# Machine Learning Safety with Applications to the Climate Sciences

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# Part I - Machine Learning Safety and why you should care

# Recent Successes of Machine Learning/AI

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Classification



### Figure 1: Top 1 Accuracy on ImageNet over decade

# Recent Successes of Machine Learning/AI

Reinforcement Learning - AlphaGo



## Summary

- Neural networks initially trained from 30 million human moves.
- Further trained against itself using reinforcement learning.

# Recent Successes of Machine Learning/AI

Language Models - Generative Pretrained Transformer 2



## Summary

- Generative unsupervised language model.
- Objective: generate next word given previous words in corpus.

**Prompt** A train carriage containing controlled nuclear materials was stolen in Cincinnati today. Its whereabouts are unknown.

stations.

Model Completion The incident occurred on the downtown train line, which runs from Covington and Ashland stations.

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The Nuclear Regulatory Commission did not immediately release any information.

According to the release, the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Security is leading that team's investigation.

"The safety of people, the environment and the nation's nuclear stockpile is our highest priority," Hicks said. "We will get to the bottom of this and make no excuses.

## Machine Learning Safety?

## Machine Learning Safety?

Correct for the Wrong Reason



Figure 2: "Why Should I Trust You?" Explaining the Predictions of Any Classifier - Riberio et. al



(a) Husky classified as wolf







(c) Husky classified as wolf

(d) Explanation

	Before	After
Trusted the bad model	10/27	3/27
Snow as potential feature	12/27	25/27

## Machine Learning Safety?

Misaligned Rewards



Figure 3: OpenAI CoastRunners misspecified reward function

## Machine Learning Safety?

Nothing is wrong...but I hate the result...



**Prompt** Recycling is good for the world.

NO! YOU COULD NOT BE MORE WRONG!!

our health, and it is bad for our economy.

Recycling is NOT good for the world. It is bad for the environment, it is bad for our health, and it is bad for our economy. I'm not kidding. Recycling is not good for the environment. It is destructive to the earth and it is a major contributor to global warming.

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One of the best ways to start is to look at the process of creating a paper product. When you make a paper product, it is basically a long chain of materials. Everything from the raw materials (wood, cardboard, paper, etc.), to the reagents (dyes, solvents, etc.) to the printing equipment (chemicals, glue, paper, ink, etc.), to the packaging, to the packaging materials (mercury, chemicals, etc.) to the processing equipment (heating, cooling, etc.), to the packaging materials, to the packaging materials that are shipped overseas and to the packaging materials that are used in the United States.

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## Machine Learning Safety?

**Challenges With Current Paradigm** 

## Examples

• Explainable or transparent - interpretable decisions

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- Human heuristics and unknown assumptions Loss functions and optimization schemes
- Alignment Pursued actions not calibrated with designers (perhaps informally specified) objective
- Data hidden structure, low signal to noise
- Adversarial robustness weakness to distribution shifts
- ?...

# Part II - Applications to the Climate Sciences

developing robust, interpretable clustering

Background

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Köppen-Geiger Model



Figure 4: Köppen-Geiger map of North America (Peel et. al.)

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- Does not adapt to changing climate.
- The cut-offs in model are, to some extent, arbitrary.
- No universal agreement to how many classes there should be.

# Background

Clustering





• Many different methods for clustering



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- Given k ∈ N, K-means seeks to minimize inner cluster variance:

$$\sum_{j=1}^{k} \sum_{x_i \in U_j} \|x_i - m_j\|^2.$$

• Dependence on algorithm of choice and hyperparameters.

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Figure 5: Many clusterings combined into a single consensus clustering.

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Figure 5: Many clusterings combined into a single consensus clustering.

- Clustering ill-posed lack measurement of "trust".
- Dependence on "hidden parameters" scale of data.

Background

**Proposed Solution** 

1. Leverage discrete wavelet transform to classify across a multitude of scales.

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# **Preliminary Tools**

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Discrete Wavelet Transform and Mutual Information

- The DWT splits a signal into high and low frequency
- Low temporal signal captures climatology (seasons, years, decades), while low spatial signal captures regional features(city, county, state).



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- Low temporal signal captures climatology (seasons, years, decades), while low spatial signal captures regional features(city, county, state).



#### Definition

Given partitions of data  $U = \{U_j\}_{j=1}^k, V = \{V_j\}_{j=1}^l$ , the **Mutual Information**  $\mathcal{NI}(U, V)$  measures how knowledge of one clustering reduces our uncertainty of the other.

# **Preliminary Tools**

L15 Gridded Climate Dataset - Livneh et. al.



- Gridded climate data set of North America.
- Grid cell is monthly data from 1950-2013, six kilometers across.
- Available variables used: precipitation, maximum temperature, minimum temperature.

# Coarse-Grain Clustering (CGC)

- 1. Leverage discrete wavelet transform to classify across a multitude of scales.
- 2. Use information theory to discover most important scales to classify on.
- 3. Taking these scales, combine classifications to produce a fuzzy clustering that assess the trust at each point.



# Coarse-Grain Clustering (CGC)

The Algorithm












### Coarse-Grain Clustering (CGC)

**Results - Effect of Coarse-Graining** 



**Figure 6:** CGC: K-means  $k = 10, (\ell_s, \ell_t) = (1, 1)$ 



**Figure 7:** CGC: K-means  $k = 10, (\ell_s, \ell_t) = (2, 1)$ 



**Figure 8:** CGC: K-means  $k = 10, (\ell_s, \ell_t) = (4, 1)$ 



**Figure 9:** CGC: K-means  $k = 10, (\ell_s, \ell_t) = (1, 1)$ 



**Figure 10:** CGC: K-means  $k = 10, (\ell_s, \ell_t) = (1, 3)$ 



**Figure 11:** CGC: K-means  $k = 10, (\ell_s, \ell_t) = (1, 6)$ 



**Figure 12:** CGC: K-means  $k = 10, (\ell_s, \ell_t) = (1, 1)$ 



Figure 13: CGC: K-means  $k = 10, (\ell_s, \ell_t) = (4, 6)$ 

# Mutual Information Ensemble Reduce (MIER)

#### Solution

- 1. Leverage discrete wavelet transform to classify across a multitude of scales.
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# Mutual Information Ensemble Reduce (MIER)

The Algorithm









# Mutual Information Ensemble Reduce (MIER)

Results - Example for K-means K=10



Figure 14: Results from graph cut algorithm. The highlighted resolutions are the final ensemble. Vertical number  $= l_s$ , horzontal bar  $= l_t$ .





**a)** 
$$(\ell_s, \ell_t) = (2, 1)$$



(c) 
$$(\ell_s, \ell_t) = (3, 5)$$

**(b)**  $(\ell_s, \ell_t) = (2, 4)$ 



(d)  $(\ell_s, \ell_t) = (4, 4)$ 

# Consensus Clustering and Trust Algorithm

#### Solution

- 1. Leverage discrete wavelet transform to classify across a multitude of scales.
- 2. Use information theory to discover most important scales to classify on.
- 3. Taking these scales, combine classifications to produce a fuzzy clustering that assess the trust at each point.



# Consensus Clustering and Trust Algorithm

The Algorithm











# Consensus Clustering and Trust Algorithm

Results - Example for K-means K=10



Figure 15: Consensus clustering from reduced ensemble of clusters for k=10, along with the trust. Grey = multi-class. Darker hue = lower trust.

## Conclusion

• The DWT brings forth structure hidden at different scales within the data.



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  - Mutual information allows us to effectively represent the diversity across all scales.





- The DWT brings forth structure hidden at different scales within the data.
  - Mutual information allows us to effectively represent the diversity across all scales.
  - Using this reduced ensemble, we produce a fuzzy clustering that has an interpretable trust metric at each point in space.







## Extra

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### **Mutual Information**

- Let  $U = \{U_j\}_{j=1}^k, V = \{V_j\}_{j=1}^l$  be two partitions of the data  $X = \{x_i\}_{i=1}^n$ .
- Entropy  $\mathcal{H}(U)$  is average information (e.g., bits) needed to encode the cluster label for each data points of U.
- The conditional entropy  $\mathcal{H}(U|V)$  denotes the average amount of information needed to encode U if V is known.
- Mutual Information  $\mathcal{I}(U, V)$  measures how knowledge of one clustering reduces our uncertainty of the other:

$$\mathcal{I}(U,V) = \mathcal{H}(U) - \mathcal{H}(U|V).$$

- Assume points of X are sampled uniformly. Then,
  - 1. probability  $x \in X$  in cluster  $U_i$  is  $p(x) = \frac{|U_i|}{n}$
  - 2. probability  $x,y \in X$  satisfy  $x \in U_i, \, y \in V_j$  is  $p(x,y) = \frac{|U_i \cap V_j|}{n}$
- We normalize mutual information:

$$\mathcal{NI}(U,V) := \frac{2\mathcal{I}(U,V)}{\mathcal{H}(U) + \mathcal{H}(V)}.$$

## Extra

#### Results - Effect of k



**Figure 16:** CGC: K-means k = 4,  $(\ell_s, \ell_t) = (2, 3)$ 



**Figure 17:** CGC: K-means k = 8,  $(\ell_s, \ell_t) = (2, 3)$ 



**Figure 18:** CGC: K-means  $k = 12, (\ell_s, \ell_t) = (2, 3)$ 



**Figure 19:** CGC: K-means k = 16,  $(\ell_s, \ell_t) = (2, 3)$