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Benchmarking Framework for Machine Learning with fNIRS

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Benchmarking Framework for Machine Learning with fNIRS

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Background



Background: fNIRS

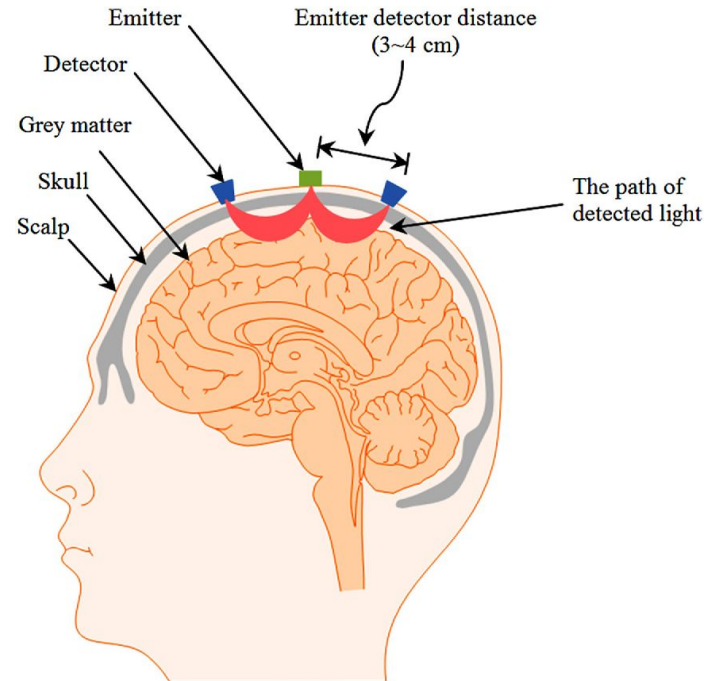
Functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS)

Attenuation of light in the cerebral blood →
measure changes in hemoglobin concentrations

Hemoglobin carries oxygen to the brain
→ indication on brain activity in neocortex

Measure 2 types: oxy & deoxyhemoglobin

Classification → BCI, offline analysis, ...



Kumar et al., 2017



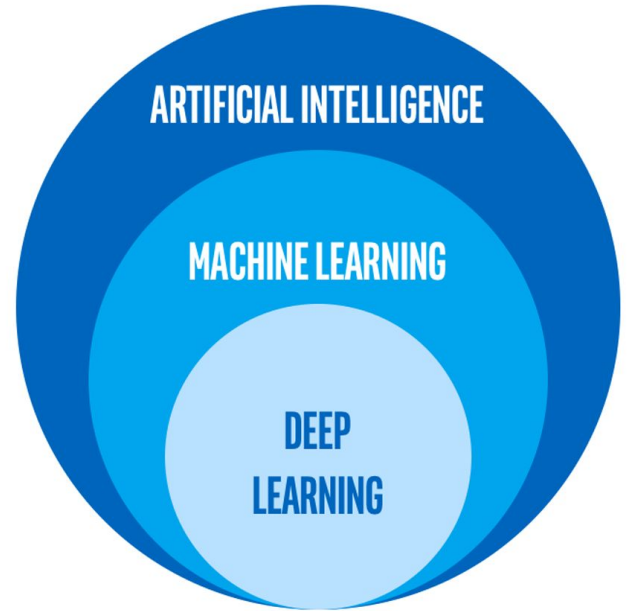
Background: machine learning

Machine learning: techniques that enable a computer learn from examples

Deep learning: neural networks with multiple layers

Supervised: each example has a label associated

Hyperparameters: parameters external to the model that are set and control the learning



intel.com



Motivation



Motivation: current limitations

Easy to learn machine learning, hard to learn the pitfalls

Potential mistakes, lack of robustness, lack of details in some publications

- **Methodology:** hyperparameters, cross-validation, testing, stats, class imbalance, ...
- **Reporting:** data, hyperparameters, cross-validation, chance level, ...

Reproducibility impossible in most cases, possible **bias** in the results



Framework



Framework: datasets

Dataset	Classes	Nb participants	Nb examples/class
Herff et al. 2014 n-back	1-back; 2-back; 3-back	10	100
Shin et al. 2018 n-back	0-back; 2-back; 3-back	26	234
Bak et al. 2019 motor execution	right hand; left hand; foot	30	750
Shin et al. 2018 word generation	rest; word generation	26	780
Shin et al. 2016 mental arithmetic	rest; mental arithmetic	29	870



Framework: data processing

- Signal processing (*NIRSimple*¹, *MNE*²):
 - conversion of raw signal into hemoglobin concentration changes
 - region of interest averaging
 - filtering (low-pass, high-pass, band-pass)
 - baseline correction
- Feature extraction:
 - mean
 - standard deviation
 - slope of linear regression

1. <https://github.com/HanBnr/NIRSimple>
2. <https://mne.tools/stable/index.html>



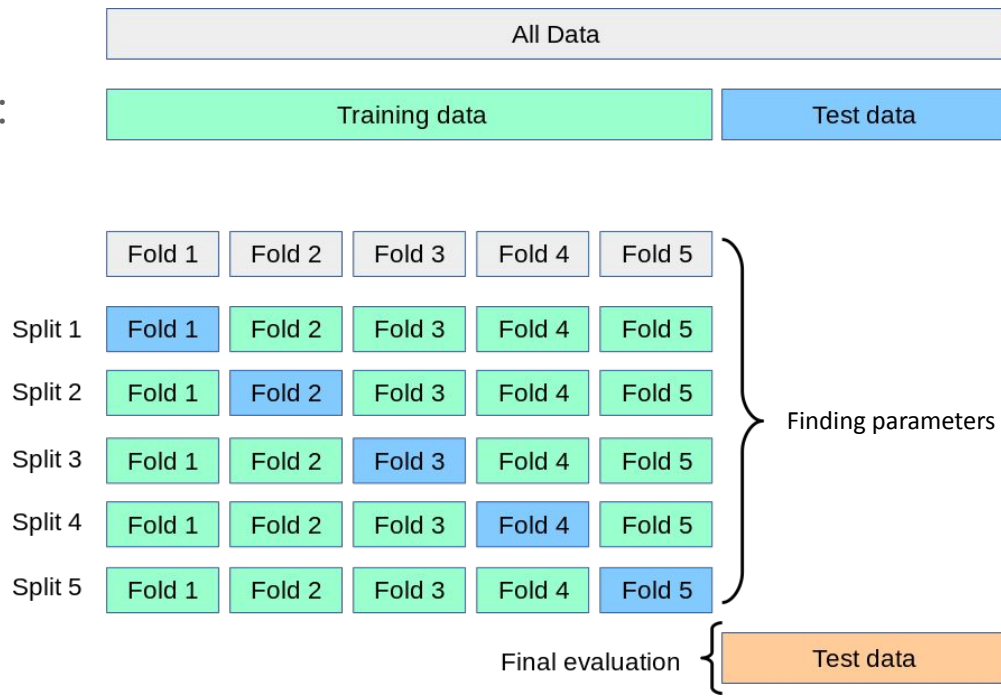
Framework: cross-validation

Nested cross-validation

(also called double cross-validation):

→ outer cross-validation for evaluation on **test set**

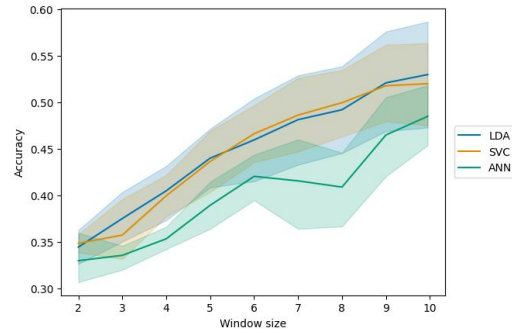
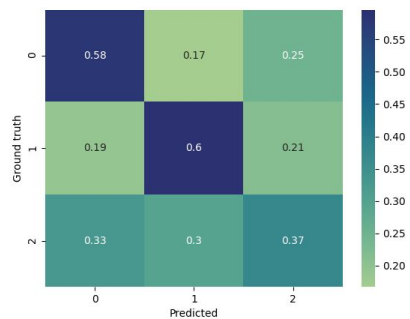
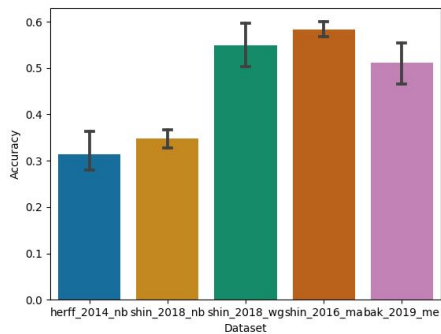
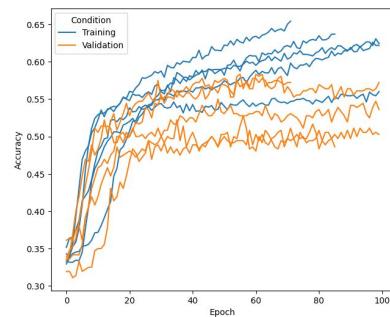
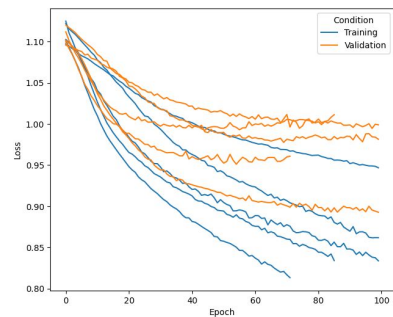
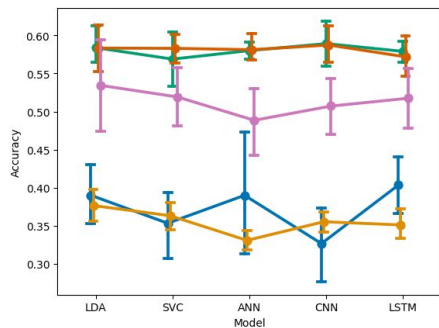
→ inner cross-validation for hyperparameter tuning on **validation set**
(eg. grid search)





Framework: metrics and figures

- Accuracy
- Precision
- Recall
- F1 score





Framework: stats

- **Comparison to chance level:** t-test, Wilcoxon test
- **Influence of the model on the performance:** ANOVA, Kruskal-Wallis test
- **Comparison of models to each other:** pairwise t-test, pairwise Wilcoxon test
- **Correlation of a metric to a variable:** Pearson test, Spearman test

It is very important to **verify the assumptions** of statistical tests (independent measures, normality, homogeneity of variance, ...)



Early results



Early results: generalised approach

Dataset	Chance	LDA	SVC	ANN	CNN	LSTM
Herff 2014 n-back	0.33	0.39	0.35	0.39	0.33	0.40 *
Shin 2018 n-back	0.33	0.38 *	0.36 *	0.33	0.36 *	0.35
Bak 2019 motor exec.	0.33	0.53 *	0.52 *	0.49 *	0.51 *	0.52 *
Shin 2018 word gen.	0.50	0.58	0.57 *	0.58 *	0.59 *	0.58 *
Shin 2016 mental arithm.	0.50	0.58	0.58 *	0.58 *	0.59 *	0.57 *

* significantly different than chance level



Conclusion



Conclusion

- Framework called ***BenchNIRS*** will be open sourced (paper under review)
- Use cross-validation (nested)
 - hyperparameter tuning on validation set
 - do not use the test set for anything else than evaluation (no optimisation)
- Report all the details for reproducibility
- Justify choices
- Publish data and code



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Thank you for your attention