



Exemplary Natural Images Explain CNN Activations Better than State-of-the-Art Feature Visualization

Judy Borowski*, Roland Zimmermann*

Judith Schepers, Robert Geirhos, Tom Wallis[†], Matthias Bethge[†], Wieland Brendel[†]

International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) 2021



EBERHARD KARLS
UNIVERSITÄT
TÜBINGEN



imprs-is



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

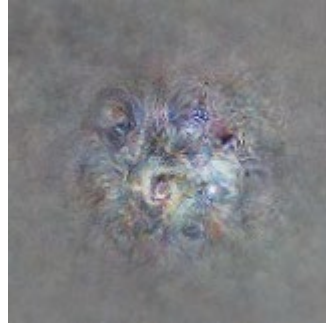


DFG

Feature Visualizations



Step 0



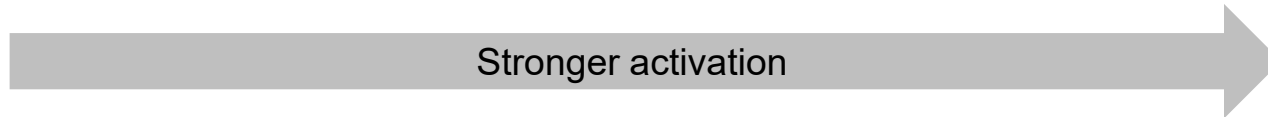
Step 4

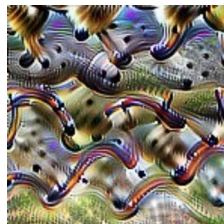
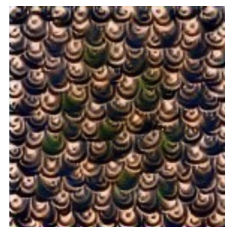


Step 48



Step 2048





Olah et al. (2017)

How helpful are feature visualizations for humans?

Which of the two images at the center is also a strongly activating image?

Minimally activating



1 2 3
→
More confident
→
1 2 3



Maximally activating



Which of the two images at the center is also a strongly activating image?

Minimally activating



1 2 3
More confident
1 2 3



Maximally activating



Which of the two images at the center is also a strongly activating image?

Minimally activating



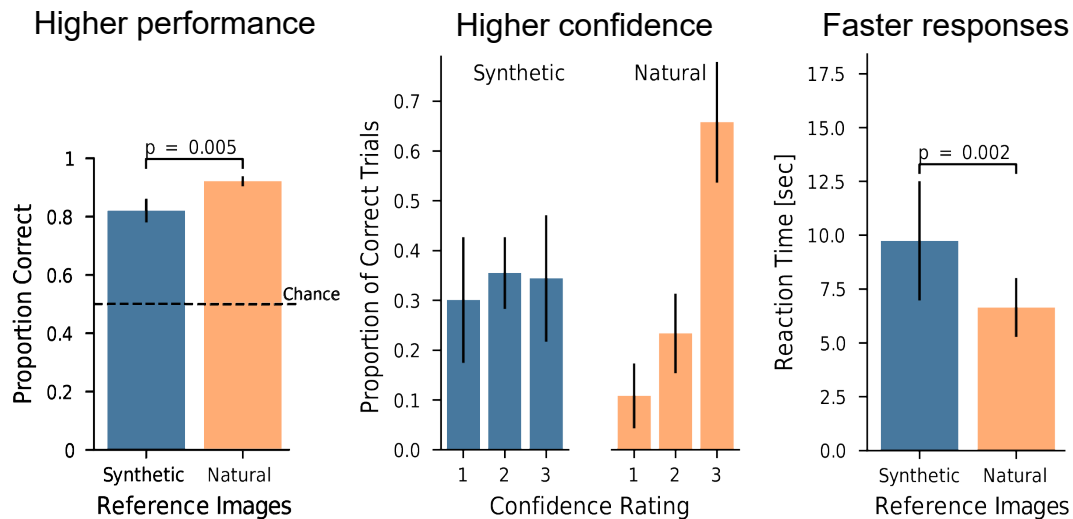
1 2 3
 →
 More confident
 →
 1 2 3



Maximally activating

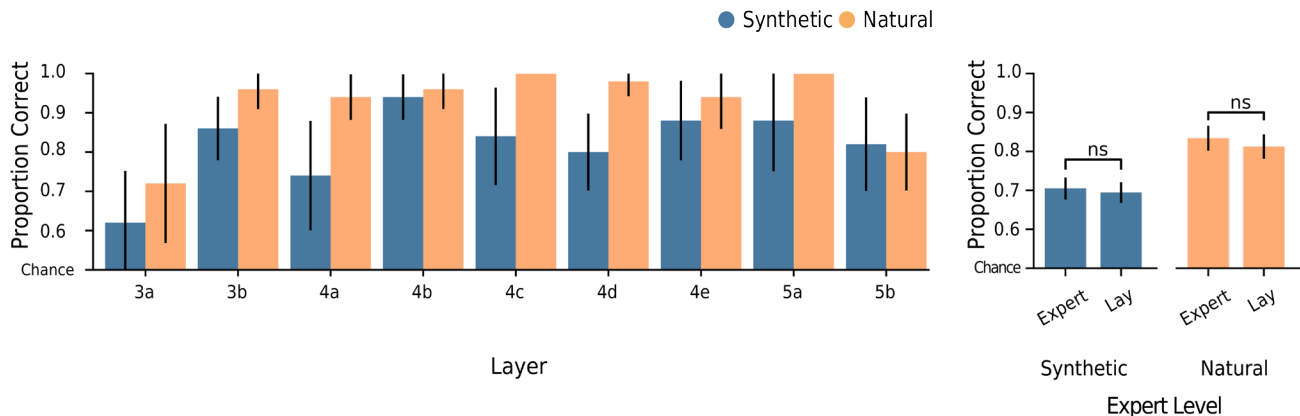


- Synthetic images provide helpful information about CNN activations
- But exemplary natural images are even more helpful



Natural images more helpful than synthetic images

- Synthetic images provide helpful information about CNN activations
- But exemplary natural images are even more helpful
- Findings hold across various aspects



Natural images more helpful than synthetic images

- Synthetic images provide helpful information about CNN activations
- But exemplary natural images are even more helpful
- Findings hold across various aspects

→ **Need for thorough quantitative evaluations of feature vis**

→ **Interpretability methods should improve over the baseline of natural images**

Poster Presentation:
May 4th at 1 and 3 am (PDT)

Poster & Paper



bit.ly/3r4CyIX