

Fourth International Workshop on Dependable and Secure Machine Learning – DSML 2021

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On behalf of the Organizing Committee, it is our pleasure to welcome you to the fourth International Workshop on Dependable and Secure Machine Learning (DSML). This year, due to the COVID-19 situation, the DSML workshop will be held online, in conjunction with the 51th IEEE/IFIP International Conference on Dependable Systems and Networks (DSN) on Monday, 21 June 2021.

Machine learning (ML) is increasingly used in critical domains such as health and wellness, criminal sentencing recommendations, commerce, transportation, human capital management, entertainment, and communication. The design of ML systems has mainly focused on developing models, algorithms, and datasets on which they are trained to demonstrate high accuracy for specific tasks such as object or speech recognition and classification. ML algorithms typically construct a model by training on a labeled training dataset and their performance is assessed based on the accuracy in predicting labels for unseen (but often similar) testing data. This is based on the assumption that the training dataset is representative of the inputs that the system will face in deployment. However, in practice there are a wide variety of unexpected accidental, as well as adversarially-crafted, perturbations on the ML inputs that might lead to violations of this assumption. ML algorithms are also often over-confident about their predictions when processing such unexpected inputs. This makes it difficult to deploy them in safety critical settings where one needs to be able to rely on the ML predictions to make decisions or revert back to a fail-safe mode. Further, ML algorithms are often executed on special-purpose hardware accelerators, which may themselves be subject to faults. Thus, there is a growing concern regarding the reliability, safety, security, and accountability of ML systems.

The DSML workshop is an open forum for researchers, practitioners, and regulatory experts, to present and discuss innovative ideas and practical techniques and tools for producing dependable and secure ML systems. A major goal of the workshop is to draw the attention of the research community to the problem of establishing guarantees of reliability, security, safety, and robustness for systems that incorporate increasingly complex ML models, and to the challenge of determining

whether such systems can comply with requirements for safety-critical systems. A further goal is to build a research community at the intersection of machine learning and dependable and secure computing.

The workshop features four sessions, including research papers and two keynote talks. We received 10 regular paper submissions this year, of which we accepted 7 papers. The papers were selected by the program committee based on reviews and online discussion – each paper was reviewed by three or four PC members. The workshop sessions are organized as follows:

The first session will feature a keynote by Tao Xie from Peking University on software engineering for AI. In the second session, there will be three research papers presenting different dependability analysis techniques for ML models. In the third session, the second keynote will be given by Michael Paulitsch from Intel on the dependability of machine learning applications. The last session includes four papers presenting various resilience techniques towards improving the dependability of ML systems.

We would like to thank the program committee members for their collective efforts in reviewing the papers, and for helping us develop the workshop program. Moreover, we would like to thank the organizers of the DSN conference for their help and support of the DSML workshop and the community for their valued contributions to the workshop.

Program Committee:

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