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RESEARCH



# Unreproducible Research is Reproducible

Xavier Bouthillier  
César Laurent  
Pascal Vincent

# Take Home

- There is a *spectrum* of notions of reproducibility in science.
- Current focus in DL is on *one end of the spectrum*.
- *Inferential reproducibility* is currently neglected **but** fundamental for empirical research.

# Reproducibility



Model Ranking

- densenet121
- densenet201
- lenet
- mobilenetv2
- preactresnet101
- preactresnet18
- resnet101
- resnet18
- vgg11
- vgg19

# Reproducibility

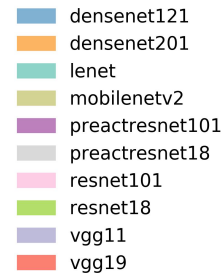


# Reproducibility



# Reproducibility Spectrum

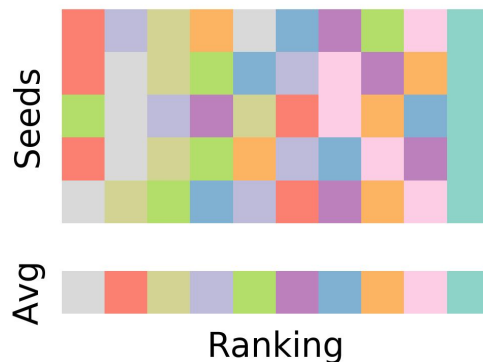
Terminology by Goodman et al. (2016)



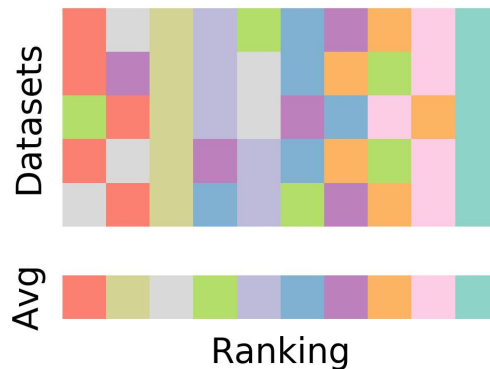
## Method reproducibility



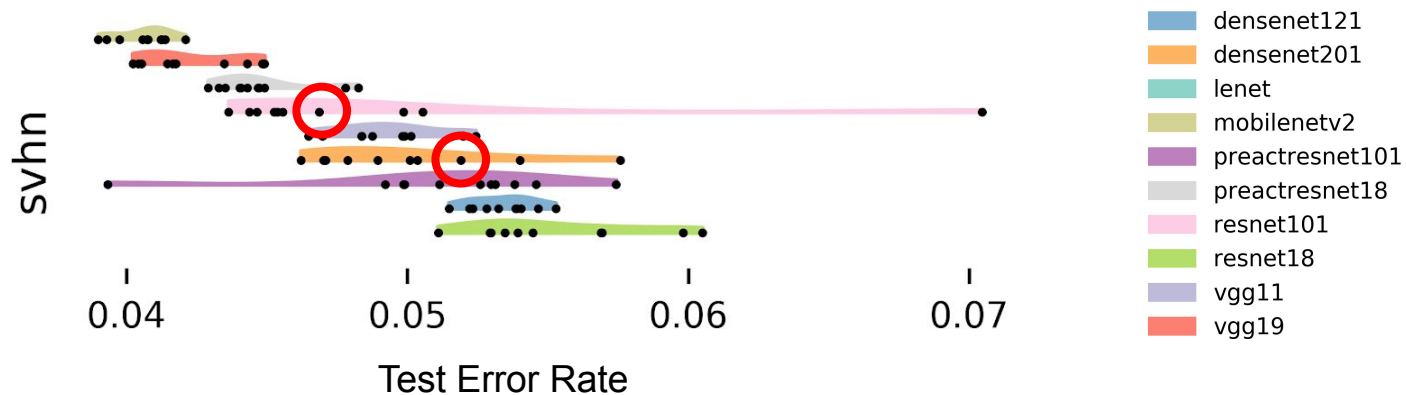
## Result reproducibility



## Inferential reproducibility

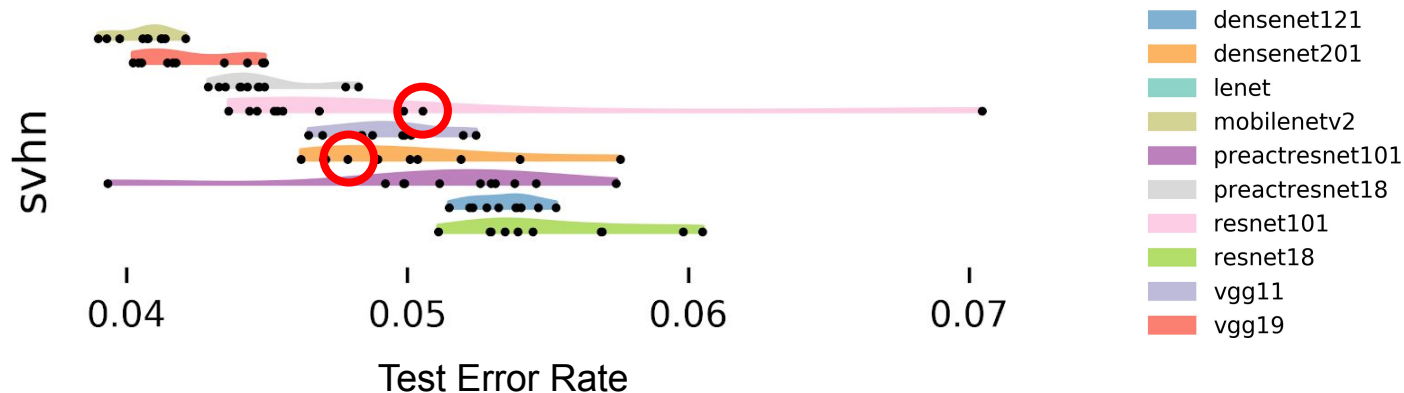


# Method Reproducibility



Each black dot can be precisely reproduced

# Method Reproducibility



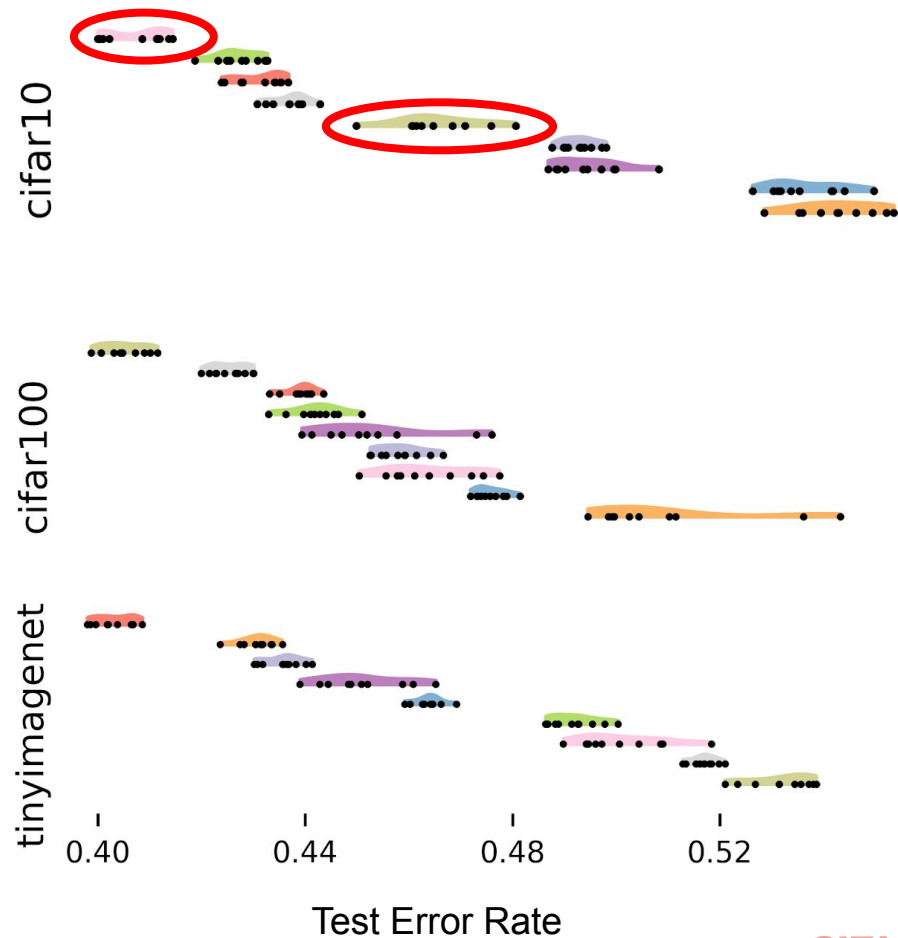
Reproducible method  $\neq$  Reproducible conclusions:

One cannot conclude that model A is better than model B with only 2 points!



# Result Reproducibility

Test performance distributions can be reproduced

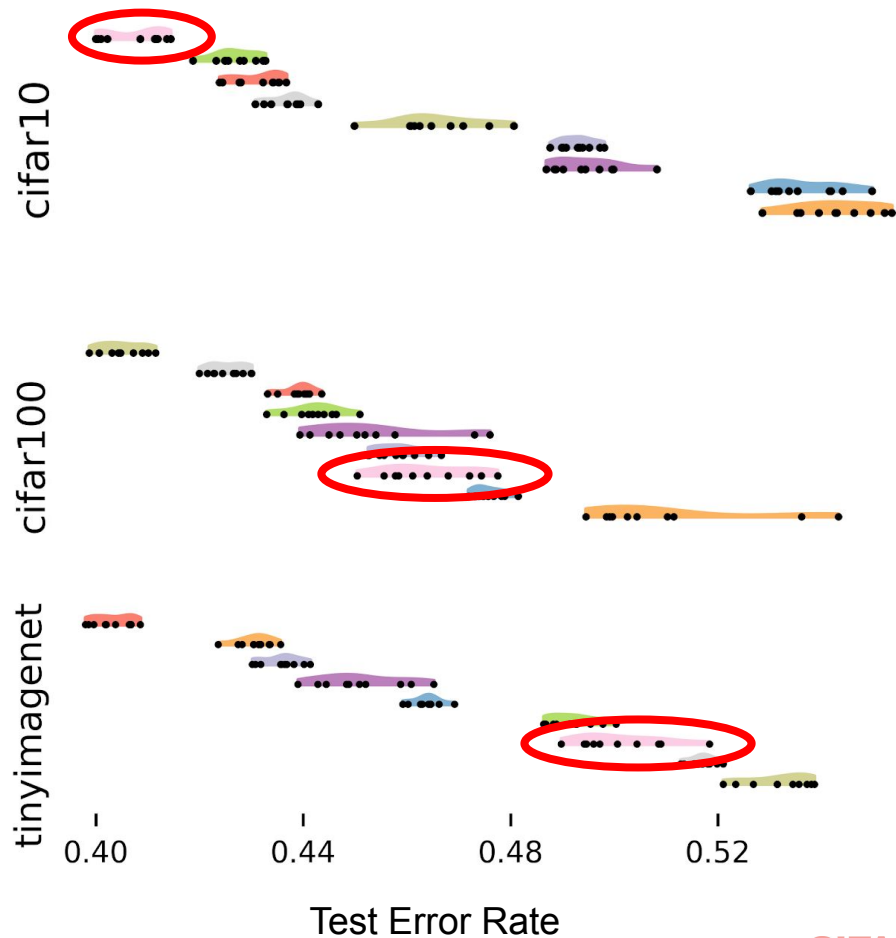


# Result Reproducibility

Test performance distributions can be reproduced

Reproducible results  $\neq$  Reproducible conclusions:

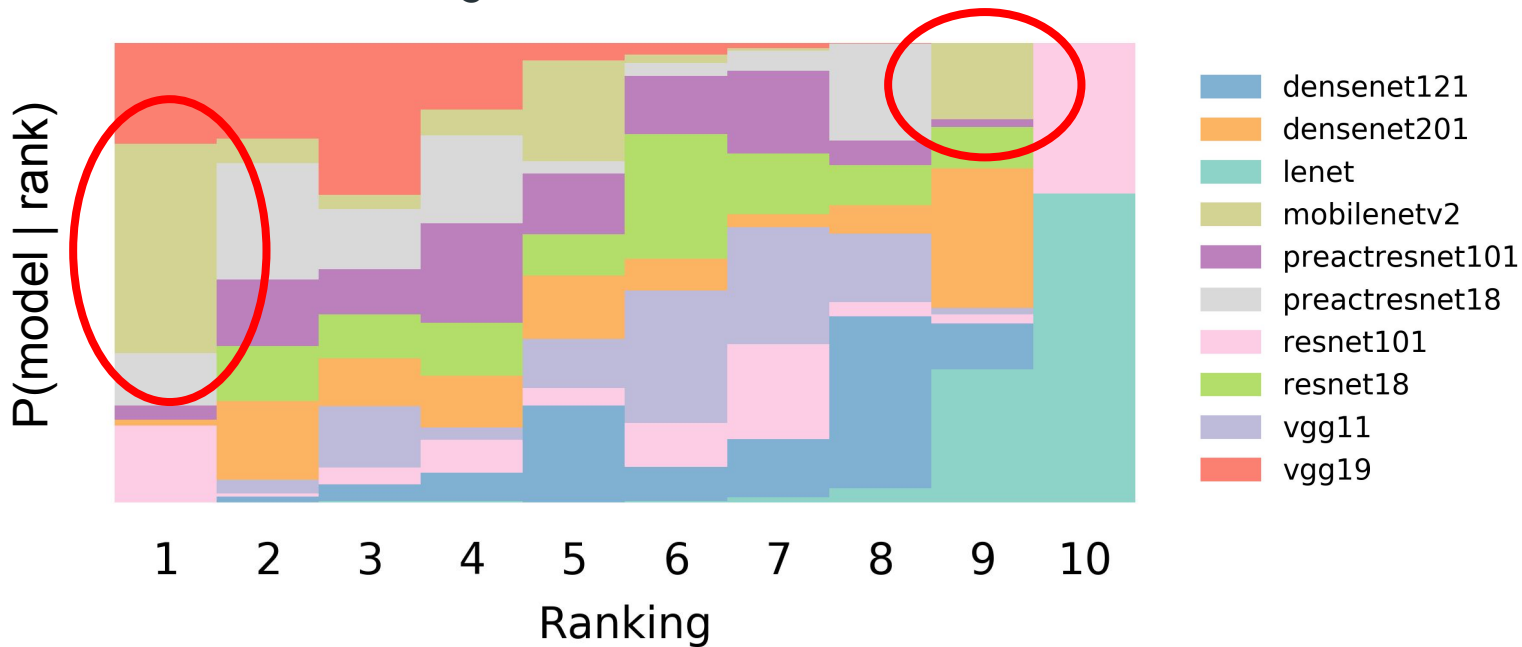
One cannot conclude that model A is better than model B with only 1 dataset!



# Inferential Reproducibility

A conclusion regarding which is the best architecture cannot be reproduced on different datasets.

Model ranking statistics over 6 datasets



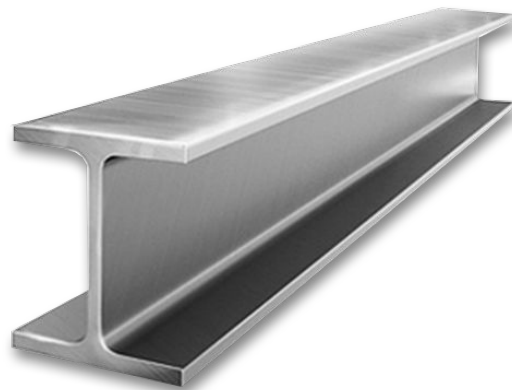
# Research Methodologies and Reproducibility

Exploratory & Constructive  
Research



Method & Result  
Reproducibility

Empirical & Confirmatory  
Research

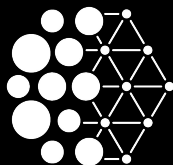


Inferential  
Reproducibility

Come see our poster

Thu June 13th  
06:30 -- 09:00 PM  
@ Pacific Ballroom #14

# Thank you!



Mila

Université  
de Montréal

McGill

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# References

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Henderson, P., Islam, R., Bachman, P., Pineau, J., Precup, D., and Meger, D. Deep reinforcement learning that matters. In *Thirty-Second AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, 2018

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