

A photograph of a large tree with thick, gnarled roots covered in moss, set in a forest. The roots are the central focus, extending from the trunk down to the ground. The background shows a blurred forest scene with green foliage and a path.

Translating machine learning research into life science tools

Marc Claesen

Back to the Roots

Outline

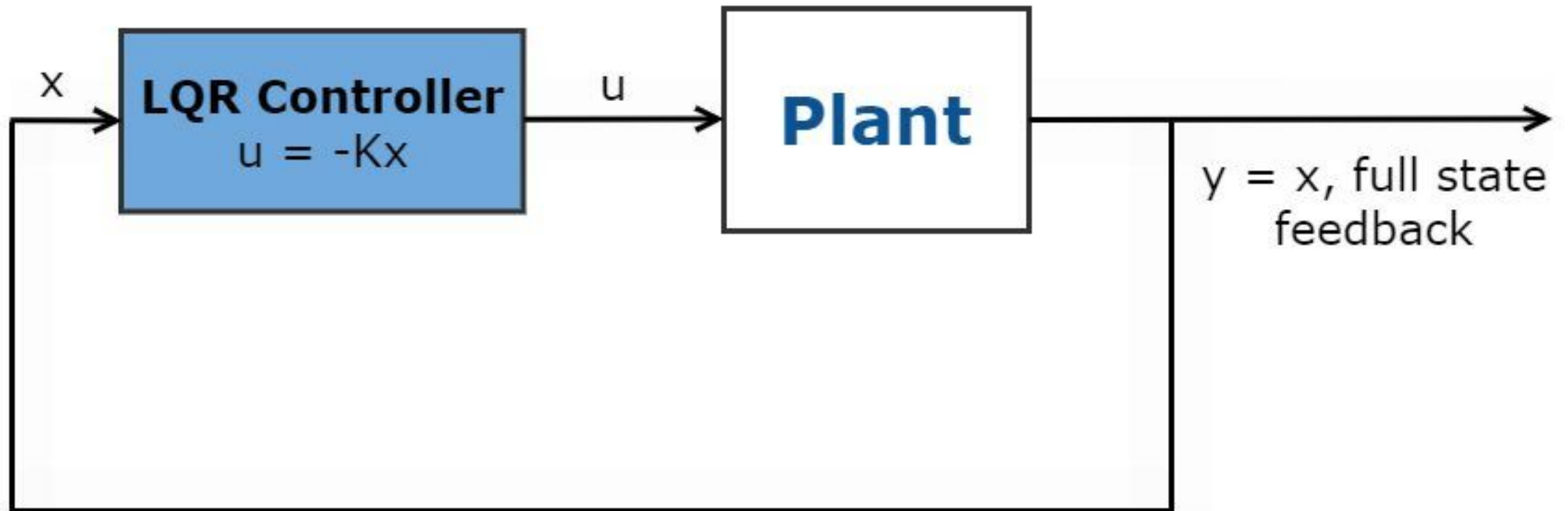
1. How I met your host
2. Research at STADIUS
3. From research to industry
4. Same same, but different
5. Conclusion



How I met your host

Back to the roots of my interactions with Bart

Control theory



Control theory

What is a matrix?

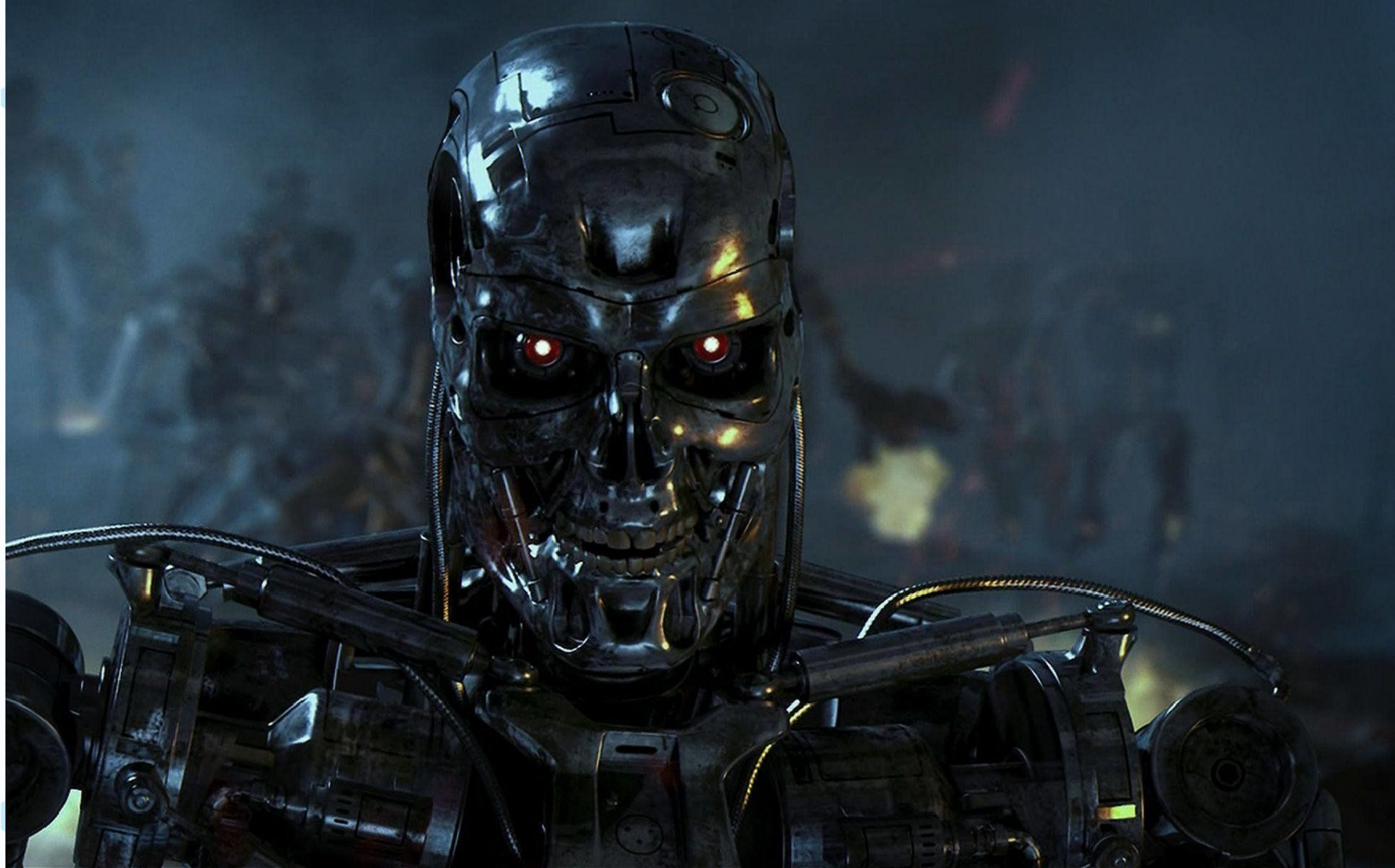


Personal interests



PhD in machine learning?







Let's investigate health records!



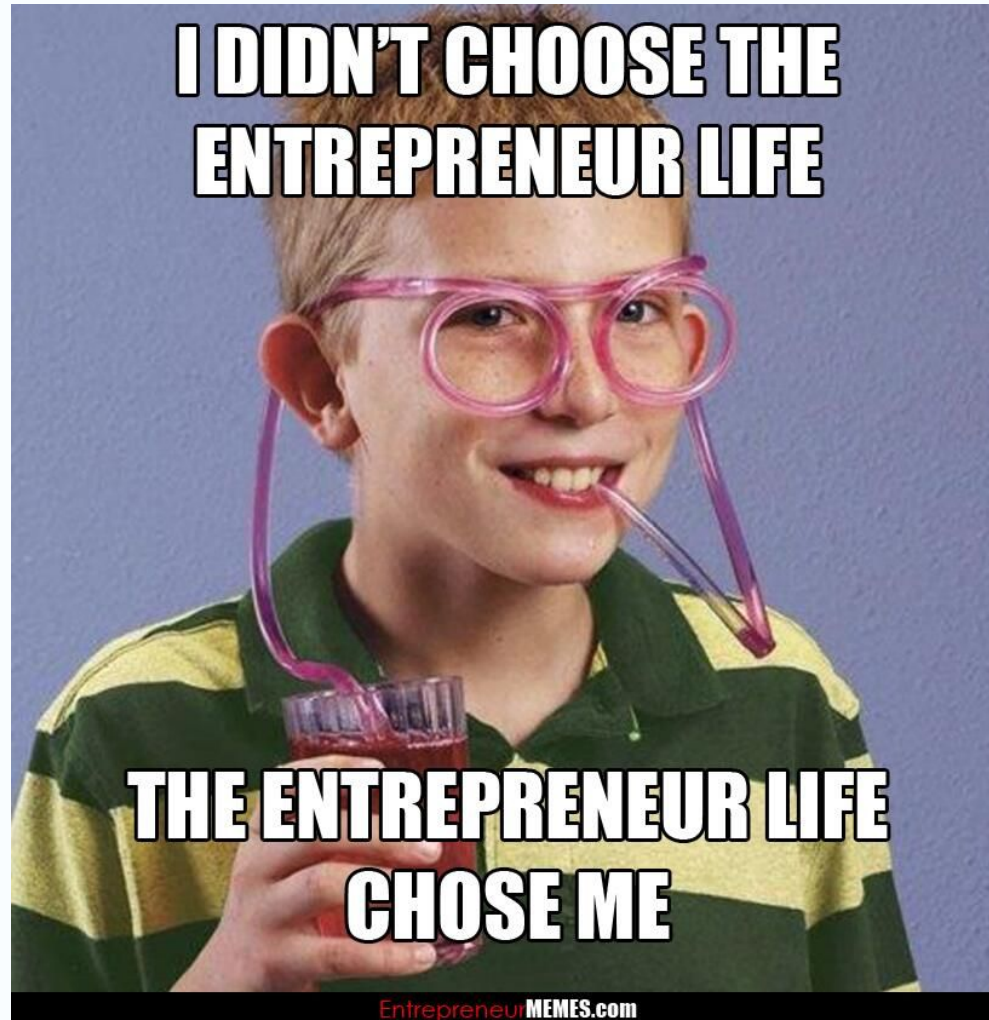
Research at *STADIUS*

My PhD on machine learning, promoted by Bart De Moor

Project: ???



Project: ???



Project: diabetes screening via insurance records



Bart De Moor (promotor)

Frank De Smet
(copromotor)

Chantal Mathieu

Johan Suykens

Jesse Davis

Marc = Piranha





From research to industry

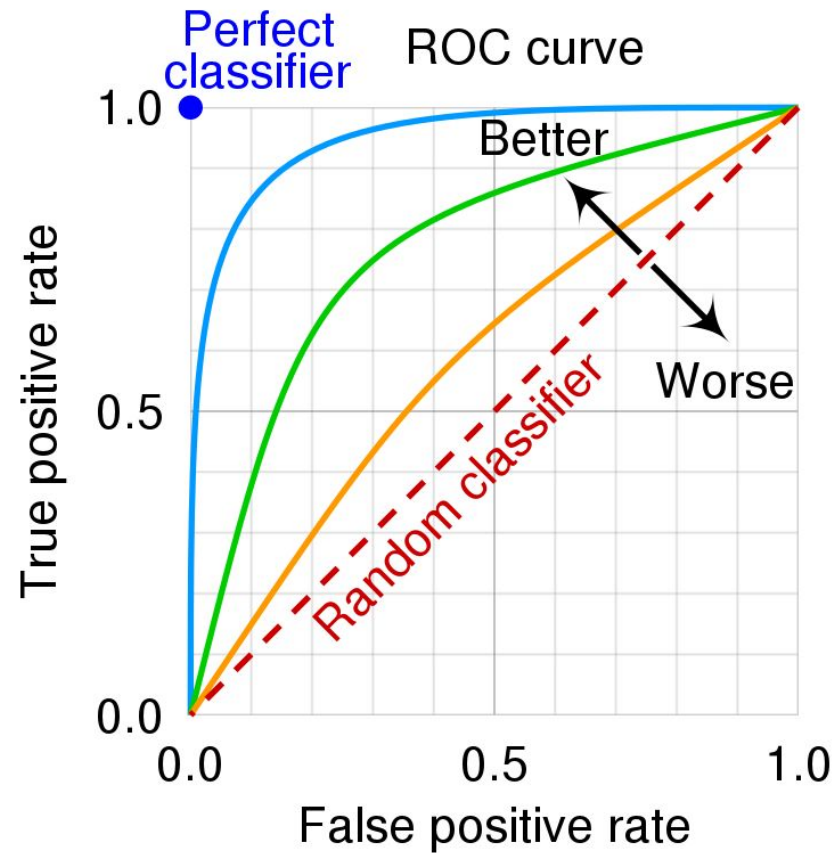
A brief overview of Aspect Analytics.

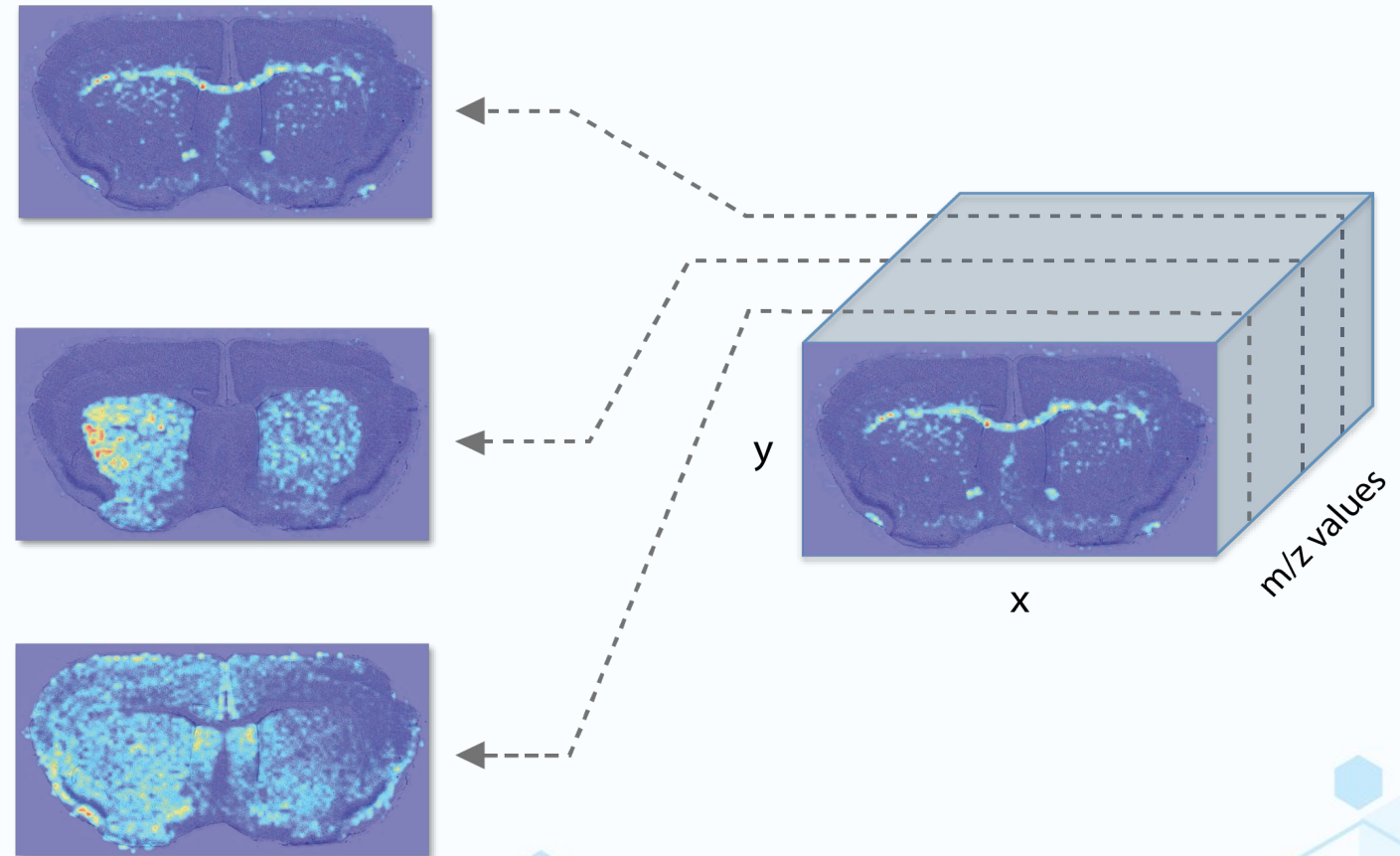
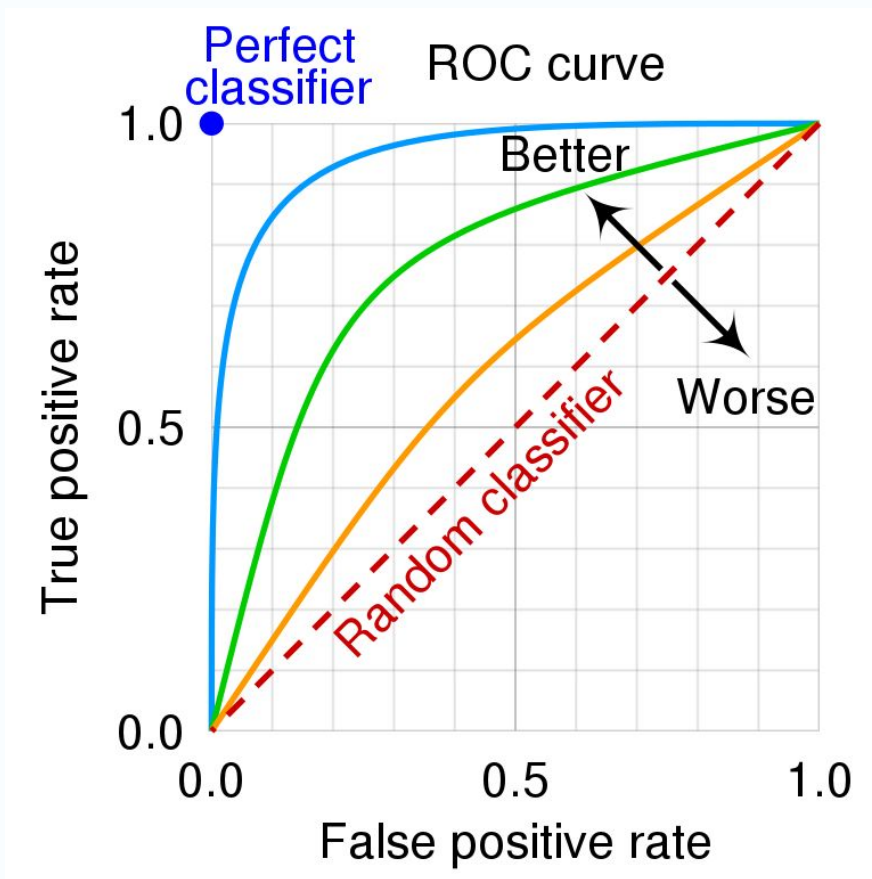
In Digital We Trust !

Make sure to
make impact!

Prof. Dr. Ir. Bart De Moor

KU LEUVEN







Aspect Analytics

Beyond bioinformatics.

AGENTSCHAP
INNOVEREN &
ONDERNEMEN



Vlaanderen
is ondernemen



Accelerated by
Health

 **NVIDIA.**
INCEPTION PROGRAM



KU LEUVEN

FAVORITE POSITION?

I WOULD LIKE TO BE THE CEO.

Aspect Analytics in a nutshell

Mission

- Dedicated software solutions for mass spectrometry imaging (MSI)
 - focus on high-throughput applications
 - enabling integration with other imaging modalities
 - scalable by design if and when necessary

Our core offering

- Bioinformatics & machine learning
- Cloud-based software platform
- Customized workflows & integrations



**PROJECT WITH
TERABYTES OF
EXPERIMENTAL DATA**

**MY LAPTOP USED
FOR DATA ANALYSIS**

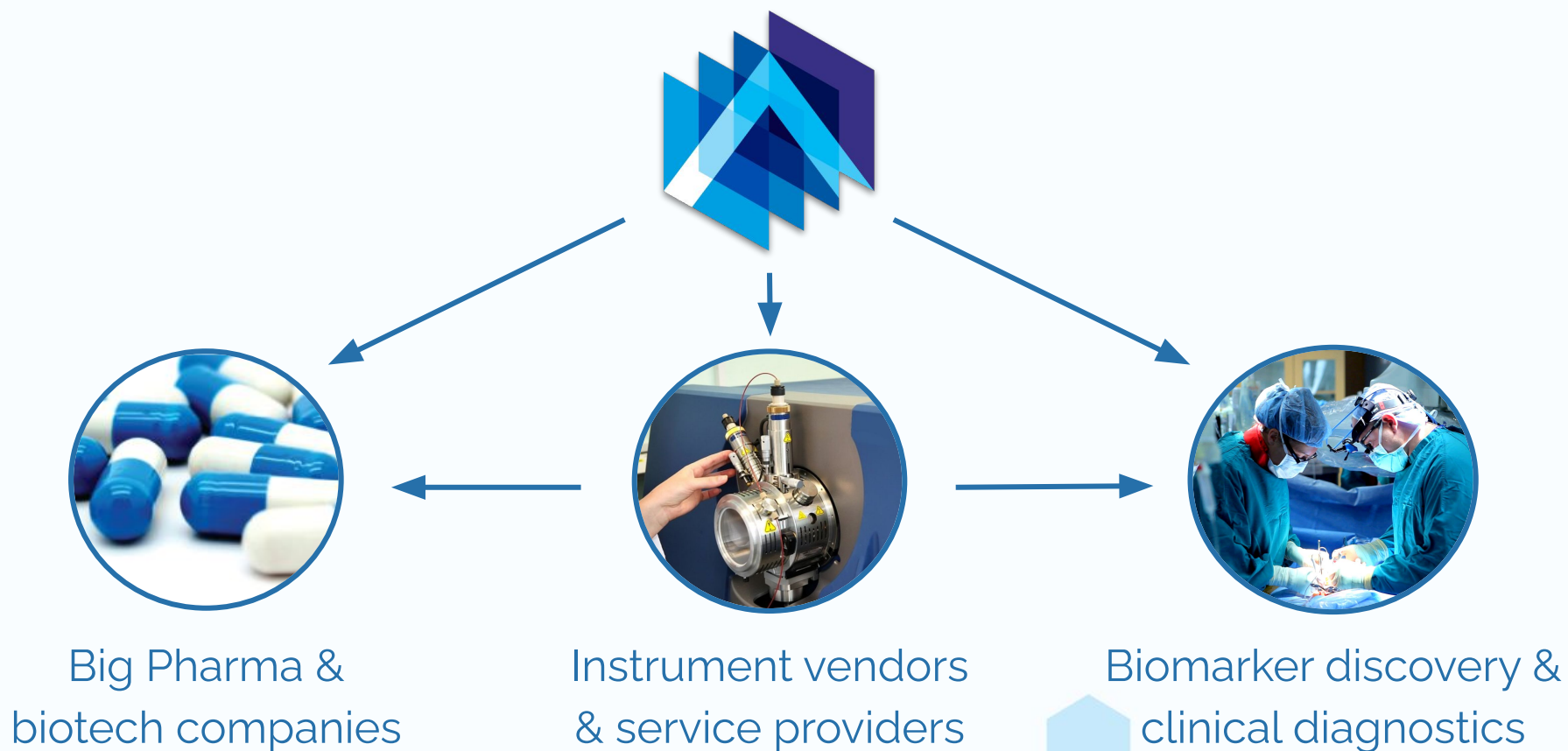


Same same, but different

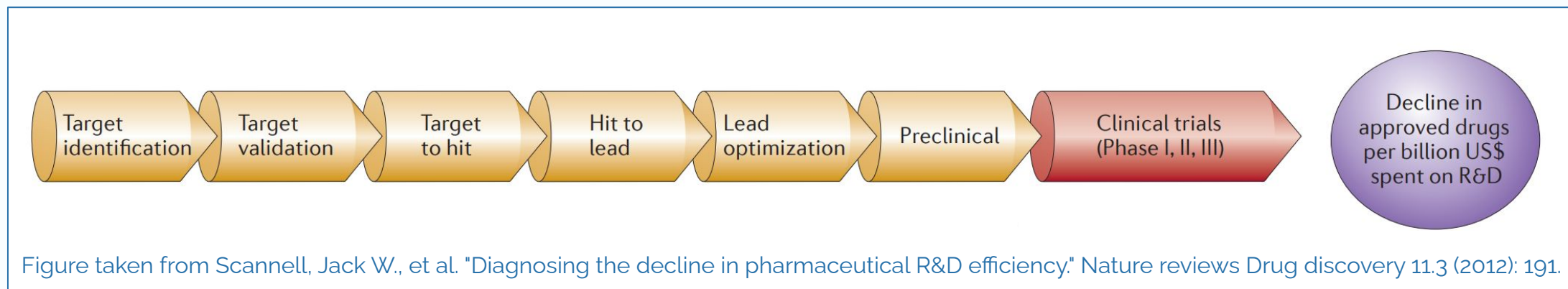
A brief overview of Aspect Analytics.

Customer segmentation

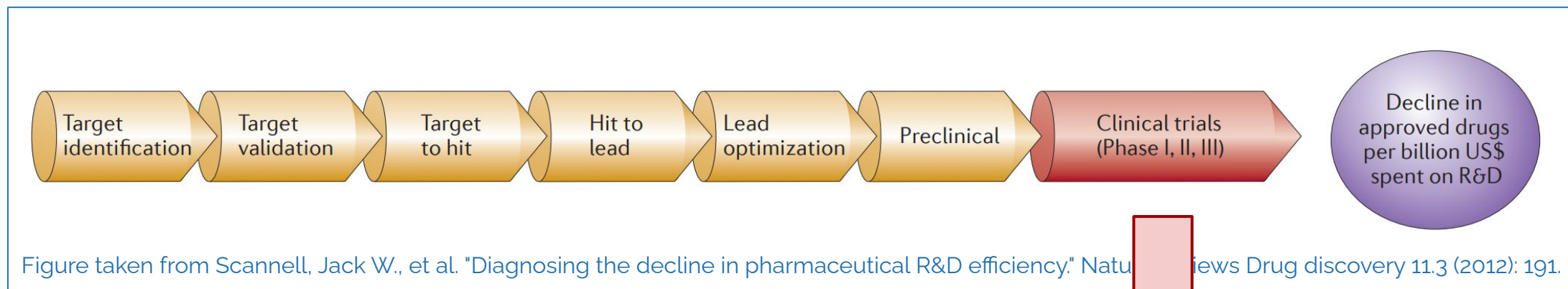
Focus on **industrial, high-throughput** applications of MSI technology.



The pharmaceutical R&D pipeline



The pharmaceutical R&D pipeline

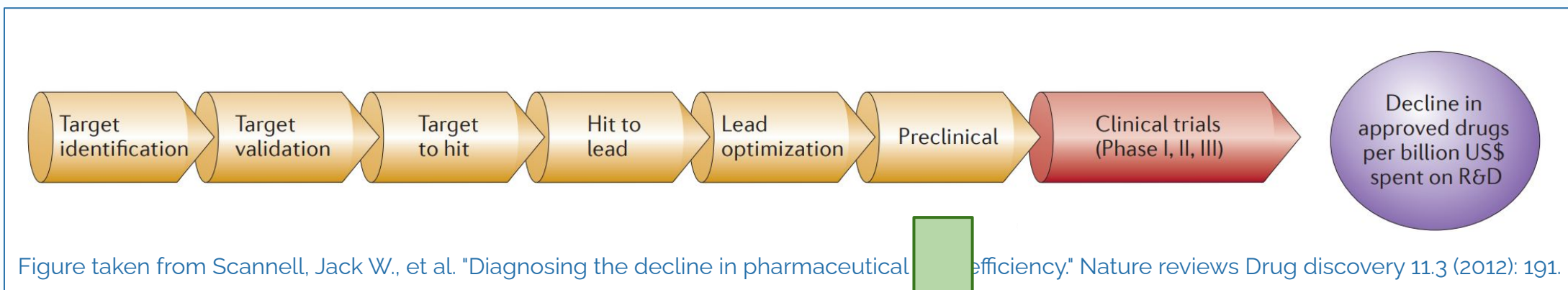


Only 12% of compounds entering clinical trials are ultimately approved by the FDA.¹

- inadequate efficiency (57%)²
- safety concerns (17%)²
- commercial reasons (22%)²

1. Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America. 2016 biopharmaceutical research industry profile.
2. Hwang, Thomas J., et al. "Failure of investigational drugs in late-stage clinical development and publication of trial results." *JAMA internal medicine* 176.12 (2016): 1826-1833.

The pharmaceutical R&D pipeline



Opportunities in preclinical research:

- ***"fail fast"***: culling unfit compounds early avoids major costs
- **deeper biological insights** can improve entire process

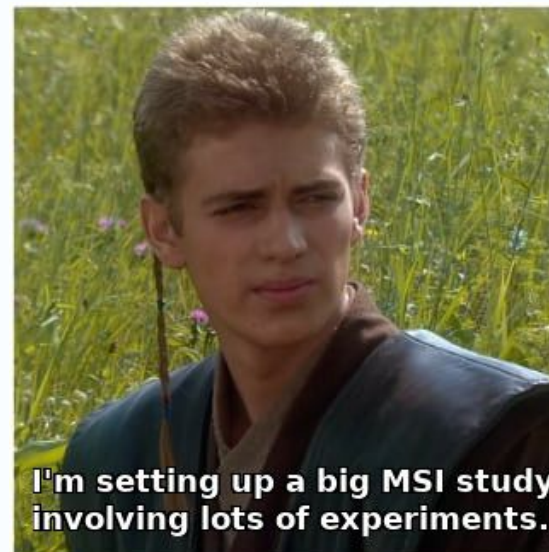
Key challenges in high-throughput

Optimizing human efficiency via workflows

- Full digital pipeline is split into work items
- Individual roles based on expertise
- Streamline communication & collaboration
- Automate data analysis steps when possible

Detecting potential issues via data-driven QC

- Pivotal for robust, high-throughput usage
- Requires deep knowledge of application
- Supported by detailed metadata
- Ideally fully automated



When you try to fail and you succeed ...

"When you operate at scale, failure is the norm." - distributed computing adage


In the context of MS imaging, *failures* can come in many forms, e.g.:

- **bad data:** problems with sample / sample prep, instrument issues, ...
- **poor data analysis:** information leaks, problematic assumptions, bad fit, ...
- **human error:** errors in data input / copying, communication issues, ...

How to deal with impending failures

- **observability:** can we identify the presence of certain issues? e.g., bad spectral quality
- **traceability:** can we identify the root cause of an issue? e.g., broken laser
- **prevention:** how to avoid this issue moving forward? e.g., laser QC protocol

Observability reduces risk

	high observability (issues can be detected reliably)	low observability (issues cannot be detected reliably)
low impact (probably does not affect conclusions)		
high impact (may significantly affect conclusions)		

Data-driven QC is key

Spend time once to gain time permanently

- Check key assumptions for each sample / batch in an automated way
- Run data-driven QC as a background task, notify team upon anomalies only

Improve reliability and confidence in core outputs

- Rest assured that large swaths of problems are checked by default
- Avoid structural failures that can compromise long-term success

Data-driven QC requires **well-curated meta-data**

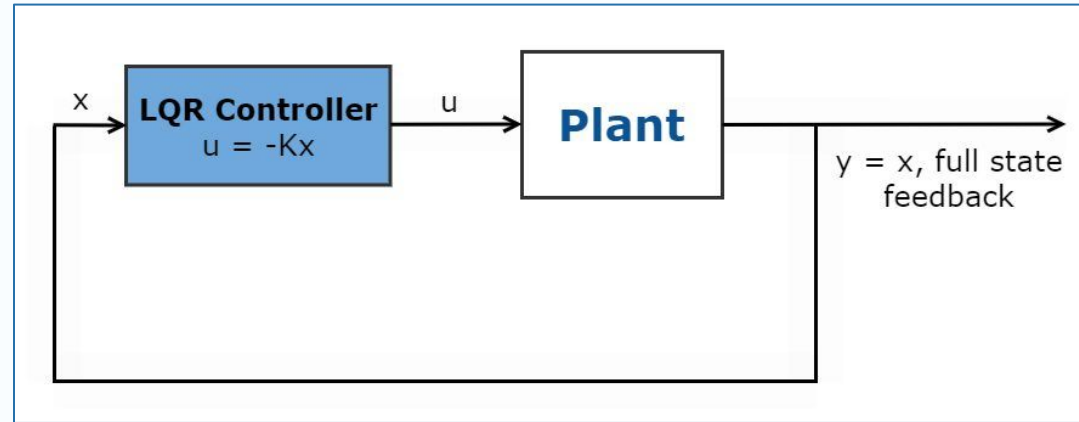
- info on all relevant levels: sample / ROI / measurement / ...
 - e.g., control vs. treated animal, technical/biological replicates, # laser shots, ...
- data lineage to enable traceability



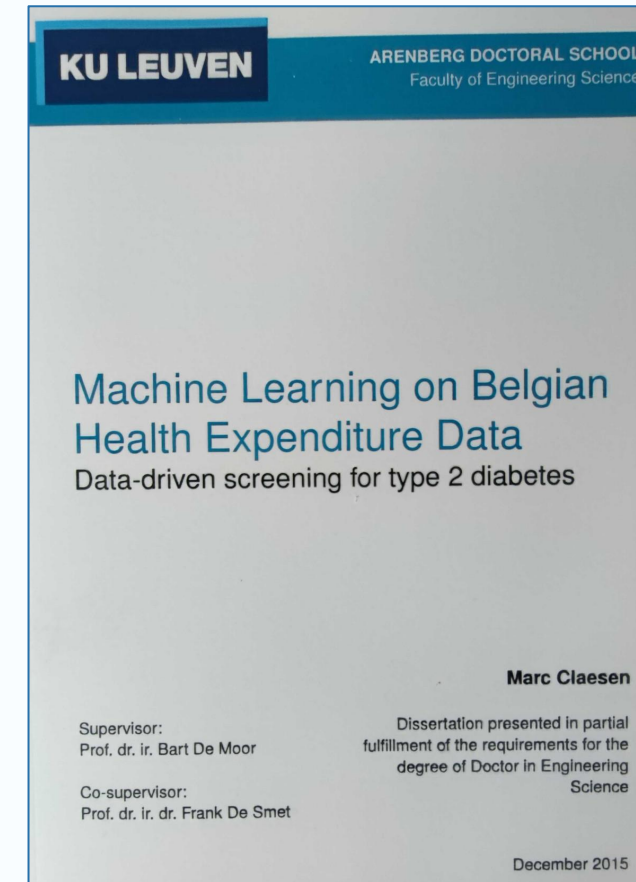
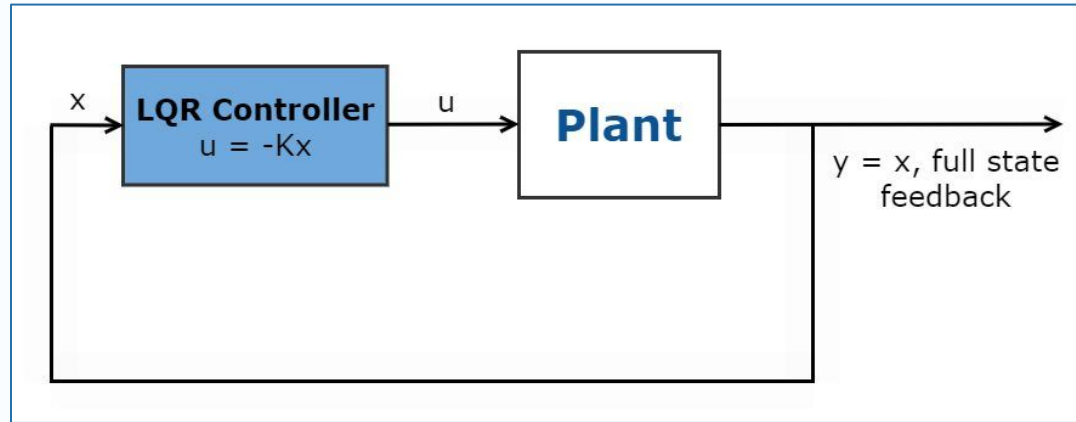
Conclusion

What a long, strange trip it's been

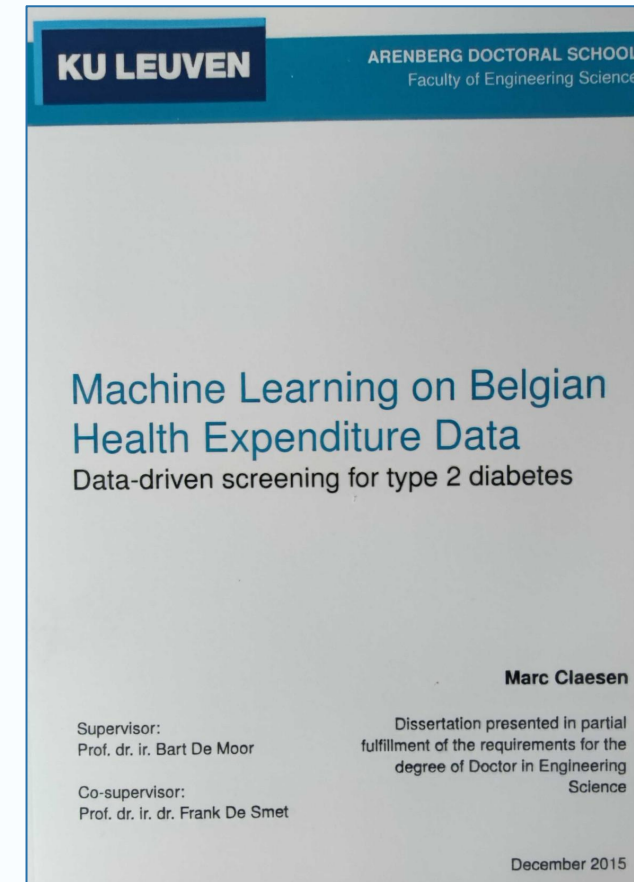
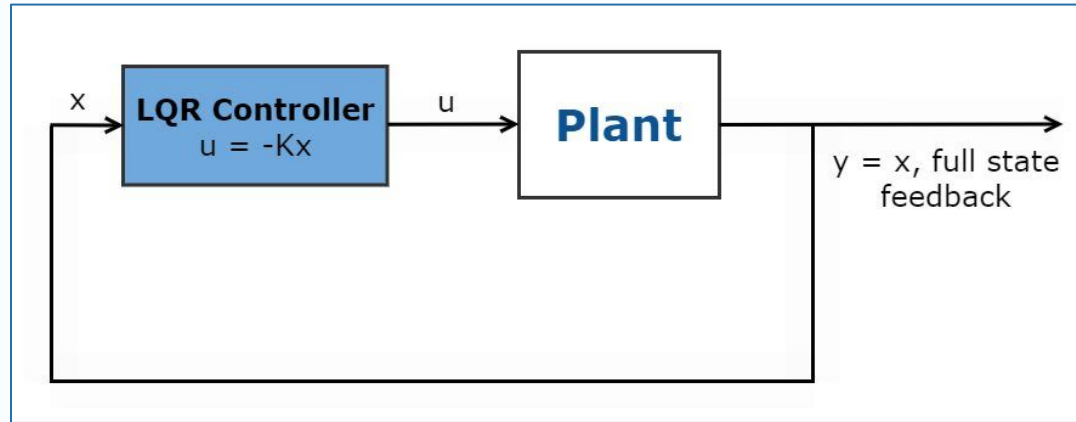
What a long, strange trip it's been



What a long, strange trip it's been



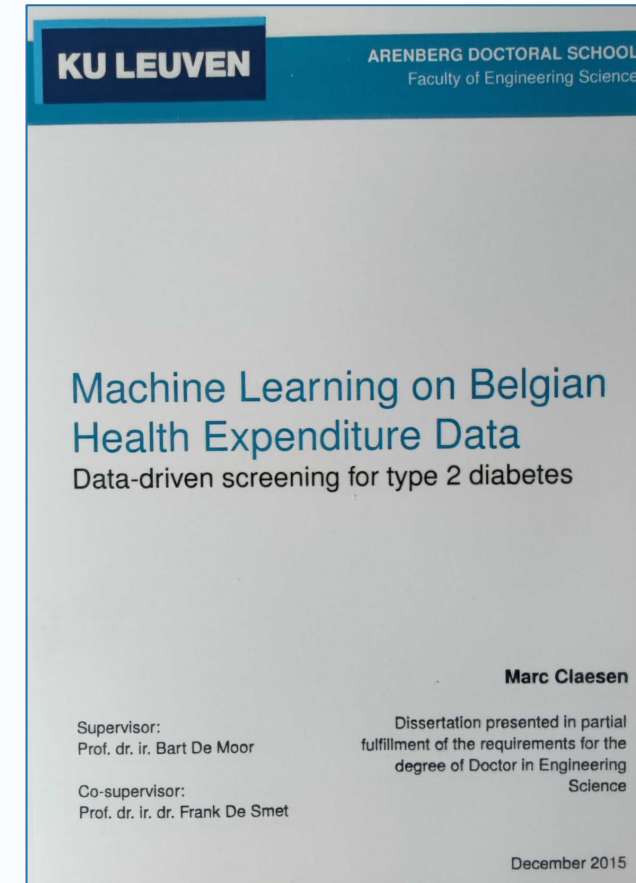
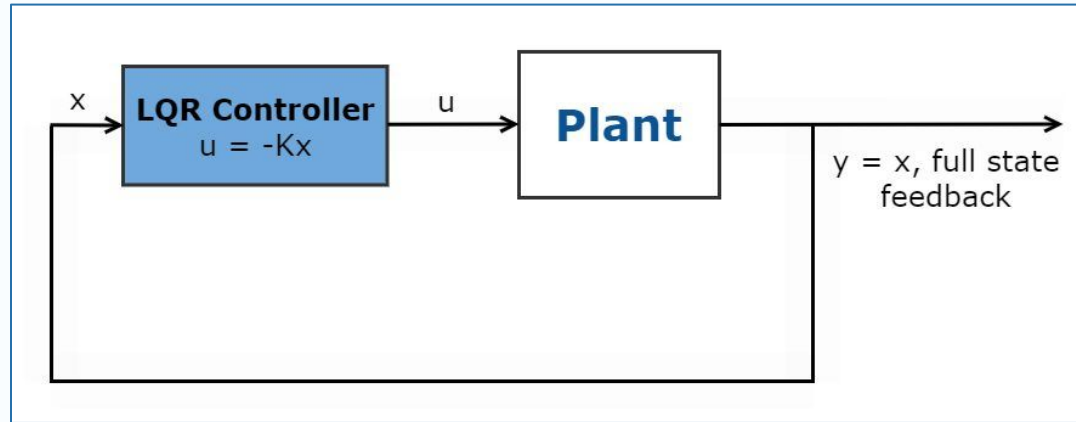
What a long, strange trip it's been



Aspect
Analytics



What a long, strange trip it's been



Let's go back to the roots!



A photograph of a large tree with thick, gnarled roots covered in moss, set in a forest. The roots are prominent in the foreground, spreading across the ground. The background shows a dense forest with green foliage and a stone wall in the distance.

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