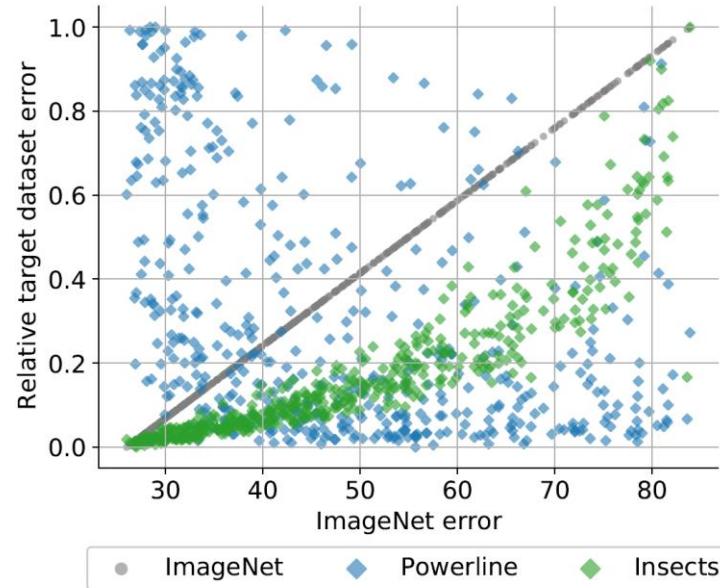


Fig. 1. Is a CNN architecture that performs well on ImageNet automatically a good choice for a different vision dataset? This plot suggests otherwise: It displays the relative test errors of 500 randomly sampled CNN architectures on three datasets (ImageNet, Powerline, and Insects) plotted against the test error of the same architectures on ImageNet. The architectures have been trained from scratch on all three datasets. Architectures with low errors on ImageNet also perform well on Insects, on Powerline the opposite is the case.

Tuggener, Schmidhuber & Stadelmann: „*ImageNet as a Representative Basis for Deriving Generally Effective CNN Architectures*”, under review, 2022.

# Is ImageNet... (contd.)

## Study design and results

- 500 randomly sampled architectures from the AnyNetX family (incl. AlexNets, VGGs, ResNets, RegNets)
- Trained from scratch on ImageNet and 8 relevant real-world datasets

DATASET	NO. IMAGES	NO. CLASSES	IMG. SIZE
CONCRETE	40K	2	227 × 227
MLC2008	43K	9	312 × 312
IMAGENET	1.3M	1000	256 × 256
HAM10000	10K	7	296 × 296
POWERLINE	8K	2	128 × 128
INSECTS	63K	291	296 × 296
NATURAL	25K	6	150 × 150
CIFAR10	60K	10	32 × 32
CIFAR100	60K	100	32 × 32

- Tested on (a) a test set from ImageNet and (b) on the same type used for training
- Extensive ablation studies to show validity

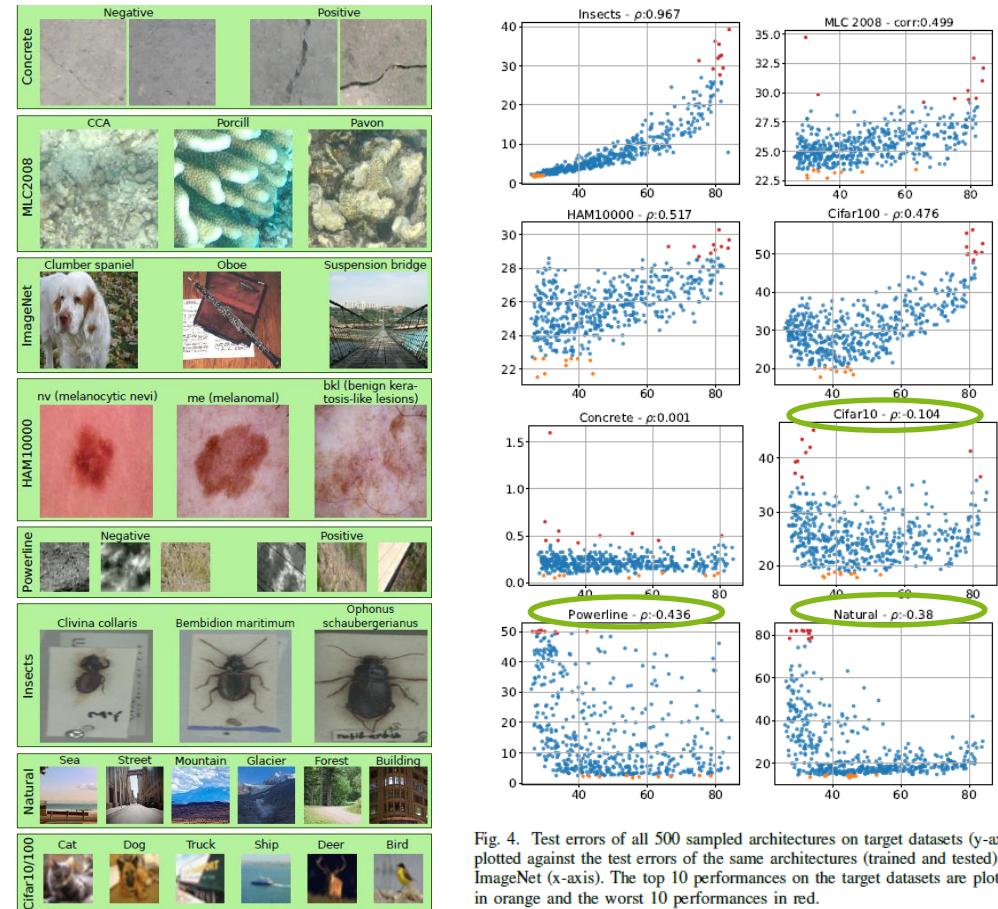


Fig. 4. Test errors of all 500 sampled architectures on target datasets (y-axis) plotted against the test errors of the same architectures (trained and tested) on ImageNet (x-axis). The top 10 performances on the target datasets are plotted in orange and the worst 10 performances in red.

# Is ImageNet... (contd.)

## Findings

- Architecture search based on ImageNet performance is worse than random search** for at least Natural, Powerline and Cifar10
- Varying the number of classes in ImageNet** is a cheap and effective remedy (i.e., randomly selecting x classes and deleting the rest of the dataset → ImageNet-x)
- ...whereas **image-similarity or image size** play **not an important role** (e.g., Natural images are most similar to ImageNet's)
- Hyperparameters cumulative block depth and cumulative block width can drastically change based on dataset** and are influenced by class count

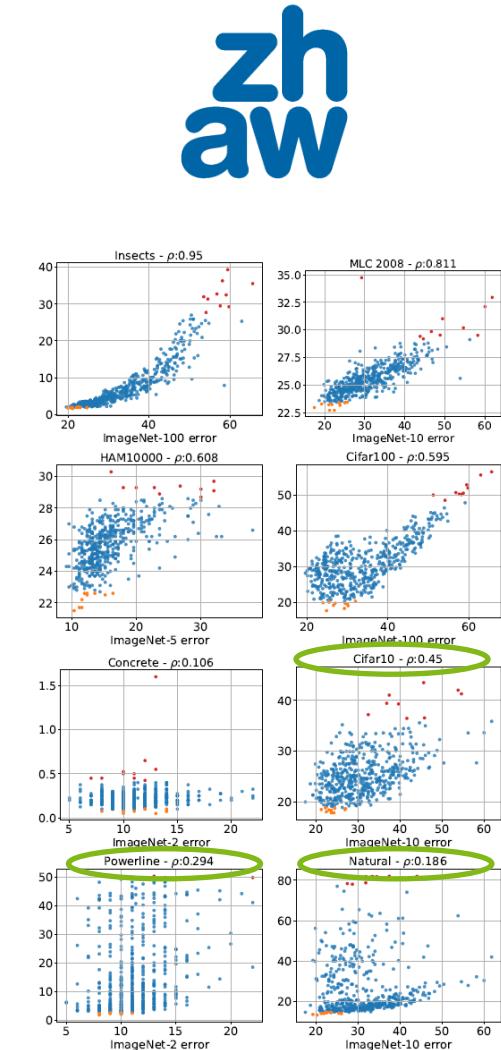


Fig. 6. Test errors of all 500 sampled architectures on target datasets (y-axis) plotted against the test errors of the same architectures on the ImageNet-X (x-axis). The top 10 performances on the target dataset are orange, the worst 10 performances red.

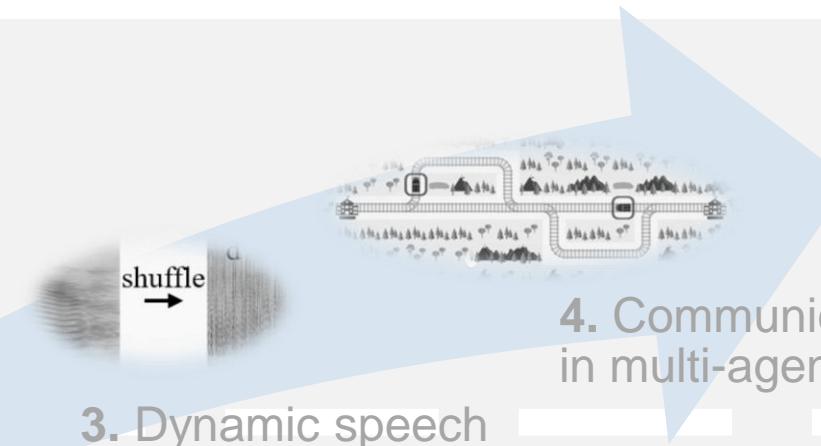
# Agenda



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**2.** Bias in face  
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**3.** Dynamic speech  
features and sequence  
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**4.** Communication  
in multi-agent RL

**5.** Discussion



# The problem of bias in face recognition



Bias := different recognition rates for different sub-groups of the population, with potential negative effects for members of disadvantaged groups



Sri Lankan police  
wrongly identify Brown  
University student as  
wanted suspect in terror  
attack



Different error types, e.g., in a policing application (comparison to suspects):

- Mostly *false positives* for non-whites → **wrongful arrest**
- Mostly *false negatives* for whites → **wrongful letting go**

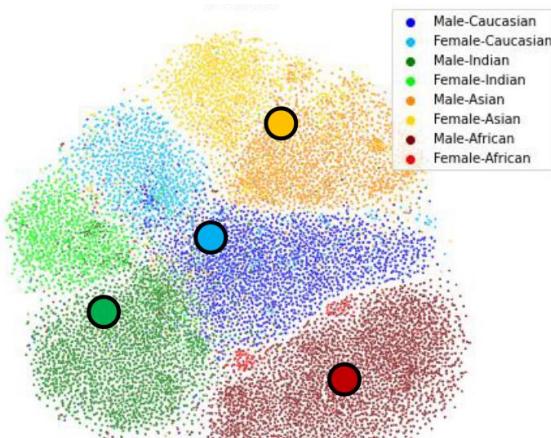
Buolamwini & Gebru. «*Gender Shades: Intersectional Accuracy Disparities in Commercial Gender Classification*». PMLR 2018.

# The veil of ignorance for humans and machines



Wehrli, Hertweck, Amirian, Glüge & Stadelmann. «*Bias, awareness, and ignorance in deep-learning-based face recognition*». AI and Ethics, 2021

# Looking inside the embedding space



Clusters well → model is very aware of gender/ethnicity

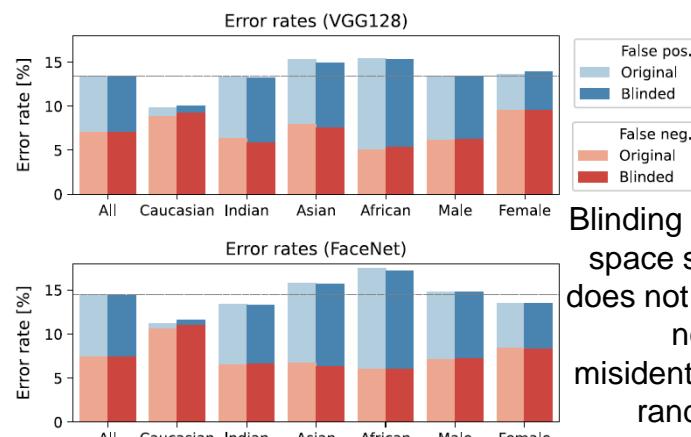
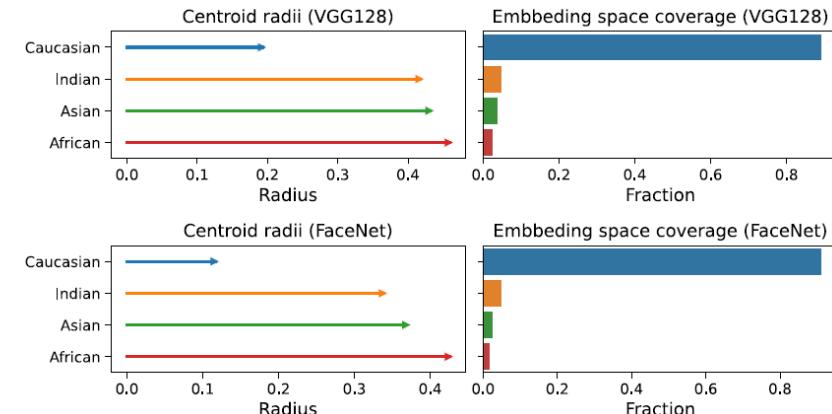


Fig. 6 Relative face recognition error rates for the VGG128 and FaceNet models. The error rates are given for all image pairs, for the different ethnic groups (Caucasian, Indian, Asian, and African) as well as for gender (male, female). The horizontal line helps to indicate whether a specific group performs better or worse than the overall average. The colors distinguish the two types of errors: False positives (blue) are pairs of different identities which are mistakenly predicted as identical, whereas false negatives (red) are identical faces mistakenly predicted as different. The brightness indicates the type of embedding. Light: original embeddings. Dark: blinded embedding (color figure online)

Non-Caucasians are more remote and cover little space

Fig. 5 Left side: radii of the origin of the embedding space to centroids of the clusters related to ethnicity. Right side: coverage of the embedding space associated with ethnicity. This is calculated by classifying (centroid classifier) randomly generated embedding vectors. The fractions add up to 1



→ 2 Caucasian faces have greater distance  
→ more often classified as „different“ when using the same decision threshold

Blinding (projecting out the subspace spanned by centroids) does not affect recognition rates nor bias because misidentifications are scattered randomly in the space

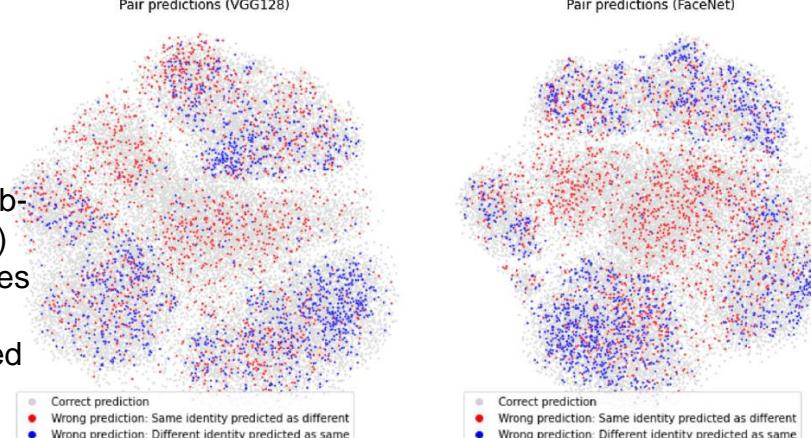
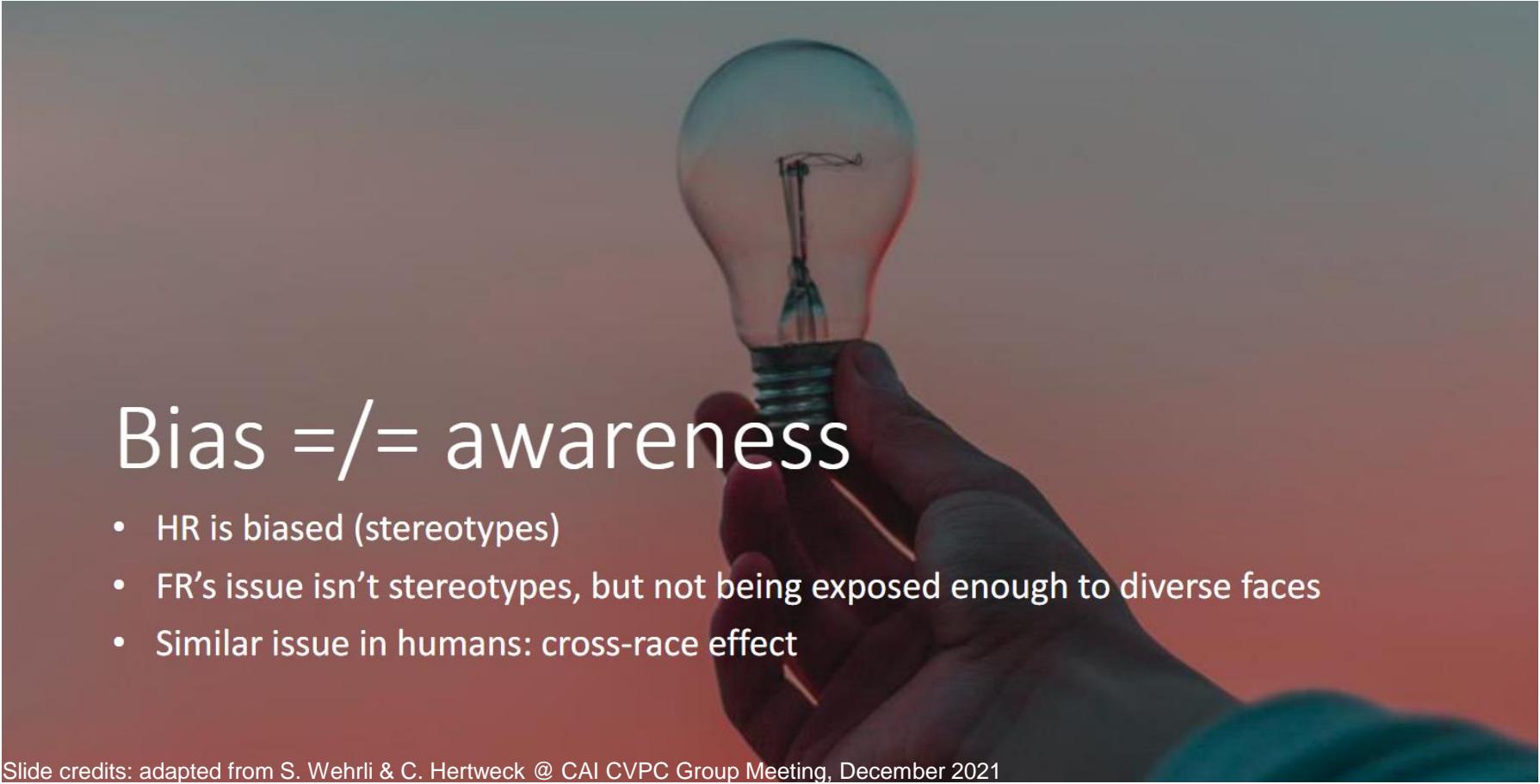


Fig. 7 This figure is derived from the t-SNE coordinates shown in Fig. 3. Each point in the plot represents the average coordinates of a pair, either positive with the same identity or negative with different identity. The grey points represent correct predictions of positive (same identity) or negative (different identity) pairs by the face

recognition algorithm. Red points are the cases where positive pairs are mistakenly classified as negative pair. Blue points are the cases where negative pairs are mistakenly classified as positive pair. Left: VGG128 model. Right: FaceNet model (color figure online)

# Bias in face recognition: results

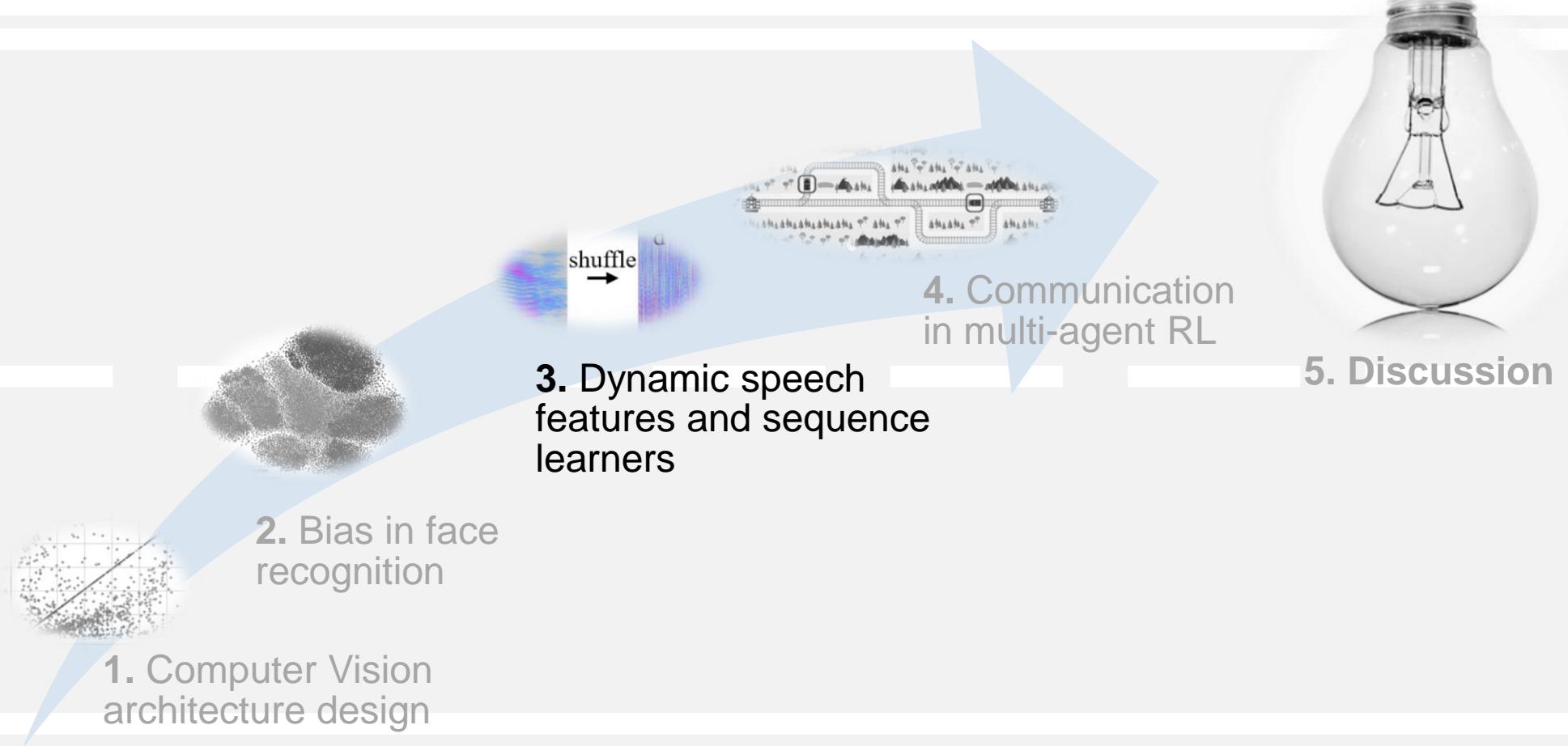


Bias =/= awareness

- HR is biased (stereotypes)
- FR's issue isn't stereotypes, but not being exposed enough to diverse faces
- Similar issue in humans: cross-race effect

Slide credits: adapted from S. Wehrli & C. Hertweck @ CAI CVPC Group Meeting, December 2021

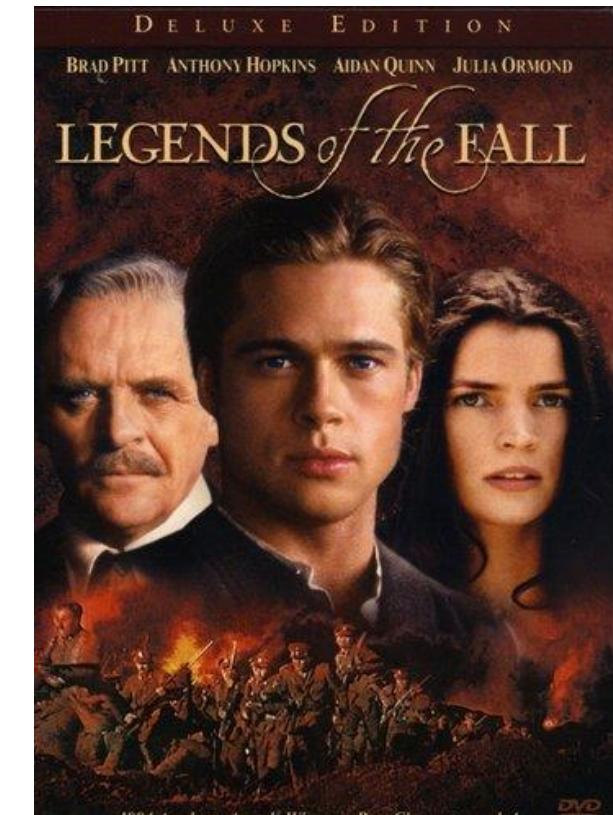
# Agenda



# Automatic speaker recognition performance in different scenarios



ok

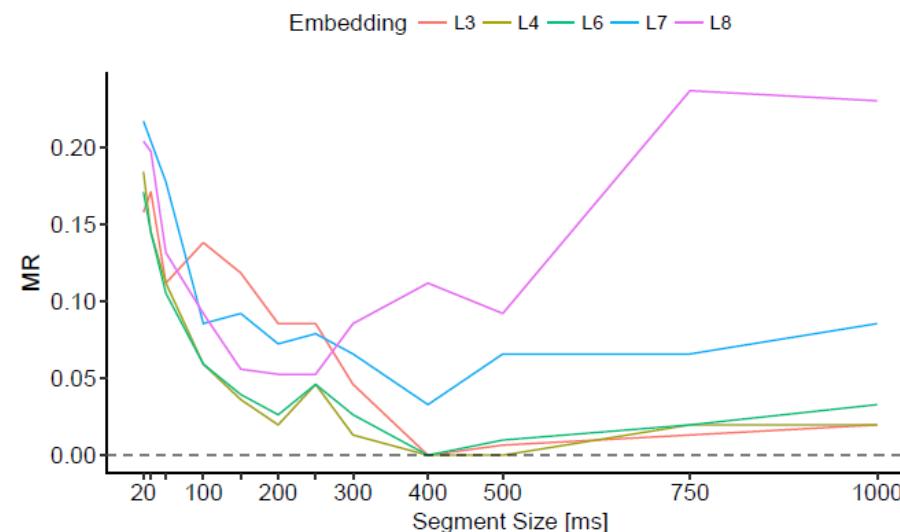


not ok

# Literature: in difficult environments, dynamic (temporal) voice features hold important cues

- Stadelmann & Freisleben, ACM MM 2009: **predicted** that speaker recognition **errors to improve one order of magnitude** if temporal aspects (~400ms context) are exploited
- Lukic et al., IEEE MLSP 2016/17: realized predicted effect with CNN
- Stadelmann et al., ANNPR 2018: realized predicted effect with RNN

Method	MR	MR (legacy)
RNN /w PKLD	2.19% ( $\frac{1.25\%+2.5\%+1.25\%+3.75\%}{4}$ )	4.38% (average of 4 runs)
CNN /w PKLD [24]	-	5%
CNN /w cross entropy [23]	-	5%
$\nu$ -SVM [40]	6.25%	-
GMM/MFCC [40]	12.5%	-



# Quantifying to which extent DNNs use supra-segmental temporal information

## Assumption

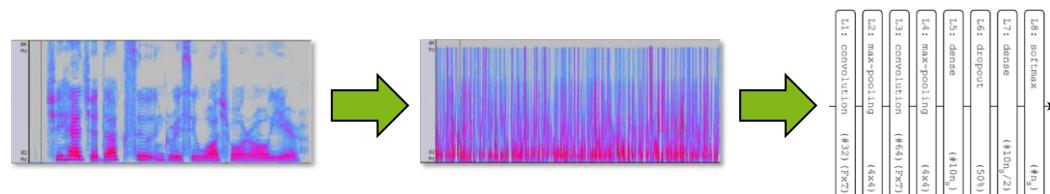
- DNNs are superior voice models **because** they model supra-segmental temporal (**SST**) aspects

## Evidence

- The **ability is there in principle**: CNNs can use filters along the temporal axis of spectrograms; RNNs have in-built sequence modelling capabilities
- The achieved **results resemble closely the predicted improvements** when modeling temporal aspects: increase in recognition rate, optimal length of temporal context

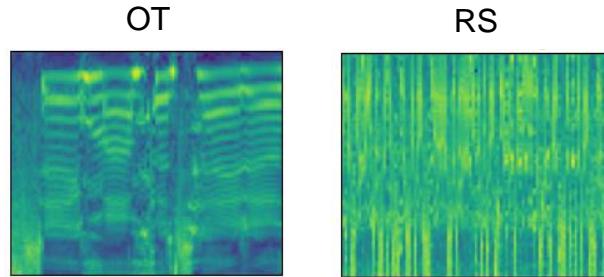
## Test

- What happens if we **scramble the time axis** of a spectrogram as a preprocessing to DNN input?



- Rationale: if the sequence of frames is random, the **only usable information are frame-based acoustic cues (FBA)** => the **recognition should become worse**, confirming proper exploitation of SSTs

# Setup



## METHODOLOGY

3 DNNs: **LUVO** (Lukic, Vogt et al., 2016/17), **LSTM** (Stadelmann et al., 2018) and **ResNet34s** (Xie et al., 2019)

### Training details

- **CosFace loss** (Wang et al, 2018) instead of PKLD for computational efficiency and larger margins
- **Per epoch** (64x): draw 1s segment from random starting point from each utterance; batch size 100

### Evaluation

- **Evaluate speaker clustering** with Misclassification rate (**MR**) and **speaker verification** with **EER**
- **Utterance representation:** 1s segments w/ 50% overlap → average over resulting embeddings

Neururer et al. (2022). «Explaining the (In-)effectiveness of DNNs to Learn Supra-Segmental Temporal Features for Automatic Speaker Recognition». Under review.

Stadelmann & Freisleben (2009). «Unfolding Speaker Clustering Potential: A Biomimetic Approach». ACMMM'2009.

Lukic, Vogt, Dürr & Stadelmann (2016). «Speaker Identification and Clustering using Convolutional Neural Networks». MLSP'2016.

Lukic, Vogt, Dürr & Stadelmann (2017). «Learning Embeddings for Speaker Clustering based on Voice Equality». MLSP'2017.

Stadelmann, Glinski-Haefeli, Gerber & Dürr (2018). «Capturing Suprasegmental Features of a Voice with RNNs for Improved Speaker Clustering». ANNPR'2018.

Xie, Nagrani, Chung & Zisserman: «Utterance-level Aggregation for Speaker Recognition in the Wild». ICASSP 2019.

Wang, Wang, Zhou, Ji, Gong, Zhou, ... & Liu: «Cosface: Large margin cosine loss for deep face recognition.» CVPR 2018.

## EXPERIMENTS

### TIMIT dataset

- 630 speakers, studio conditions, 10 sentences/speaker
- Training set: 462 speakers (8 sentences train, 2 val)
- Test set: 168 speakers (10 sentences)

### Setup

- As **similar** as possible to **prior work** (2009-2018)
- **Train** each DNN with **original (OT)** or **randomized (RS)** time axis
- **Evaluate** each trained model **with OT** and **RS** segments
- **Clustering**: hierarchical clustering of 2 utterances (8 or 2 concatenated sentences) per speaker (40 speakers)
- **Verification**: for all test speakers & each sentence: selected 2 matched & 2 unmatched random sentences

# Results

## Speaker clustering on TIMIT (MR, averaged over 5 runs)

		H50	
		OT	RS
LUVO	OT	0.00 $\sigma$ 0.00	9.00 $\sigma$ 2.15
	RS	9.00 $\sigma$ 1.66	1.25 $\sigma$ 0.00
LSTM	OT	1.25 $\sigma$ 1.12	2.75 $\sigma$ 0.50
	RS	2.00 $\sigma$ 1.00	0.25 $\sigma$ 0.50
RESNET34S	OT	1.00 $\sigma$ 0.94	11.50 $\sigma$ 4.29
	RS	2.75 $\sigma$ 0.94	1.00 $\sigma$ 0.94

## Speaker verification on TIMIT (EER, averaged over 5 runs)

		H50	
		OT	RS
LUVO	OT	6.38 $\sigma$ 0.12	11.90 $\sigma$ 0.46
	RS	8.16 $\sigma$ 0.42	5.78 $\sigma$ 0.16
LSTM	OT	3.53 $\sigma$ 0.07	3.90 $\sigma$ 0.12
	RS	4.00 $\sigma$ 0.07	3.54 $\sigma$ 0.05
RESNET34S	OT	4.96 $\sigma$ 0.19	9.21 $\sigma$ 1.15
	RS	5.89 $\sigma$ 0.25	5.80 $\sigma$ 0.11

# Testing if DNNs can be forced to not rely on frame-based acoustic information alone

## 1. Make the problem acoustically harder by decreasing the SNR

**Speaker verification on VoxCeleb** (speech „in the wild“, 5994 speakers, 1+ mio. utterances)

		H50		
		OT	RF	RS
LUVO	OT	6.38 $\sigma 0.12$	12.02 $\sigma 0.51$	11.90 $\sigma 0.46$
	RF	8.55 $\sigma 0.49$	5.55 $\sigma 0.06$	6.12 $\sigma 0.12$
	RS	8.16 $\sigma 0.42$	5.33 $\sigma 0.18$	5.78 $\sigma 0.16$
LSTM	OT	3.53 $\sigma 0.07$	4.19 $\sigma 0.09$	3.90 $\sigma 0.12$
	RF	3.99 $\sigma 0.16$	3.78 $\sigma 0.10$	3.66 $\sigma 0.13$
	RS	4.00 $\sigma 0.07$	3.89 $\sigma 0.06$	3.54 $\sigma 0.05$
RESNET34S	OT	4.96 $\sigma 0.19$	10.34 $\sigma 1.56$	9.21 $\sigma 1.15$
	RF	6.59 $\sigma 0.25$	6.25 $\sigma 0.23$	6.37 $\sigma 0.35$
	RS	5.89 $\sigma 0.25$	6.11 $\sigma 0.31$	5.80 $\sigma 0.11$



		H50		
		OT	RF	RS
LUVO	OT	25.75 $\sigma 0.13$	37.23 $\sigma 0.74$	36.96 $\sigma 0.78$
	RF	32.70 $\sigma 0.34$	27.04 $\sigma 0.34$	27.99 $\sigma 0.30$
	RS	33.26 $\sigma 0.29$	27.91 $\sigma 0.32$	28.50 $\sigma 0.28$
LSTM	OT	20.67 $\sigma 0.23$	30.67 $\sigma 0.36$	30.00 $\sigma 0.32$
	RF	26.20 $\sigma 0.18$	22.02 $\sigma 0.10$	23.57 $\sigma 0.09$
	RS	28.28 $\sigma 1.30$	26.30 $\sigma 0.59$	26.58 $\sigma 0.84$
RESNET34S	OT	12.49 $\sigma 0.15$	34.11 $\sigma 0.54$	32.19 $\sigma 0.39$
	RF	22.05 $\sigma 0.43$	19.08 $\sigma 0.26$	20.02 $\sigma 0.16$
	RS	20.74 $\sigma 0.46$	21.02 $\sigma 0.34$	20.36 $\sigma 0.23$

(EER, averaged over 5 runs)

→ Being able to exploit **SST** information **helps in the presence of more noise**

# Testing if DNNs can be forced to not rely on frame-based acoustic information alone

## 2. Remove discriminative power of FBAs by equalizing timbre of speakers

**Speaker verification on TIMIT-NV** (noise-vocoded w/ original amplitude contours in 4 bands)

		H50		
		OT	RF	RS
LUVO	OT	6.38 $\sigma 0.12$	12.02 $\sigma 0.51$	11.90 $\sigma 0.46$
	RF	8.55 $\sigma 0.49$	5.55 $\sigma 0.06$	6.12 $\sigma 0.12$
	RS	8.16 $\sigma 0.42$	5.33 $\sigma 0.18$	5.78 $\sigma 0.16$
LSTM	OT	3.53 $\sigma 0.07$	4.19 $\sigma 0.09$	3.90 $\sigma 0.12$
	RF	3.99 $\sigma 0.16$	3.78 $\sigma 0.10$	3.66 $\sigma 0.13$
	RS	4.00 $\sigma 0.07$	3.89 $\sigma 0.06$	3.54 $\sigma 0.05$
RESNET34S	OT	4.96 $\sigma 0.19$	10.34 $\sigma 1.56$	9.21 $\sigma 1.15$
	RF	6.59 $\sigma 0.25$	6.25 $\sigma 0.23$	6.37 $\sigma 0.35$
	RS	5.89 $\sigma 0.25$	6.11 $\sigma 0.31$	5.80 $\sigma 0.11$



		H50		
		OT	RF	RS
LUVO	OT	32.56 $\sigma 0.62$	35.32 $\sigma 0.46$	35.41 $\sigma 0.55$
	RF	35.16 $\sigma 0.52$	30.39 $\sigma 0.30$	30.91 $\sigma 0.47$
	RS	35.25 $\sigma 0.69$	30.63 $\sigma 0.38$	31.23 $\sigma 0.27$
LSTM	OT	19.34 $\sigma 0.16$	27.20 $\sigma 0.42$	26.12 $\sigma 0.44$
	RF	22.95 $\sigma 0.24$	21.48 $\sigma 0.40$	21.15 $\sigma 0.25$
	RS	22.82 $\sigma 0.40$	21.89 $\sigma 0.25$	21.04 $\sigma 0.12$
RESNET34S	OT	21.12 $\sigma 0.43$	37.83 $\sigma 1.17$	36.57 $\sigma 1.45$
	RF	27.03 $\sigma 0.63$	23.38 $\sigma 0.41$	24.02 $\sigma 0.25$
	RS	27.25 $\sigma 1.37$	23.57 $\sigma 0.46$	23.32 $\sigma 0.58$

(EER, averaged over 5 runs)

- Being able to exploit **SST** information **helps with less speaker-discriminating FBAs**
- Disclaimer: not evident for speaker clustering using MR

# Testing if DNNs can be forced to not rely on frame-based acoustic information alone

## 2. Remove discriminative power of FBAs by equalizing timbre of speakers

**Speaker verification on TIMIT-Syn** (re-synthesized w/ original, normalized pitch tracks and phone-level timing information from annotations [Slowsoft synthesizer, similar for MBROLA])

		H50		
		OT	RF	RS
LUVO	OT	6.38 $\sigma$ 0.12	12.02 $\sigma$ 0.51	11.90 $\sigma$ 0.46
	RF	8.55 $\sigma$ 0.49	5.55 $\sigma$ 0.06	6.12 $\sigma$ 0.12
	RS	8.16 $\sigma$ 0.42	5.33 $\sigma$ 0.18	5.78 $\sigma$ 0.16
LSTM	OT	3.53 $\sigma$ 0.07	4.19 $\sigma$ 0.09	3.90 $\sigma$ 0.12
	RF	3.99 $\sigma$ 0.16	3.78 $\sigma$ 0.10	3.66 $\sigma$ 0.13
	RS	4.00 $\sigma$ 0.07	3.89 $\sigma$ 0.06	3.54 $\sigma$ 0.05
RESNET34S	OT	4.96 $\sigma$ 0.19	10.34 $\sigma$ 1.56	9.21 $\sigma$ 1.15
	RF	6.59 $\sigma$ 0.25	6.25 $\sigma$ 0.23	6.37 $\sigma$ 0.35
	RS	5.89 $\sigma$ 0.25	6.11 $\sigma$ 0.31	5.80 $\sigma$ 0.11

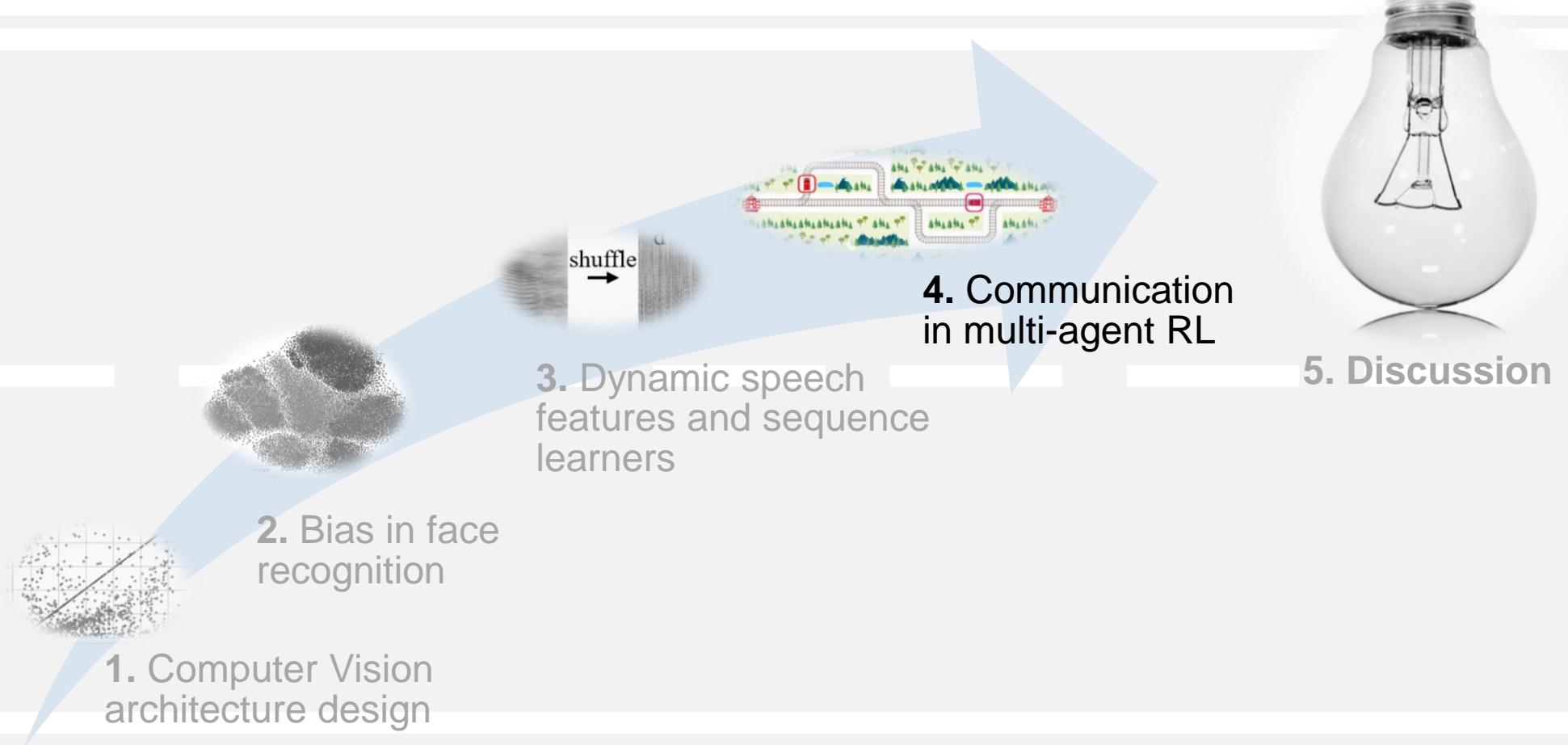


		H50		
		OT	RF	RS
LUVO	OT	46.24 $\sigma$ 0.18	48.94 $\sigma$ 0.15	48.97 $\sigma$ 0.23
	RF	47.26 $\sigma$ 0.15	45.98 $\sigma$ 0.34	46.16 $\sigma$ 0.27
	RS	47.14 $\sigma$ 0.22	45.88 $\sigma$ 0.12	45.66 $\sigma$ 0.12
LSTM	OT	40.39 $\sigma$ 0.07	44.29 $\sigma$ 0.65	42.43 $\sigma$ 1.40
	RF	43.63 $\sigma$ 0.35	41.93 $\sigma$ 0.26	41.64 $\sigma$ 0.25
	RS	43.62 $\sigma$ 0.21	42.55 $\sigma$ 0.34	41.53 $\sigma$ 0.23
RESNET34S	OT	40.33 $\sigma$ 1.32	47.28 $\sigma$ 2.06	46.60 $\sigma$ 2.02
	RF	43.44 $\sigma$ 0.86	42.97 $\sigma$ 0.51	42.65 $\sigma$ 0.59
	RS	42.48 $\sigma$ 0.45	43.07 $\sigma$ 0.72	41.59 $\sigma$ 0.36

(EER, averaged over 5 runs)

- Being able to exploit **SST** information **helps without any speaker-discriminating FBAs**
- Disclaimer: less evident for speaker clustering using MR

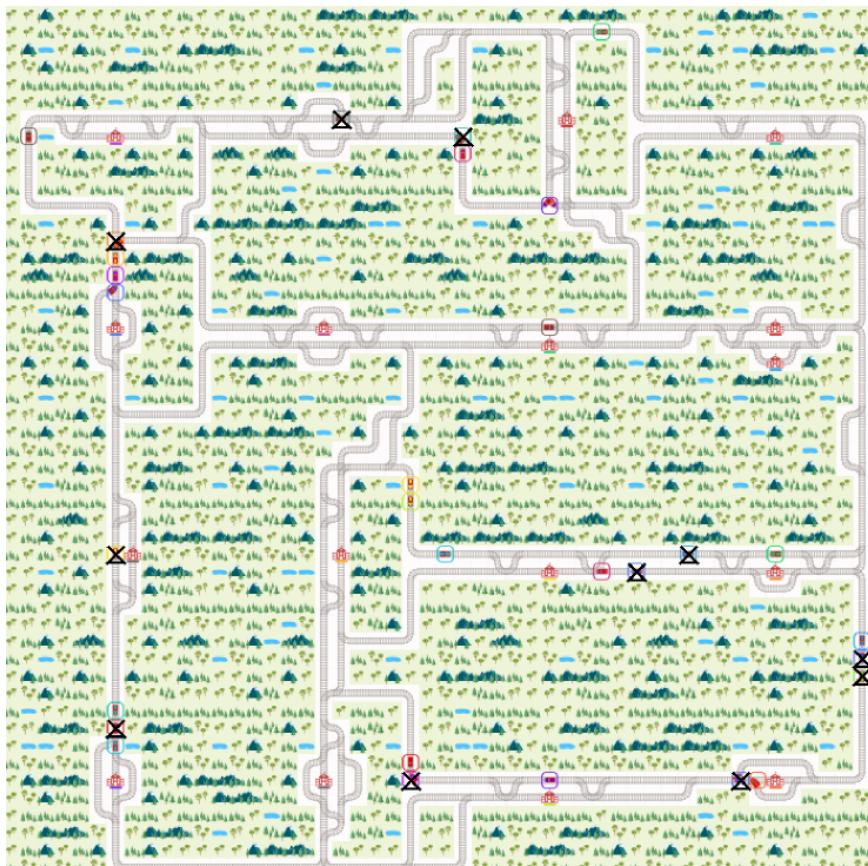
# Agenda



# Mutli-agent RL for train rescheduling

## Problem description

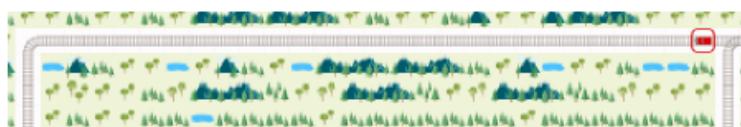
- How to **adjust for small delays** (“rescheduling”) automatically **in a more and more packed railway network** like the one of SBB?
- **Closed-form optimization impossible** due to combinatorial explosion of rerouting options
- RL still in its infancy for practical *high-consequence* environments → Flatland challenge to explore options



# Lessons learned on RL in rescheduling (based on a rank-6 entry to the Flatland challenge)

How to make RL sample-efficient:

- Using **task-specific heuristics** to present the agent with percepts only when a decision is necessary (i.e., at switches) increases the performance from 44.5% to 82.9%
- Using **curriculum learning** to learn fundamental behavior in easy environments and gradually increase complexity ensures rank 6/32 in the more realistic Flatland Round 2

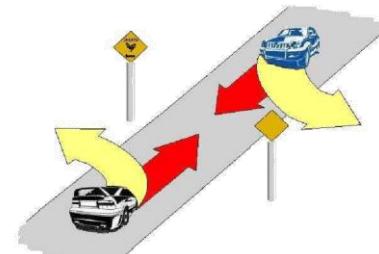


Screenshot from Flatland environment. A train heading to the left. The only reasonable action is to ride forward.

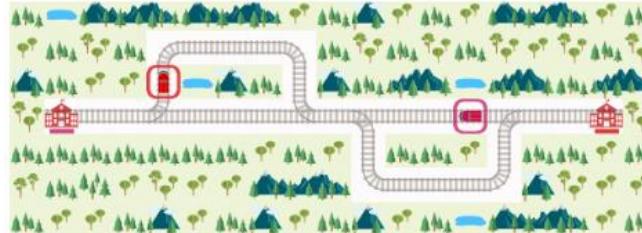
	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Next level on success rate	70%	70%	75%	70%	60%
Nr. of agent	4	8	12	16	20
Env. size	25x25	30x30	40x40	50x50	50x50
Num. cities	5	8	10	12	16
Max. rails between cities	1	2	2	2	2
Max. rails in city	2	2	3	3	3

General remark:

- **Policy gradient methods** seem **generally inappropriate** for high-consequence environments (i.e., one bad action leads to unresolvable catastrophes)
- Reason is **stochasticity**: if distributions over actions are learned and many agents are present in a single environment, the probability of having one bad action in every time step approaches certainty



# An emerging machine language?



Humans would communicate to **negotiate** who would take **the detour**

What happens if we **add communication actions** (5 free tokens + EOT) and a **shared communication buffer in the observation** to the RL scenario?

Communication process:

1. **Communication loop** is entered upon first comm. action taken by any agent
2. Agents can sequentially **read** the comm. **buffer** and **add** a comm. **action**
3. Comm. loop **ends when** both agents issue the **EOT** action
4. **Then**, both agents can select regular (non-comm.) actions again and **proceed in the environment**

→ Does the **general ability** to negotiate (i.e., exchange an arbitrary long sequence of tokens until mutually agreed to end) **help in practically avoiding collision?**

# A first glimpse

## Training

- Reward -1 if agents collide after negotiation; +1 otherwise
- Agents don't know who they are and need to take actions in parallel → cannot stick to go only one way or react to first mover
- 1M episodes training (A3C)

## Results

- Success rate increases from 47% to 95%!
- High diversity in machine dialogues!
- (See examples on the right →)

## Implications

- Allowing arbitrarily long sequences of 5 tokens can lead to Turing-completeness
- But what happens actually?

Timestep	Actions agent 1 2	Outcome
0	4   2	Success
1	5   5	
0	3   0	Success
1	1   5	
2	5   5	
0	3   5	Success
1	5   5	
0	3   1	Crash
1	3   2	
2	5   0	
3	5   5	
0	3   2	Success
1	5   3	
2	5   4	
3	2   5	
4	5   5	
0	4   3	Success
1	3   1	
2	5   5	

# Discussion



- What puzzling aspects of your research have you so far ignored in hunt of a different goal?
- Do you think there is a lesson to learn from searching for an explanation?
- Do you think it pays off to take these detours?
  
- Ideas for forcing DNNs to pick up temporal patterns of a voice?
- Ideas for continuing the RL & communication work?



## About us:

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- Head NLP Group: Prof. Dr. Mark Cieliebak  
Email: [ciel@zhaw.ch](mailto:ciel@zhaw.ch)  
Phone: +41 58 934 72 39

## Further contacts:

- [info.cai@zhaw.ch](mailto:info.cai@zhaw.ch), [datalab@zhaw.ch](mailto:datalab@zhaw.ch), [info.office@data-innovation.org](mailto:info.office@data-innovation.org), [office-switzerland@claire-ai.org](mailto:office-switzerland@claire-ai.org)



# APPENDIX

## Sample projects

# The ZHAW Centre for Artificial Intelligence

**Foundation:** Machine Learning & Deep Learning  
**Cross-cutting concerns:** Ethics, Generality



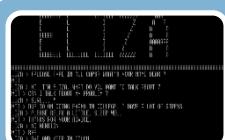
## Autonomous Learning Systems

- *Reinforcement Learning*
- *Multi-Agent Systems*
- *Embodied AI*



## Computer Vision, Perception and Cognition

- *Pattern Recognition*
- *Machine Perception*
- *Neuromorphic Engineering*



## Natural Language Processing

- *Dialogue Systems*
- *Text Analytics*
- *Spoken Language Technologies*



## Trustworthy AI

- *Explainable AI*
- *Robust Deep Learning*
- *AI & Society*



## AI Engineering

- *MLOps*
- *Data-Centric AI*
- *Continuous Learning*

## Areas of application & cooperation:

medicine & health, IoT, robotics, AI ethics & regulation, predictive maintenance, automatic quality control, document analysis, chat bots, biometrics, earth observation, digital farming, meteorology, autonomous driving, further data science use cases in industries like manufacturing / finance / insurance / commerce / transportation / energy etc.

# Education at the CAI



## TEACHING ENGAGEMENT

- B.Sc. Computer Science & Data Science
- M.Sc. Engineering (CS, DS)
- Ph.D. in cooperation with e.g.



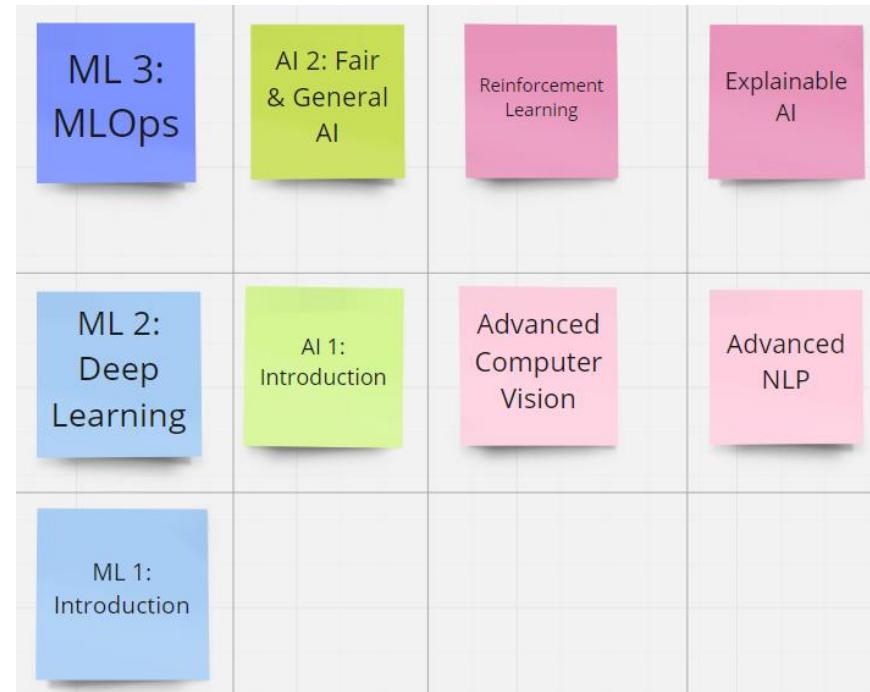
Università  
Ca' Foscari  
Venezia



universität  
**u**lm

- Continuing education in AI & ML
- Special mentoring program for CAI-affiliated students

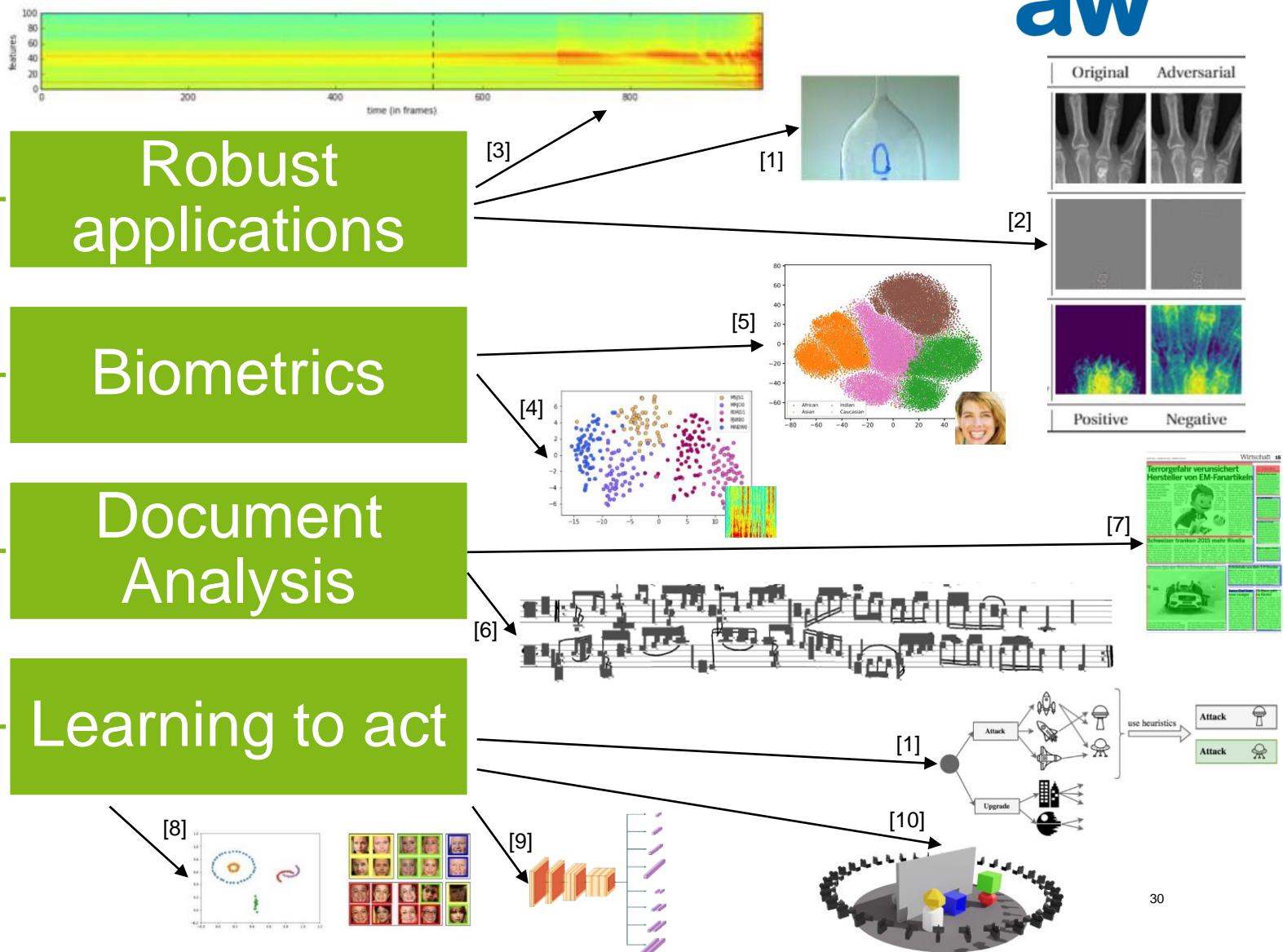
## UNDERGRAD PORTFOLIO



# Computer Vision, Perception & Cognition Group



## Machine learning-based Pattern Recognition



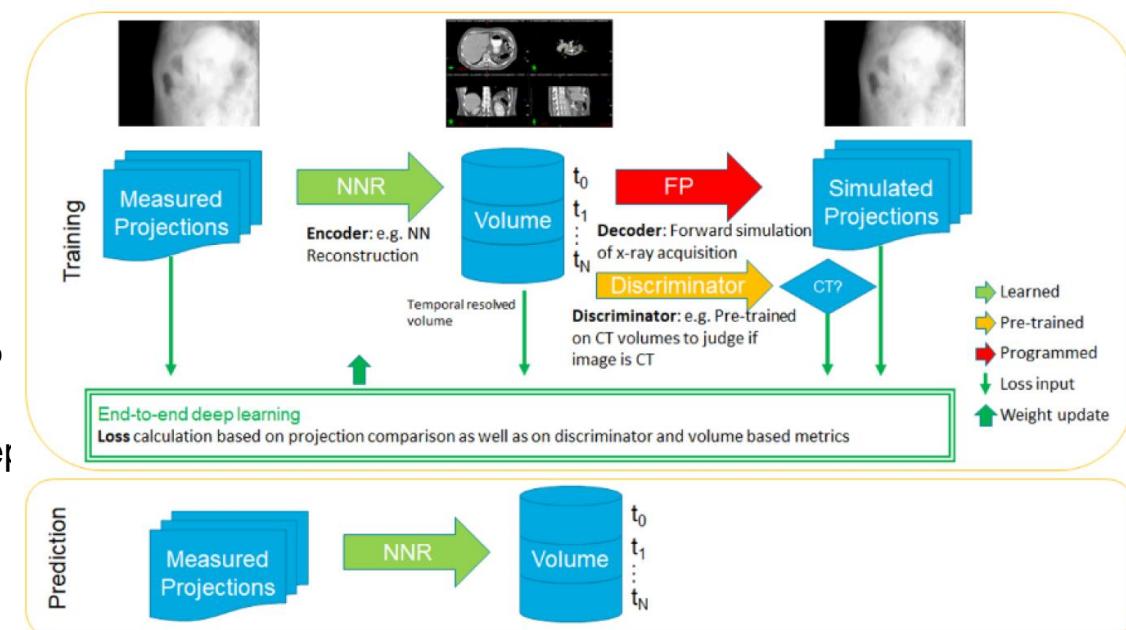
# CVPC Group: references for overview

1. Thilo Stadelmann, Mohammadreza Amirian, Ismail Arabaci, Marek Arnold, Gilbert François Duivesteijn, Ismail Elezi, Melanie Geiger, Stefan Lörwald, Benjamin Bruno Meier, Katharina Rombach, and Lukas Tuggener. "[Deep Learning in the Wild](#)". In: Proceedings of the 8th IAPR TC 3 Workshop on Artificial Neural Networks for Pattern Recognition (**ANNPR'18**), Springer, LNAI 11081, pp. 17-38, Siena, Italy, September 19-21, 2018.
2. Mohammadreza Amirian, Friedhelm Schwenker, and Thilo Stadelmann. "[Trace and Detect Adversarial Attacks on CNNs using Feature Response Maps](#)". In: Proceedings of the 8th IAPR TC 3 Workshop on Artificial Neural Networks for Pattern Recognition (**ANNPR'18**), Springer, LNAI 11081, pp. 346-358, Siena, Italy, September 19-21, 2018.
3. Thilo Stadelmann, Vasily Tolkachev, Beate Sick, Jan Stampfli, and Oliver Dürr. "[Beyond ImageNet - Deep Learning in Industrial Practice](#)". In: Martin Braschler, Thilo Stadelmann, and Kurt Stockinger (Editors). "[Applied Data Science - Lessons Learned for the Data-Driven Business](#)". Springer, 2019.
4. Thilo Stadelmann, Sebastian Glinski-Haefeli, Patrick Gerber, and Oliver Dürr. "[Capturing Suprasegmental Features of a Voice with RNNs for Improved Speaker Clustering](#)". In: Proceedings of the 8th IAPR TC 3 Workshop on Artificial Neural Networks for Pattern Recognition (**ANNPR'18**), Springer, LNAI 11081, pp. 333-345, Siena, Italy, September 19-21, 2018.
5. Stefan Glüge, Mohammadreza Amirian, Dandolo Flumini, and Thilo Stadelmann. "[How \(Not\) to Measure Bias in Face Recognition Networks](#)". In: Proceedings of the 9th IAPR TC 3 Workshop on Artificial Neural Networks for Pattern Recognition (**ANNPR'20**), Springer, LNAI, Winterthur, Switzerland, September 02-04, 2020.
6. Lukas Tuggener, Yvan Putra Satyawan, Alexander Pacha, Jürgen Schmidhuber, and Thilo Stadelmann. "[The DeepScoresV2 Dataset and Benchmark for Music Object Detection](#)". In: Proceedings of the 25th International Conference on Pattern Recognition (**ICPR'20**), IAPR, Milan, Italy, January 10-15 (online), 2021.
7. Benjamin Meier, Thilo Stadelmann, Jan Stampfli, Marek Arnold, and Mark Cieliebak. "[Fully convolutional neural networks for newspaper article segmentation](#)". In: Proceedings of the 14th IAPR International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition (**ICDAR'17**). 14th IAPR International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition (ICDAR), Kyoto Japan, November 13-15, 2017. Kyoto, Japan: CPS.
8. Benjamin Bruno Meier, Ismail Elezi, Mohammadreza Amirian, Oliver Dürr, and Thilo Stadelmann. "[Learning Neural Models for End-to-End Clustering](#)". In: Proceedings of the 8th IAPR TC 3 Workshop on Artificial Neural Networks for Pattern Recognition (**ANNPR'18**), Springer, LNAI 11081, pp. 126-138, Siena, Italy, September 19-21, 2018.
9. Lukas Tuggener, Mohammadreza Amirian, Fernando Benites, Pius von Däniken, Prakhar Gupta, Frank-Peter Schilling, and Thilo Stadelmann. "[Design Patterns for Resource-Constrained Automated Deep-Learning Methods](#)". AI section "Intelligent Systems: Theory and Applications" 1(4):510-538, MDPI, Basel, Switzerland, Novemer 06, 2020.
10. Dano Roost, Ralph Meier, Giovanni Toffetti Carughi, and Thilo Stadelmann. "[Combining Reinforcement Learning with Supervised Deep Learning for Neural Active Scene Understanding](#)". In: Proceedings of the Active Vision and Perception in Human(-Robot) Collaboration Workshop at IEEE RO-MAN 2020 (**AVHRC'20**), online, August 31, 2020.

# DIR3CT: Deep Image Reconstruction through X-Ray Projection-based 3D Learning of Computed Tomography Volumes

Collaboration with Inst. of Appl. Math. & Physics

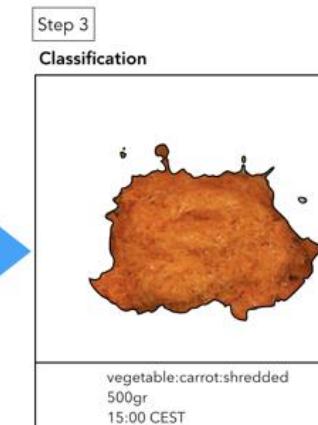
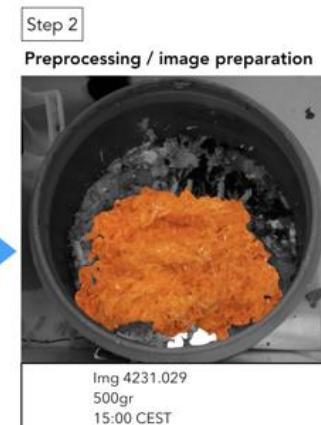
- Topic: Compensation of motion artefacts in 3D CBCT reconstructed volumes using deep learning
- InnoSuisse, total volume **1.13 MCHF**
- Duration: 02/2020 – 05/2022
- Industry partner **Varian Medical Systems** (world market leader radiation therapy)
- Two involved ZHAW institutes **CAI & IAMP** (approx. 8 ZHAW researchers involved)
  - Focus CAI: 3D reconstruction using deep learning (supervised & unsupervised)
  - Focus IAMP: Physical modeling and simulation of motion, anatomical constraints
- Highly ambitious and technologically challenging



# Food Waste Analysis

## Collaboration with the Inst. Of Embedded Systems

- Automatic detection of food waste in restaurants
- Embedded Machine Learning for waste classification
- Savings potential: At least CHF 2,500 per month per kitchen
- Research: Embedded System Design with GPU Edge Processing, Automatic Food Waste Classification
- Joint Innosuisse Project InES / CAI, July 19 – Aug 21



KITRO

[www.kitro.ch](http://www.kitro.ch)



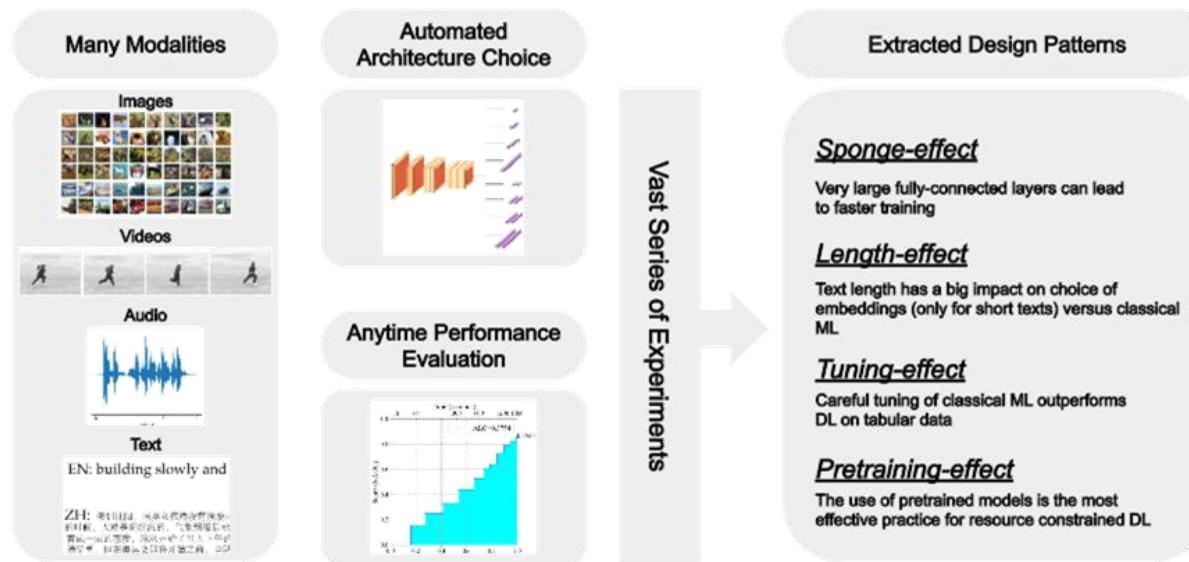
# ADA: Automated Data Analyst

## Collaboration with EPFL MLO Lab

### The project

- Target: in-house solution of industrial partner to improve turnover in standard analytics projects
- Challenge: optimize hyperparameters smarter than with well initialized random perturbations
- Result: top ranks in Google AutoDL'2020 competition

### Design Patterns for Resource Constrained Automated Deep Learning Methods



Stadelmann, Amirian, Arabaci, Arnold, Duivesteijn, Elezi, Geiger, Lörwald, Meier, Rombach & Tuggener (2018). «Deep Learning in the Wild». ANNPR'2018.

Tuggener, Amirian, Rombach, Lörwald, Varlet, Westermann & Stadelmann (2019). «Automated Machine Learning in Practice: State of the Art and Recent Results». SDS'19.

Tuggener, Amirian, Benites, von Däniken, Gupta, Schilling & Stadelmann (2020). «Design Patterns for Resource-Constrained Automated Deep-Learning Methods». AI 1(4).

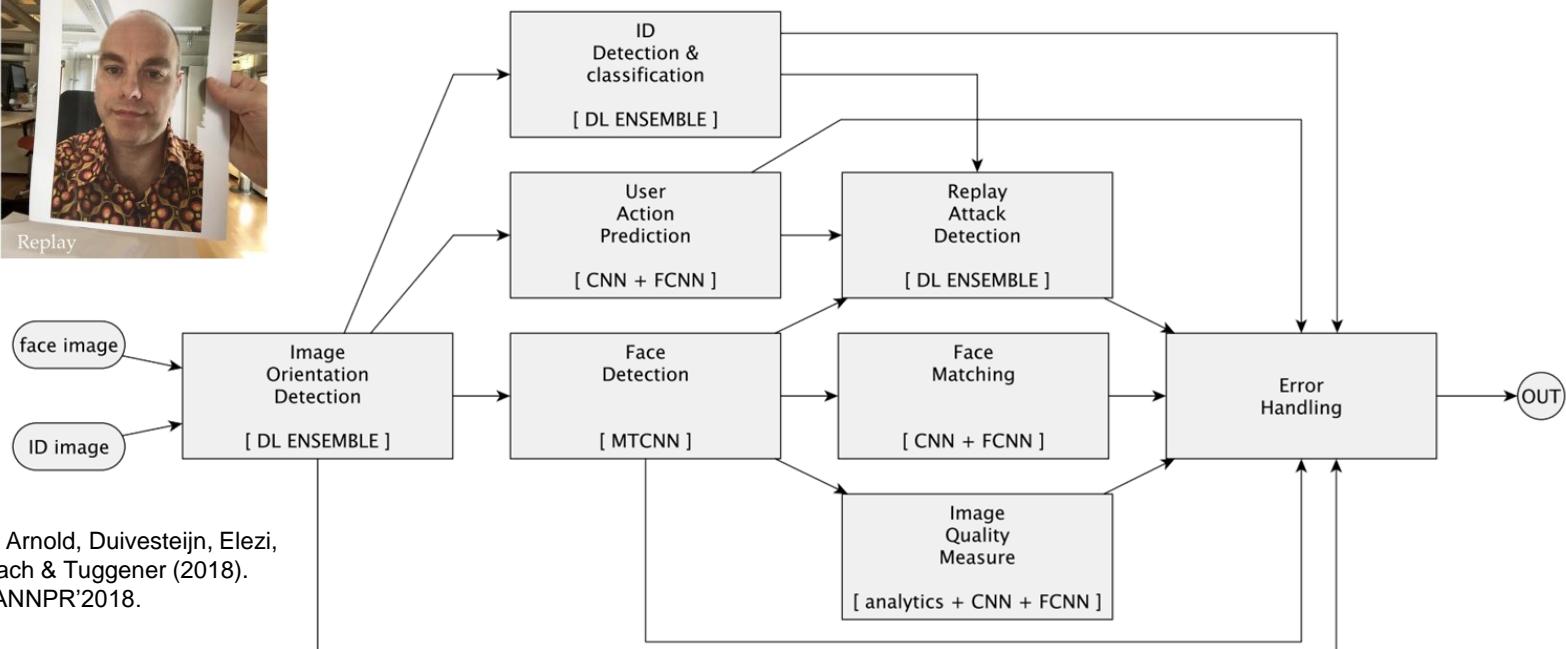
# LIBRA: Face matching & anti-spoofing

## Collaboration with Inst. of Appl. Math. & Physics



DEEPIMPACT

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
Swiss Confederation  
Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency



Stadelmann, Amirian, Arabaci, Arnold, Duivesteijn, Elezi,  
Geiger, Lörwald, Meier, Rombach & Tuggener (2018).  
«Deep Learning in the Wild». ANNPR'2018.

# DeepScore – Music OCR via Deep Neural Nets

## Collaboration with IDSIA



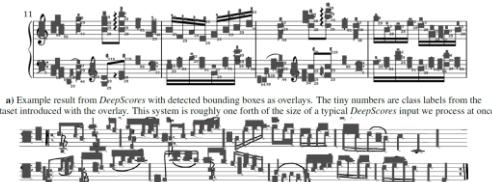
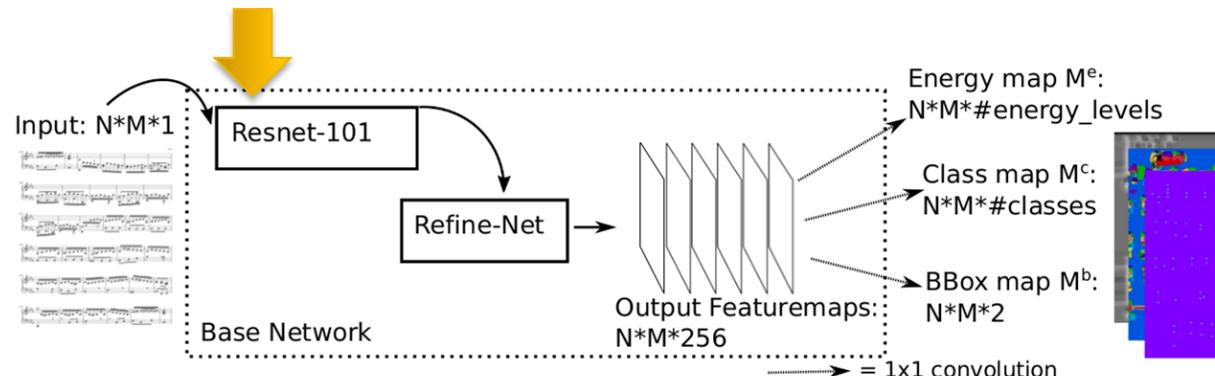
Goal: Raise the accuracy of optical music recognition (OMR) by one order of magnitude to facilitate paper-free work of professional musicians

**Challenge:** Transfer the recent success of deep learning methods on numerous pattern recognition tasks (e.g., OCR) to the domain of music notation (which is 2D, without benchmarks, many syntactical constraints)

Solution: Enhance the open music scanner Audiveris by a new symbol classifier and segmenter based on convolutional neural networks to output musicXML



# DeepScore – challenges & solutions



a) Example result from DeepScores with detected bounding boxes as overlays. This system is roughly one forth of the size of a typical DeepScores input we process at once.



b) Example result from MuSCIMA++ with detected bounding boxes and class labels as overlays. This system is roughly one half of the size of a typical processed MuSCIMA++ input. The images are random picks amongst inputs with many symbols.

Tuggener, Elezi, Schmidhuber, Pelillo & Stadelmann (2018). «DeepScores – A Dataset for Segmentation, Detection and Classification of Tiny Objects». ICPR'2018.

Tuggener, Elezi, Schmidhuber & Stadelmann (2018). «Deep Watershed Detector for Music Object Recognition». ISMIR'2018.

Tuggener, Satyawan, Pacha, Schmidhuber & Stadelmann (2020). «The DeepScoresV2 Dataset and Benchmark for Music Object Detection». ICPR'2020.

# SCAI: Smart Contract Analytics using Artificial Intelligence

geheimhaltungsvereinbarung-nda.pdf NDA ↓ Nur Relevantes zeigen

Die Verpflichtung zur Geheimhaltung gilt nicht für Entwicklungen, die bereits offenkundig sind (allgemein bekannt sind, zum Stand der Technik zählen etc.) und damit nicht mehr geheim oder schutzfähig sind. Wenn Offenkundigkeit einer Entwicklung später eintritt, erlischt die Verpflichtung insoweit ab diesem Zeitpunkt.

§ 4

Diese Verpflichtung zur Geheimhaltung gilt auch weiter, wenn der beabsichtigte Vertrag über die Zusammenarbeit (§ 1 S.1) nicht zustande kommt oder beendet ist, außer die Entwicklung ist inzwischen offenkundig, wofür der Hersteller die Beweislast trägt.

Die Parteien werden Unterlagen, die sie jeweils vom anderen im Zusammenhang mit der Entwicklung usw. erhalten haben, nach Bekanntwerden der Offenkundigkeit, Kündigung der Absichtserklärung gem. § 1 S.1 oder Beendigung des Vertrages über die Zusammenarbeit unverzüglich dem jeweiligen Informationsgeber zurückgeben. *Personenbezogene Dokumente und sämtliche Kopien werden von sämtlichen Datenträgern gelöscht bzw. bei Verkörperung vernichtet.*

Schiedsgerichtsort

Benötigt Korrektur von Legaris Farbe wählen Vorlage-Text anzeigen

Für Streitigkeiten aus diesem Vertrag ist das Gericht am Sitz des Herstellers zuständig

§ 6

Sollten eine oder mehrere Bestimmungen dieses Vertrags rechtsunwirksam sein oder werden, so soll dadurch die Gültigkeit der übrigen Bestimmungen nicht berührt werden. Die Parteien verpflichten sich, die unwirksame Bestimmung durch eine Regelung zu ersetzen, die dem mit ihr angestrebten wirtschaftlichen Zweck am nächsten kommt.

Ort, Datum  
Ort, Datum  
Unterschrift Erfinder  
Unterschrift Hersteller

Seite 3

Suchen nach Klauseltyp

Alle wählen Auswahl aufheben

Fehlende Klauseln (4)

- Vertragsanpassungen
- Vertragsdauer
- Offenlegungspflicht
- Abtretungsverbot

Unzulässige Klauseln (1)

- Schiedsgerichtsort 1/1

Beginn und Laufzeit

- Schriftlichkeitserfordernis

Eigentums- und Besitzrechte

- IP-Rechte

Ende und Folgen

- Beendigungsfolgen
- Nachvertragliche Pflichten

Geheimhaltung

- Geheimhaltungspflicht

Innosuisse project (480'000 CHF)

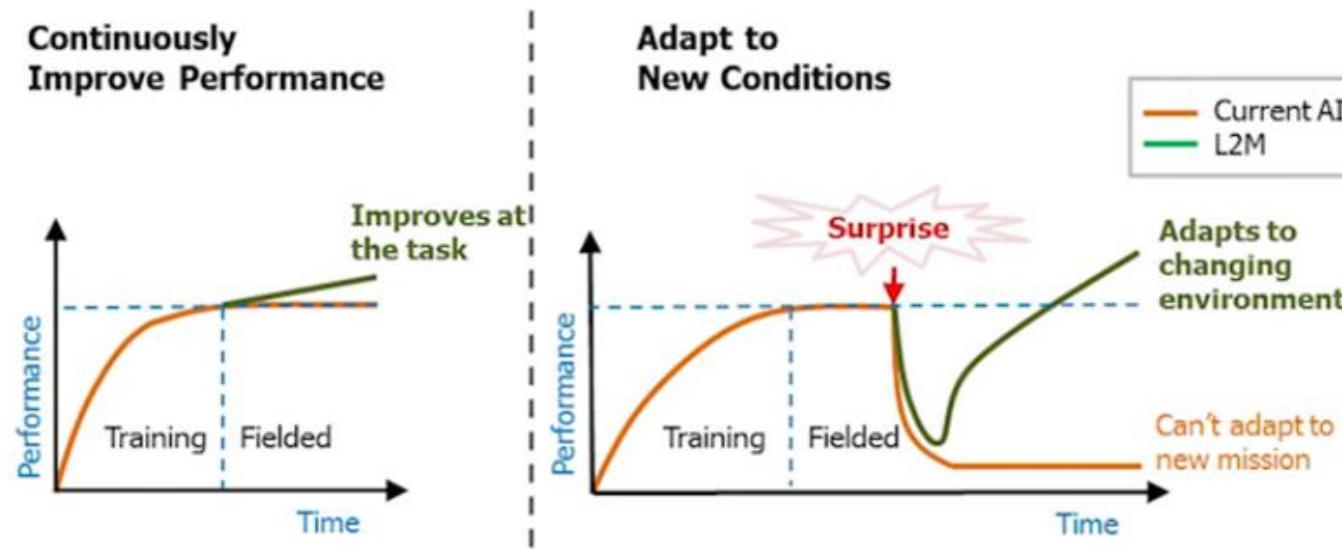
Multi-label text classification: Classify contractual provisions (120+ labels)

Outlier detection: Find problematic provisions

Entity recognition: Detect companies, costs, penalties, jurisdiction etc.

Multilingual: EN, DE

# LIHLITH: Lifelong Learning for Dialogue Systems



EU CHIST-ERA and SNF project (220'000 CHF)

Fundamental research project

What happens with dialogue systems after deployment? How does it learn new things continuously and autonomously?

How to react when the algorithm is confronted with an unknown situation?

Our contribution: benchmark to evaluate lifelong machine learning for natural language interfaces to databases

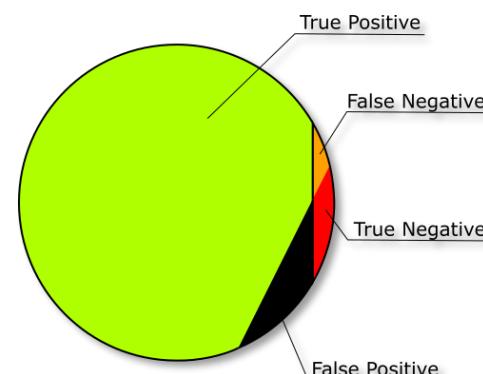
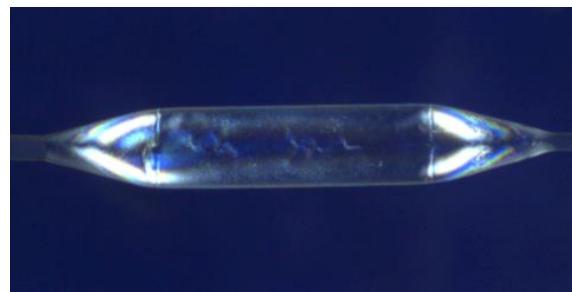
# QualitAI

## Optical Quality Control for MedTech Products

**Goal:** semi-automatic quality control of industrial goods with computer vision  
**Challenge:** Work with small amounts of imbalanced data

### Approach:

- Use state-of-the art deep learning models
- Use transfer learning, few-shot learning, image improvement to enable small data app

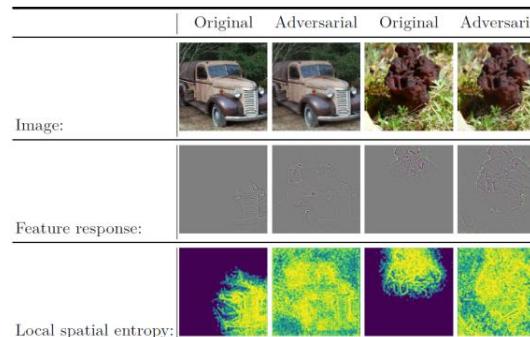


# QualitAI – enabling model interpretability

- Helps the developer in «debugging», needed by the user to trust  
→ visualizations of learned features, training process, learning curves etc. should be «always on»



- Defends against adversarial attacks  
→ thresholding local spatial entropy easily detects many adversarial attacking schemes through «lost focus»

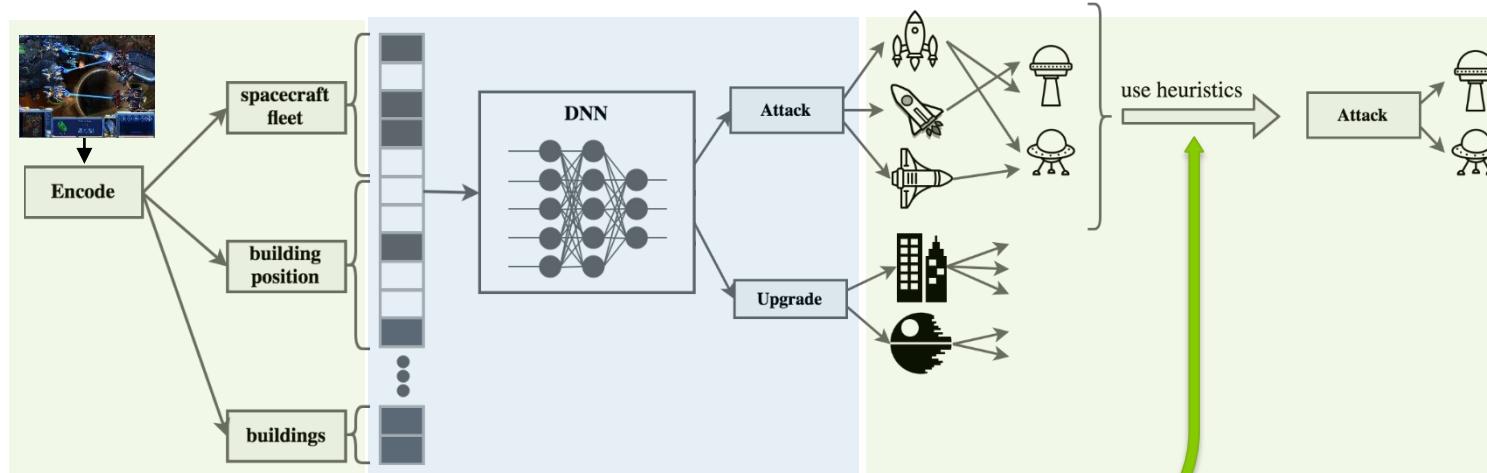


Stadelmann, Amirian, Arabaci, Arnold, Duivesteijn, Elezi, Geiger, Lörwald, Meier, Rombach & Tuggener (2018). «Deep Learning in the Wild». ANNPR'2018.  
Amirian, Schwenker & Stadelmann (2018). «Trace and Detect Adversarial Attacks on CNNs using Feature Response Maps». ANNPR'2018.

Amirian, Tuggener, Chavarriaga, Satyawan, Schilling, Schwenker, & Stadelmann (2021). «Two to Trust: AutoML for Safe Modelling and Interpretable Deep Learning for Robustness». ECAI'2020 workshops.

# FarmAI: Automatic game playing

## Collaboration with Inst. for Data Analysis & Process Design



Reinforcement learning: deep Q network

**Large discrete action space → use heuristic**

- makes exploration difficult
- elongates training time



**Delayed and sparse reward → do reward shaping**

- sequence of actions crucial to get a reward

**Distance encoding → use reference points**

**Transfer Learning → difficult: more complex environment needs other action sequence**

Stadelmann, Amirian, Arabaci, Arnold, Duivesteijn, Elezi, Geiger, Lörwald, Meier, Rombach & Tuggener (2018). «Deep Learning in the Wild». ANNPR'2018.

# Project example: PANOPTES

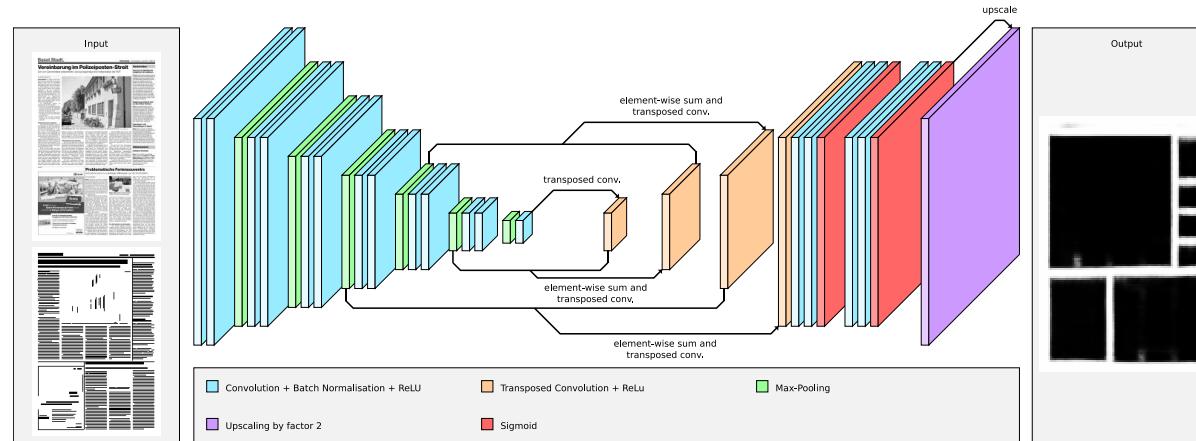
## Newspaper article segmentation for print media monitoring

### Goal

- **Automatically segment newspaper pages** into constituting articles for automatic print media monitoring

### Approach

- **Image-based approach with deep neural networks** that learn layouting principles from examples



Meier, Stadelmann, Stampfli, Arnold, & Cieliebak. "Fully convolutional neural networks for newspaper article segmentation". ICDAR 2017.

Stadelmann, Tolkachev, Sick, Stampfli, & Dürr. "Beyond ImageNet - Deep Learning in Industrial Practice". In: Braschler et al. (Eds). "Applied Data Science – Lessons Learned for the Data-Driven Business", Springer, 2019.

# Project example: Complexity 4.0

## Collaboration with HSG et al.

### Goal

- Reduce unnecessary **complexity of product variability** in production environments in a data-driven (~automatable) fashion

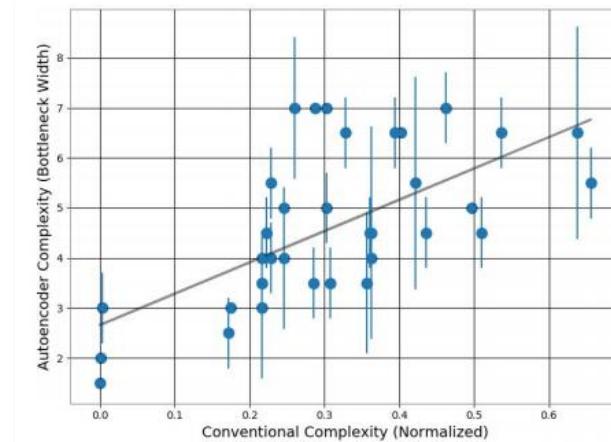
### Project team

- Business partners: **2 different industries** with large production facilities in CH
- **Economists:** ITEM-HSG (technology management, business models)
- **Engineers:** ZHAW-Engineering (machine learning), ZHAW-Life Sciences (simulation)

### Results

- “*The paradigm of data-driven decision support can [...] enter the domain of a highly qualified business consultant, delivering the quantitative results necessary to ponder informed management decisions.*”
- “*It is merely the knowledge of what methods and technologies are possible and available that currently hinders the faster adoption of the data-driven paradigm in businesses.*”

Hollenstein, Lichtensteiger, Stadelmann, Amirian, Budde, Meierhofer, Füchslin, & Friedli “Unsupervised Learning and Simulation for Complexity Management in Business Operations”. In: Braschler et al. (Eds). “Applied Data Science – Lessons Learned for the Data-Driven Business”, Springer, 2019.



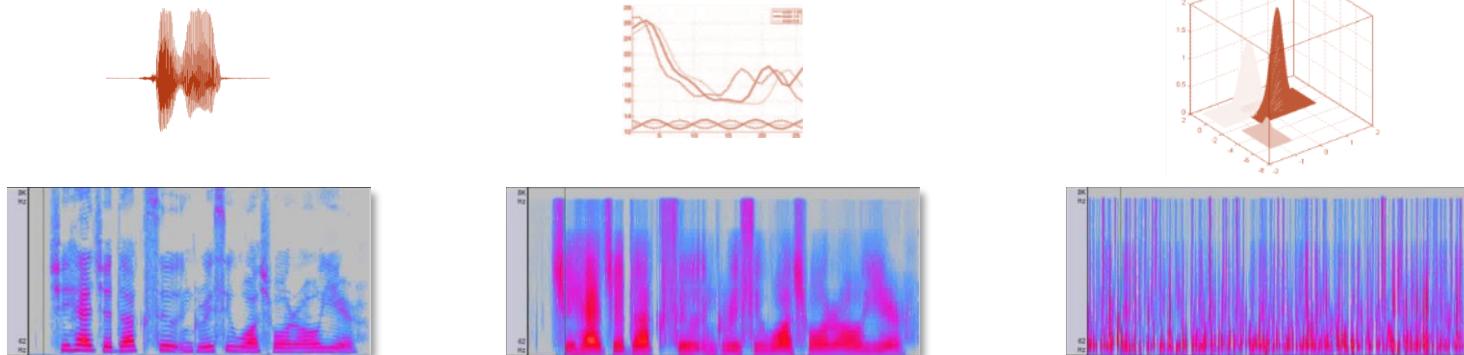
# Talkalyzer

Contact: Prof. Dr. Thilo Stadelmann

Goal: Speaker Recognition in meetings on mobile devices  
Challenge: Build reliable speaker models

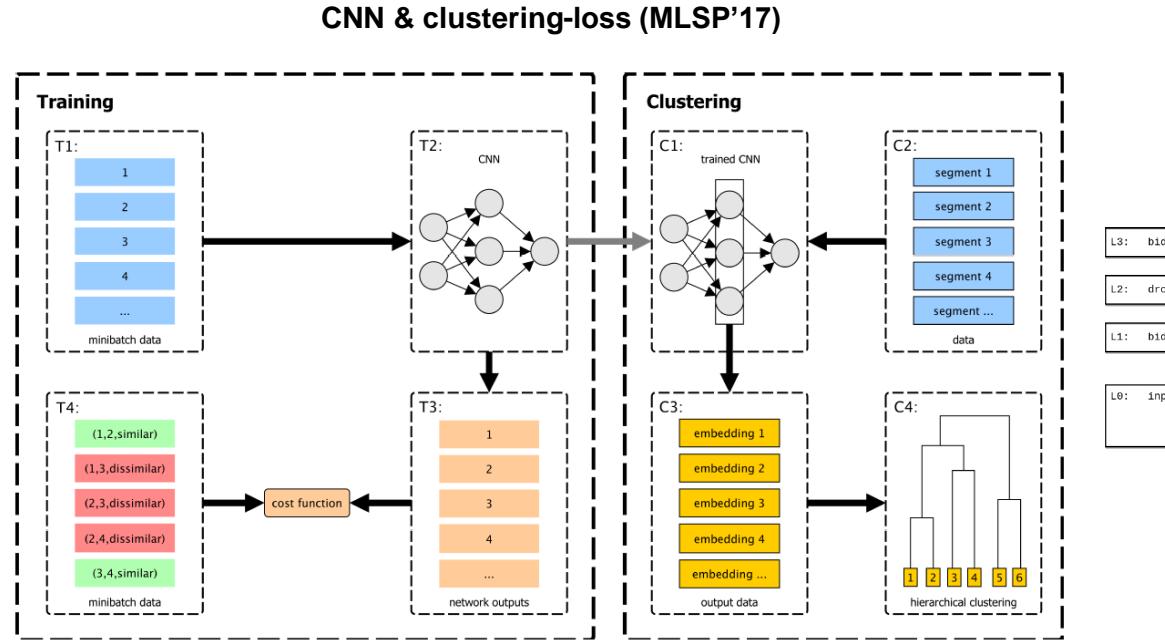
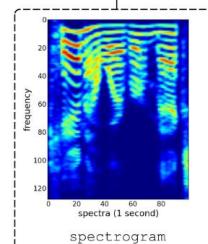
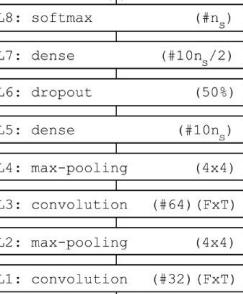
## Approach:

- Loosen iid. assumption on feature vectors
- Use Deep Neural Network approach on continuous audio features  
→ find typical sounds of a speaker in a spectrogram



# Talkalyzer – exploiting time information

**CNN (MLSP'16)**  
speaker labels

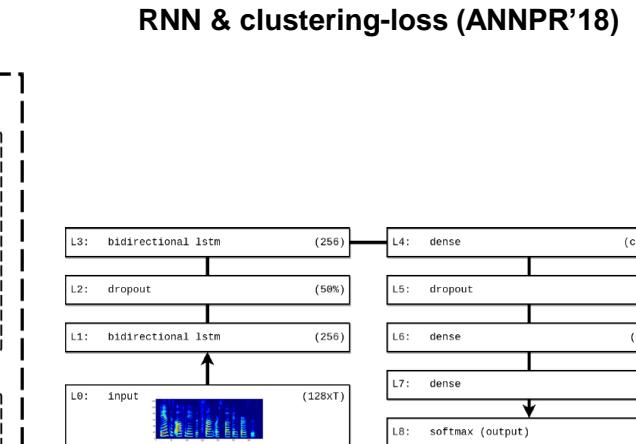


Method	MR	MR (legacy)
RNN /w PKLD	2.19% ( $\frac{1.25\%+2.5\%+1.25\%+3.75\%}{4}$ )	4.38% (average of 4 runs)
CNN /w PKLD [24]	-	5%
CNN /w cross entropy [23]	-	5%
$\nu$ -SVM [40]	6.25%	-
GMM/MFCC [40]	12.5%	-

Lukic, Vogt, Dürr & Stadelmann (2016). «Speaker Identification and Clustering using Convolutional Neural Networks». MLSP'2016.

Lukic, Vogt, Dürr & Stadelmann (2017). «Learning Embeddings for Speaker Clustering based on Voice Equality». MLSP'2017.

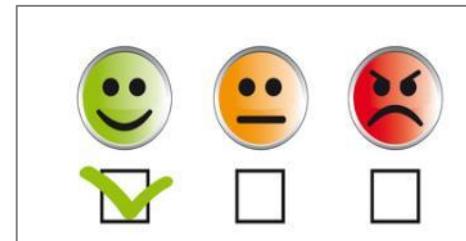
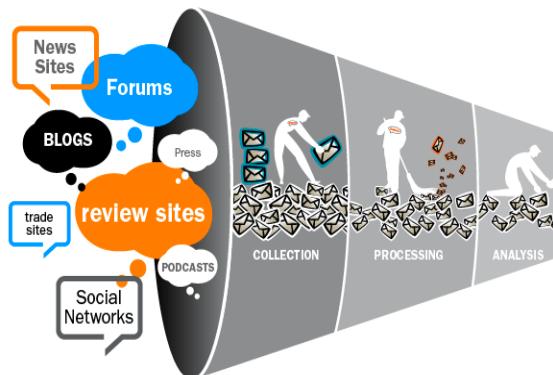
Stadelmann, Glinski-Haefeli, Gerber & Dürr (2018). «Capturing Suprasegmental Features of a Voice with RNNs for Improved Speaker Clustering». ANNPR'2018.



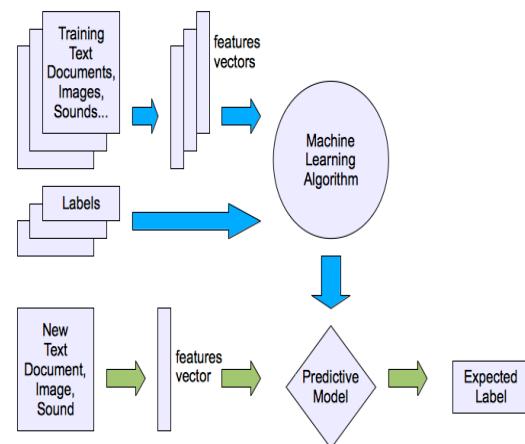
# Sentiment Analysis

## Contact: Dr. Mark Cieliebak

Challenge:



Approach:



Demo:



# SODES – Swiss Open Data Exploration System

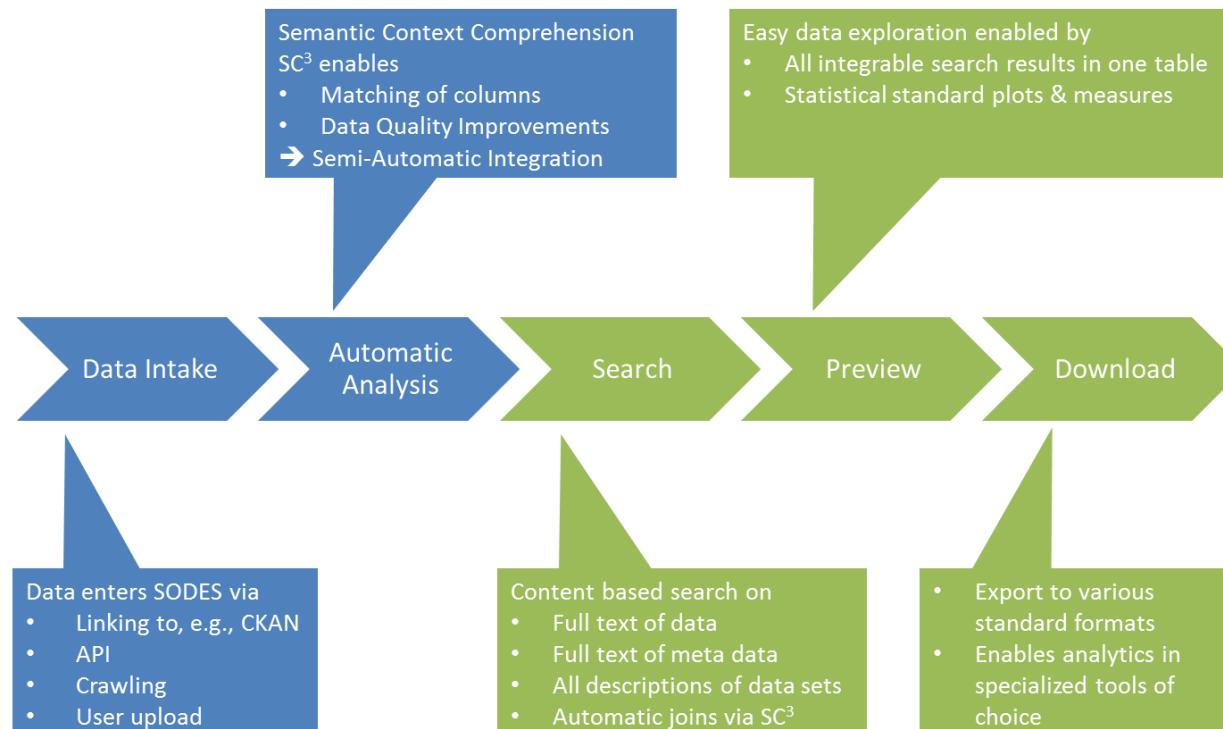
Contact: Prof. Dr. Mark Cieliebak



**Challenge:** Open Data promises to be a gold mine – but accessing and combining data from different data sources turns out to be non-trivial and very time consuming

**Goal:** A platform that enables easy and intuitive access, integration and exploration of different data sources

**Solution:**



# DaCoMo – Data-driven Condition Monitoring

Contact: Prof. Dr. Thilo Stadelmann

Situation: Maintaining big (rotating) machinery is expensive, defect is more expensive

Goal: Schedule maintenance shortly before defect is expected, not merely regularly

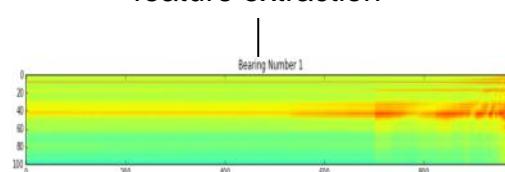
Challenge: Develop an approach that adapts to each new machine automatically

Solution: Use machine learning approaches for anomaly detection to learn the normal state of each machine and deviations of it purely from observed sensor signals; the approach combines classic and industry-proven features with e.g. deep learning auto-encoders

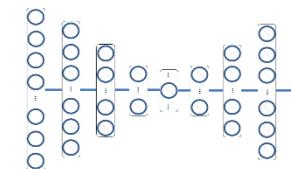
vibration sensors



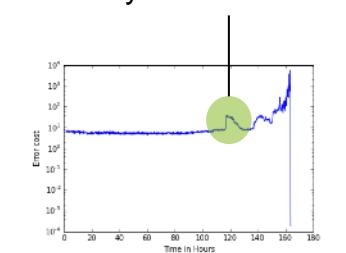
feature extraction



e.g., RNN autoencoder



early detection of fault



# Influencer Detection in Social Media

Target Specific, Interactive  
Contact: Dr. Mark Cieliebak

1 Person

1 Story

1 Blog Post

1 Tweet

100'000  
(Re)Tweets

1000 News  
Articles

1 Mio people believe that story



How  
to find  
this  
person  
in  
1 second

## Social Media Monitoring

Data Source APIs



Periodic Data Fetch

Analyze Unstructured Text

NLP

Full-Text  
Index

Graph  
Structure

Fast Retrieval