



# The Forefront of Fraud Fighting

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# ABOUT FEEDZAI

## MISSION

**KEEP COMMERCE SAFE & CREATE  
A BETTER CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE  
THROUGH MACHINE LEARNING**

### QUICK FACTS

- 320+ employees and growing
- Founded by data scientists and aerospace engineers
- 20% of top 25 world banks (excl. China)
- Series C funded: \$82M raised to date
- Headquarters in Portugal with offices in Silicon Valley, New York City, Atlanta, Hong Kong, London, Lisbon, Coimbra and Porto.

## INVESTORS



## WHAT OTHERS SAY

The U.S. market fraud prevention just got a new player.



Ranked as a cool technology to watch.



Startups that are owning the data game.



Feedzai's machine learning is the next wave.



Payment Card Management: Essential tools for U.S. card issuers





Source: itgovernance.co.uk

# How fraud starts: Skimming



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIKi1URjiwA>

# AGENDA

1. Detecting Points-of-Compromise
2. Feature Engineering at Scale
3. Automatic Machine Learning
4. Deep Learning
5. Reject Inference and Counterfactual Analysis

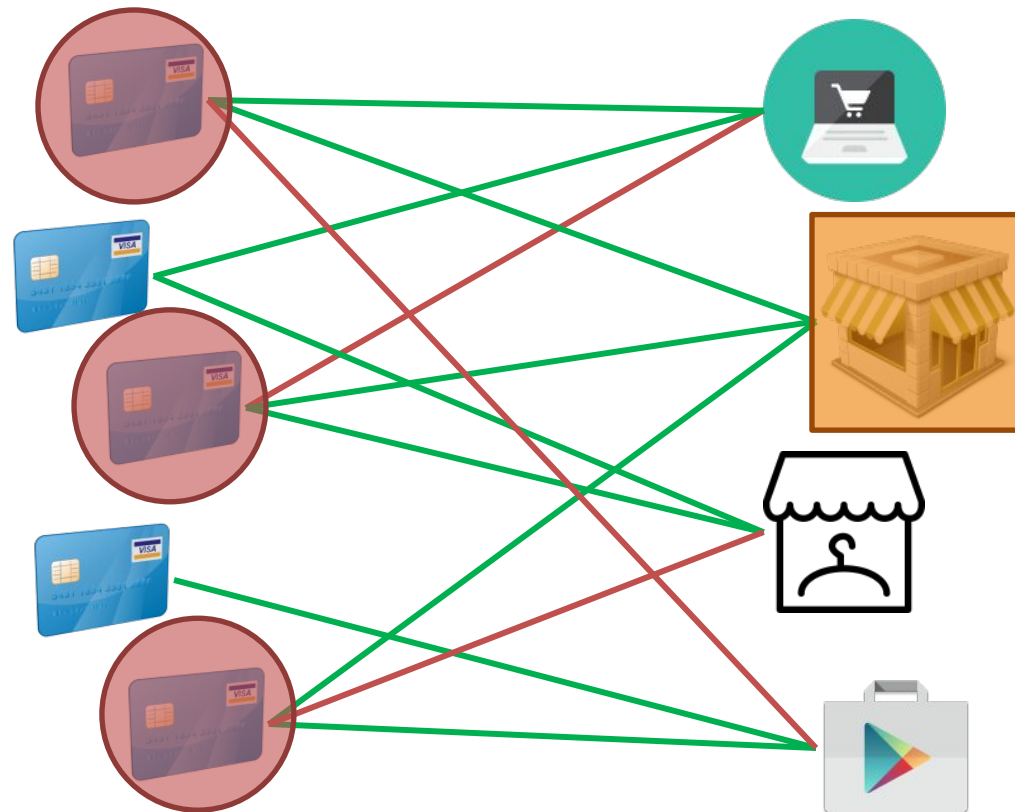
# BreachRadar: Detecting Points-of-Compromise





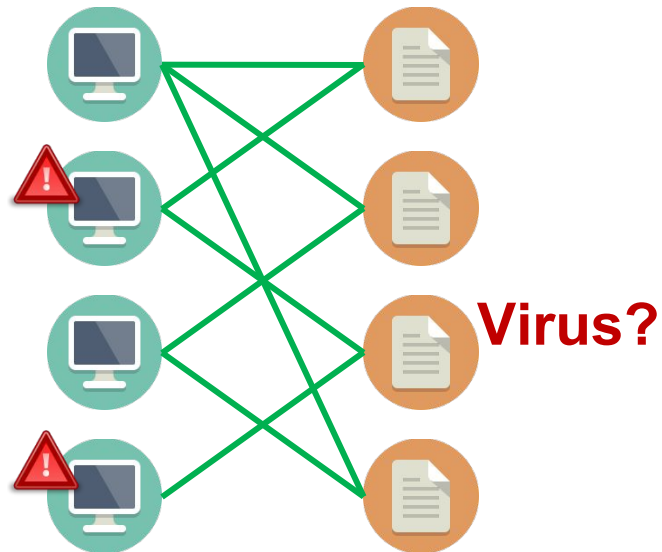


# Imagine you work at Feedzai





**Given:** Bipartite graph and “victim nodes”.  
**Find:** “Infectious nodes”.



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## Given:

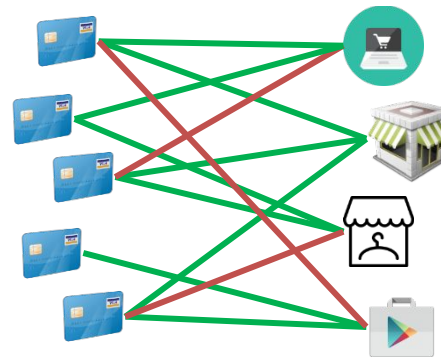
- > 100M credit cards, > 1B transactions;
  - Fraud labels.
- 

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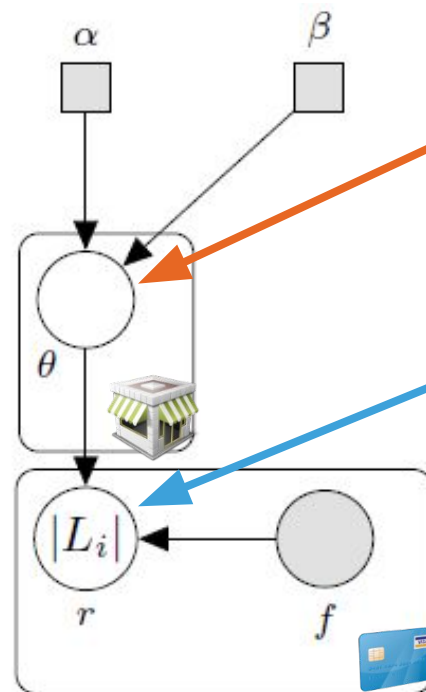
## Find:

The most likely Points-of-Compromise.

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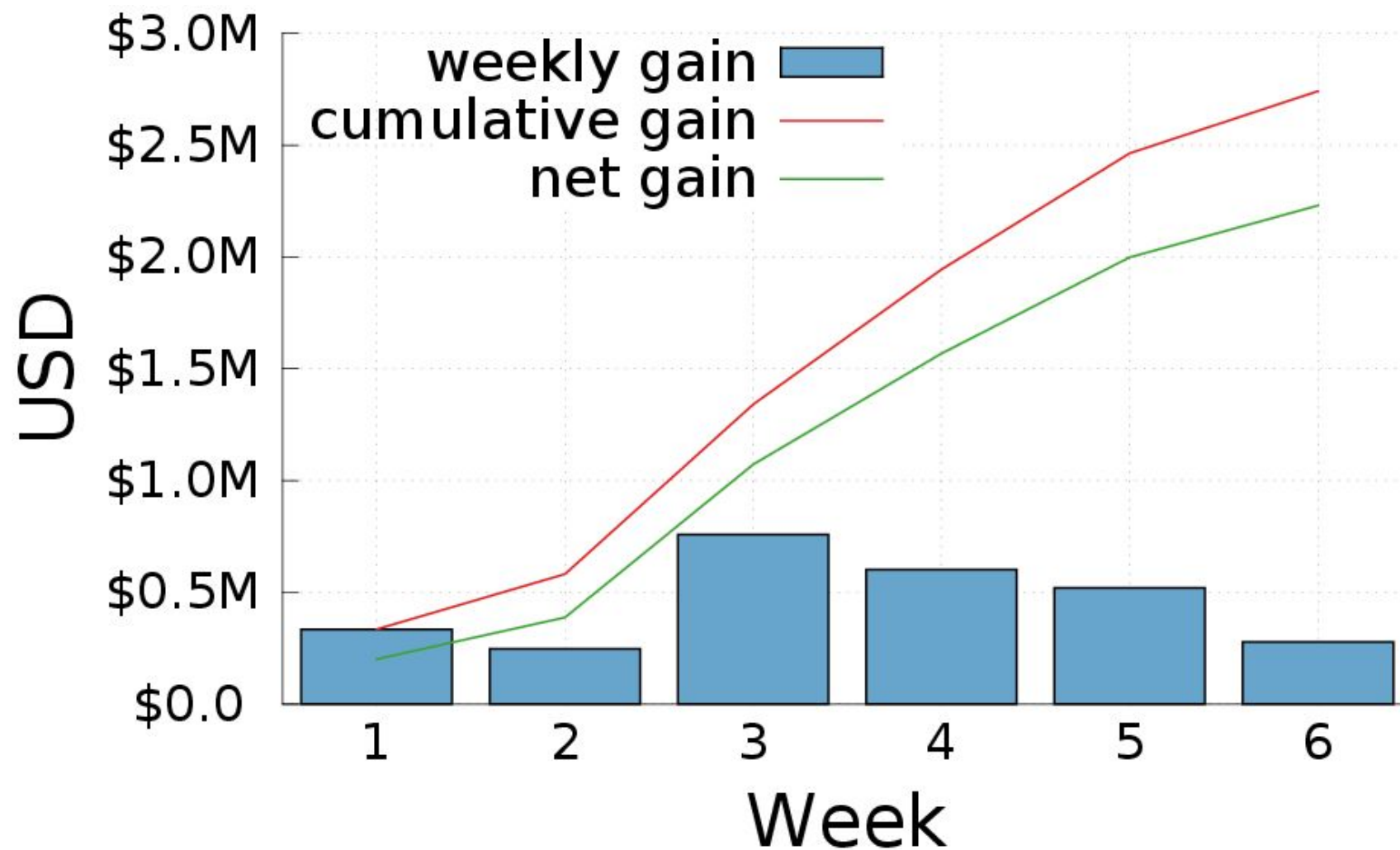
**Problem:** Cards/locations with many transactions influence results disproportionately.



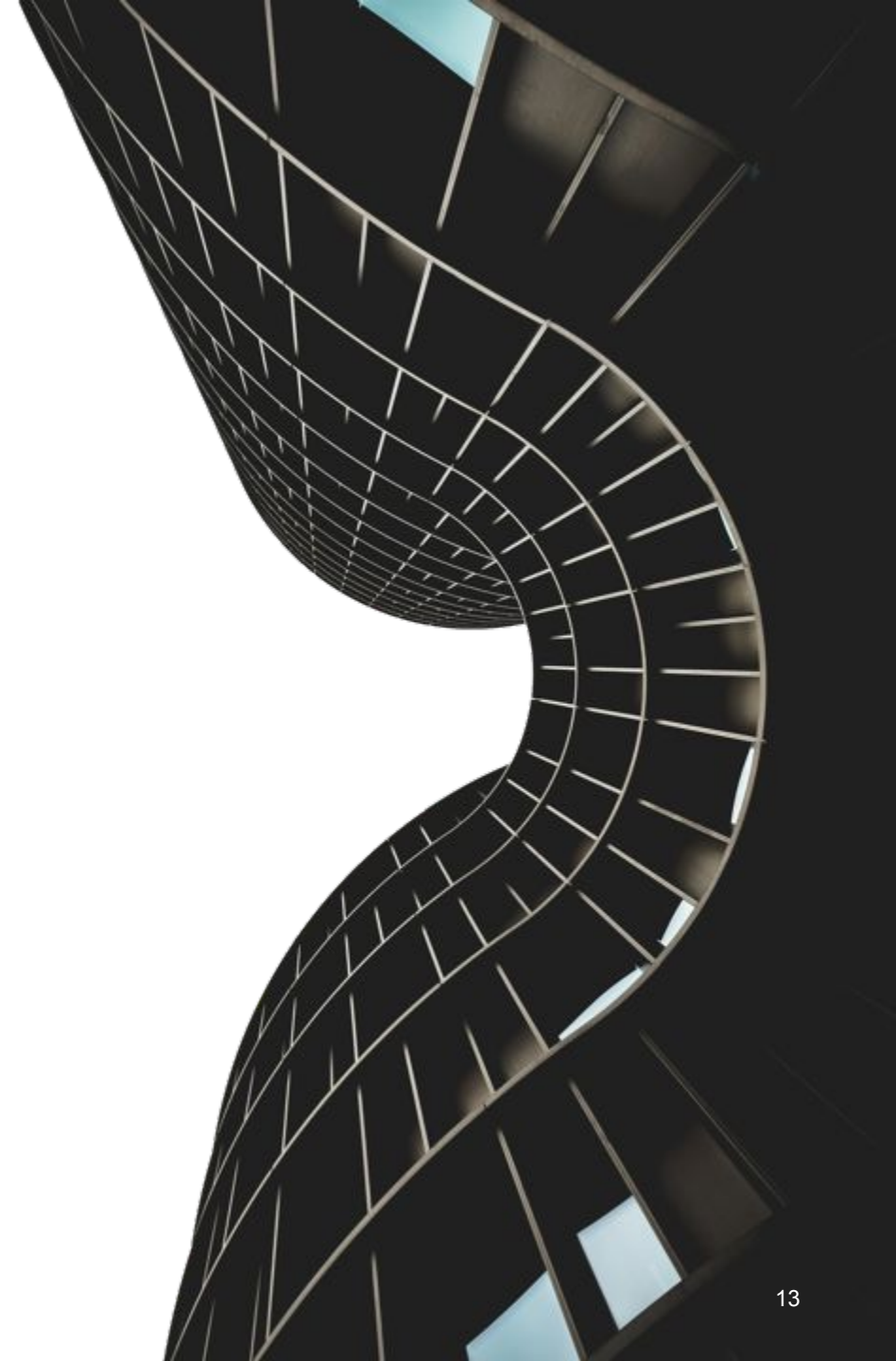
Probability of being compromised.

Blame each compromised card assigns to each merchant.

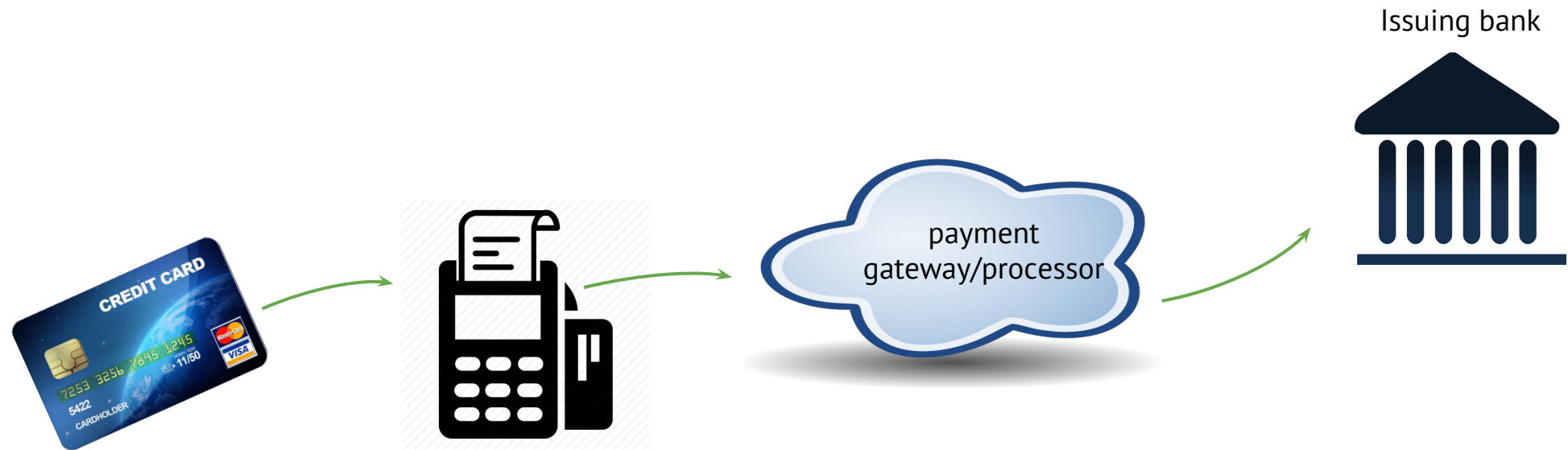
**Alternating Optimization:** cards *agree* on most likely mutual Points-of-Compromise.



# Lightweight Profiles

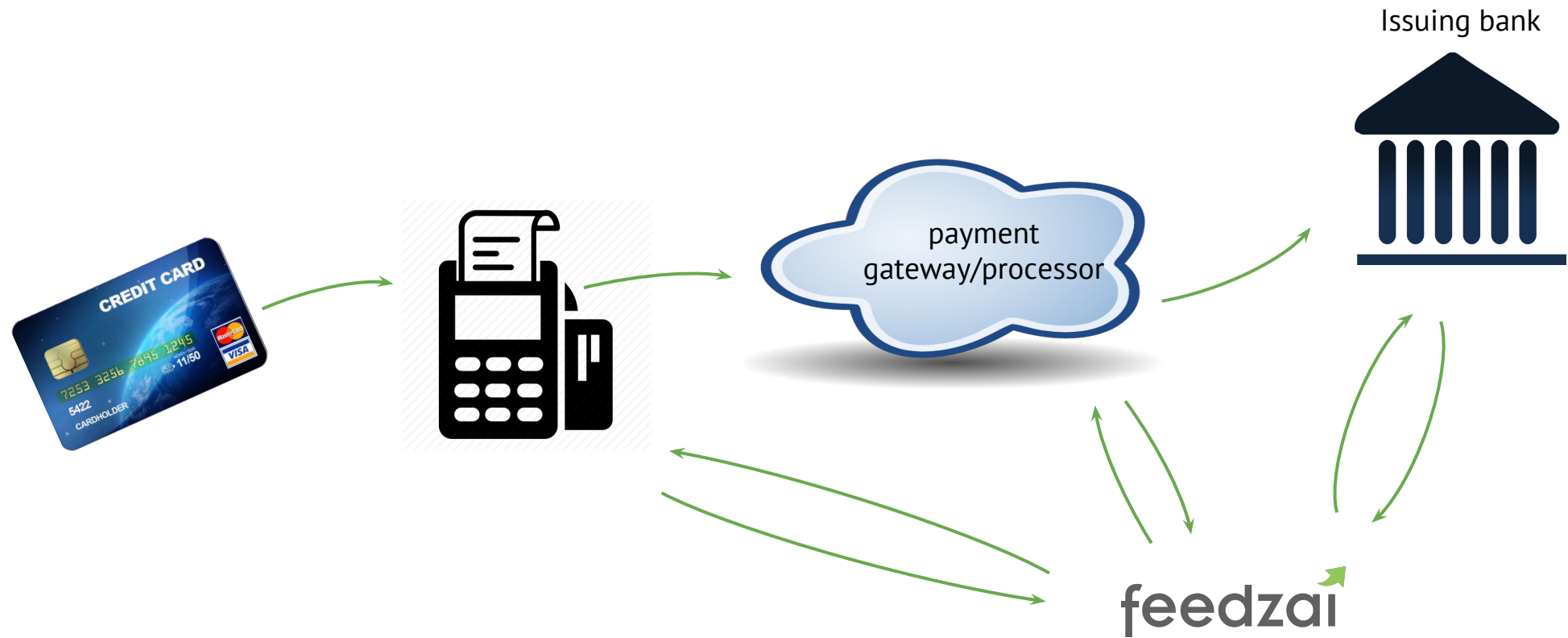


# Life of a transaction

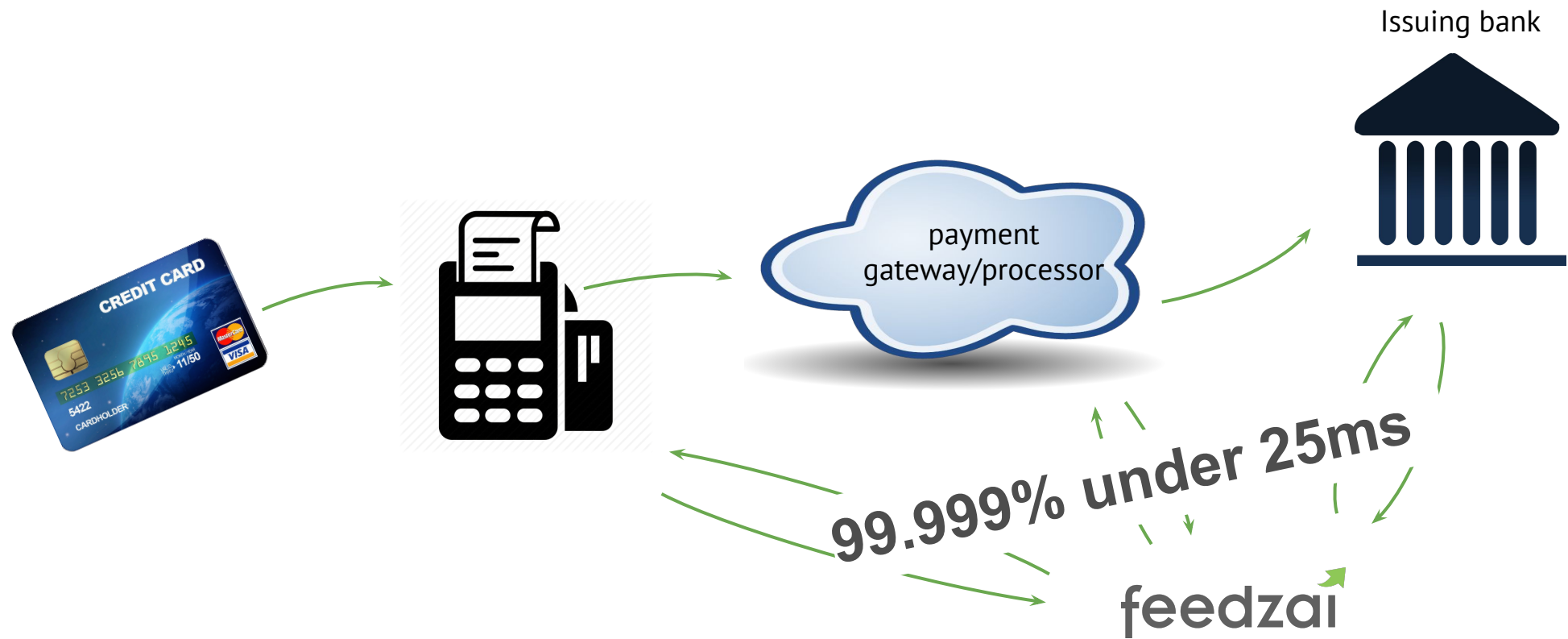


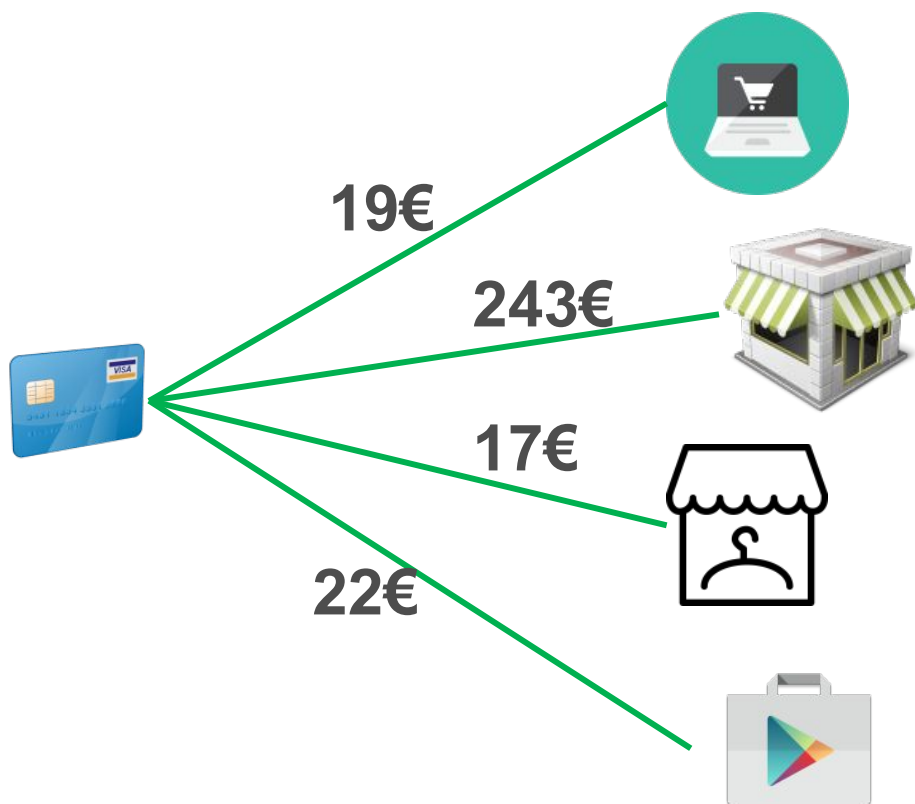


# Life of a transaction



# Life of a transaction





**Profiles** are individual aggregations:

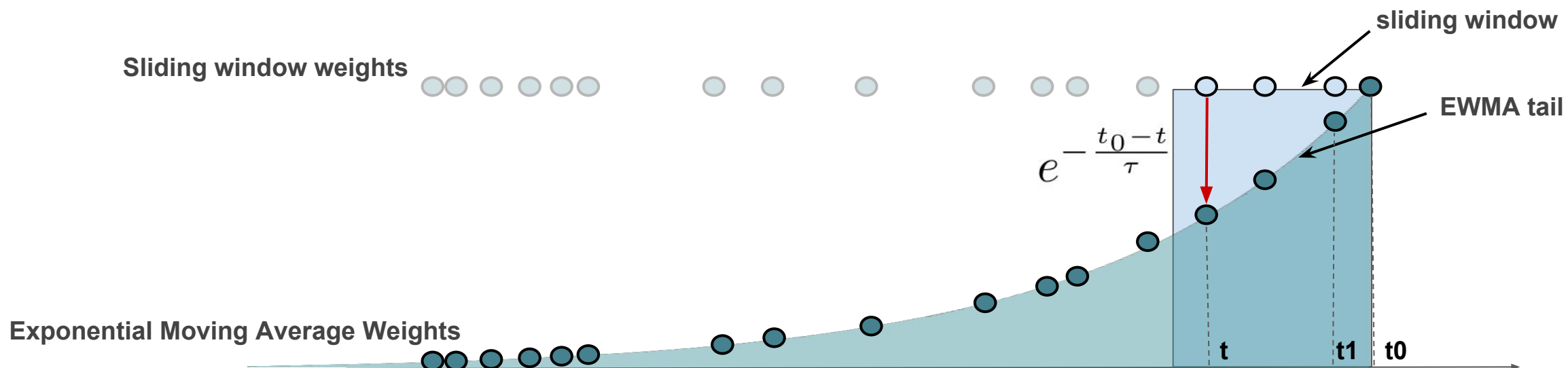
- Average spending in the last week.
- Distance to average location.
- Number of transactions in the last 10 minutes, ...

# Context/Motivation



- Overhead of storing events.
- Overhead of expiring events.

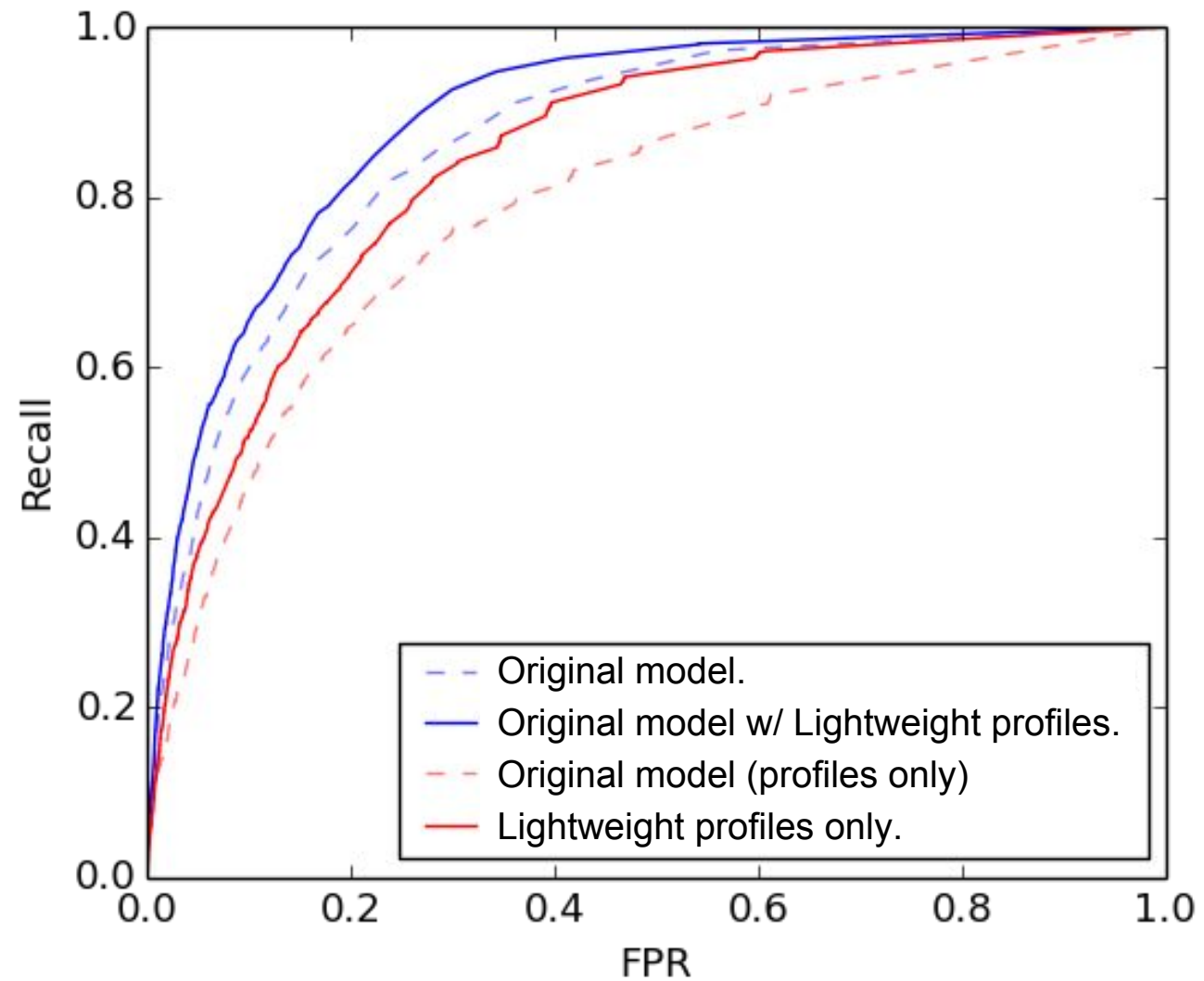
# Sliding window VS EWMA



$$EMA(t_0) = \sum_{i=0}^{+\infty} z_i e^{-\frac{t_0-t_i}{\tau}}$$

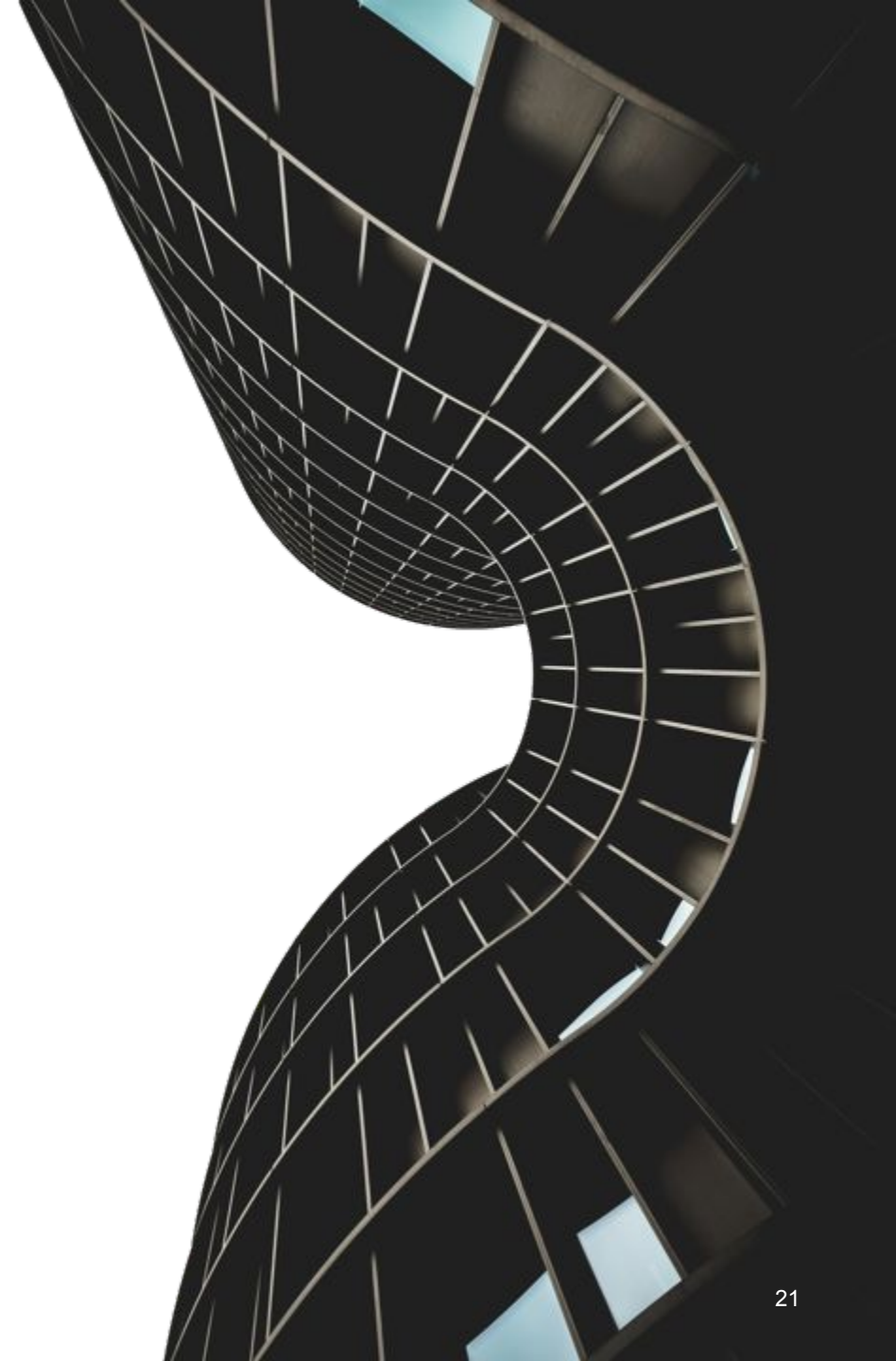
$$= EMA(t_1) e^{-\frac{t_0-t_1}{\tau}} + z_0$$

Huge memory savings!





# AutoML

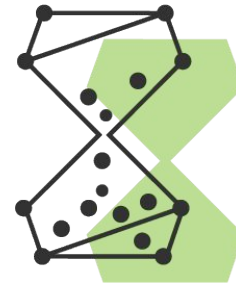




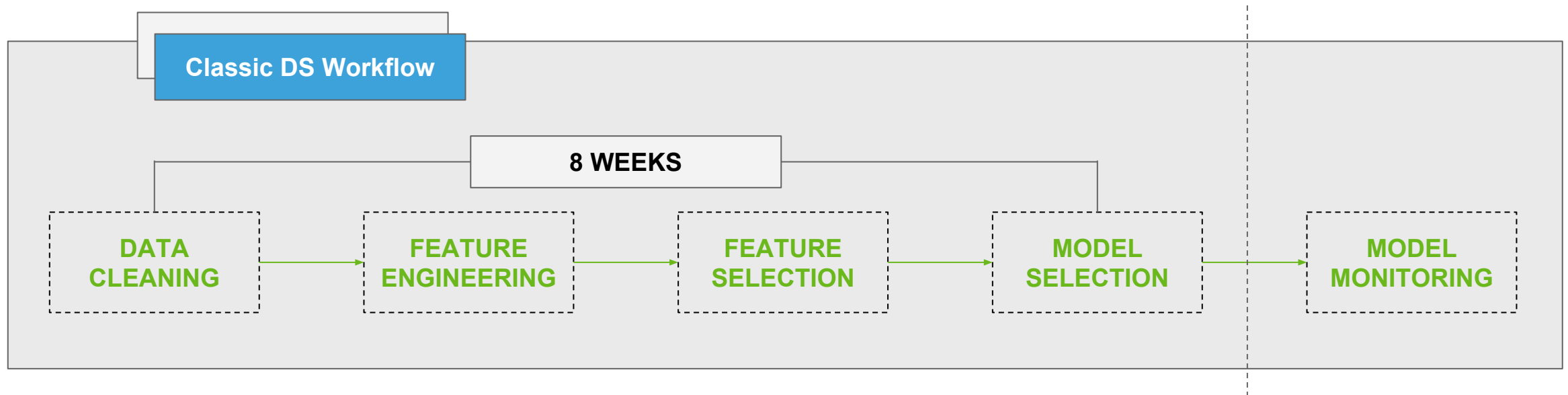
**> 50 Data Scientists**



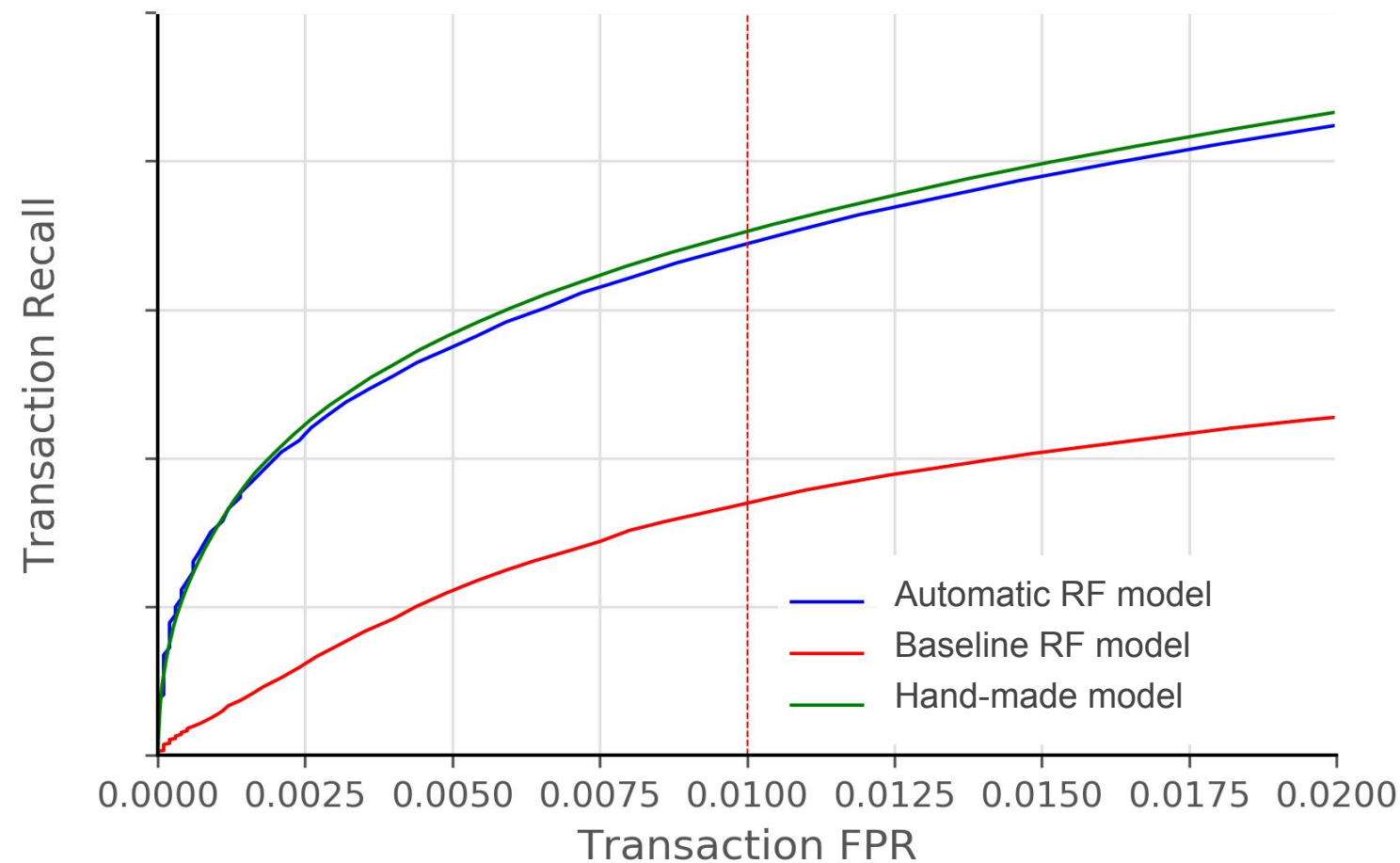
**Tens of projects**



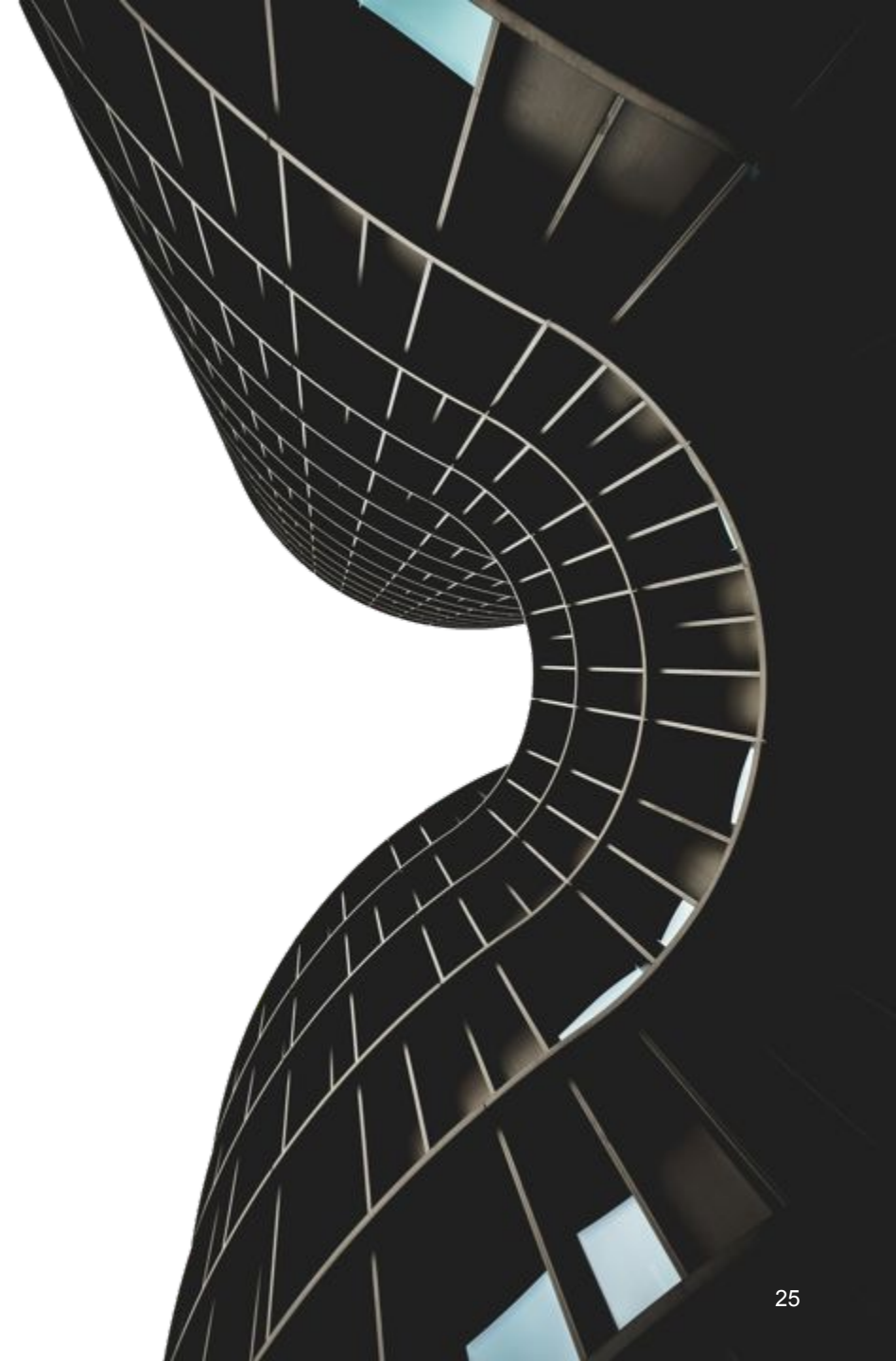
**Time to production**



## Transaction Recall



# Deep Learning



# Why Deep Learning?

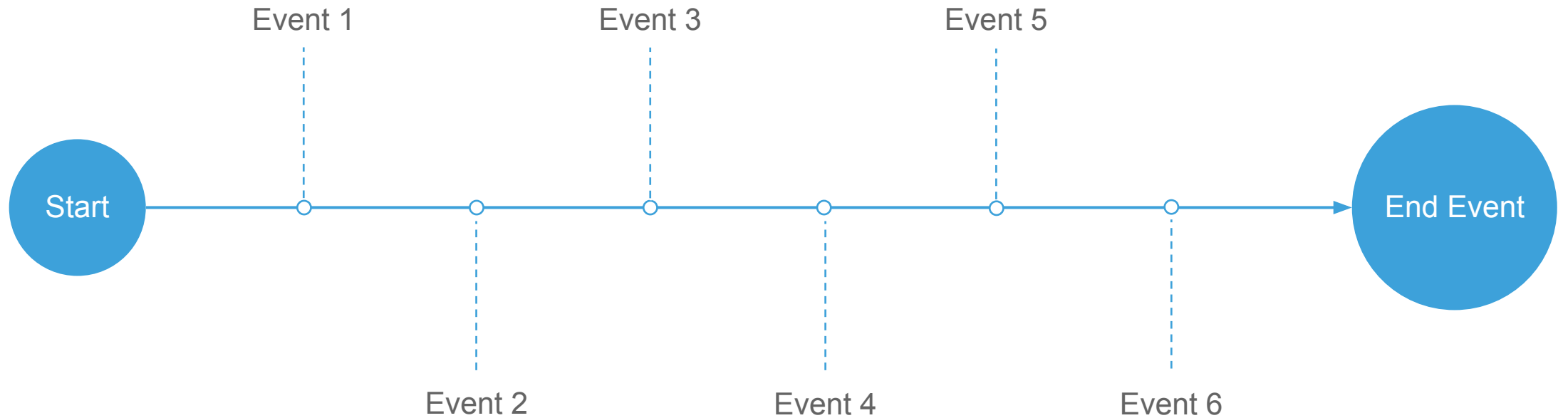
**Automatic Feature Engineering is good.**

**No Feature Engineering is better.**

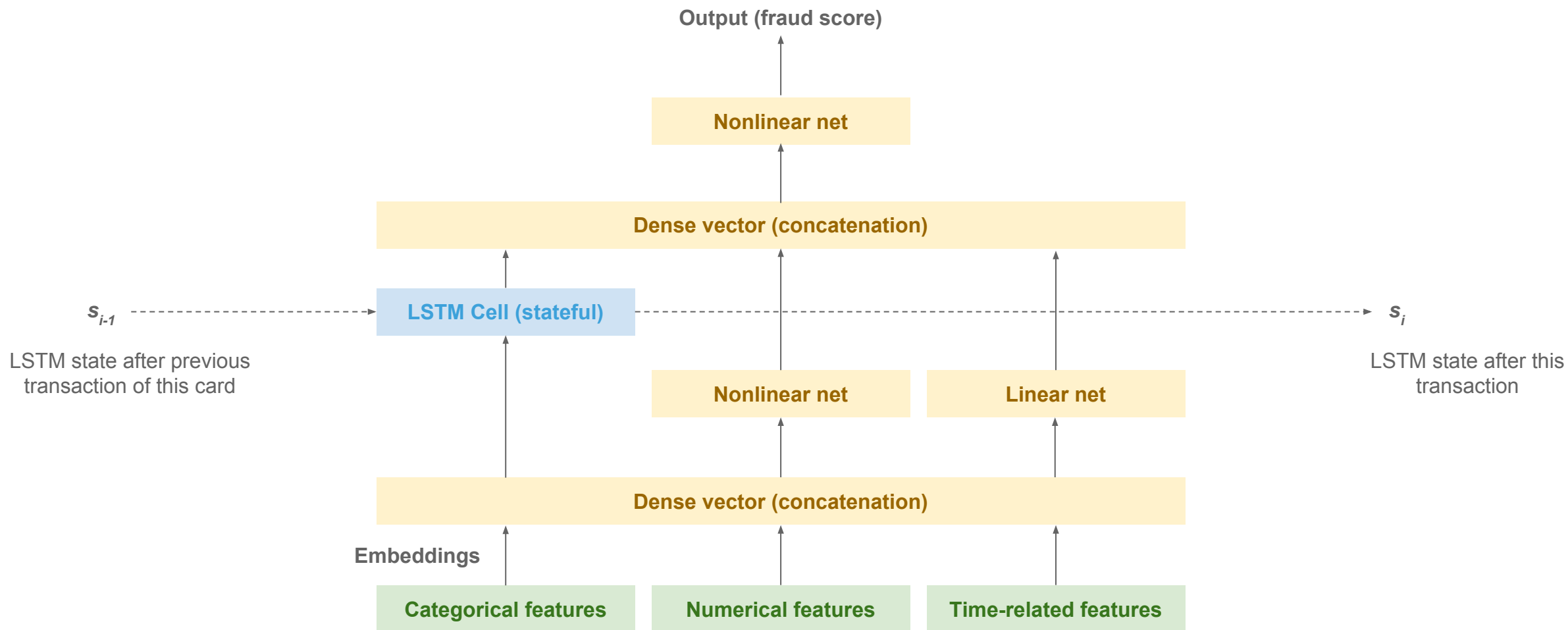


# Sequence Network

- **Idea:** instead of scoring a transaction, score the **sequence of transactions of the card.**



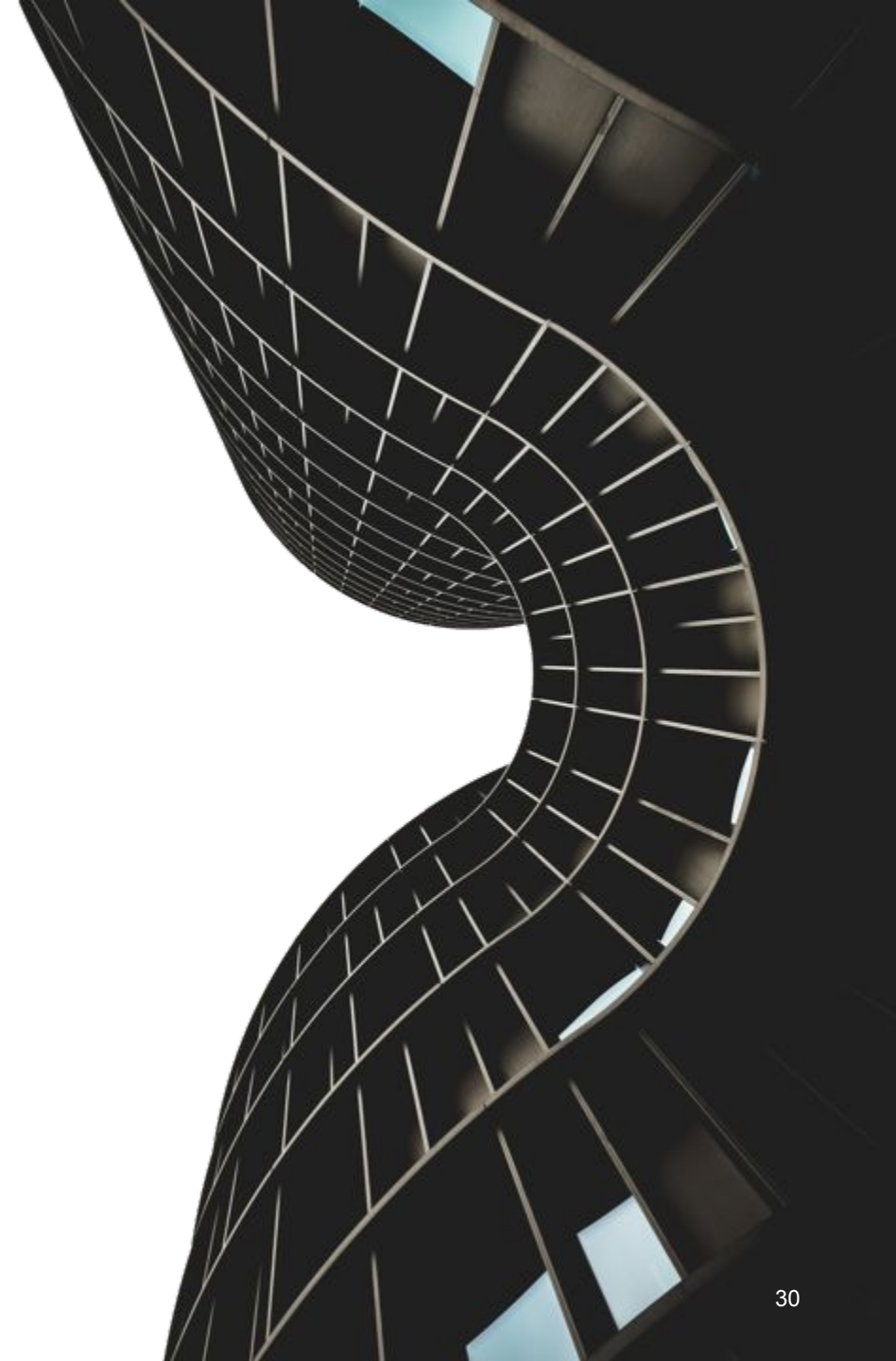
# The sequence network



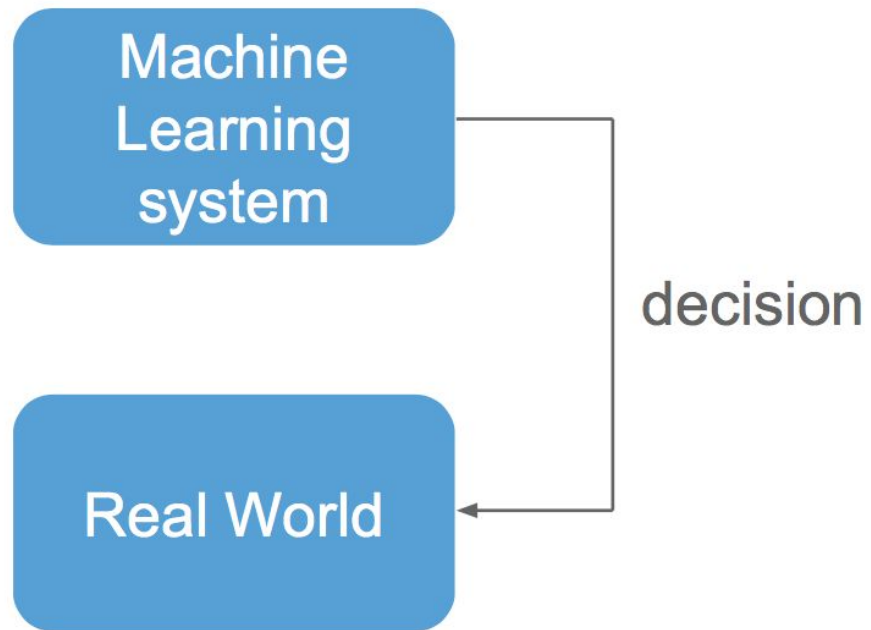
# Deep Learning

Method	Dataset	Recall @ 1% FPR
Random Forest	engineered data	reference
XGBoost	engineered data	+5.4%
LightGBM	raw data	+5.8%
Sequence network	raw data	+12.5%

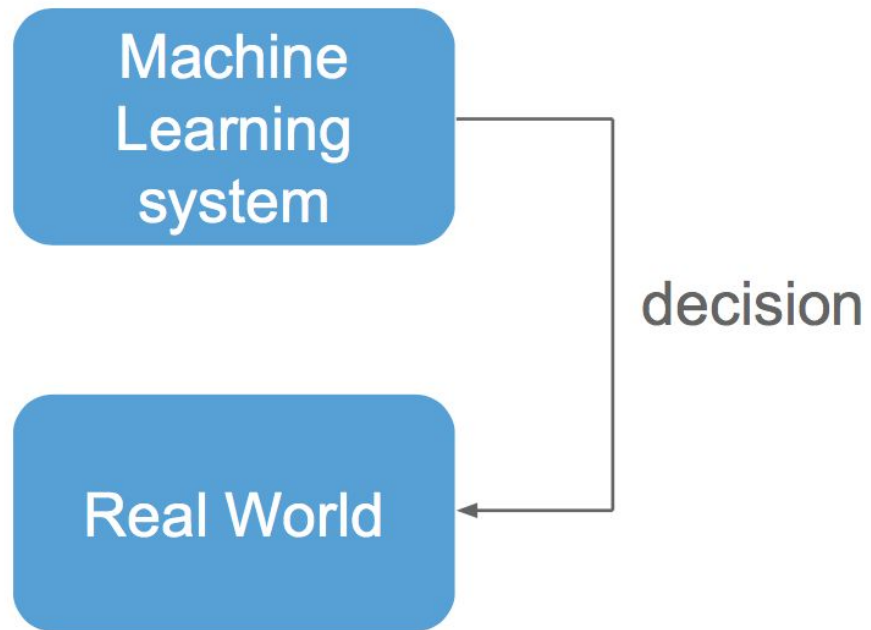
# Reject Inference



# Algorithms impact the real world

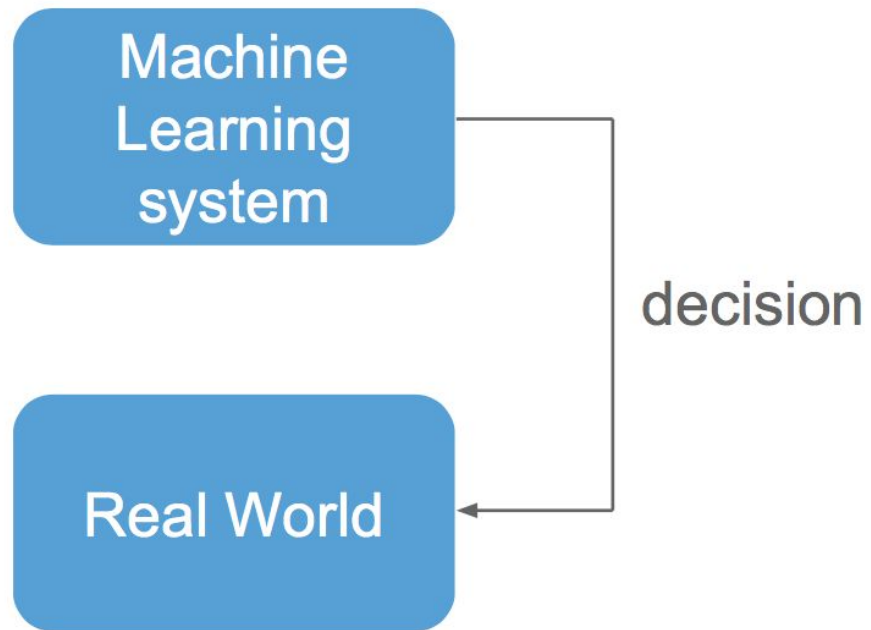


# Algorithms impact the real world

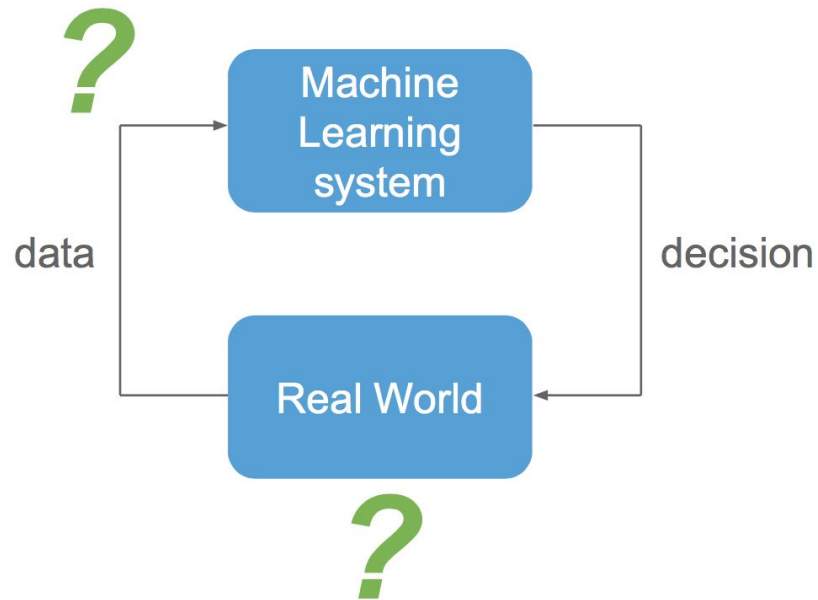




# Algorithms impact the real world



Many machine learning systems have direct influence in the real world

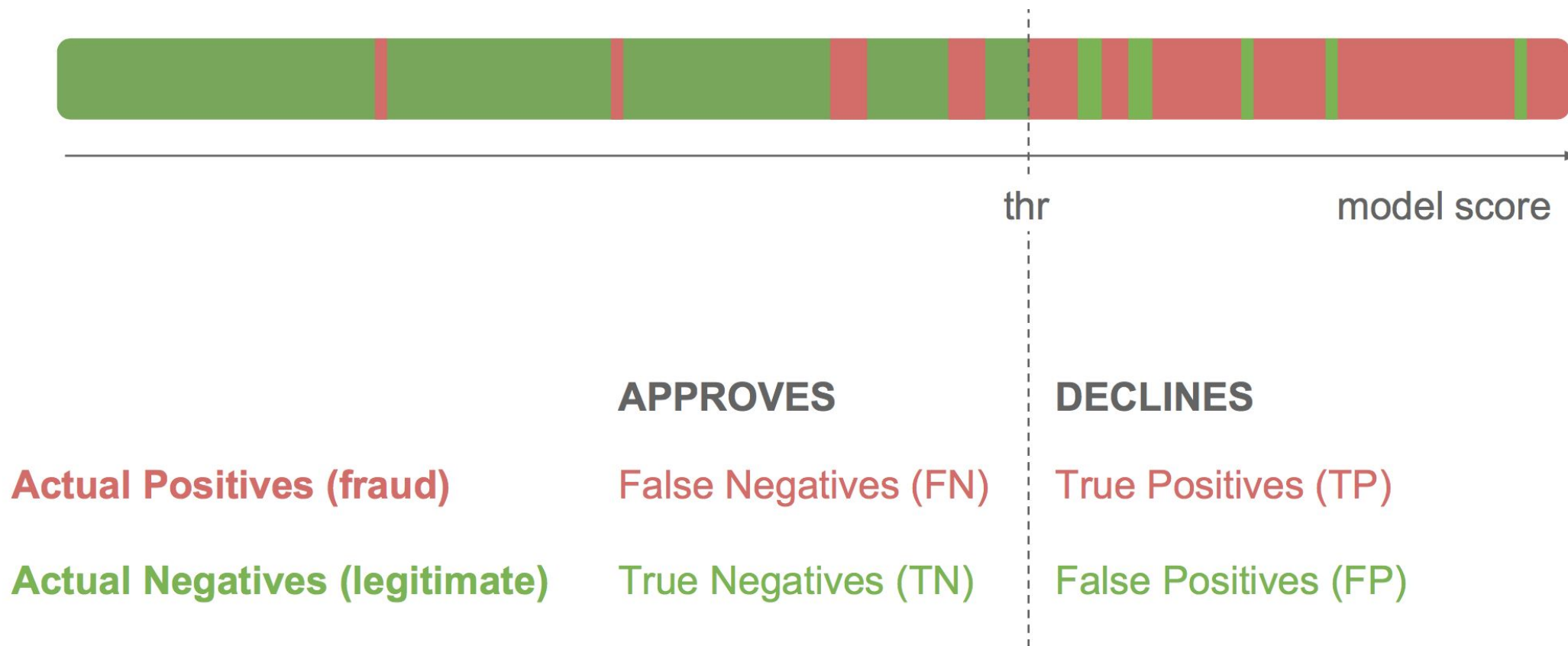


1. How to evaluate the production model?

## *Counterfactual Estimation*

2. How to retrain a model, without bias?

# Counterfactual estimation



# Counterfactual estimation

APPROVES

DECLINES

Label Observed

Label Not Observed



# Counterfactual estimation

APPROVES

DECLINES

Label Observed

Label Not Observed



How to treat declines?

Model Evaluation

Model Re-Training

Ignore declines

0% Recall, NaN% Precision

Misses easy fraud

# Counterfactual estimation

APPROVES

DECLINES

Label Observed

Label Not Observed



## How to treat declines?

## Model Evaluation

## Model Re-Training

Ignore declines

0% Recall, NaN% Precision

Misses easy fraud

Treat declines as fraud

100% Precision, 0% FPR

Biased model

# Counterfactual estimation

APPROVES

DECLINES

Label Observed

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## How to treat declines?

## Model Evaluation

## Model Re-Training

Ignore declines

0% Recall, NaN% Precision

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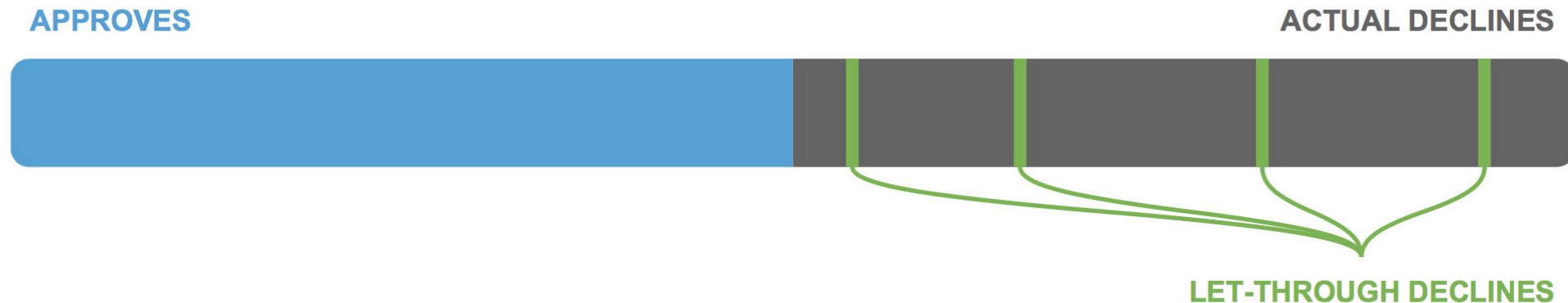
Biased model

Use expert information

Costly + analyst bias

Costly + analyst bias

# Evaluating Models



1. Randomly (with small probability, called *propensity*) **let through transactions classified as fraud**
2. After we get labels: estimate precision, recall, FPR **without significant bias**



# Evaluating Models

For all metrics:

1. Ignore actually declined transactions
2. Weight each approved transaction by  $1/\text{propensity}$

Score	P(Approving)	Declined?	Fraudulent?	Weight
0.3	100%	No	Yes	1
0.4	100%	No	No	1
0.6	10%	Yes	?	0
0.7	10%	Yes	?	0
0.8	10%	No	Yes	10
0.9	10%	Yes	?	0

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Recall} &= \text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FN}) \\
 &= 10 / (10 + 1) \\
 &\approx 99.1\%
 \end{aligned}$$

# THANK YOU

*we are hiring* 