



Let's not confirm (or falsify) our models

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I argue that it is misguided to think that the target of confirmation (or falsification or validation) in model evaluation is the computer model itself. It is better to conceive of model evaluation as an activity that investigates hypotheses about models, including hypotheses about the adequacy of models for particular purposes. I illustrate how this shift away from confirming/falsifying models to confirming/falsifying hypotheses about their adequacy-for-purpose can make a difference in practice – for example, when it comes to selecting performance metrics. I further suggest that such a shift in thinking can help to prevent a common problem in model evaluation that I call 'confidence creep'.