

# Towards Comprehensible

Predictive

^ Modeling

**Michael Gleicher**

Department of Computer Sciences

University of Wisconsin Madison



What is a Good model?

# What is a Good model?

Accuracy

# What is a Good model?

Descriptive Accuracy

Predictive Accuracy

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Descriptive Accuracy

Predictive Accuracy

Generalizability

Efficiency in use

Efficiency in construction

Robustness

Data required to build

Conciseness

Compactness

Pre-scriptive power

Self-consistency

Validatability

Verifyability

Simplcity

Parsimony

# Tradeoffs



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**Comprehensibility**

# What is Comprehensibility?

The ability of **some one**  
to understand **some thing**  
for **some reason**

This is independent of...

**where** application, model type,  
or **how** we help them do it

# Who, What, Why

## Who?

Stakeholders

Developers

Data Scientists

Domain Experts

Audience

## What?

Phase of the **Process**

Inputs

Methods

Model

Outputs

Experiments

## Why?

Reason for Wanting

Improve Performance

Build Theory

Extend/Characterize

Build Trust

Actionability

# Who, What, Why

Who?

What?

Why?

Stakeholder

Platform

Performance

Developer

Performance

Data Scientist

Modeling is a process  
There are many people involved  
We should try to help all of them

Domain Expert

Characterize

Audience

Outputs

Build Trust

Experiments

Actionability

# Who, What, Why

## Who?

Stakeholders

Developers – general purpose methods

Data Scientists – general purpose process

Domain Experts – specific applications

Audience – uses the results

## What?

Phase of the Process

Experiments

## Why?

Reason for Wanting

Improve Performance

Test Theory

Understand/Characterize

Build Trust

Actionability

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# Mix and Match

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Improve Performance

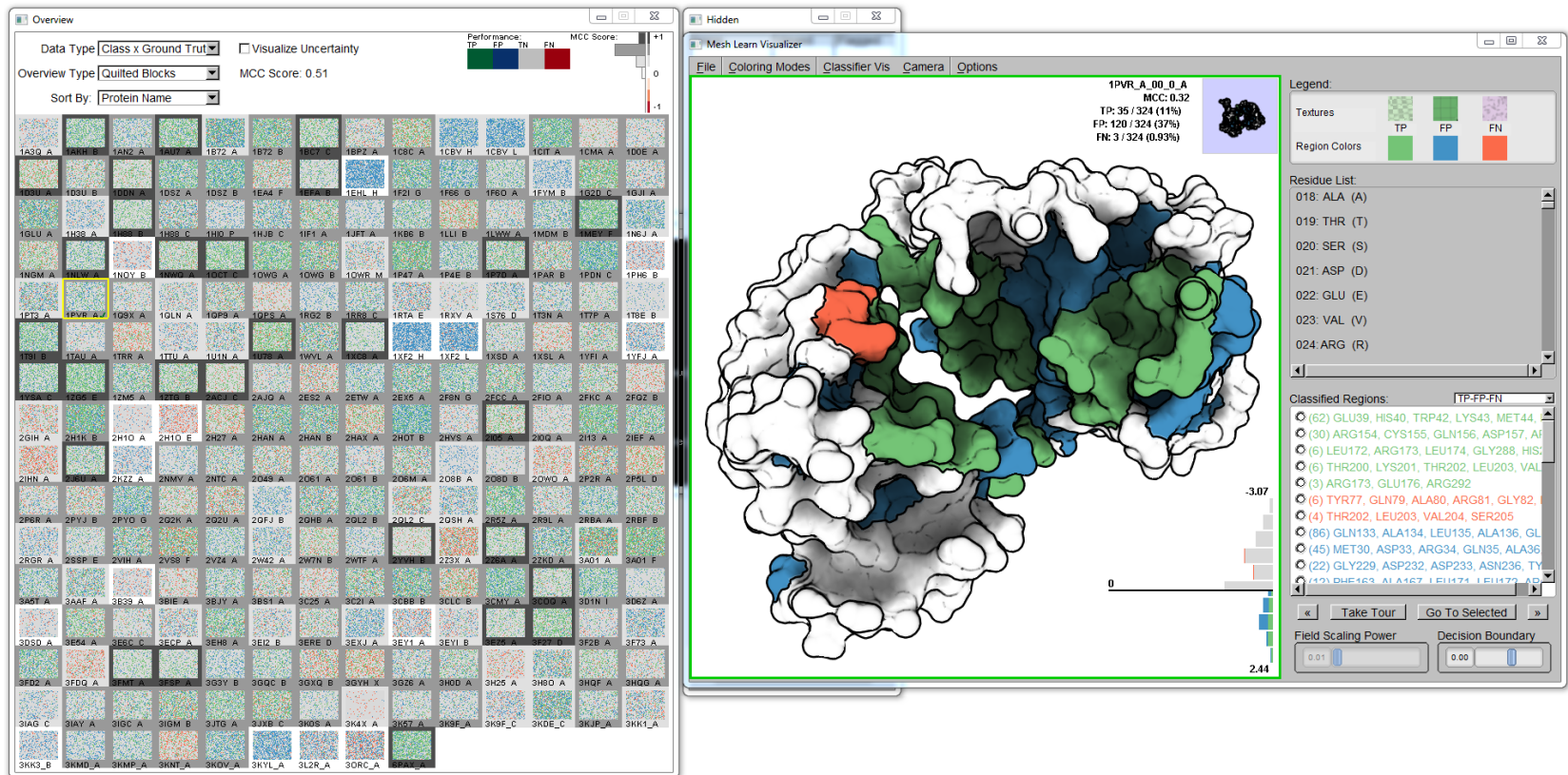
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# Visual exploration of modeling validation experiments



Sarikaya, Albers, Mitchel and Gleicher. *Visualizing Validation of Protein Surface Classifiers*. Computer Graphics Forum. Proceedings EuroVis 2014

# Our Motivation

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# Pleasant Surprises

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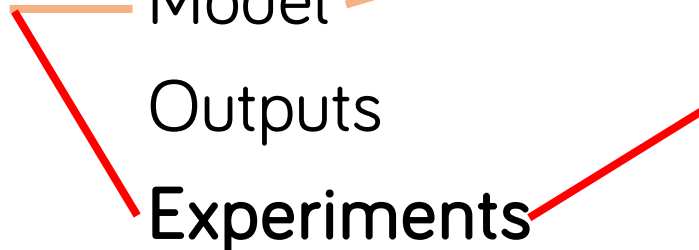
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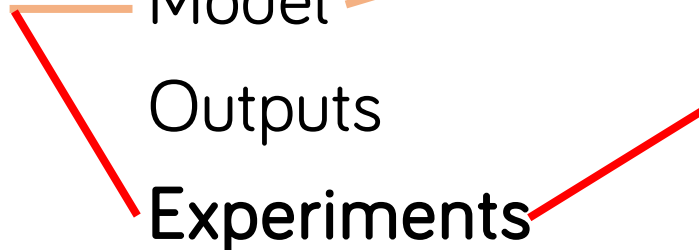
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# Agenda

Understand Understandability

Metrics for Measuring

Tools for user control over tradeoffs

- tunable methods

- different methods to give options

# 3 Paths to Understandability

Easier to understand models

Better explanations/visualizations of existing models

Co-design of models and visualizations

# 3 Paths to Understandability

Easier to understand models

Explainers (VAST 2013)

Better explanations/visualizations of existing models

Protein Surface Classifier Validation (EuroVis14)

Serendip (VAST14)

Co-design of models and visualizations

Molecular Motion Illustration (TVCG12)

Splatterplots (TVCG13)

# Thanks!

To you for listening.

To the organizers for inviting me

To my students and collaborators.

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# Towards Comprehensible (Predictive) Modeling

**Michael Gleicher**

University of Wisconsin Madison

[gleicher@cs.wisc.edu](mailto:gleicher@cs.wisc.edu)

