# Supplementary Materials for Generalization of CNNs on Relational Reasoning with Bar Charts

#### **1** Overview

The following supplementary materials offer additional data that support or explain the main findings of our paper. In Section 2, we provide the performance of different network architectures examined in our first revisiting study trained with different hyper-parameters. Section 3 and 4 offer detailed experimental results of the IID and OOD tests, specifically, the mean and confidence intervals in figure 5 and 6 of the main paper. In Section 5, we report the generalization performance of CNNs that were guided by segmentation masks. Section 6 details the performance, measured by Intersection over Union (IoU), of mask-enhanced CNN under various levels of perturbations. Section 7 compares the completion time between CNNs and humans across various types of input data, demonstrating their relative efficiency. Section 8 shows the visualizations produced by four popular neural network interpretation methods. Finally, Section 9 provides the training and validation loss curves in our replication experiment of Haehn et al. [2] for investigating the training validity. These supplementary sections are designed to enhance the reader's understanding of our study by providing detailed data and in-depth analyses.

#### **2** Performance of different network architectures in the revisiting experiment

In our study, we trained multiple networks, including a multi-layer perceptron (MLP), traditional convolutional neural network architectures like AlexNet [6], LeNet [7], VGG19 [10] and ResNet152 [3], more modern designs like DenseNet [4] and EfficientNet [11], as well as a Relation Network [8] designed which tailored for relational reasoning. Table 1 reports the performance of different network architectures with different hyper-parameters in type 1 of the position-length experiment. We used 5-fold cross-validation, dividing the dataset into five equally sized subsets. We then iteratively used four subsets to train the model and reserved the remaining subset for validation. The best performance for each network was highlighted in bold. The best performance for VGG19 and ResNet152 was below -2.4, while other networks were above -2.4. Specifically, the best performance of the Relation Network which is designed for relational reasoning was 0.11, indicating poorer performance compared to VGG19 and ResNet152. Therefore, we chose VGG19 and ResNet152 as the primary focus for analysis in this paper.

Network	Optimizer	Learning rate	Momentum	Weight decay	Valida mean	Validation mean CI		st CI
		Iliah	Classic	X	0.65	0.15	0.65	0.17
MLP	SCDM	High	Nesterov	X	0.79	0.23	0.76	0.24
	SODM	Law	Classic	X	0.61	0.41	0.62	0.41
		Low	Nesterov	X	0.35	0.13	0.36	0.13
		Uiah	X	High	4.09	0.08	4.07	0.10
	AdamW	nigii	X	Low	4.09	0.09	4.07	0.08
	Adamv	Low	X	High	1.85	0.08	1.78	0.09
		LUW	×	Low	1.94	0.14	1.87	0.14
		Iliah	Classic	X	-0.30	0.19	-0.33	0.16
	SCDM	пign	Nesterov	X	-0.20	0.15	-0.22	0.14
A lev Net	SODM	Low	Classic	X	1.85	1.80	1.80	1.82
		LOW	Nesterov	X	2.51	1.88	2.52	1.85
AIEAINEL		High	×	High	-1.80	0.05	-1.79	0.04
	AdamW							

Table 1: Performance of different network Architectures with different hyper-parameters in type 1 of the position-length experiment, where the cell with X indicates that the corresponding parameter is invalid.

			×	Low	-2.00	0.31	-2.00	0.30
	-	Low	X	High	-2.12	0.09	-2.11	0.06
		LOW	×	Low	-1.87	0.05	-1.85	0.05
			Classic	x	-1 34	0.10	-1.32	0.09
		High	Nesterov	x	-1.54	0.10	-1.52	0.07
	SGDM -		Classic	×	-0.73	0.10	-0.73	0.11
		Low	Nesterov	X	-0.50	0.50	-0.51	0.50
LeNet			X	High	-1.90	0.02	-1.90	0.05
		High	x	Low	-1.99	0.05	-1.94	0.08
	AdamW -		X	High	-2.21	0.27	-2.21	0.26
		Low	×	Low	-1.91	0.09	-1.90	0.08
			Classic	X	1.43	0.05	1.44	0.05
	CODI	High	Nesterov	X	1.10	0.22	1.08	0.22
	SGDM -	т	Classic	X	1.41	0.15	1.40	0.16
VCC10		Low	Nesterov	×	1.04	0.27	1.05	0.27
VGG19		TT' 1	X	High	-2.32	0.11	-2.34	0.11
	A dam W	High	×	Low	-2.41	0.10	-2.42	0.09
	Adamw -	Low	×	High	-1.89	0.35	-1.90	0.34
		LOW	×	Low	-1.71	0.25	-1.72	0.25
		*** 1	Classic	X	-0.61	0.24	-0.64	0.26
	CODI	High	Nesterov	X	-0.60	0.21	-0.60	0.21
ResNet152 -	SGDM -	T	Classic	X	0.72	0.24	0.72	0.24
		Low	Nesterov	×	0.70	0.25	0.73	0.23
		TT' 1	X	High	-2.76	0.10	-2.76	0.10
	A 1 XX7	High	X	Low	-2.42	0.17	-2.42	0.17
	Adamw -	τ.	X	High	-2.71	0.10	-2.71	0.11
		Low	×	Low	-2.53	0.24	-2.53	0.25
			Classic	X	-0.34	0.25	-0.35	0.25
		High	Nesterov	X	-0.43	0.28	-0.38	0.20
	SGDM -		Classic	X	0.71	0.28	0.71	0.30
		Low	Nesterov	X	0.85	0.20	0.83	0.23
DenseNet			X	High	-2.17	0.49	-2.17	0.49
		High	×	Low	-2.33	0.28	-2.33	0.27
	AdamW -	T	×	High	-2.37	0.21	-2.36	0.21
		Low	×	Low	-2.29	0.30	-2.28	0.30
		TT' 1	Classic	X	0.96	0.17	0.96	0.16
	SCDM	High	Nesterov	×	0.91	0.10	0.88	0.09
	SGDM -	I	Classic	X	1.82	0.22	1.80	0.20
Eff al ant Nat		Low	Nesterov	×	1.34	0.27	1.34	0.27
Emcientivet		TT' 1	X	High	-0.01	1.81	-0.01	1.81
	A 1	High	×	Low	-2.17	0.19	-2.17	0.18
	Adamw -	T	×	High	-2.37	0.14	-2.37	0.14
		LOW	×	Low	-1.71	0.45	-1.69	0.44
			Classic	X	0.57	0.07	0.57	0.08
	CODM	Hıgh	Nesterov	×	0.53	0.08	0.49	0.06
	SGDM -	т.	Classic	X	1.08	0.18	1.09	0.17
Deletion Matrix 1		Low	Nesterov	×	0.96	0.14	0.91	0.15
Relation Network		II:	×	High	0.15	0.01	0.05	0.02
	AdamW	riigh	×	Low	0.16	0.02	0.12	0.02
	Auamw -	Low	X	High	0.14	0.03	0.06	0.02
		LOW	×	Low	0.11	0.04	0.09	0.06

# 3 Performance of ResNet152 on IID and OOD tests

In this section, we present the experimental results of ResNet152 generalization on the GRAPE dataset for standard and perturbed chart visualizations. Table 2 shows that the mean and confidence intervals of MLAE values produced by CNNs on performing generalization tests of nine parameters on five types of bar charts. Perturbation levels represent varying degrees of perturbation. We find that the relational reasoning ability of CNNs is heavily influenced by most visual parameters.

Table 2: The means and CIs of MLAE values produced by CNNs on performing generalization tests of nine parameters on five types of bar charts.

Perturb.	level	-4:	5%	-30	)%	-1:	5%	09	%	15	%	309	%	45%	6
		MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI
	Type	1 -2.44	0.16	-2.51	0.14	-2.52	0.14	-2.52	0.14	-2.51	0.15	-2.51	0.15	-2.53	0.14
<b>m</b> .1	Type 2	2 3.04	0.06	-2.50	0.16	-2.50	0.17	-2.40	0.21	-1.93	0.35	-2.01	0.24	-2.50	0.16
Title position	n Type:	3 -2.04 4 1.87	0.25	-2.14 1.86	0.23	-2.05	0.24	-2.02	0.24	-1.97	0.25	-2.02	0.25	-2.12	0.23
	Type :	5 1.66	0.23	-1.98	0.22	-2.07	0.21	-2.06	0.23	-2.01	0.25	-1.94	0.24	-2.03	0.22
	-77														
Perturb	. level		-3	-	2	-	1	(	)	1		2		3	
		MLAE	E CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI
	Туре	1 -2.52	0.14	-2.52	0.15	-2.52	0.14	-2.52	0.14	-2.51	0.14	-2.51	0.14	-2.49	0.14
<b>T</b>	Туре	2 -2.49	0.18	-2.50	0.17	-2.50	0.18	-2.50	0.17	-2.49	0.18	-2.50	0.18	-2.50	0.18
Title font siz	e Type	3 -2.05	0.23	-2.07	0.23	-2.05	0.23	-2.03	0.23	-2.05	0.23	-2.03	0.23	-2.08	0.23
	Type	5 -2.07	0.22	-2.07	0.22	-2.07	0.22	-2.08	0.22	-2.07	0.22	-2.07	0.22	-2.00	0.22
	-71-														
Pertur	rb. level		-25		-20		-15		-10		-5	(	)	5	
		ML	AE C	I ML	AE CI	MLA	AE CI	MLA	E CI	MLA	E CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI
	Ту	ype 1 4.3	4 0.	44 4.32	0.4	45 4.40	0.5	2 4.31	0.45	5 -2.16	0.31	-2.52	0.14	-2.52	0.14
	Ту	ype 2 4.3	1 0.	45 4.32	0.4	4.32	0.4	4 4.34	0.43	3 4.40	0.57	-2.45	0.21	-2.50	0.17
Background	color Ty	ype 3 4.3	4 0.	43 4.44	0.5	58 4.07	0.6	6 -0.92	0.69	9 -1.98	0.24	-2.04	0.23	-2.03	0.23
	I) Ti	/pe 4 4.8/	50. 50	55 5.17 50 3.89	0.4	12 5.30 12 4.00	0.4	5 4.00 1 -0.28	1.23	-1.75	0.27	-1.91	0.22	-1.82	0.20
		pe 5 5.0			0.	12 1.00	0.1	1 0.20	0.54		0.50	2.00	0.20	2.00	0.20
Perturb. 1	evel	-15		-10		-5		0		5		10		15	
		MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI
	Type 1	-2.08	0.27 -	2.40	0.16	-2.50	0.14	-2.52	0.14	-2.50	0.14	-2.40	0.17	-2.27	0.23
	Type 2	-0.79	1.61 ·	2.46	0.20	-2.59	0.15	-2.50	0.17	-2.35	0.24	-2.08	0.33	-1.75	0.38
Bar color	Type 3	-2.09	0.22 -	2.08	0.22	-2.06	0.23	-2.04	0.23	-1.99	0.24	-1.95	0.24	-1.91	0.24
	Type 4 Type 5	3.69 1.31	1.09 · 0.91 ·	1.43	0.38	-1.89 -1.97	0.24	-1.90 -2.08	0.22	-1.89	0.22	-1.87	0.22	-1.85	0.22
	Type 5	1.51	0.71	1.17	0.55	1.97	0.51	2.00	0.20	2.00	0.20	2.07	0.20	2.05	0.27
Perturb.	level	-5	5	0		5		10	)	15	5	20		25	
		MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI
	Type 1	-2.51	0.15	-2.52	0.14	-2.51	0.14	-2.48	0.15	-2.45	0.17	-2.34	0.23	-2.15	0.34
·	Type 2	-2.50	0.18	-2.50	0.17	-2.50	0.18	-2.45	0.19	-2.28	0.28	-1.84	0.69	-0.91	1.58
Stroke color	Type 3	-2.03	0.23	-2.04	0.23	-2.04	0.23	-2.04	0.23	-2.02	0.23	-1.95	0.25	-1.83	0.30
	Type 4	-1.92	0.23	-1.90	0.22	-1.86	0.22	-1./9	0.25	-1.50	0.46	-0.44 -0.25	1.57	0.56	2.10
	Type 3	-2.07	0.27	-2.00	0.20	-2.05	0.50	-1.09	0.54	-1.47	0.50	-0.25	1.75	1.04	2.50

Perturb.	level		-3		-2	2	-1		0		1		2		3	
		MLA	E CI	N	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI
	Type 1			-	0.36	1.05	-1.71	0.43	-2.52	0.14	-2.08	0.30	-0.55	0.65		
	Type 2	0.90	0.7	- 27	0.42	0.57	-2.09	0.22	-2.50	0.17	-0.10	0.29	1.00	0.35	1.39	0.53
Bar width	Type 3			-	1.72	0.27	-1.96	0.23	-2.03	0.23	-1.82	0.24	-1.58	0.26		
	Type 4	5.72	0.2	29 5	5.61	0.31	4.22	0.74	-1.91	0.22	0.72	0.61	5.47	0.34	4.36	0.54
	Type 5	1.27	0.6	57 -	0.03	0.47	-0.59	0.58	-2.08	0.28	-1.27	0.50	2.19	0.77	2.26	0.55
										_						
Pertu	rb. level			-1		C	)		1							
			MLA	EC	CI	MLAE	CI	MLA	E CI							
	Typ	be 1	-0.79	0	).85	-2.52	0.14	-1.37	0.36	-						
	Тур	be 2	3.84	0	).67	-2.50	0.17	3.67	0.86							
Stroke wid	lth Typ	be 3	-0.85	0	.97	-2.03	0.23	-2.07	0.26							
	Typ	be 4	4.34	0	).51	-1.91	0.22	0.63	0.49							
	Тур	be 5	5.60	0	).41	-2.08	0.28	0.71	0.60							
										-						
Perturb	. level		-3			-2	-	1	0		1		2		3	
		MI	LAE (	CI	MLA	E CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI	MLAE	CI
	Type 1	4.2	6 0	).47	2.06	0.54	-2.10	0.21	-2.52	0.14	-1.27	0.30	3.92	0.54	4.26	0.47
	Type 2	2 -2.4	49 (	).16	-2.50	0.17	-2.50	0.17	-2.50	0.17	-2.51	0.18	-2.52	0.19	-2.51	0.20
Dot position	n Type 3	3 1.2	8 1	.04	3.71	0.62	-1.79	0.25	-2.03	0.23	-1.69	0.28	3.78	0.66	4.18	0.49
	Type 4	2.7	6 (	).72	0.55	0.82	-1.83	0.26	-1.91	0.22	-1.75	0.34	1.69	0.93	1.88	1.09
	Type :	0.6	0 1	.10	-1.06	0.66	-1./9	0.36	-2.08	0.28	-1.64	0.38	-0.43	0.99	1.29	1.04
Perturb	o. level		1-9 94-	-100		10-93										
		N	ILAE	CI	М	LAE	CI									
	Туре	1 4.	.76	0.42	2 -2	.52	0.14									
	Туре	2 1.	.69	1.4	1 -2	.50	0.17									
Bar length	Туре	3 4.	.52	0.6	8 -2	.03	0.23									
	Type	4 1.	.94	0.6	1 -1	.91	0.22									

# 4 Robustness comparison between CNNs and humans under the largest perturbation

-2.08

0.28

0.56

Type 5

2.02

In this section, we report the comparative data of performance and generalization in CNNs and human subjects. Table 3 presents the mean and CI of MLAE values produced by humans and CNNs on five types of bar charts without and with the largest level perturbations on eight parameters. We observe that humans are more robust than CNNs, with all tested levels of the most influential parameters. We surmise that while humans are primarily swayed by the length of the bars, CNNs are impacted by various other factors.

Table 3: The means and 95%CIs of MLAE values produced by CNNs and humans on five types of bar charts without and with the largest level perturbations on eight parameters.

Type	Parameter	С	NN	Hu	iman
51		mean	95%CI	mean	95%CI
	Standard	-2.47	0.02	1 40	0.38
	Title position	-2.41	0.02	1.44	0.37
	Stroke width	-1 18	0.02	1 40	0.50
	Bar width	0.18	0.15	1.28	0.44
Type 1	Bkgd color	3 97	0.09	1.20	0.46
Type I	Stroke color	-1 75	0.09	1.12	0.40
	Bar color	-1.95	0.05	0.90	0.45
	Bar length	4 42	0.10	2.66	0.24
	Dot position	3.92	0.09	1.74	0.32
	Standard	2.20	0.02	1 05	0.22
	Standard Title position	-2.39	0.03	1.85	0.32
	The position	2.95	0.05	1.88	0.31
	Stroke width	3.34	0.13	2.21	0.20
T	Bar widin	0.80	0.09	1.80	0.34
Type 2	Bkgd color	3.99	0.09	2.03	0.33
	Stroke color	-0.03	0.18	1.39	0.39
	Bar color	-0.10	0.17	1.74	0.30
	Bar length	1.01	0.17	2.63	0.26
	Dot position	-2.40	0.03	1.88	0.24
	Standard	-1.91	0.05	1.02	0.52
	Title position	-1.89	0.06	1.17	0.45
	Stroke width	-1.91	0.05	1.37	0.41
	Bar width	-1.67	0.05	1.60	0.40
Type 3	Bkgd color	4.03	0.09	1.35	0.39
	Stroke color	-1.47	0.10	0.75	0.49
	Bar color	-1.83	0.05	1.09	0.38
	Bar length	4.21	0.10	2.64	0.33
	Dot position	1.33	0.14	1.71	0.39
	Standard	-1.81	0.05	1.92	0.35
	Title position	-1.75	0.06	1.53	0.40
	Stroke width	0.53	0.08	2.36	0.30
	Bar width	5.55	0.05	2.21	0.30
Type 4	Bkgd color	4.49	0.10	1.78	0.47
	Stroke color	0.96	0.19	1.95	0.34
	Bar color	3.08	0.16	2.13	0.25
	Bar length	1.88	0.13	3.02	0.31
	Dot position	1.80	0.14	2.20	0.25
	Standard	-1.91	0.06	2.14	0.35
	Title position	1.41	0.08	2.22	0.34
	Stroke width	0.59	0.09	2.22	0.30
	Bar width	1.40	0.11	1.94	0.41
Type 5	Bkgd color	3.63	0.09	2.31	0.40
71	Stroke color	1.42	0.22	1.97	0.44
	Bar color	1.59	0.15	2.16	0.29
	Bar length	1.69	0.15	2.70	0.31
	Dot position	1.42	0.14	2.20	0.29

# 5 Quantitative analysis of Grad-CAM map

In this section, we report quantitative evaluation of all test images by calculating the Intersection over Union (IoU) between the area of target bars and the high-intensity region of the Grad-CAM map. By incorporating IoU as a quantitative evaluation metric, we can gain deeper insights into the effectiveness of the Grad-CAM technique in highlighting relevant regions in the input images. Table 4 presents the IoU values of the type 1 over different levels of perturbations of one of

eight parameters, as well as the IoU values after mask-enhanced. When without masks, this indicates that the CNN regions mainly used for relational inference on bar charts are rarely the target bars. After mask-enhanced, the segmentation masks significantly enhance the ability of CNNs to localize the target bars in bar charts.

Table 4:	The Interse	ction over	Union bety	veen the hi	gh-intensity	regions in	Grad-CAM t	nap and target h	bars areas.
14010	1110 11100100		emen eer		Su moonore	regions in	0144 01 1111	map and tanget t	ours ur ous.

	Perturb. level	-	3	-	2	-	1	(	0	-	1	2	2		3
		Mean	CI												
	Title position	0.30	0.09	0.30	0.09	0.30	0.09	0.30	0.09	0.30	0.09	0.30	0.09	0.30	0.09
	Title font size	0.30	0.09	0.30	0.09	0.30	0.09	0.30	0.09	0.30	0.09	0.30	0.09	0.30	0.09
	Bkgd color	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09
Maalr	Bar color	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09
WIASK	Stroke color	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.29	0.09
	Bar width			0.25	0.06	0.27	0.07	0.30	0.09	0.32	0.10	0.34	0.11		
	Stroke width					0.30	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.30	0.09				
	Dot position	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.09
	Bar length							0.28	0.09	0.12	0.02				
	Title position	0.009	0.029	0.009	0.028	0.009	0.026	0.008	0.025	0.008	0.024	0.008	0.024	0.009	0.027
	Title font size	0.009	0.027	0.009	0.027	0.009	0.026	0.009	0.026	0.009	0.026	0.009	0.026	0.009	0.026
	Bkgd color	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.000	0.002	0.001	0.011	0.004	0.020	0.009	0.026	0.010	0.029
Tuna 1	Bar color	0.028	0.050	0.025	0.047	0.018	0.039	0.009	0.027	0.004	0.019	0.002	0.017	0.002	0.016
Type 1	Stroke color	0.008	0.025	0.009	0.026	0.010	0.028	0.011	0.029	0.011	0.030	0.011	0.030	0.011	0.029
	Bar width			0.001	0.000	0.000	0.006	0.009	0.026	0.013	0.036	0.017	0.043		
	Stroke width					0.013	0.033	0.009	0.026	0.003	0.016				
	Dot position	0.009	0.026	0.009	0.027	0.009	0.027	0.009	0.026	0.009	0.026	0.009	0.026	0.009	0.026
	Bar length							0.009	0.026	0.003	0.177				

## 6 Performance of segmentation mask-enhanced CNN

In this section, we present data supporting our approach to enhancing CNN generalization with segmentation masks, showing improved robustness and generalization. Table 5 shows how MLAE values change over different levels of perturbations of one of eight parameters in mask-enhanced CNN model. We find that the robustness of CNNs against perturbations in visual encodings of bar charts, such as title position, background color, and bar color, has significantly improved. While exhibiting improved robustness against various perturbations, the mask-enhanced CNN model remains susceptible to alterations in bar width, stroke width and bar length.

Perturb. level	-3	3	-2	2	- ]	[	0		1		2		3	
	Mean	CI												
Title position	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12
Title font size	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12
Bkgd color	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12
Bar color	-2.51	0.13	-2.55	0.12	-2.57	0.12	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12	-2.57	0.12	-2.56	0.12
Stroke color	-2.58	0.11	-2.58	0.12	-2.57	0.12	-2.57	0.12	-2.56	0.12	-2.55	0.13	-2.53	0.13
Bar width			0.52	0.46	-1.03	0.43	-2.58	0.12	-1.43	0.41	-0.70	0.45		
Stroke width					-2.37	0.18	-2.58	0.12	-2.45	0.16				
Dot position	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12	-2.58	0.12	-2.59	0.12	-2.59	0.11	-2.60	0.11
Bar length							-2.58	0.12	2.28	1.09				

Table 5: Generalization performance of CNNs provided with segmentation masks.

## 7 Comparison of completion time between CNNs and humans

We recorded the total time each participant took to complete the experiments and compared it with the ResNet152's inference time on the test set. The box plot in Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of completion time for humans and CNNs across different types. The results showed that human inference time was significantly longer than that of CNNs in all types.



Figure 1: The completion time of humans and CNNs across different types of charts.

#### 8 Visualizations from different neural network interpretation methods

In this section, we employ various neural network interpretation techniques, including Grad-CAM [9], LayerCAM [5], Score-CAM [12] and Deep Feature Factorization [1], to gain insights into the behavior of CNNs trained on our tasks. As shown in Figure 2, these methods can yield different results, reflecting the broader challenge in the XAI community of determining which techniques reliably capture the true decision-making process of neural networks. This variability indicates that different methods may emphasize distinct regions of importance, which suggests that caution is necessary when interpreting these saliency maps.



Figure 2: The example visualizations of four neural network interpretation methods.

## 9 Loss curves for training and validation

In our replication of Haehn et al. [2], all our models outperformed their best model (VGG19 with an MLAE of 3.51), including even the simple MLP (MLAE of 0.35). Given this unexpected outcome, we reviewed the training process by comparing the training and validation loss curves to rule out issues such as overfitting.

Figure 3 shows the training and validation loss curves of four example network architectures — ResNet152, VGG19, Relation Network, and MLP — each trained with hyperparameters that produce the best performance. These curves represent the Mean Squared Error (MSE) and Log Absolute Error (LAE) across training epochs. Although MSE is used as the training objective function, its values are too small to effectively reflect the differences in model performance. Therefore, we use LAE to better capture and signify these variations.

The training curves demonstrate a clear downward trend as the epochs advance, indicating effective learning from the training dataset. Similarly, the validation curves mirror this trend, suggesting that the models are generalizing well to the validation set. These observations imply that the models of different architectures are learning effectively without evident signs of overfitting.



Figure 3: Loss curves for training and validation of four example neural networks.

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