

TNI	Umelá inteligencia (AI) Hodnotenie robustnosti neurónových sietí Časť 1: Prehľad (ISO/IEC TR 24029-1: 2021)	TNI CEN/CLC ISO/IEC/TR 24029-1 97 4179
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Artificial Intelligence (AI) - Assessment of the robustness of neural networks - Part 1: Overview (ISO/IEC TR 24029-1:2021)

Táto technická normalizačná informácia obsahuje anglickú verziu CEN/CLC ISO/IEC/TR 24029-1:2023, ISO/IEC TR 24029-1:2021.

This Technical standard information includes the English version of CEN/CLC ISO/IEC/TR 24029-1:2023, ISO/IEC TR 24029-1:2021.

Táto technická normalizačná informácia bola oznámená vo Vestníku ÚNMS SR č. 03/24

138299

Úrad pre normalizáciu, metrológiu a skúšobníctvo Slovenskej republiky, 2024

Slovenská technická norma a technická normalizačná informácia je chránená zákonom č. 60/2018 Z. z. o technickej normalizácii v znení neskorších predpisov.

TECHNICAL REPORT
RAPPORT TECHNIQUE
TECHNISCHER REPORT

**CEN/CLC ISO/IEC/TR
24029-1**

December 2023

ICS 35.020

English version

**Artificial Intelligence (AI) - Assessment of the robustness
of neural networks - Part 1: Overview (ISO/IEC TR 24029-
1:2021)**

Intelligence artificielle (IA) - Évaluation de la
robustesse des réseaux de neurones - Partie 1: Vue
d'ensemble (ISO/IEC TR 24029-1:2021)

Informationstechnik - Künstliche Intelligenz -
Bewertung der Robustheit neuronaler Netze (ISO/IEC
TR 24029-1:2021)

This Technical Report was approved by CEN on 17 December 2023. It has been drawn up by the Technical Committee CEN/CLC/JTC 21.

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CEN/CLC ISO/IEC/TR 24029-1:2023 (E)

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European foreword

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TECHNICAL REPORT

ISO/IEC TR 24029-1

First edition
2021-03

Artificial Intelligence (AI) — Assessment of the robustness of neural networks —

Part 1: Overview



Reference number
ISO/IEC TR 24029-1:2021(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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ISO/IEC TR 24029-1:2021(E)

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

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This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 42, *Artificial intelligence*.

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Introduction

When designing an AI system, several properties are often considered desirable, such as robustness, resiliency, reliability, accuracy, safety, security, privacy. A definition of robustness is provided in [3.6](#). Robustness is a crucial property that poses new challenges in the context of AI systems. For example, in AI systems there are some risks specifically tied to the robustness of AI systems. Understanding these risks is essential for the adoption of AI in many contexts. This document aims at providing an overview of the approaches available to assess these risks, with a particular focus on neural networks, which are heavily used in industry, government and academia.

In many organizations, software validation is an essential part of putting software into production. The objective is to ensure various properties including safety and performance of the software used in all parts of the system. In some domains, the software validation and verification process is also an important part of system certification. For example, in the automotive or aeronautic fields, existing standards, such as ISO 26262 or Reference [\[2\]](#), require some specific actions to justify the design, the implementation and the testing of any piece of embedded software.

The techniques used in AI systems are also subject to validation. However, common techniques used in AI systems pose new challenges that require specific approaches in order to ensure adequate testing and validation.

AI technologies are designed to fulfil various tasks, including interpolation/regression, classification and other tasks.

While many methods exist for validating non-AI systems, they are not always directly applicable to AI systems, and neural networks in particular. Neural network systems represent a specific challenge as they are both hard to explain and sometimes have unexpected behaviour due to their non-linear nature. As a result, alternative approaches are needed.

Methods are categorized into three groups: statistical methods, formal methods and empirical methods. This document provides background on these methods to assess the robustness of neural networks.

It is noted that characterizing the robustness of neural networks is an open area of research, and there are limitations to both testing and validation approaches.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) — Assessment of the robustness of neural networks —

Part 1: Overview

1 Scope

This document provides background about existing methods to assess the robustness of neural networks.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

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