

# Towards a deep learning approach for classifying response to treatment in glioblastomas

**Ana Matoso<sup>1\*</sup>, Catarina Passarinho<sup>1</sup>, Marta Loureiro<sup>1</sup>,  
José Maria Moreira<sup>2</sup>, Patrícia Figueiredo<sup>1</sup>, Rita G Nunes<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Institute for Systems and Robotics – Lisboa and Department of Bioengineering, Instituto Superior Técnico,  
Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal;

<sup>2</sup>Learning Health, Hospital da Luz, Lisbon, Portugal

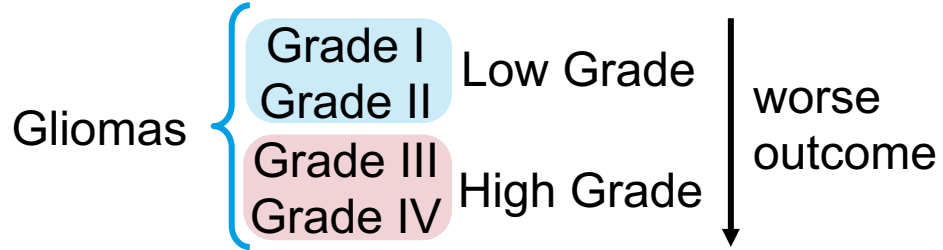
[\\*anamatoso@tecnico.ulisboa.pt](mailto:anamatoso@tecnico.ulisboa.pt)

# Introduction

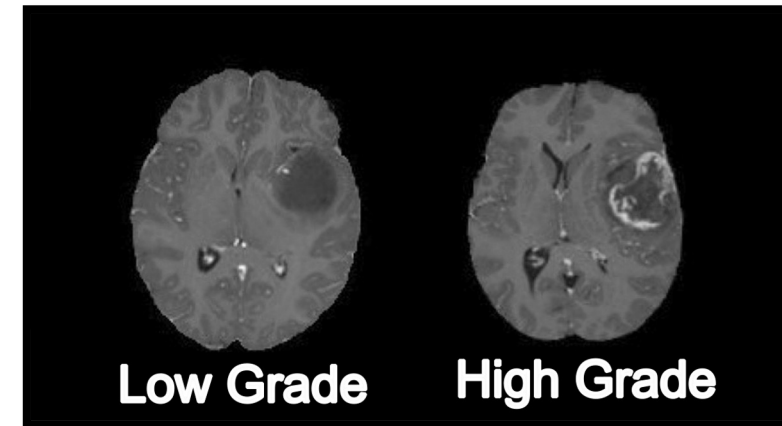
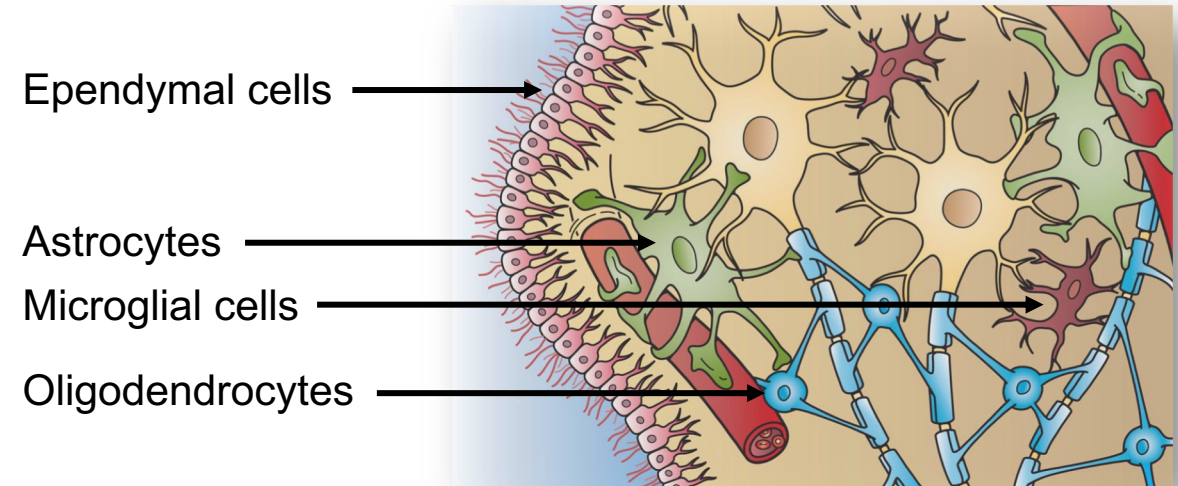
## Glioma

Glial cells Tumor

Glioma incidence: ~5/100 000 per year



20% survival after 2 years

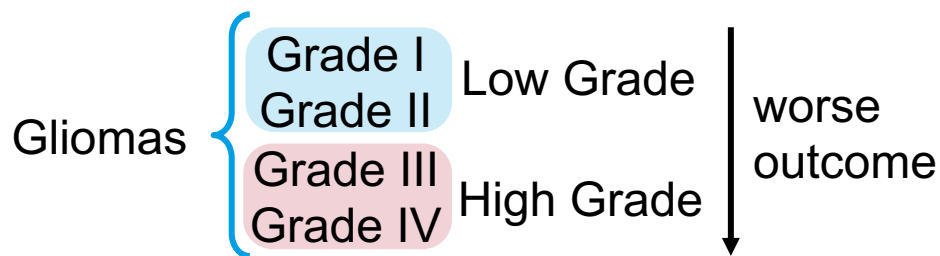


# Introduction

## Glioma

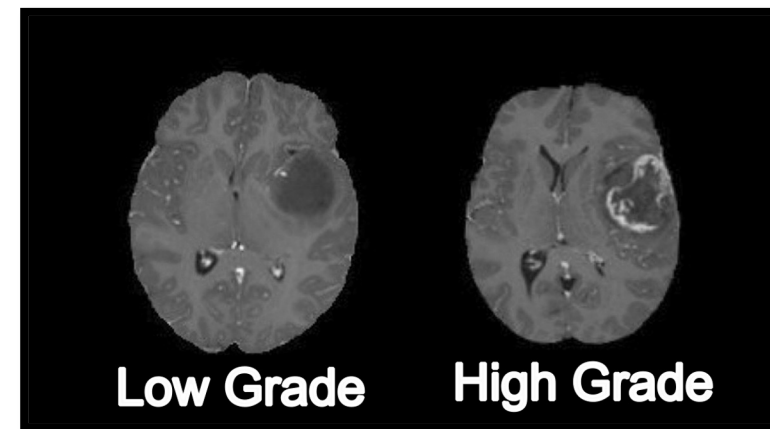
Glial cells Tumor

Glioma incidence: ~5/100 000 per year



Response Assessment in Neuro-Oncology (RANO) criteria

- Complete Response
- Partial Response
- Stable Disease
- Progressive Disease



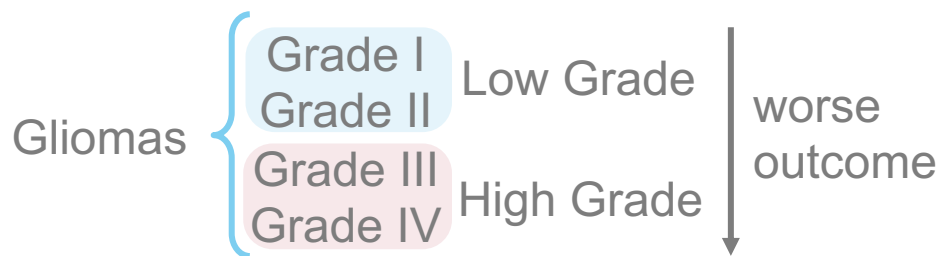
	Complete Response	Partial Response	Stable Disease	Progressive Disease <sup>a</sup>
T1-Gd+	None	≥50% ↓	<50% ↓- <25% ↑	≥25% ↑*
T2/FLAIR	Stable or ↓	Stable or ↓	Stable or ↓	↑*
New lesion	None	None	None	Present*
Corticosteroids	None	Stable or ↓	Stable or ↓	NA
Clinical status	Stable or ↑	Stable or ↑	Stable or ↑	↓*
Requirement for response	All	All	All	Any*

# Introduction

Glioma

Glial cells Tumor

Glioma incidence: ~5/100 000 per year



Response Assessment in Neuro-Oncology (RANO) criteria

- Complete Response
- Partial Response
- Stable Disease
- Progressive Disease

**GOAL:** To analyse and compare different **Deep Learning** approaches for **RANO criteria classification** based on two consecutive MRI acquisitions

	Complete Response	Partial Response	Stable Disease	Progressive Disease <sup>a</sup>
T1-Gd+	None	≥50% ↓	<50% ↓- <25% ↑	≥25% ↑*
T2/FLAIR	Stable or ↓	Stable or ↓	Stable or ↓	↑*
New lesion	None	None	None	Present*
Corticosteroids	None	Stable or ↓	Stable or ↓	NA
Clinical status	Stable or ↑	Stable or ↑	Stable or ↑	↓*
Requirement for response	All	All	All	Any*

# Methods – Data

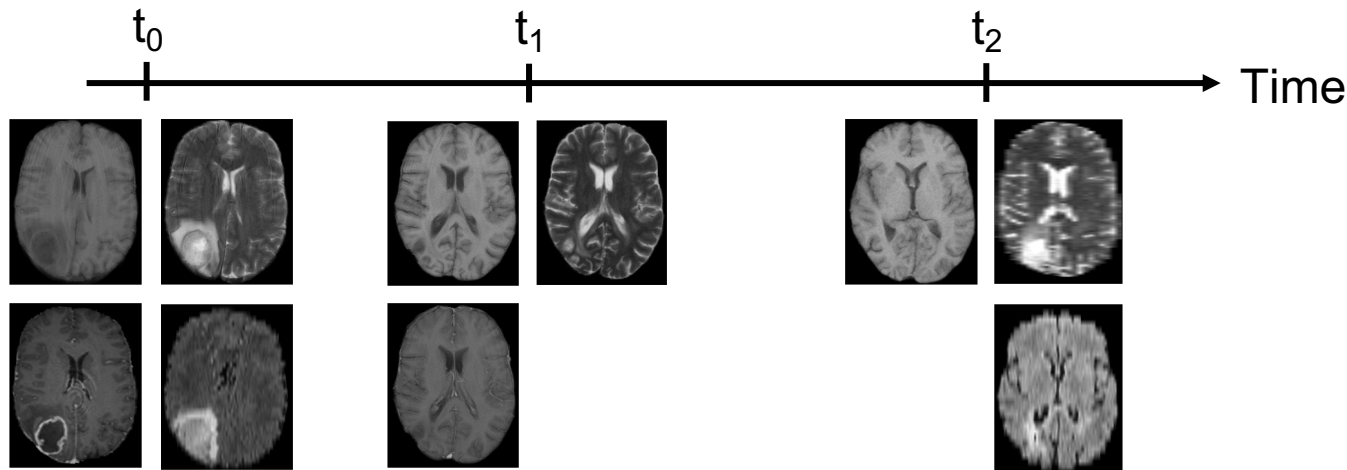


LUMIERE longitudinal dataset

- T1w
- CT1 (T1w contrast enhanced)
- T2w
- FLAIR
- Clinical Data
- RANO classification

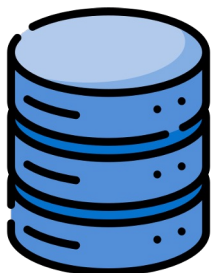
638 timepoints  
91 patients

Class	Prevalence
Progressive Disease (PD)	67%
Stable Disease (SD)	20%
Progressive Response (PR)	6%
Complete Response (CR)	7%

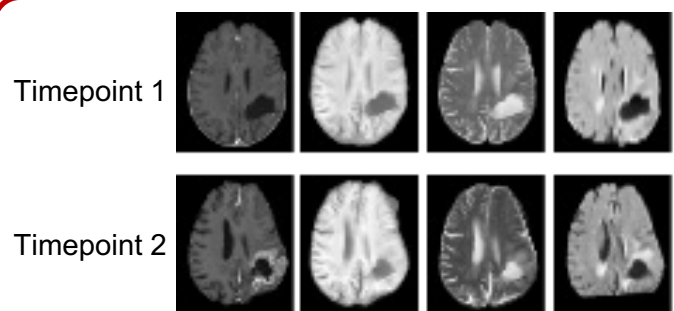


# Methods – Pipeline

LUMIERE dataset



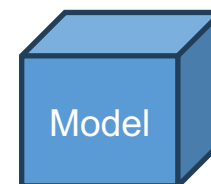
## Data



5-fold Cross Validation  
80/20 Stratified Split

## Model Training

Weight Initialization

$$\begin{Bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \end{Bmatrix}$$


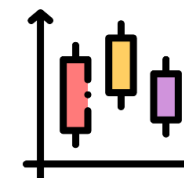
Training Setup:

- 100 epochs maximum
- Cross Entropy loss
- AdamW optimizer
- LR = 1e-4
- Patience = 10

## Model Testing

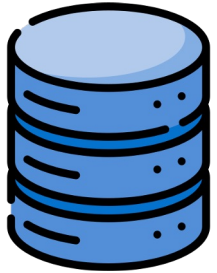
Performance Metrics:

- Balanced Accuracy
- F1-Score
- Precision
- Recall

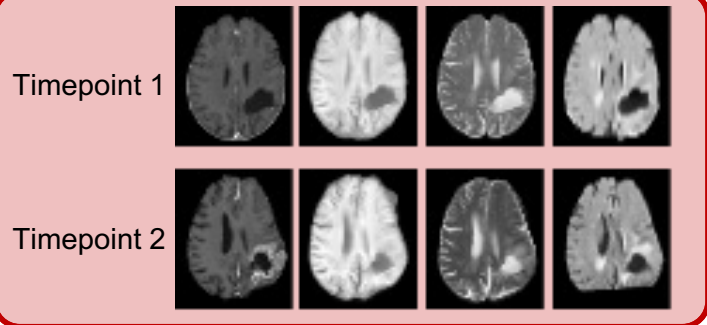


# Methods – Tested Approaches

LUMIERE dataset

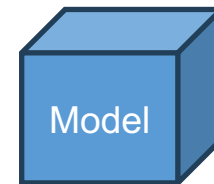


Data



Model Training

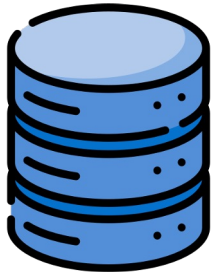
Weight Initialization

$$\begin{Bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \end{Bmatrix}$$


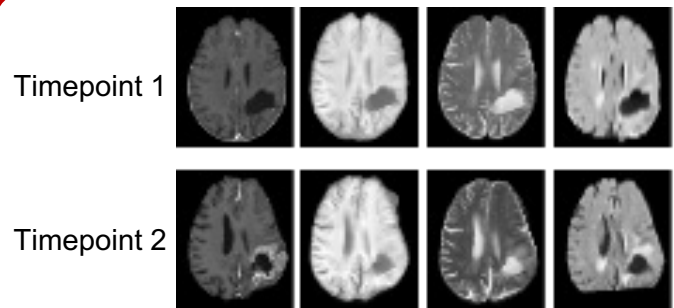
1. Subtraction of Timepoints
2. Combination of modalities

# Methods – Tested Approaches

LUMIERE dataset



Data



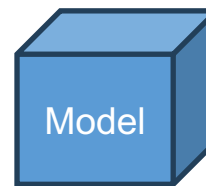
Model Training

Pretraining

Weight Initialization

$$\begin{Bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \end{Bmatrix}$$

Architecture

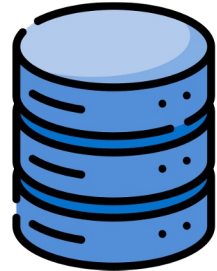


1. Subtraction of Timepoints
2. Combination of modalities
3. Model Architectures
4. Pretraining

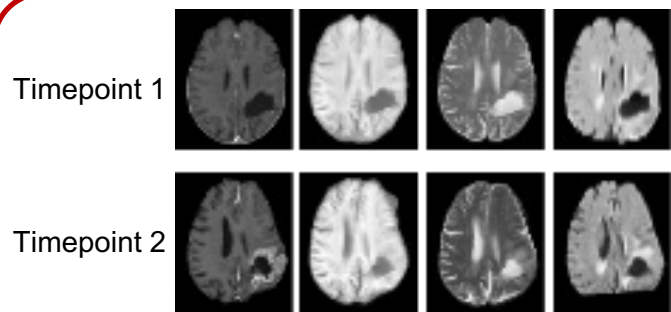


# Methods – Tested Approaches

LUMIERE dataset



**Data**



Clinical Data

Clinical Data	Value
Age	66
Sex	M
IDH	WT
MGMT	F
Time from 1 <sup>st</sup> scan	15w



**Model Training**

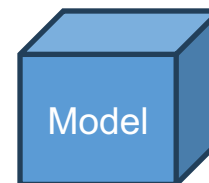
Pretraining



Weight Initialization

$$\begin{Bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \end{Bmatrix}$$

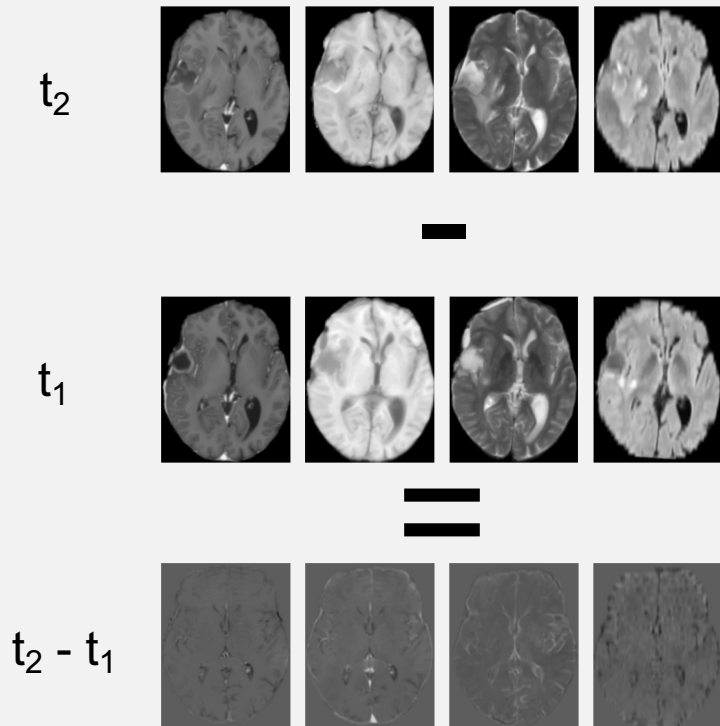

Architecture



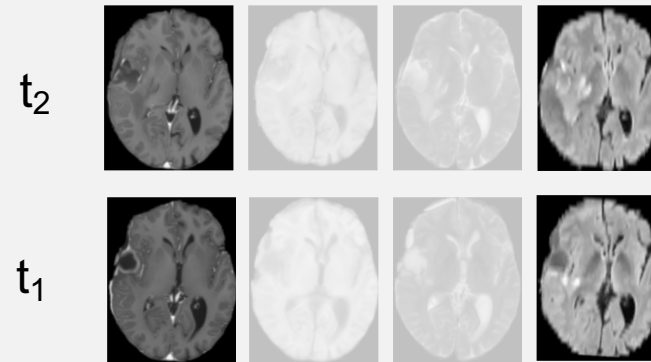
1. Subtraction of Timepoints
2. Combination of modalities
3. Model Architectures
4. Pretraining
5. Clinical Data

# Methods – Tested Approaches

## 1. Subtraction of timepoints



## 2. Combinations of modalities



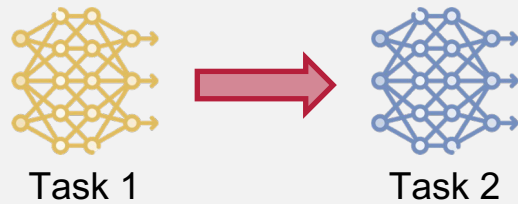
Combination of Modalities	Size of Dataset
CT1+T1+T2+FLAIR	337
CT1+FLAIR	344
T1+T2+FLAIR	338
CT1	355
T1+FLAIR	338

## 3. Model Architectures

- Densenets:
  - Densenet 121
  - Densenet 169
  - Densenet 264
- Vision Transformer
- Alexnet3D

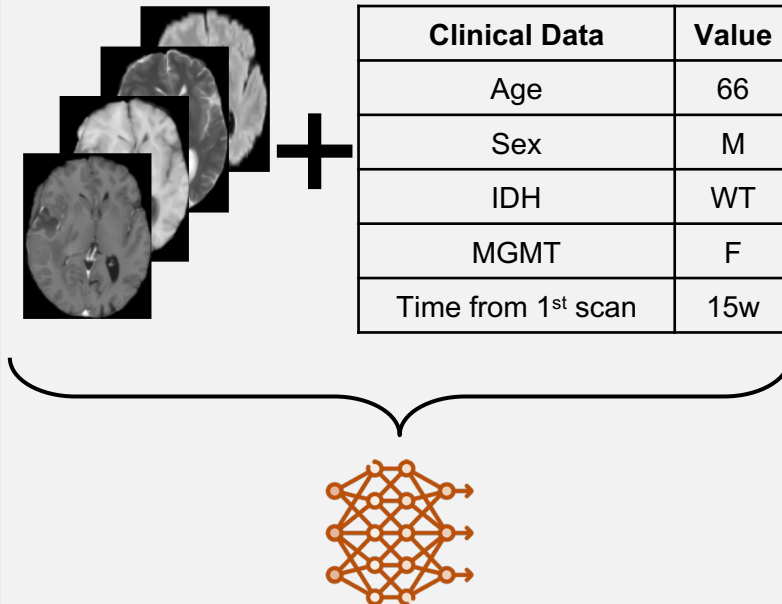
# Methods – Tested Approaches

## 4. Pretraining



- Self-Supervised Rotation Classifier
- MedMNIST Organ Classifier
- MedicalNet Segmentation Encoder

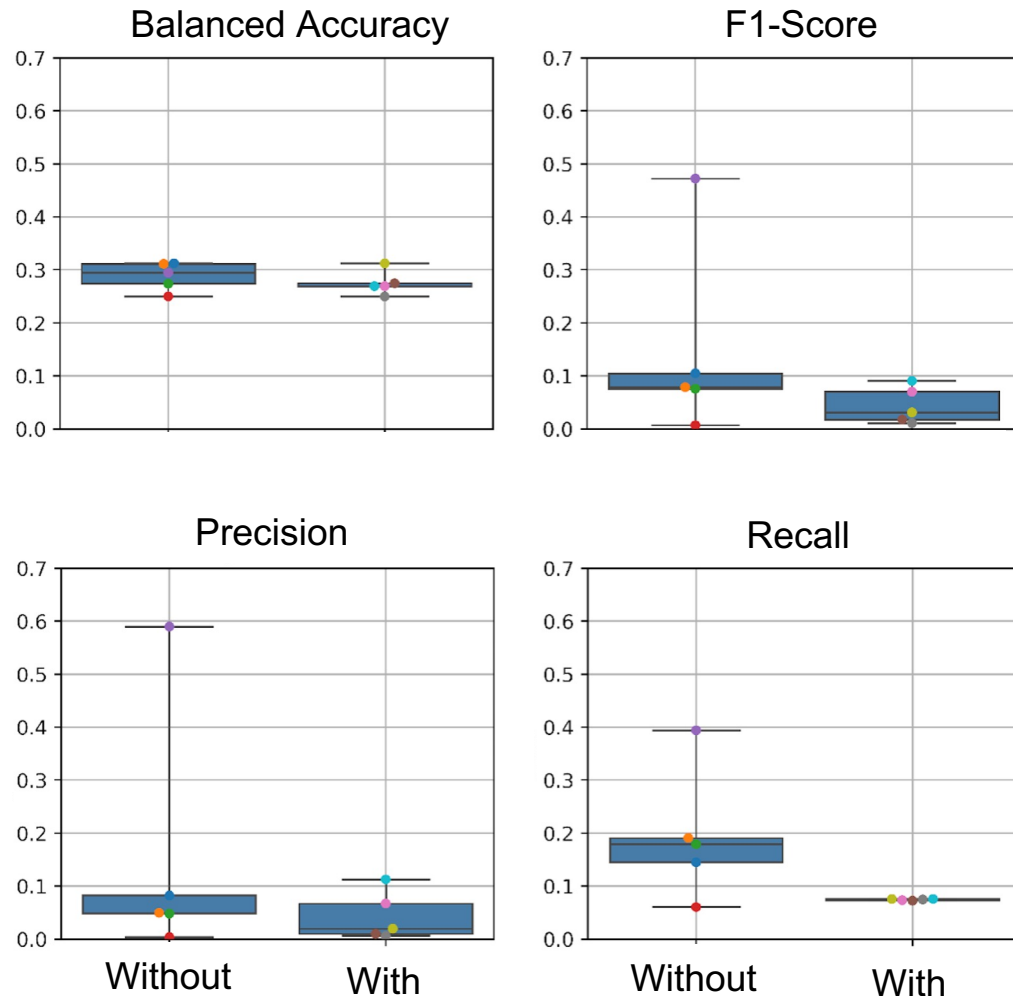
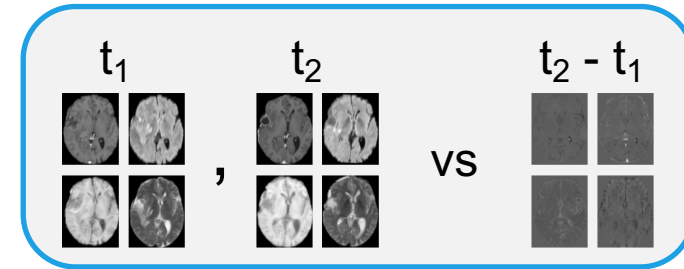
## 5. Use of Clinical Data



Approaches will be tested sequentially

# Results – Subtraction

## Approach

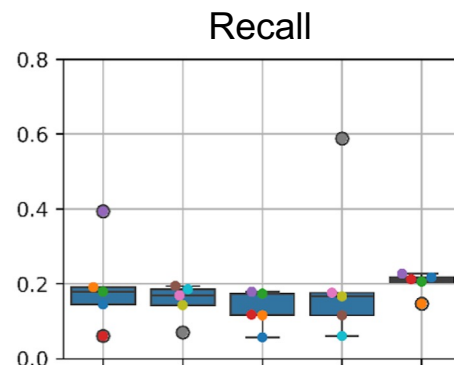
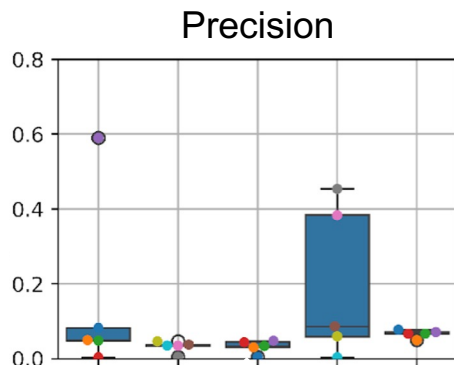
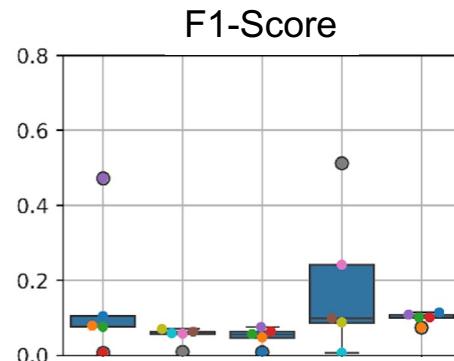
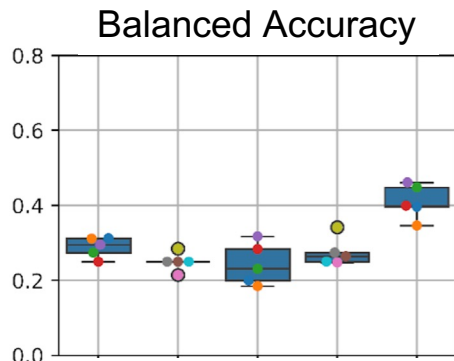
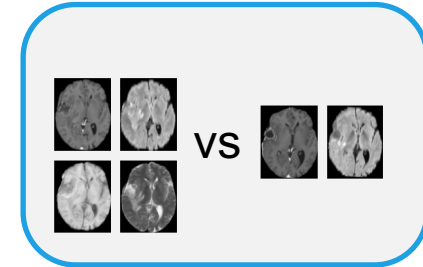


- Similar BA
  - Slight decrease in Recall and Precision
- ↓
- Decrease in F1-Score

→ No subtraction was done in the next stages

# Results – Modalities

## Approach

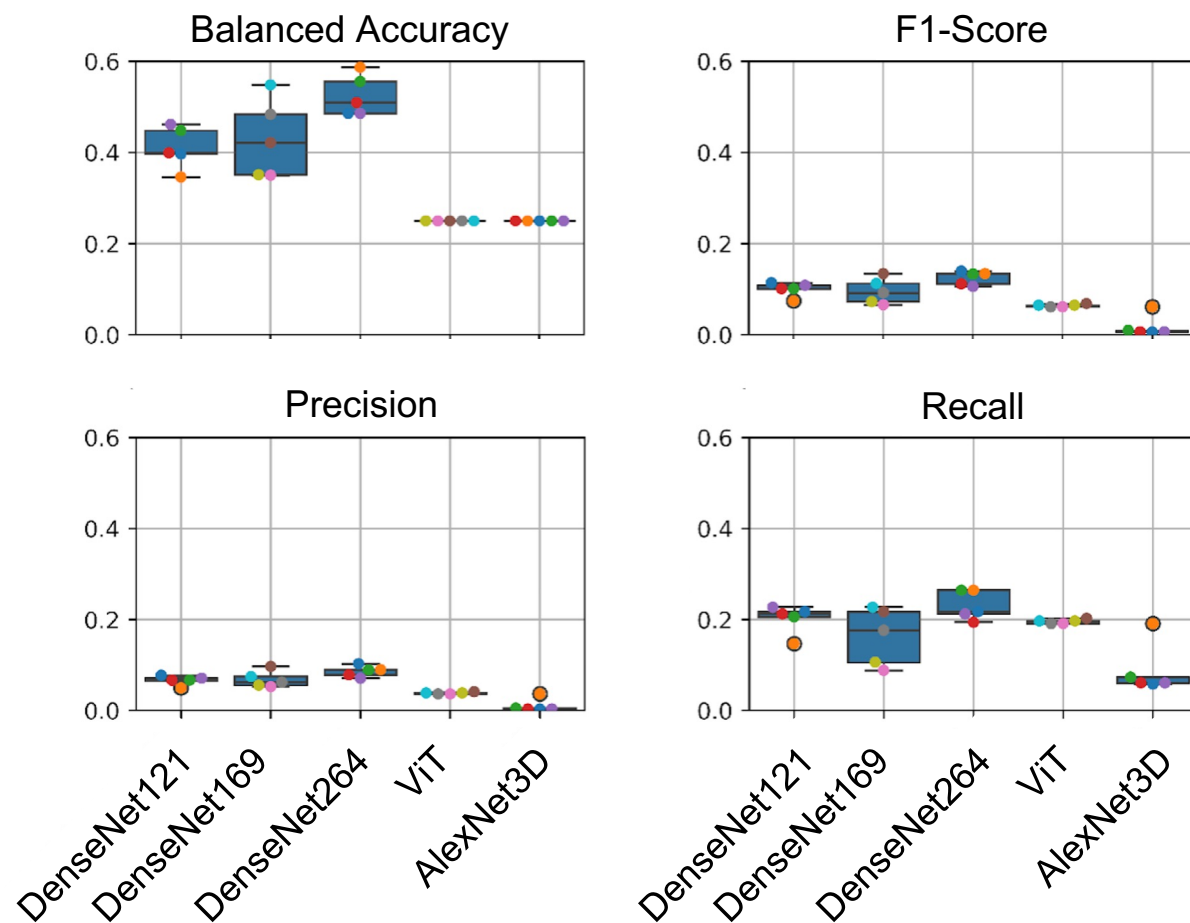
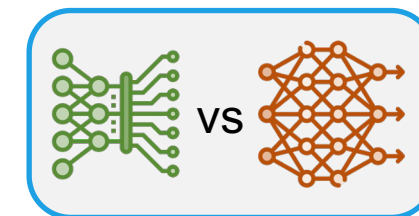


- Higher BA in T1+T2+FLAIR
  - Higher Precision in T1+FLAIR
- ↓
- Increased F1 Score in T1+FLAIR

→ The combination that uses T1 + T2 + FLAIR was used henceforth

# Results – Architectures

## Approach

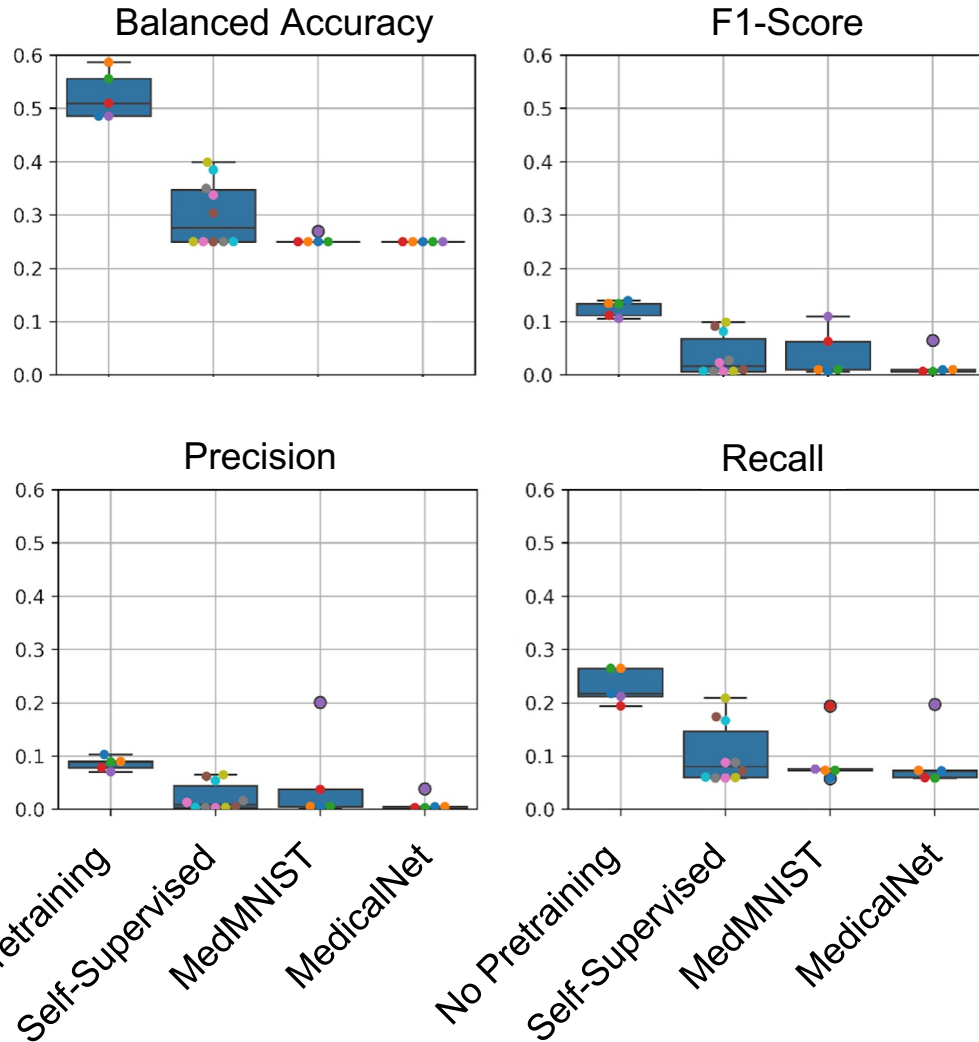
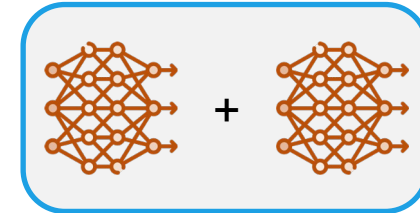


- DenseNets performed better than ViT and AlexNet3D
- More complex DenseNets improve performance

→ DenseNet264 has overall better performance

# Results – Pretraining

## Approach

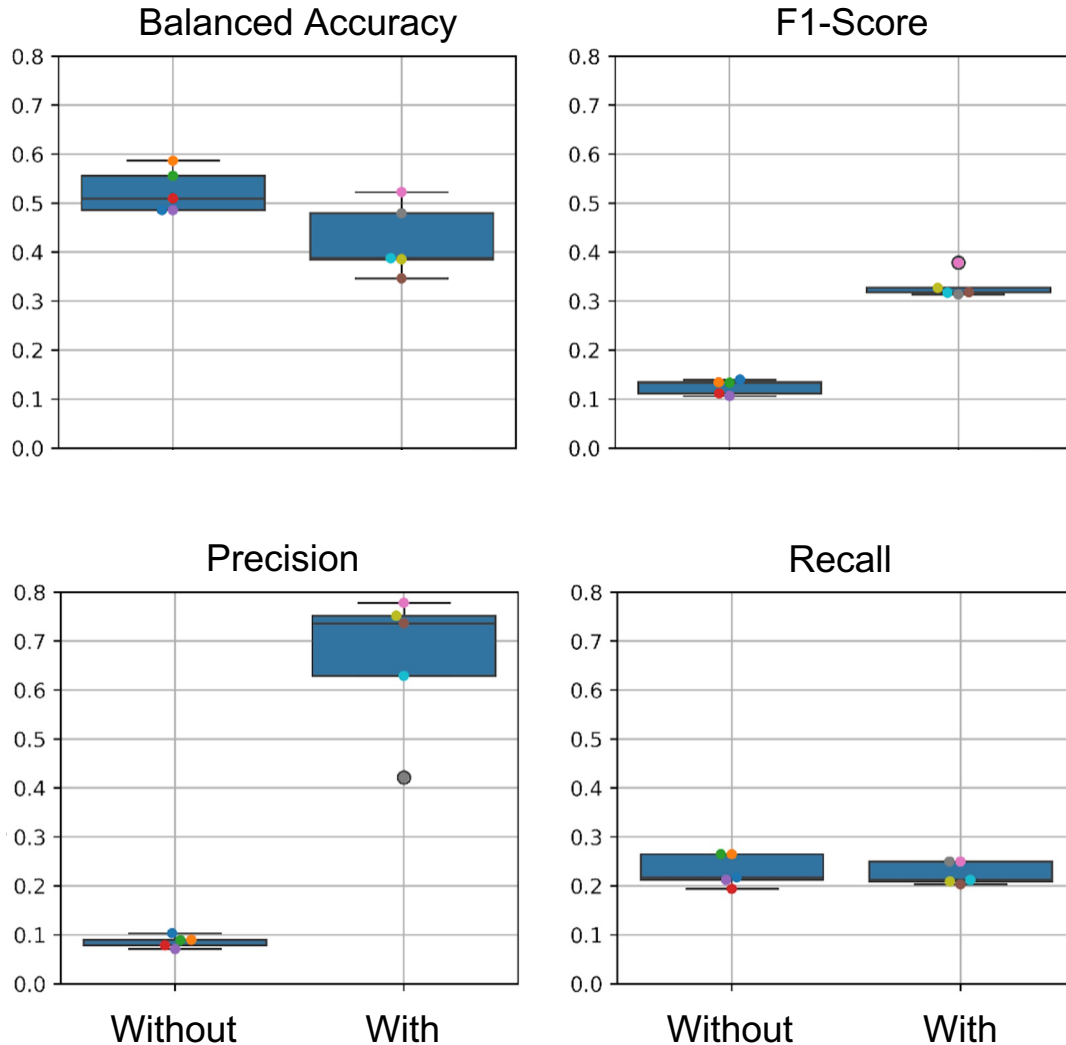
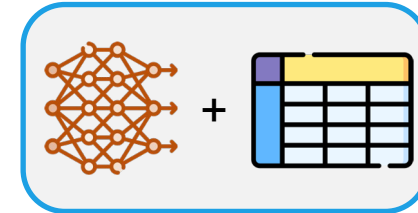


None of the pretraining options improved the results over doing no pretraining

→ No pretraining was done

# Results – Clinical Data

## Approach



- BA is higher when clinical data is not used
  - Using Clinical Data improves Precision
- ↓
- Increased F1-Score when using Clinical Data

→ Clinical Data was not inputted



# Best Results

No subtraction of timepoints

T1+T2+FLAIR

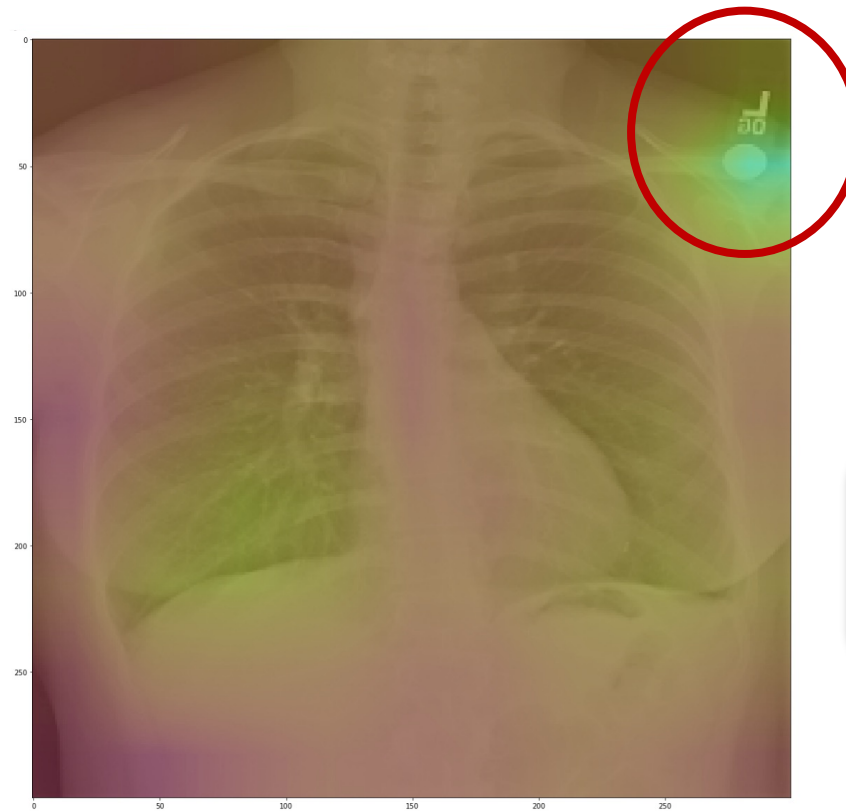
DenseNet264

No pretraining

No Clinical Data Inputted



# Methods – Explainability



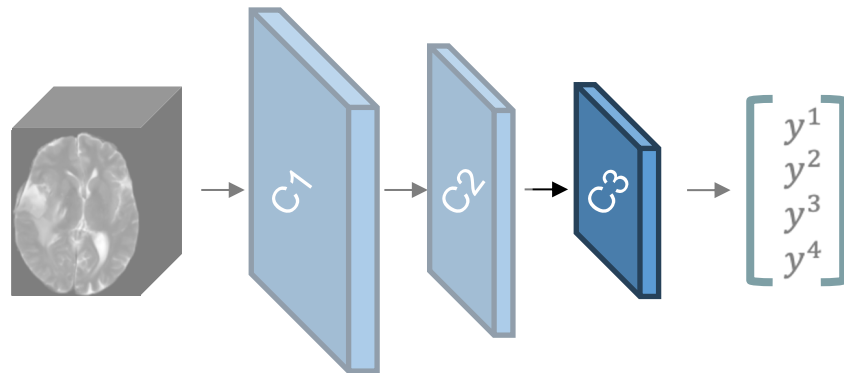
Burned-in Annotations

Important to check impactful regions for classification

# Methods – Explainability

## Class Activation Maps

→ Last convolutional layer



with: Grad-Cam package

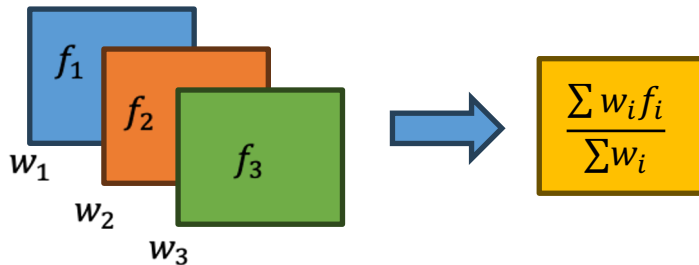
## Saliency Maps

# Methods – Explainability

## Class Activation Maps

→ Last convolutional layer

→ Weighted Average of Feature Maps by the gradients



where  $w_i = ReLU \left( k \frac{\partial y^c}{\partial f_i} \right)$

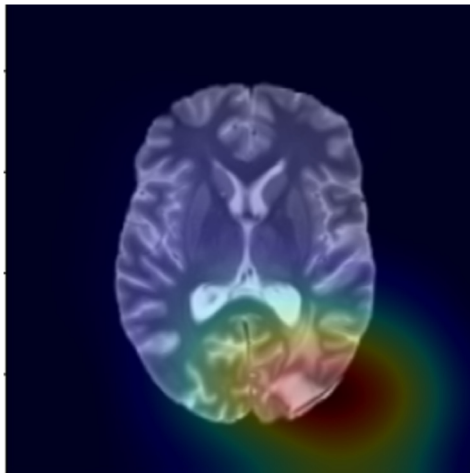
with: Grad-Cam package

## Saliency Maps

# Methods – Explainability

## Class Activation Maps

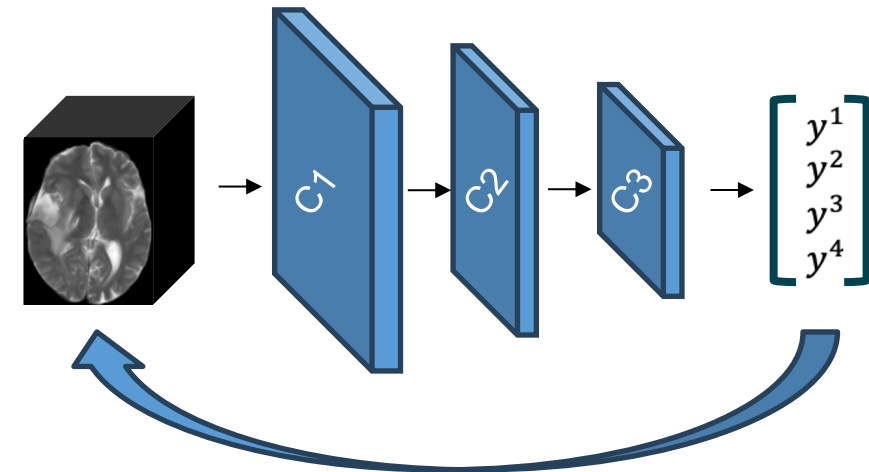
- Last convolutional layer
- Weighted Average of Feature Maps by the gradients
- Coarse heatmap



with: Grad-Cam package

## Saliency Maps

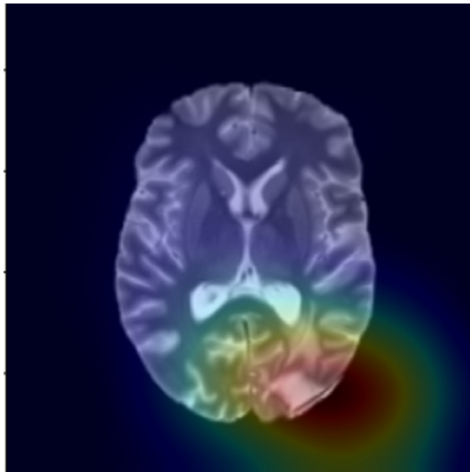
- Gradients with respect to inputs



# Methods – Explainability

## Class Activation Maps

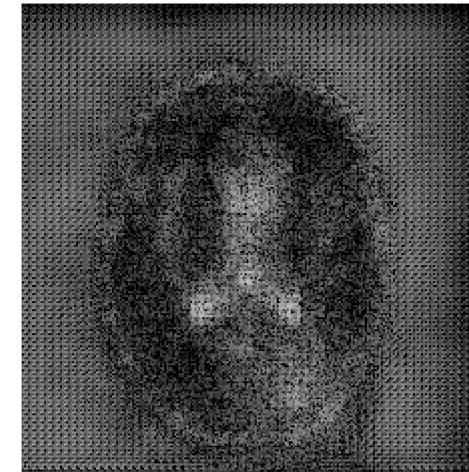
- Last convolutional layer
- Weighted Average of Feature Maps by the gradients
- Coarse heatmap



with: Grad-Cam package

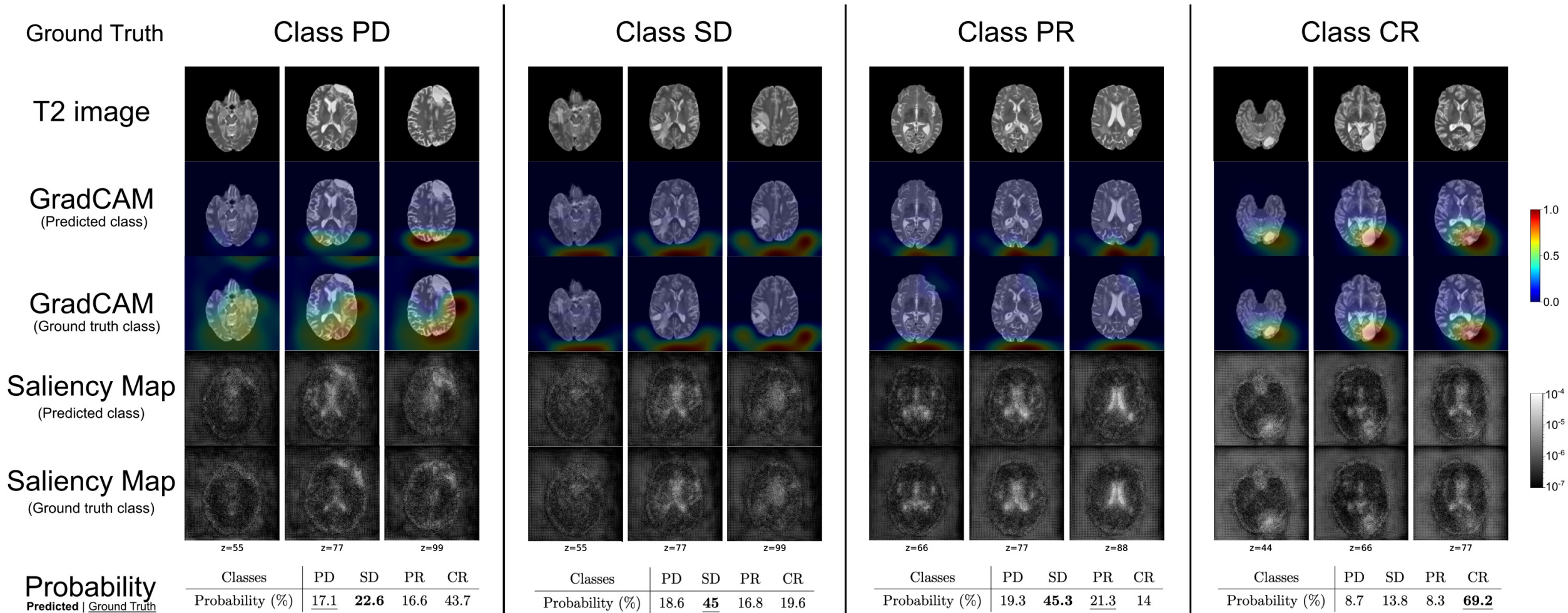
## Saliency Maps

- Gradients with respect to inputs
- Granular impact of input



 Captum

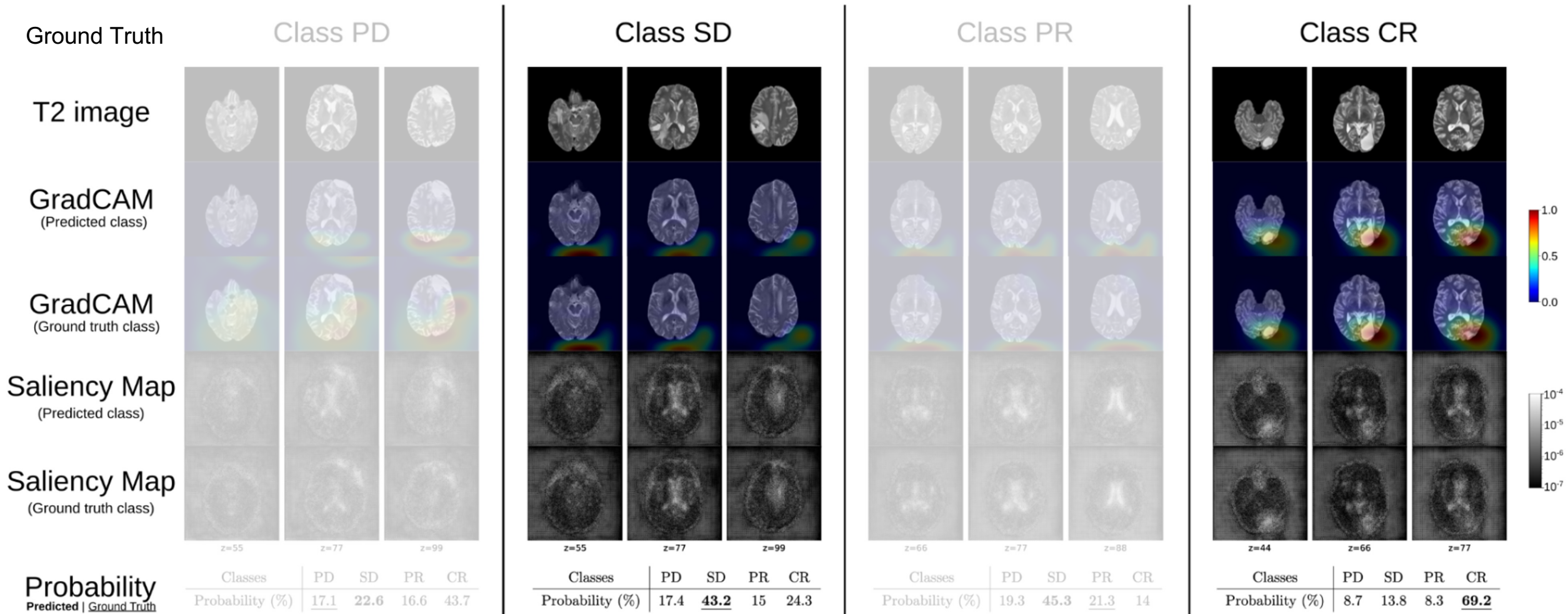
# Results – Explainability



PD=Progressive Disease; SD=Stable Disease; PR=Progressive Response; CR=Complete Response

➤ Tumor is not highlighted in some cases

# Results – Explainability




PD=Progressive Disease; SD=Stable Disease;  
PR=Progressive Response; CR=Complete Response

➤ Correct prediction with unexpected highlighted region


➤ High probability of being CR





# Conclusion

 Models tested have poor performance

 Complex problem

 Small dataset size hinders learning

 Test other approaches to increase performance

 Need for Open Access Datasets

 Importance of Explainability in Healthcare

# Acknowledgements



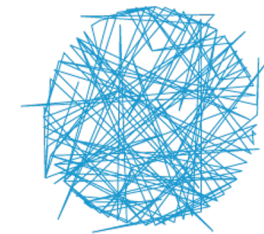
LaSEEB



José Maria Moreira from Learning Health

**fct** Fundação  
para a Ciência  
e a Tecnologia

Grant: 2023.03810.BDANA



**LARSyS**  
Laboratory of Robotics  
and Engineering Systems

Grants' DOI:  
10.54499/LA/P/0083/2020,  
10.54499/UIDP/50009/2020, and  
10.54499/UIDB/50009/2020