

# How Can We Know It Is Shoulders We Stand On?

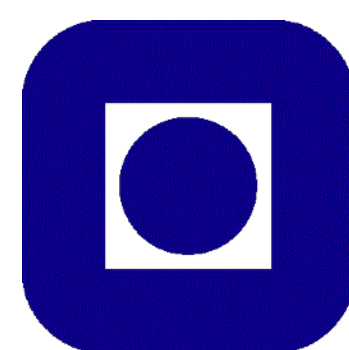
**Measuring reproducibility**

Odd Erik Gundersen, dr. philos.

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Adjunct Associate Professor, NTNU

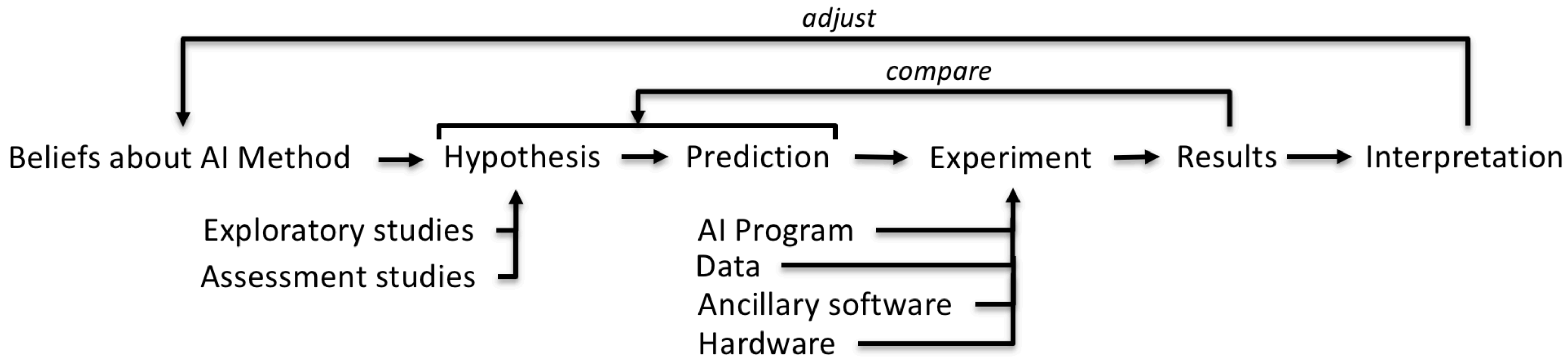
[odderik@ntnu.no](mailto:odderik@ntnu.no)



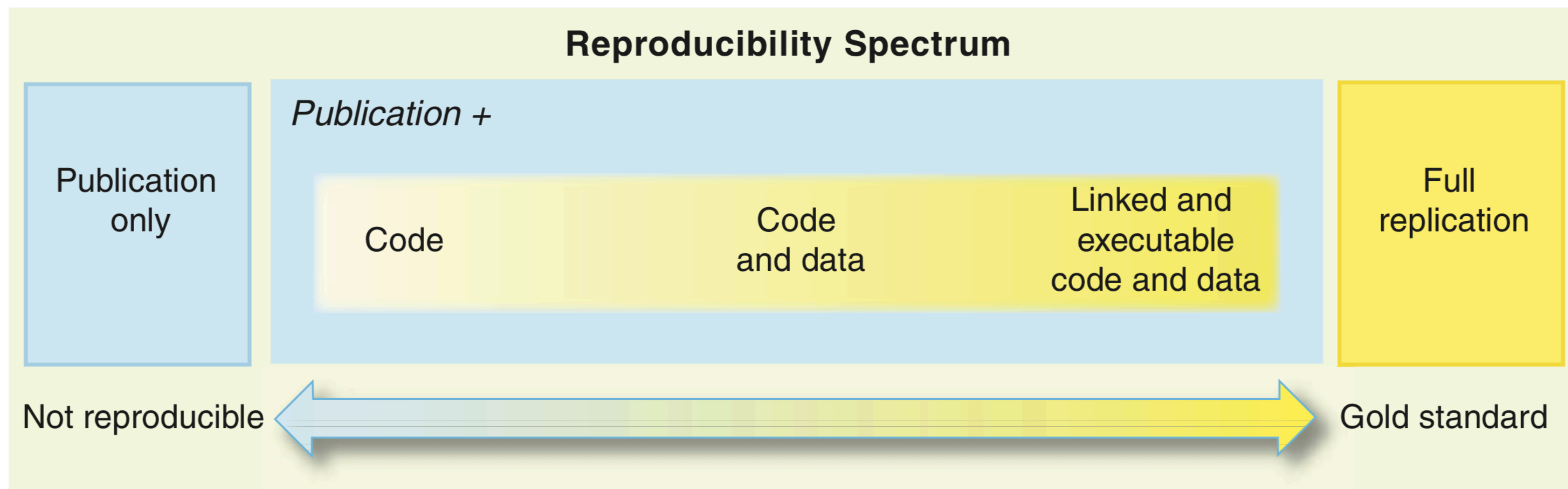
NTNU  
Norwegian University of  
Science and Technology



# The Scientific Method in Empirical AI Research



# Defining Reproducibility I



# Defining Reproducibility II

**Replication** is to re-run the experiment with code and data provided by the author.

**Reproduction** implies both replication and the regeneration of findings with at least some independence from the [original] code and/or data.

# Defining Reproducibility III

**Methods reproducibility:** The ability to implement, as exactly as possible, the experimental and computational procedures, with the same data and tools, to obtain the same results.

**Results reproducibility:** The production of corroborating results in a new study, having used the same experimental methods.

**Inferential reproducibility:** The drawing of qualitatively similar conclusions from either an independent replication of a study or a reanalysis of the original study.

# Definition of Reproducibility

Reproducibility in empirical AI research is the ability of an **independent** research team to produce the same **results** using the same AI method based on the **documentation** made by the original research team.



# Documentation

- **Method:** Report, the textual description of method (system/algorithm/experiment) - human to human - abstract concepts.
- **Data:** Represents the world the AI method operates in. Used for testing hypotheses.
- **Experiment Setup:** Code (AI method implementation + experiment code) + hardware

# Degree of Reproducibility

	Method	Data	Experiment
R1			
R2			
R3			



Factor	Variable	Description
Method	Problem	Is there an explicit mention of the problem the research seeks to solve?
	Objective	Is the research objective explicitly mentioned?
	Research method	Is there an explicit mention of the research method used (empirical, theoretical)?
	Research questions	Is there an explicit mention of the research question(s) addressed?
	Pseudocode	Is the AI method described using pseudocode?
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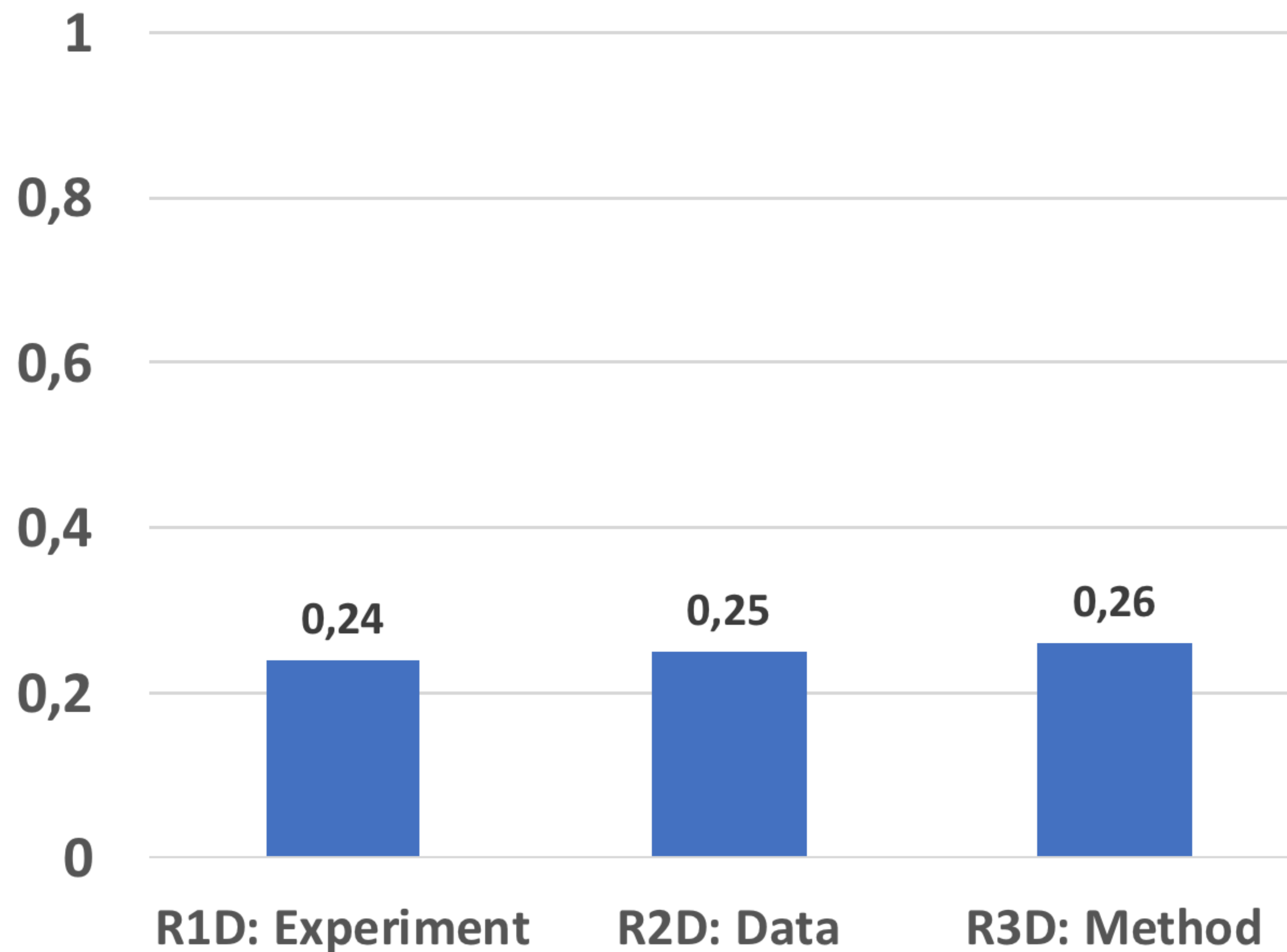
# Quantifying Reproducibility

$$R1D(e) = \frac{\delta_1 Method(e) + \delta_2 Data(e) + \delta_3 Exp(e)}{\delta_1 + \delta_2 + \delta_3}$$

$$R2D(e) = \frac{\delta_1 Method(e) + \delta_2 Data(e)}{\delta_1 + \delta_2}$$

$$R3D(e) = Method(e)$$

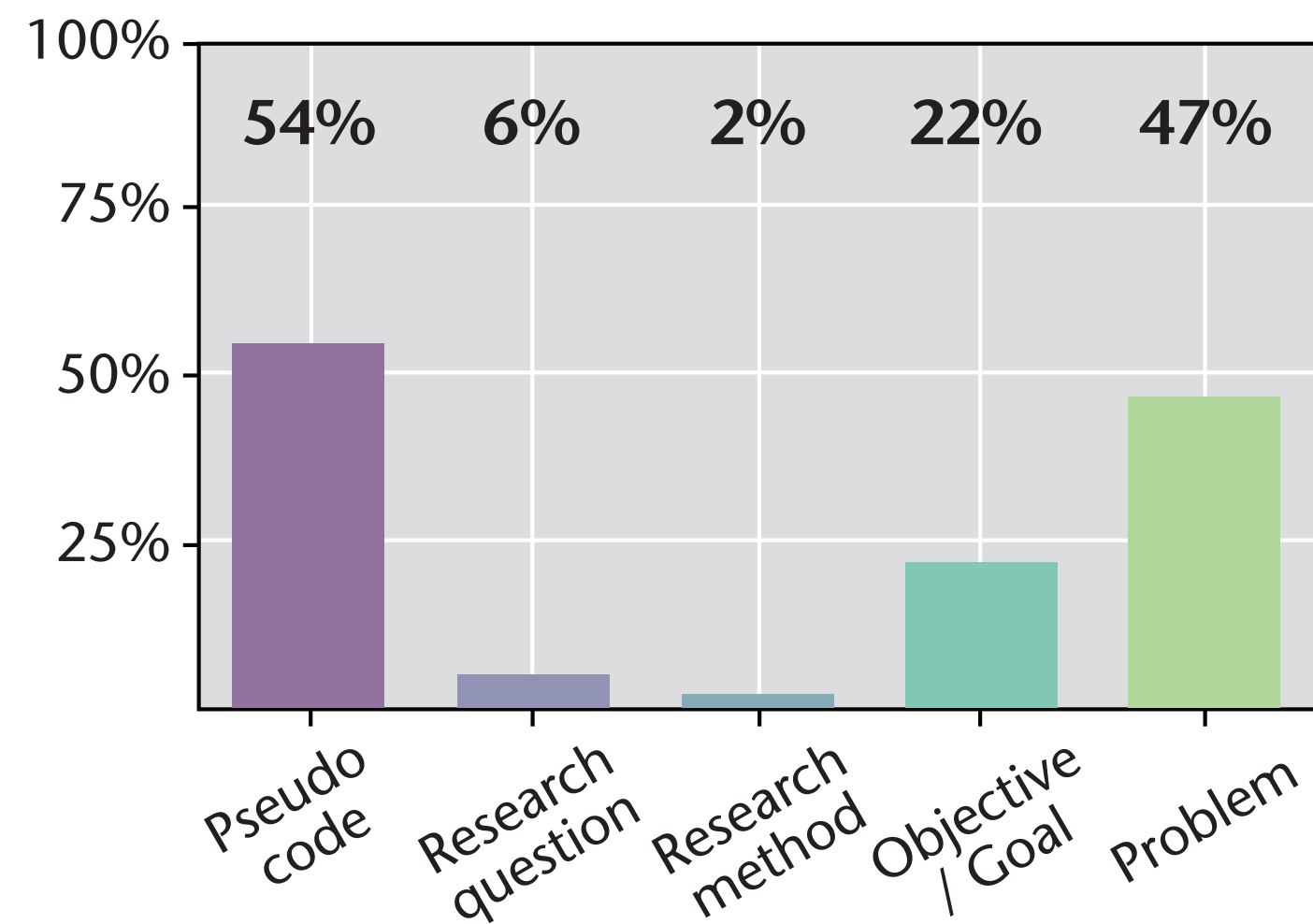
# A Normalized Metric



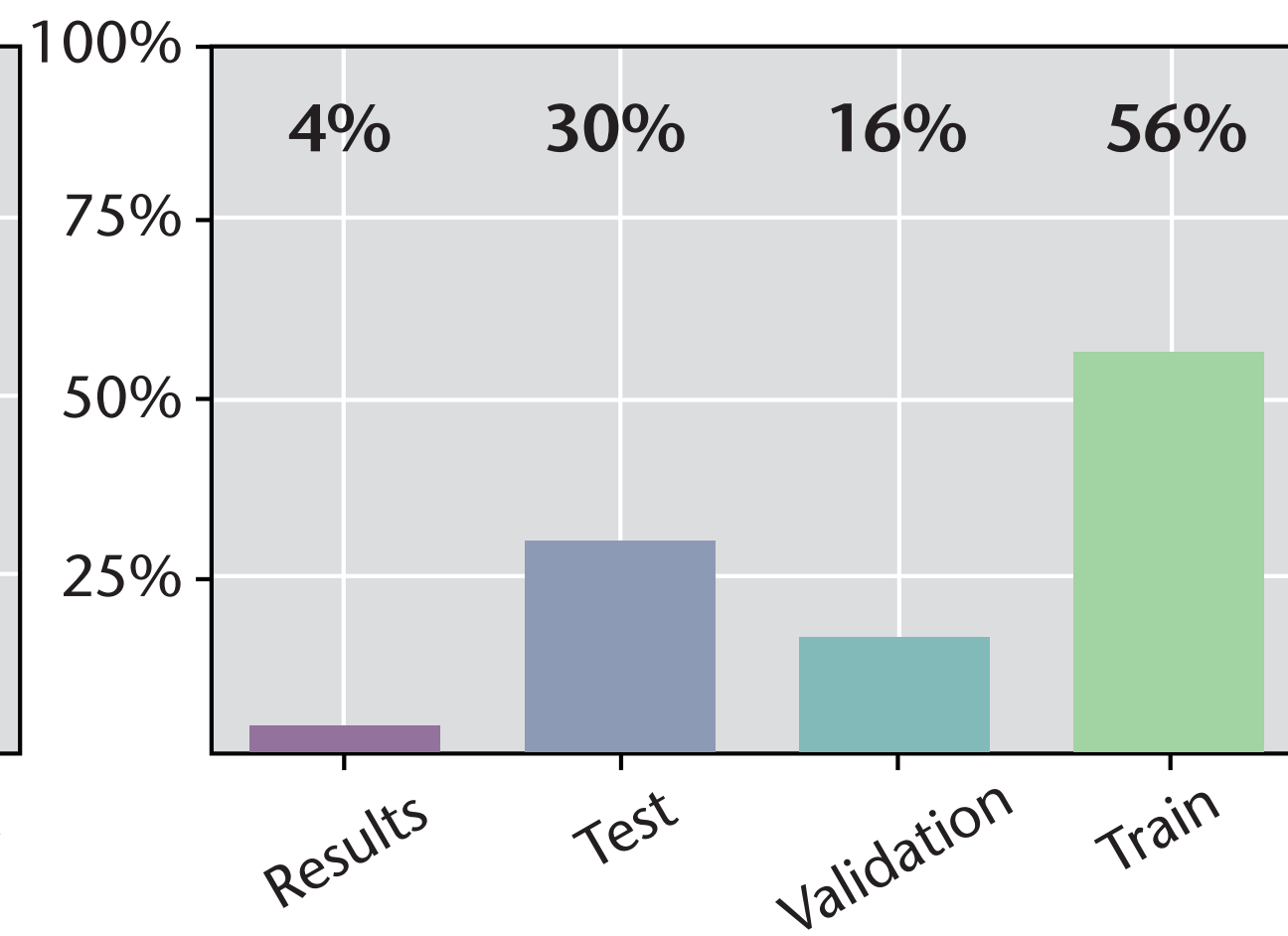
# WHAT WE GAIN

# We Can Specify How Well Research is Documented

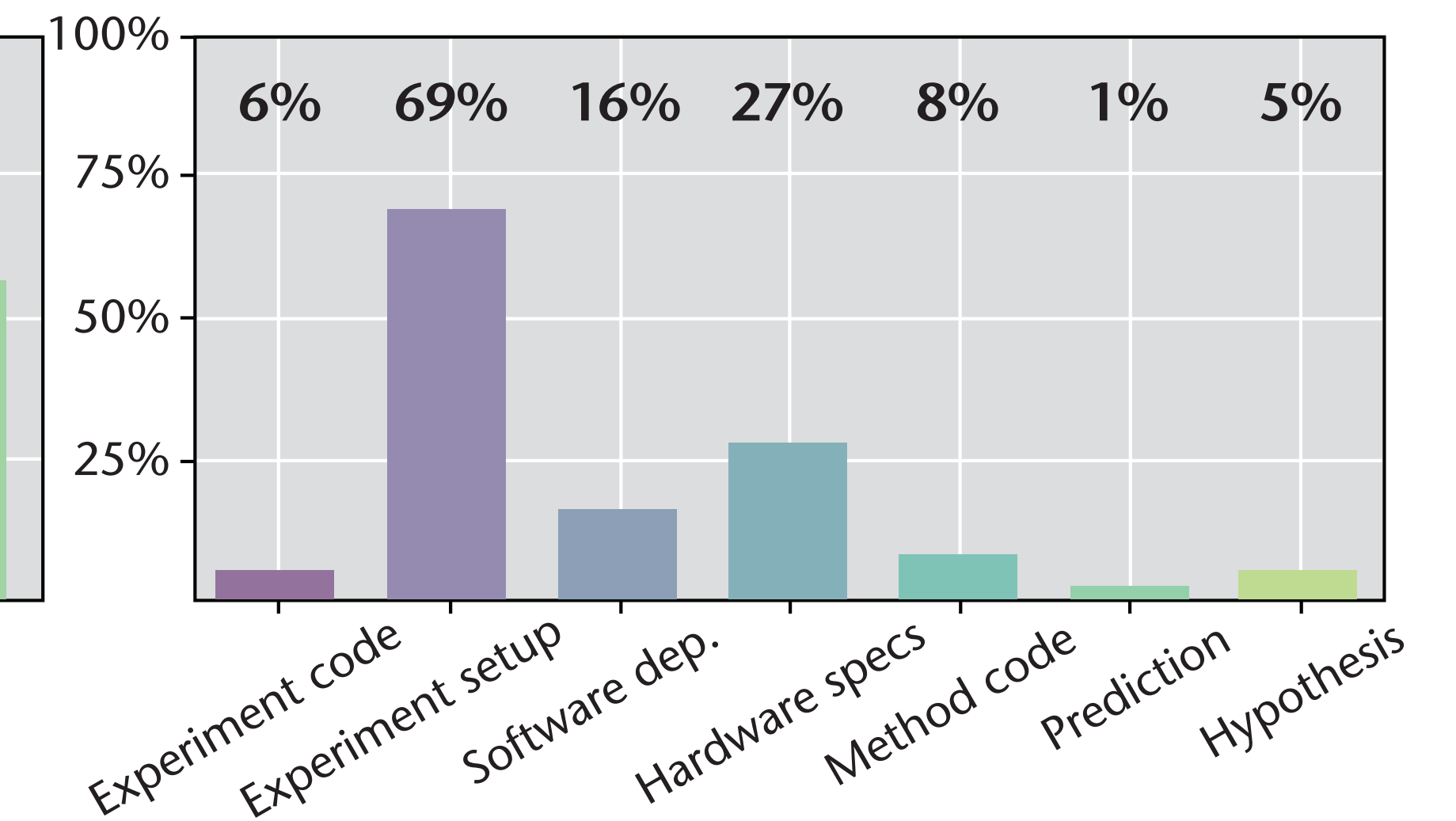
## Method



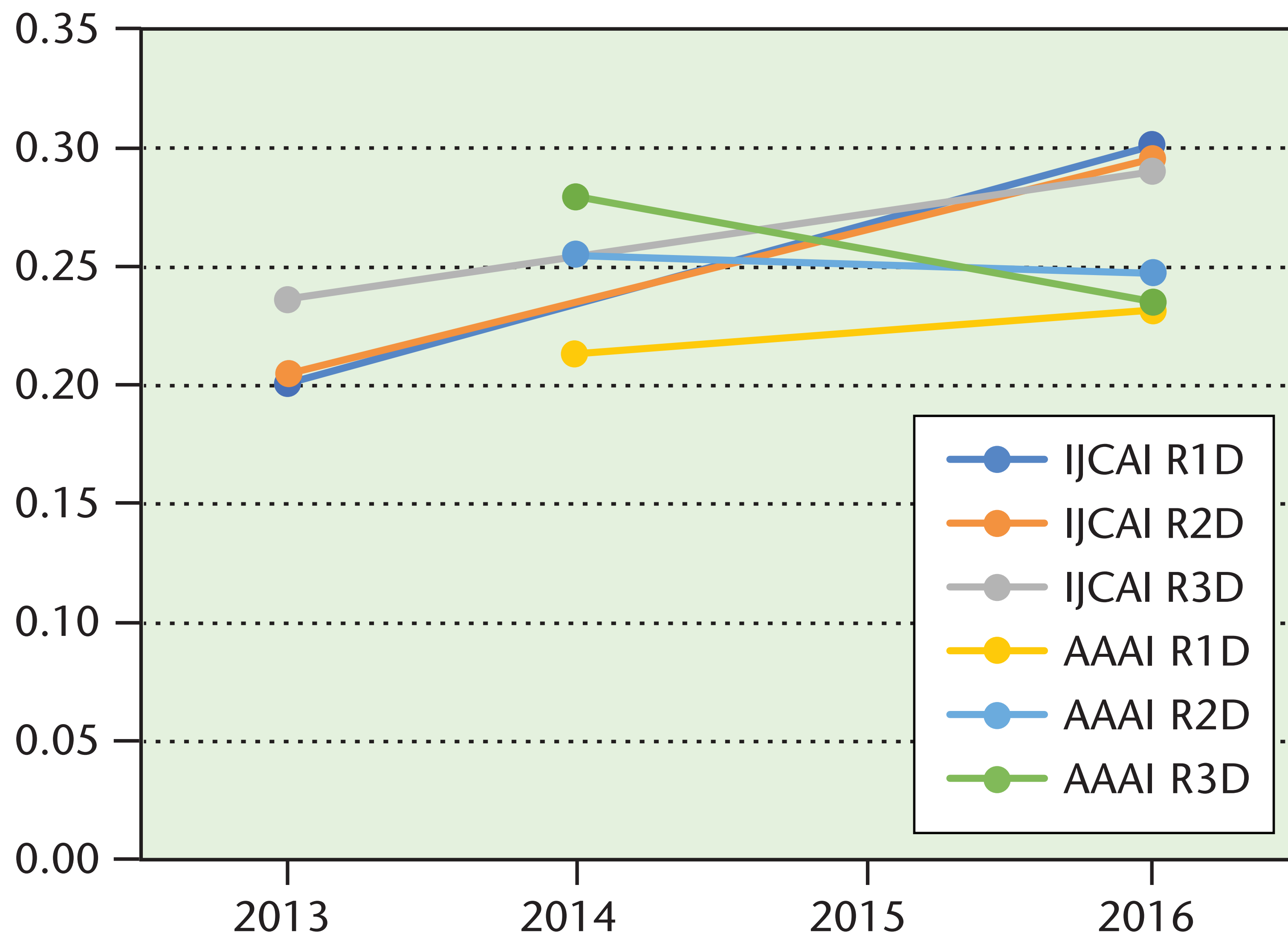
## Data



## Experiment



# We Can Measure Improvement





# We Can Compare Research: Papers

<i>Id</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Hours spent</i>
1	Measuring the Objectness of Image Windows [26]	R1	2012	40
2	Generalized Correntropy for Robust Adaptive Filtering [27]	R2-D	2016	40
3	Development and investigation of efficient artificial bee colony algorithm for numerical function optimization [28]	R2-D	2012	40
4	Blind Image Quality Assessment: A Natural Scene Statistics Approach in the DCT Domain [29]	R1	2012	25
5	Cooperatively Coevolving Particle Swarms for Large Scale Optimization [30]	R2-D	2012	40
6	Learning Sparse Representations for Human Action Recognition [31]	R2-D	2012	40
7	Visualizing and Understanding Convolutional Networks [32]	R2-D	2014	40
8	iSuc-PseOpt: Identifying lysine succinylation sites in proteins by incorporating sequence-coupling effects into pseudo components and optimizing imbalanced training dataset [33]	R2-D	2016	22
9	A modified Artificial Bee Colony algorithm for real-parameter optimization [34]	R2-D	2012	40
10	RASL: Robust alignment by sparse and low-rank decomposition for linearly correlated images [35]	R1	2012	10

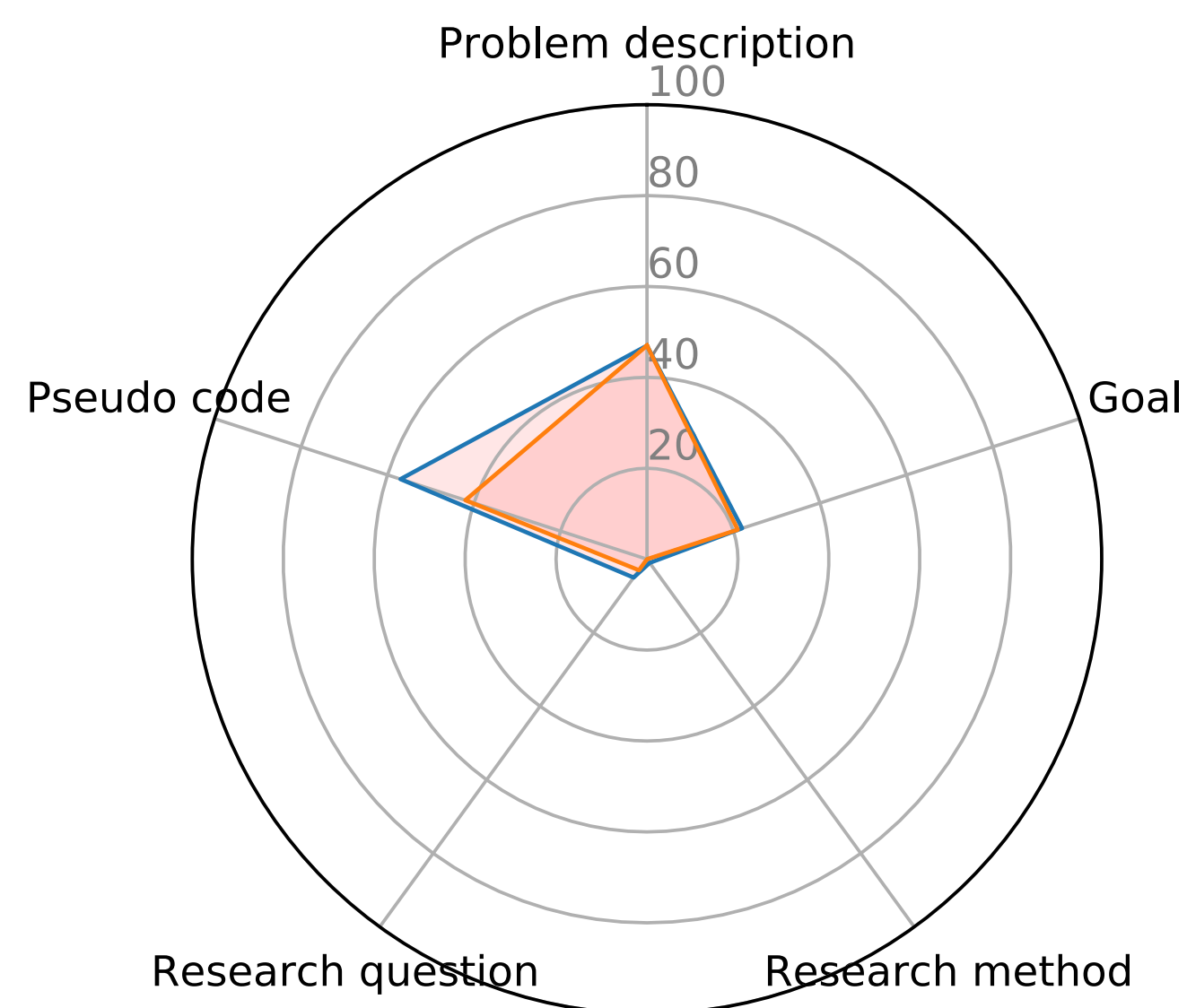


# We Can Compare Research: Conferences

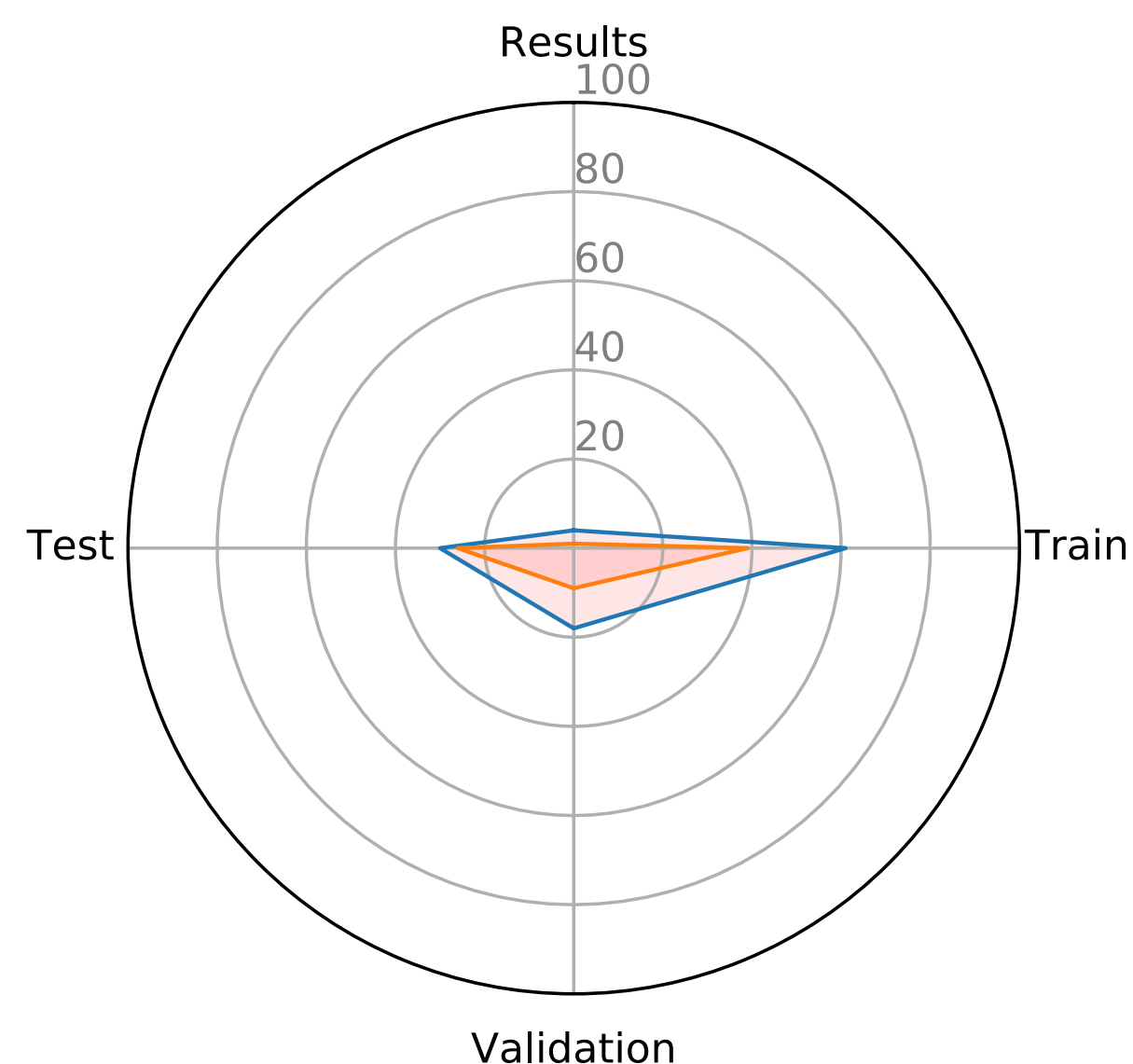
Conference	$R1D \pm \varepsilon$	$R2D \pm \varepsilon$	$R3D \pm \varepsilon$
IJCAI 2013	$0.20 \pm 0.02$	$0.20 \pm 0.03$	$0.24 \pm 0.04$
AAAI 2014	$0.21 \pm 0.02$	$0.26 \pm 0.03$	$0.28 \pm 0.04$
IJCAI 2016	$0.30 \pm 0.03$	$0.30 \pm 0.04$	$0.29 \pm 0.04$
AAAI 2016	$0.23 \pm 0.02$	$0.25 \pm 0.04$	$0.24 \pm 0.04$
Total	$0.24 \pm 0.01$	$0.25 \pm 0.02$	$0.26 \pm 0.02$

# We Can Compare Research: Groups

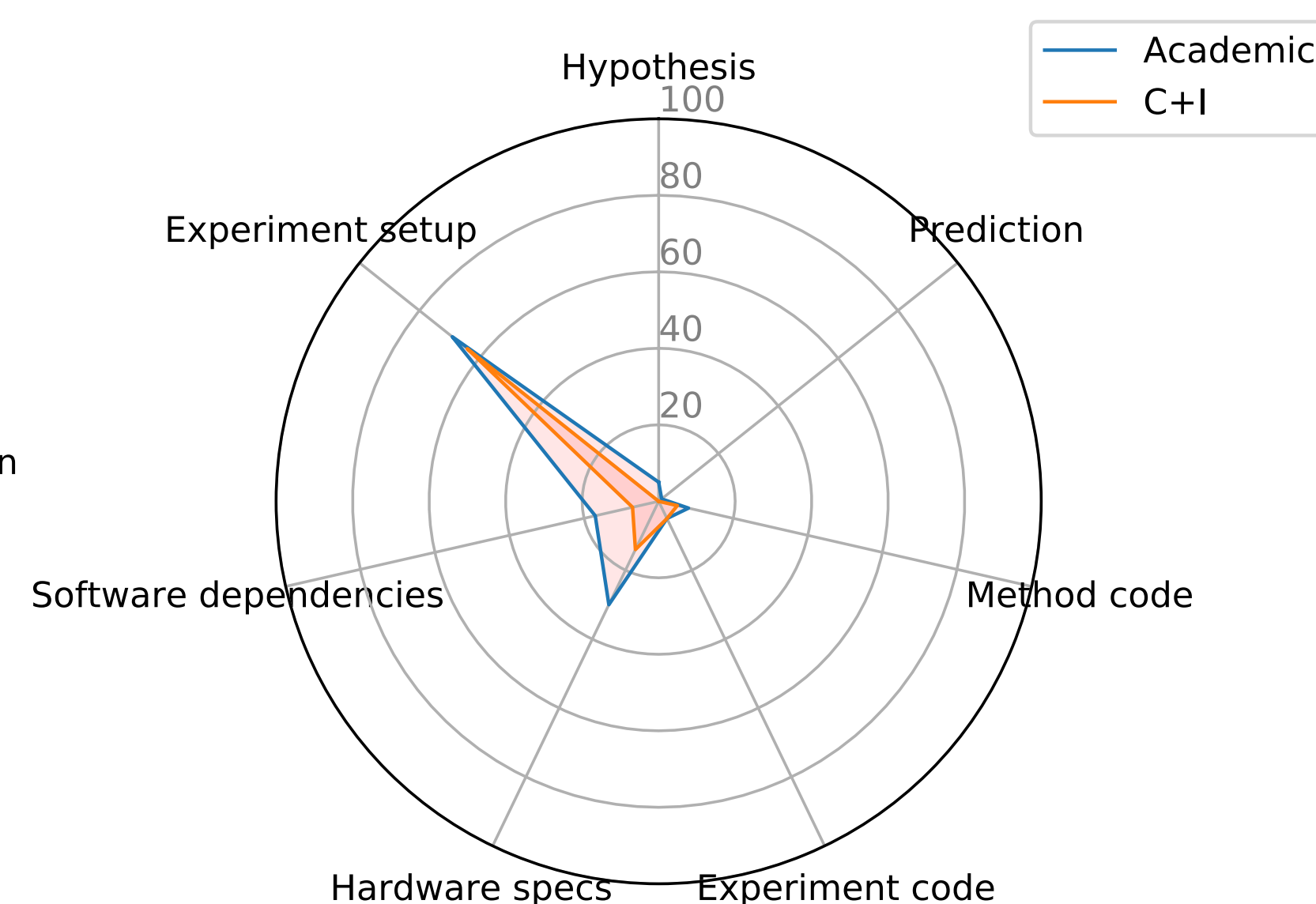
## Academia versus Industry



**Method**

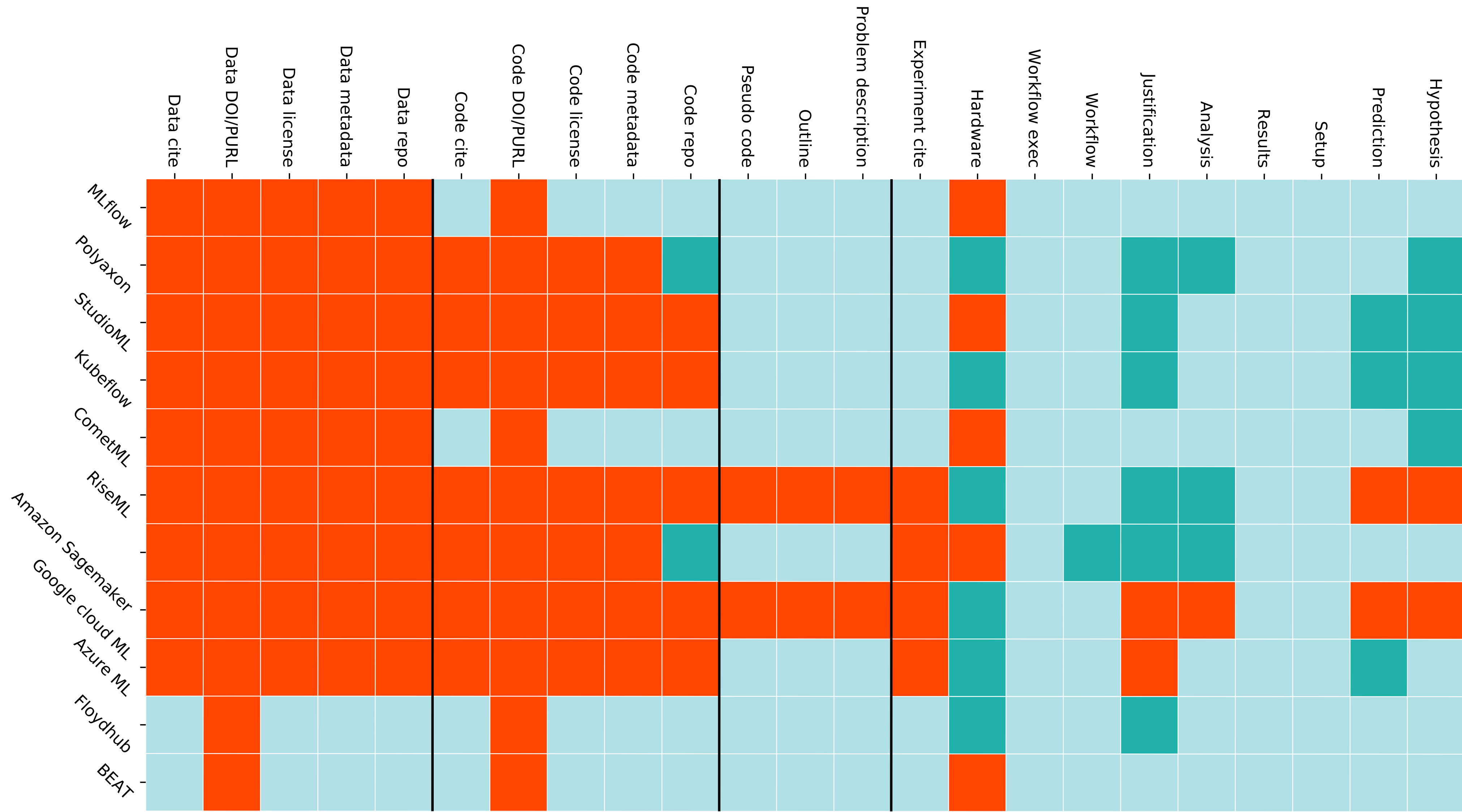


**Data**



**Experiment**

# We Can Compare Software Frameworks

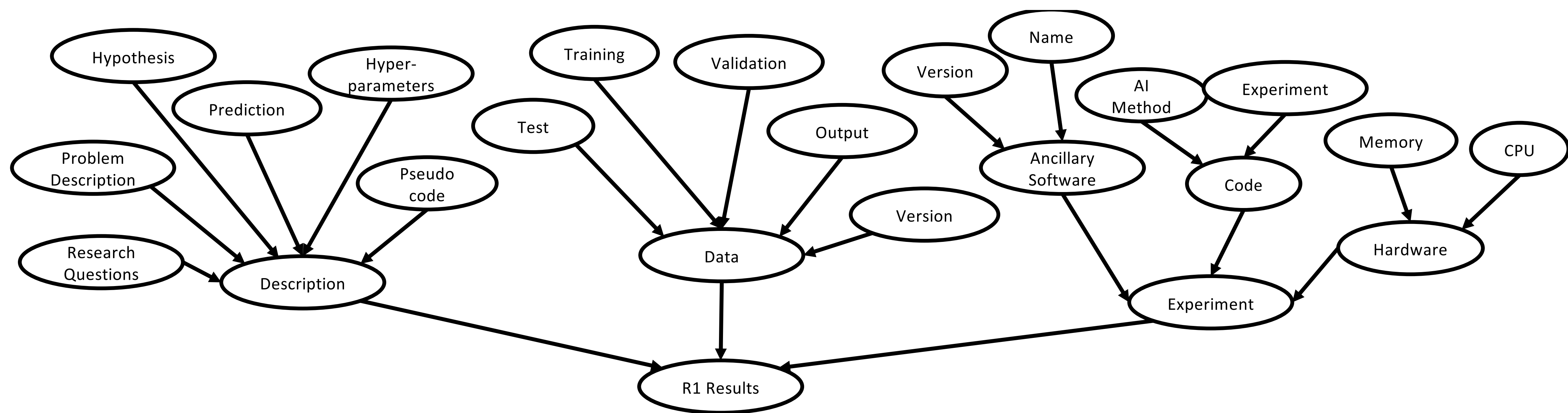


# We Could Empirically Find What Entails Well-Documented Research

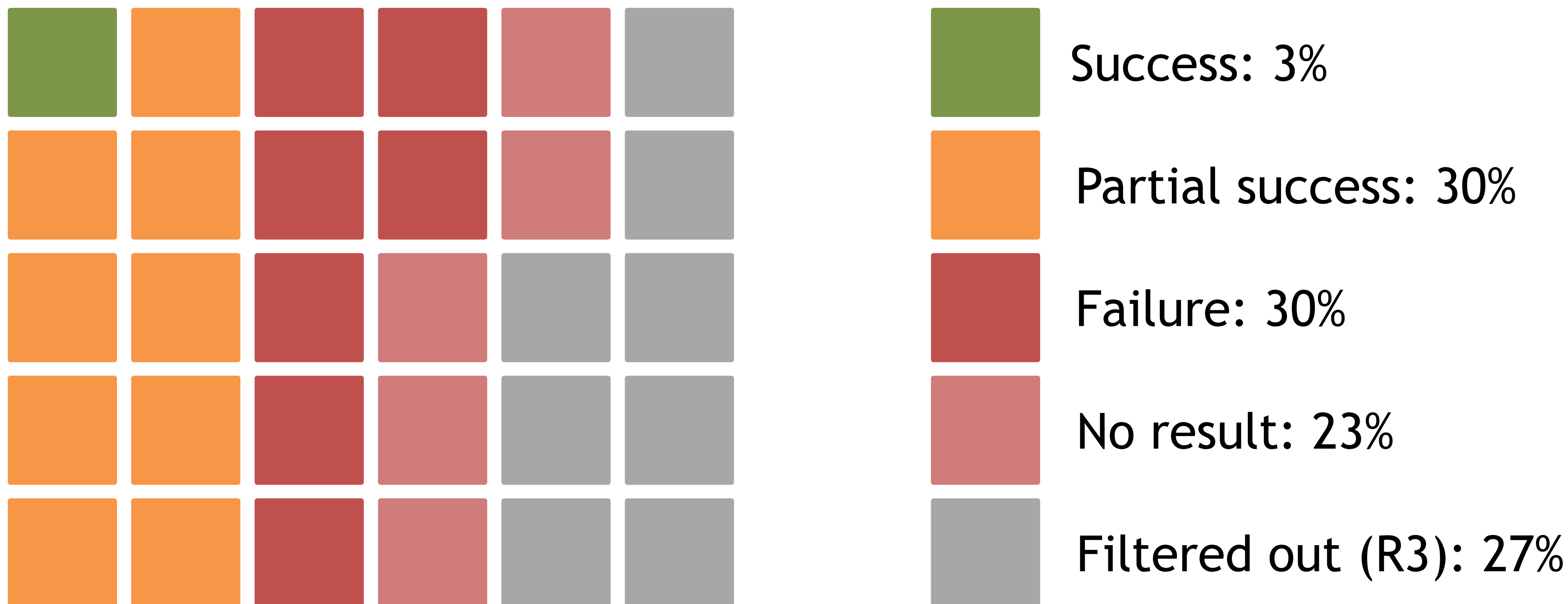
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# Compute the Likelihood of Success?



# We Should Be Able to Measure Success



# We Can Set the Bar Based on What We Want to Achieve





# Research

- **State of the Art: Reproducibility in Artificial Intelligence** O. E. Gundersen and S. Kjensmo, AAAI 2018
- **On Reproducible AI** O. E. Gundersen, Y. Gil and D. W. Aha, AI Magazine, Fall 2018.
- **Standing on the Feet of Giants** O. E. Gundersen, AI Magazine, forthcoming 2019.
- **Supporting Reproducible Experiments - A Survey**, R. Isdahl and O. E. Gundersen, forthcoming 2019.
- **What We Learned When Reproducing the Most Cited AI Research**, O. E. Gundersen, O. Cappelen, N. Grimstad, M. Mølne, forthcoming 2019.