



# Interpretable Machine Learning in Healthcare

# Team Members

Elaborate on what you want to discuss.



**Jessie Lee**



**Akihiko Sangawa**



**Yirun Wang**



# Agenda

1. Objectives of the project
2. Business: Why causal inference is important in healthcare
3. Technology: Interpretable Machine Learning (IML) / Causal AI
4. Challenges faced by existing IML methods and causal AI

# Objectives of the research project

- (1) Create classification models with high AUC
- (2) Identify the most critical features  
relevant to the cervical cancer formation
- (3) What trade-offs need to be considered while choosing  
an algorithm to be implemented

# Why Causal Inference Matters in Healthcare ?



- Randomized Clinical Trials (RCTs) could be unethical
- Poor generalizability of RCTs
- Differential diagnostic is challenging
- Precision medicine: prediction + **intervention**

# Simpson's Paradox

Task: Choose which treatment to use for your country

Goal: Minimize the death



Treatment A



Treatment B

**Scarce**

On the treatment level,  
treatment A looks more effective



	Treatment A	Treatment B
Mortality rate	16% (240/1500)	19% (105/550)

When we subset the group, the result flips!

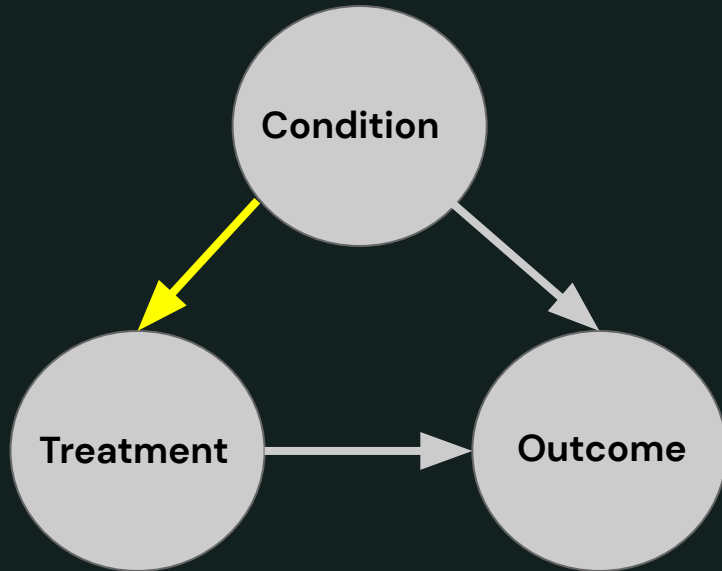
Treatment B performs better in both conditions.

Condition	Treatment A (mortality rate)	Treatment B (mortality rate)
Mild	15% (210/1400)	10% (5/50)
Severe	30% (30/100)	20% (100/500)
Total	16% (240/1500)	19% (105/550)



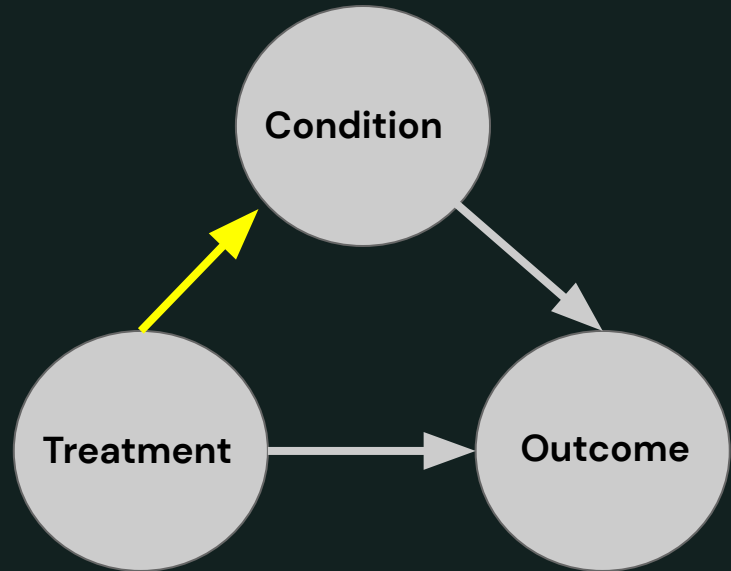
# Which treatment should you choose?

Scenario 1  
(causal Structure)



Treatment B **Scarce**

Scenario 2  
(causal Structure)

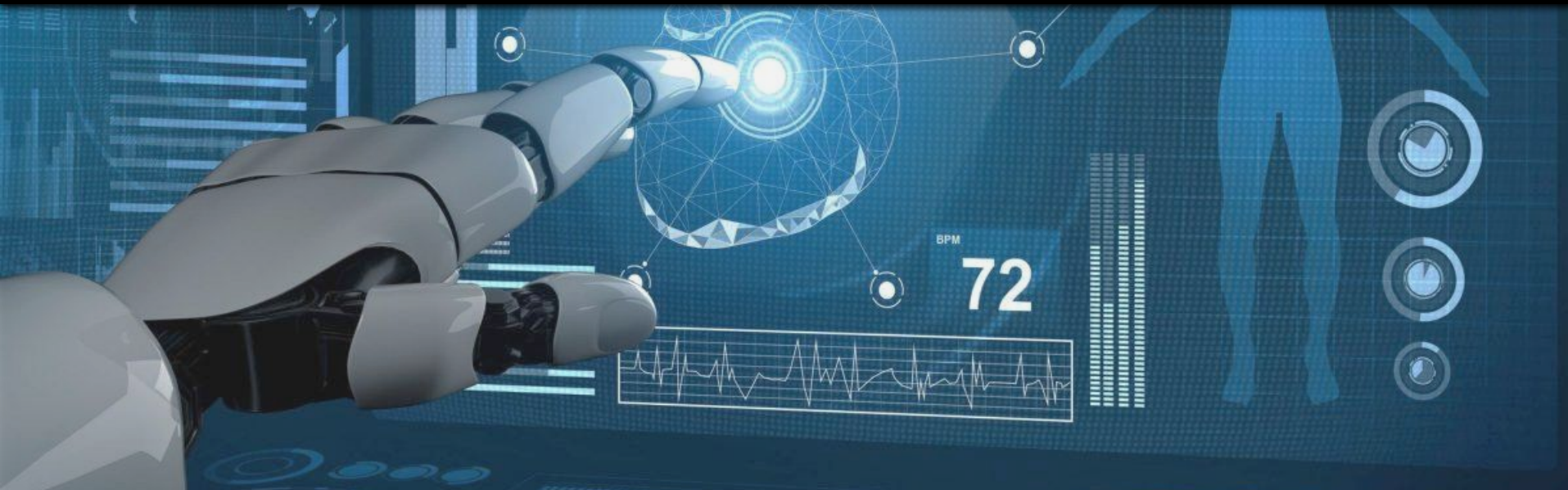


Treatment A



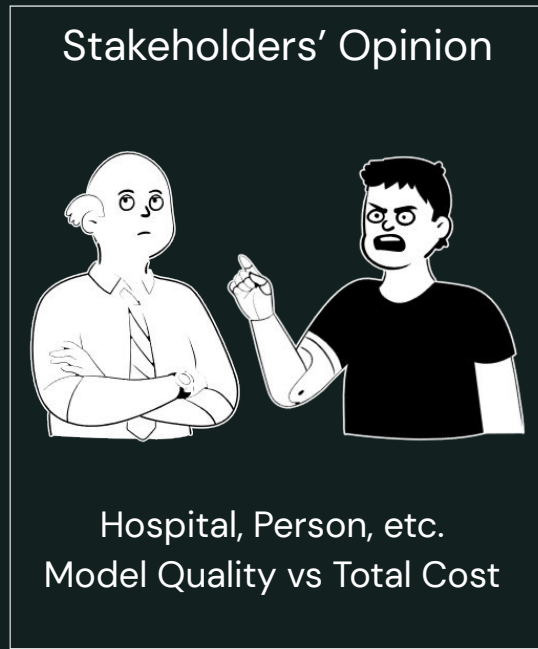
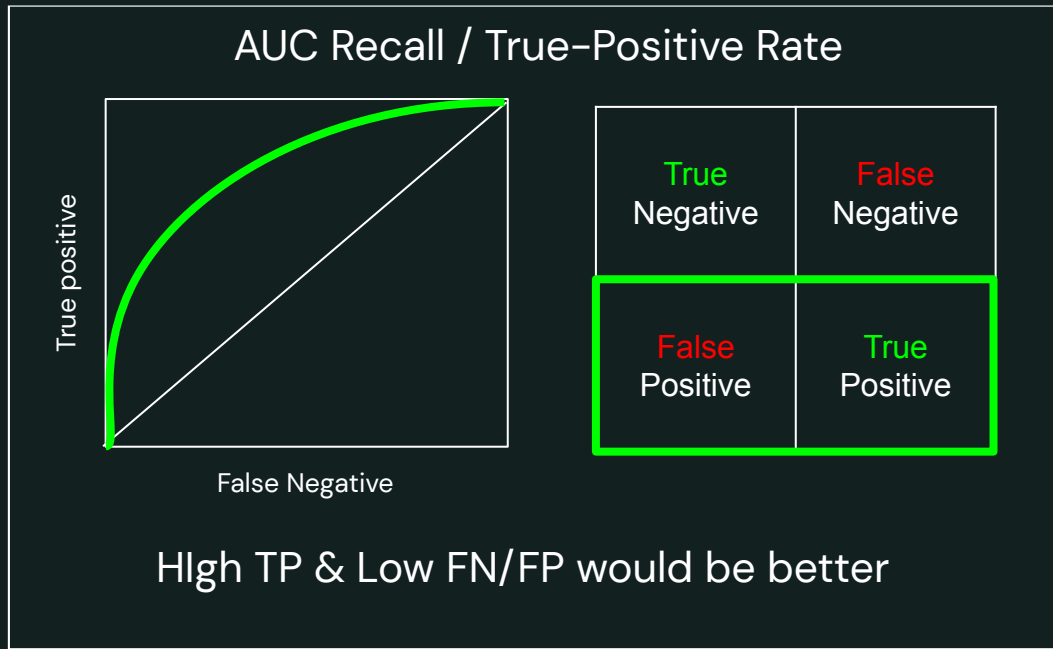
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# Machine Learning Models



# Evaluation Methods

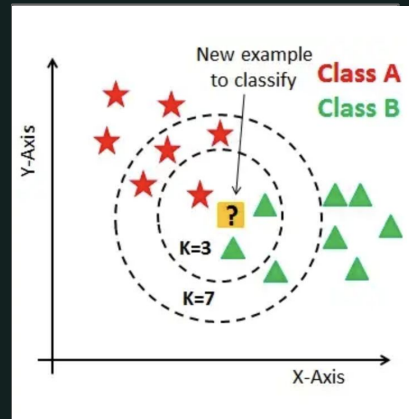
- What to consider for implementation?



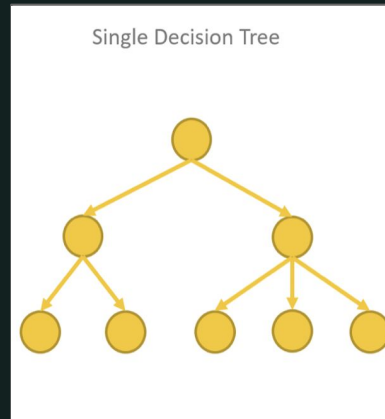
# General classification models

- Interpretable – Can observe how to perform the model
- Observe the associations: **Input features** → **Output**

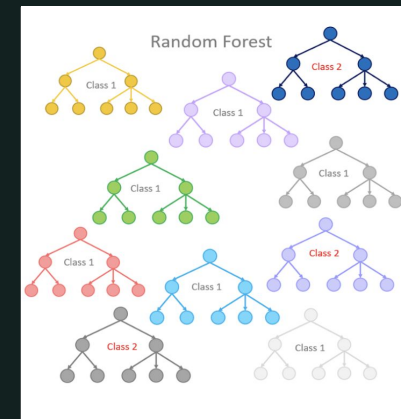
## K-Nearest Neighbors



## Decision Tree



## Random Forest



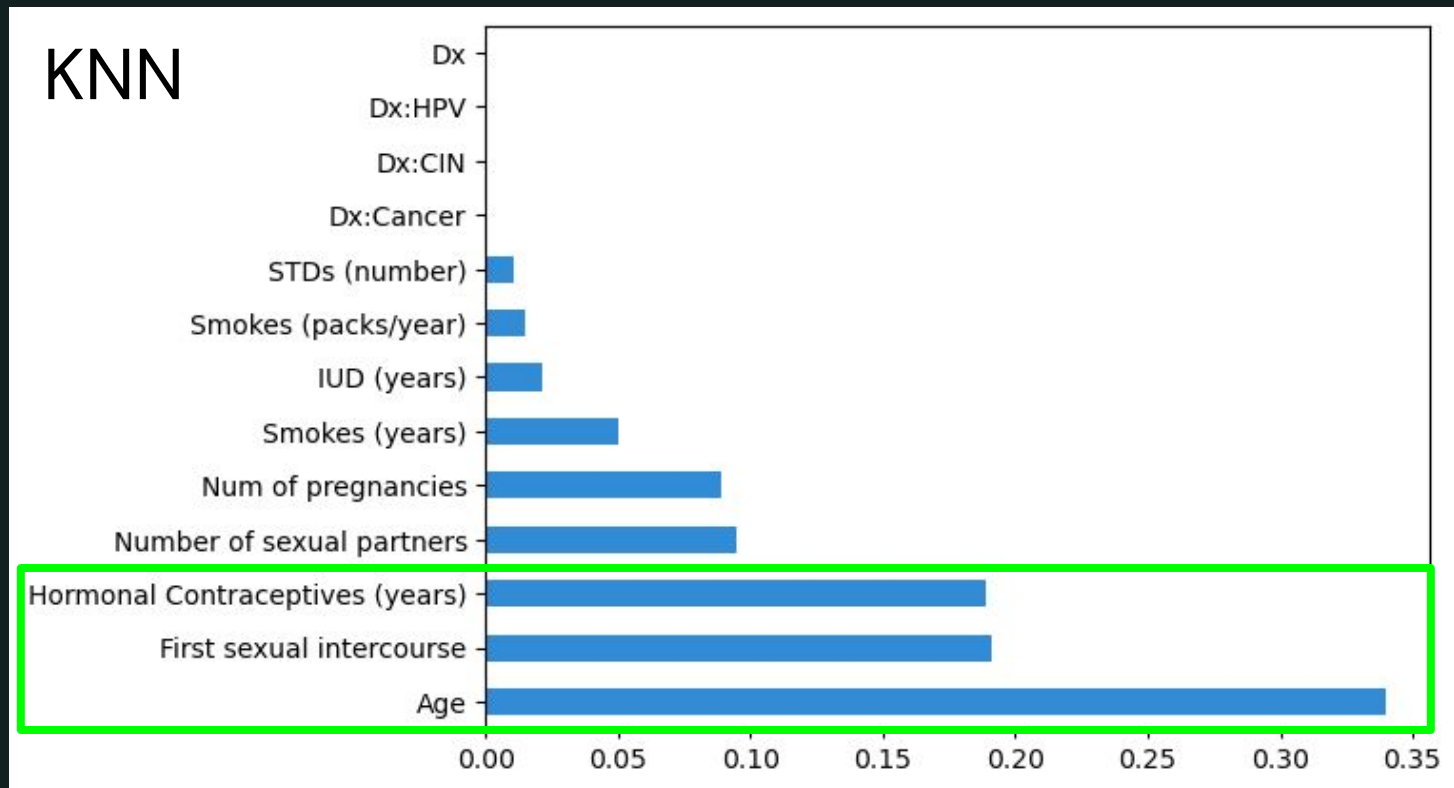
Ensemble Model (Mixing Three models)

# Result

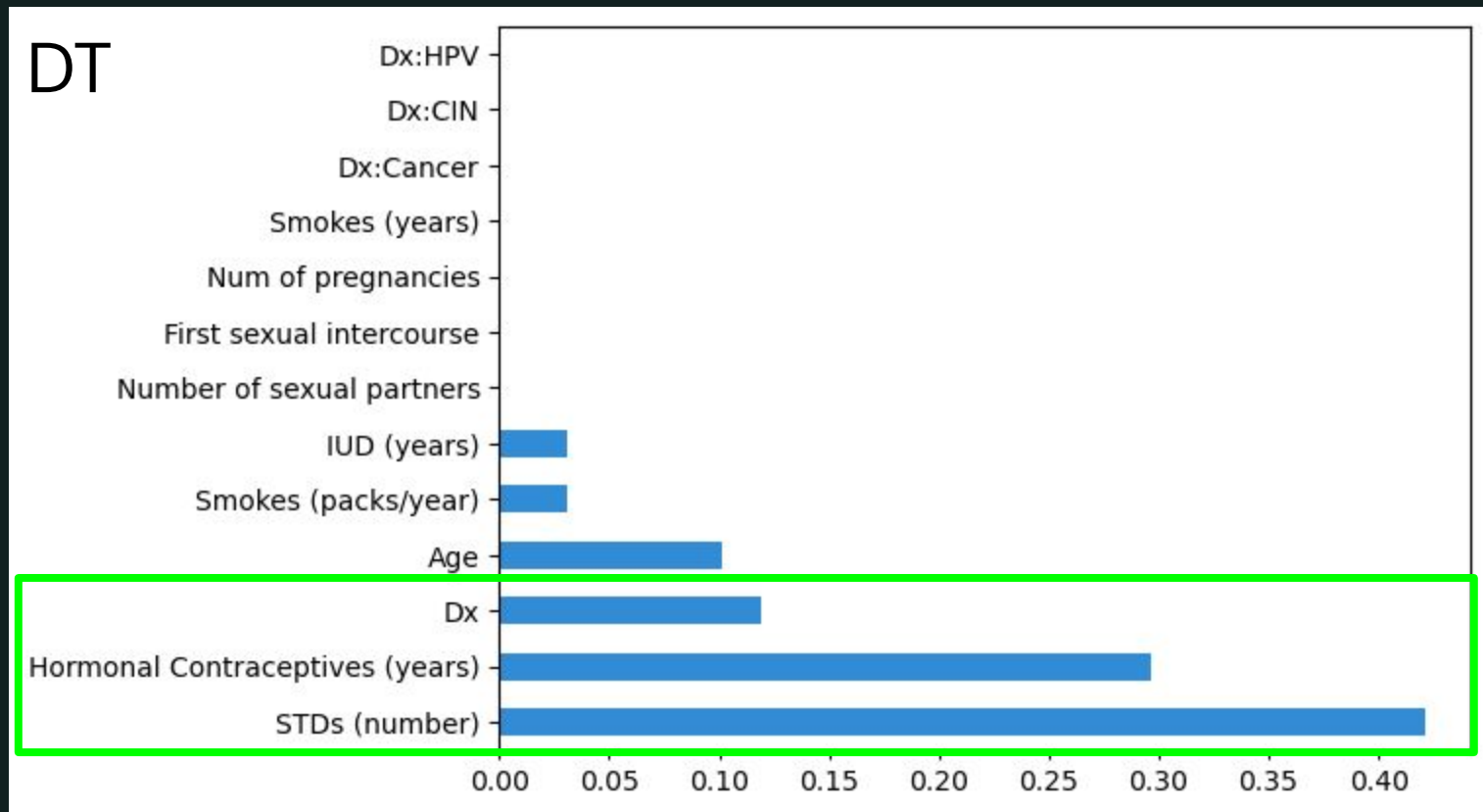
Random Forest is accurately detect positive patients

Algorithm	AUC	True Positive	False Negative
KNN	0.6381	7	4
Decision Tree	0.7199	6	5
Random Forest	<b>0.7569</b>	9	2
Ensemble	0.6846	7	4

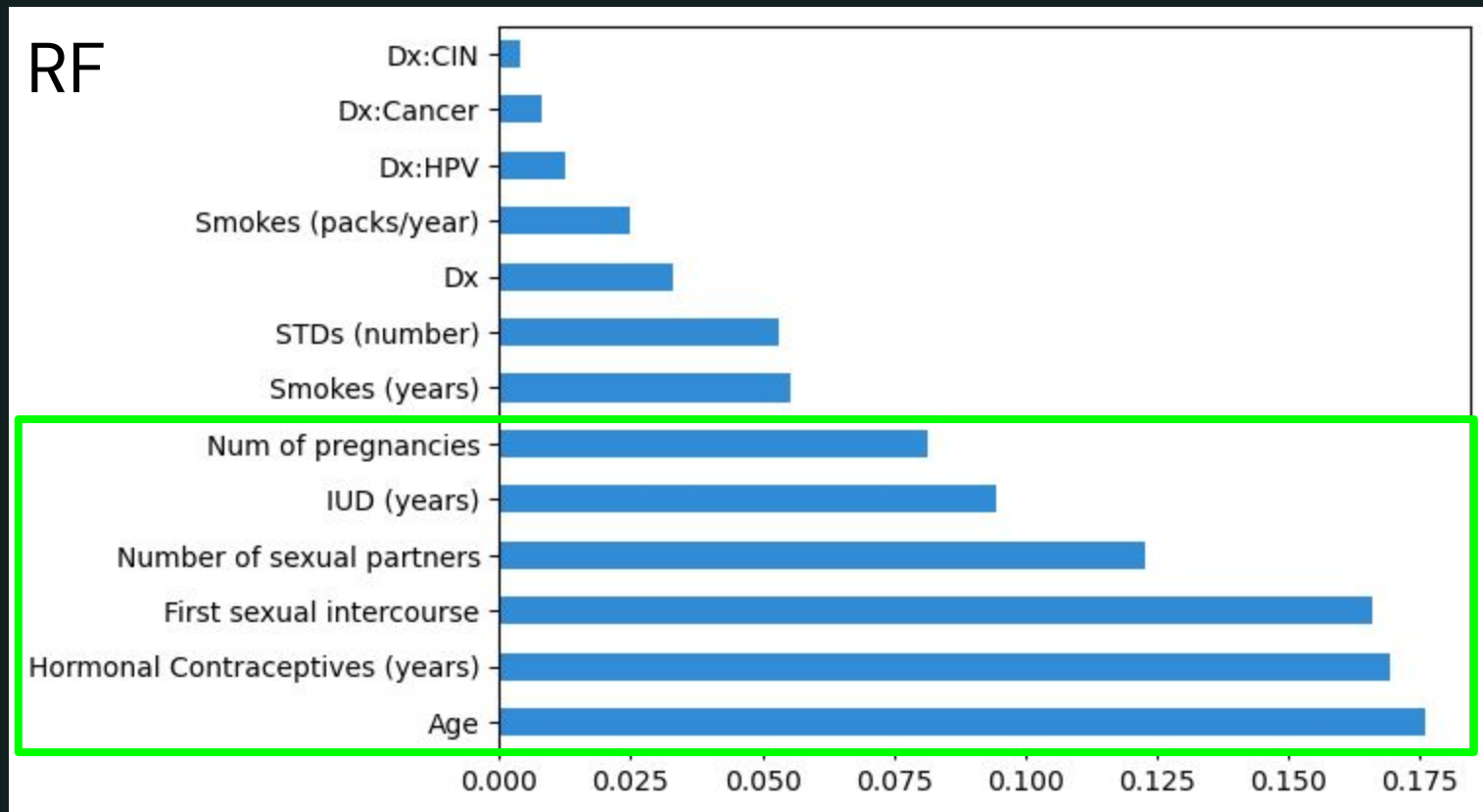
# Feature Importance – KNN



# Feature Importance – Decision Tree

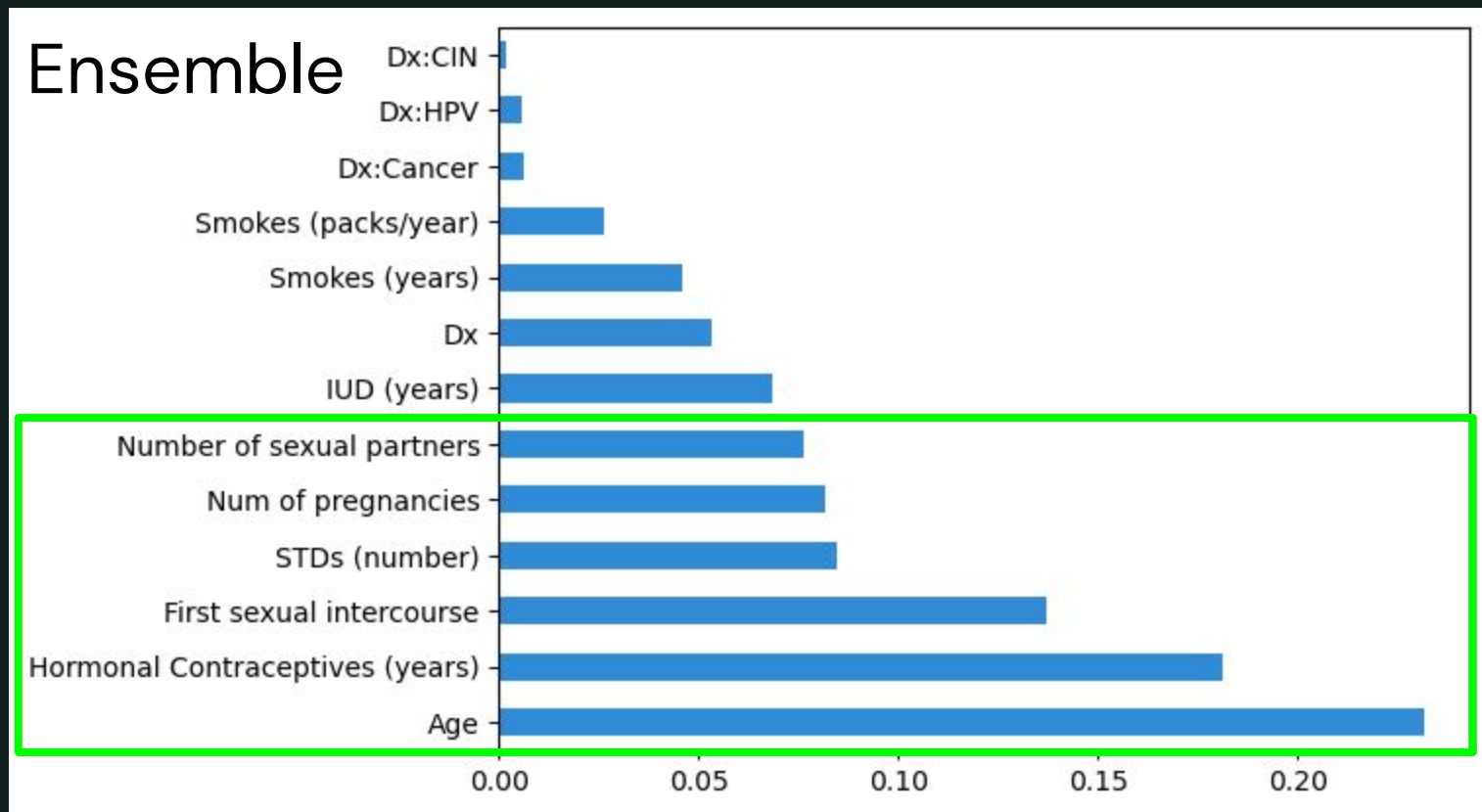


# Feature Importance – Random forest





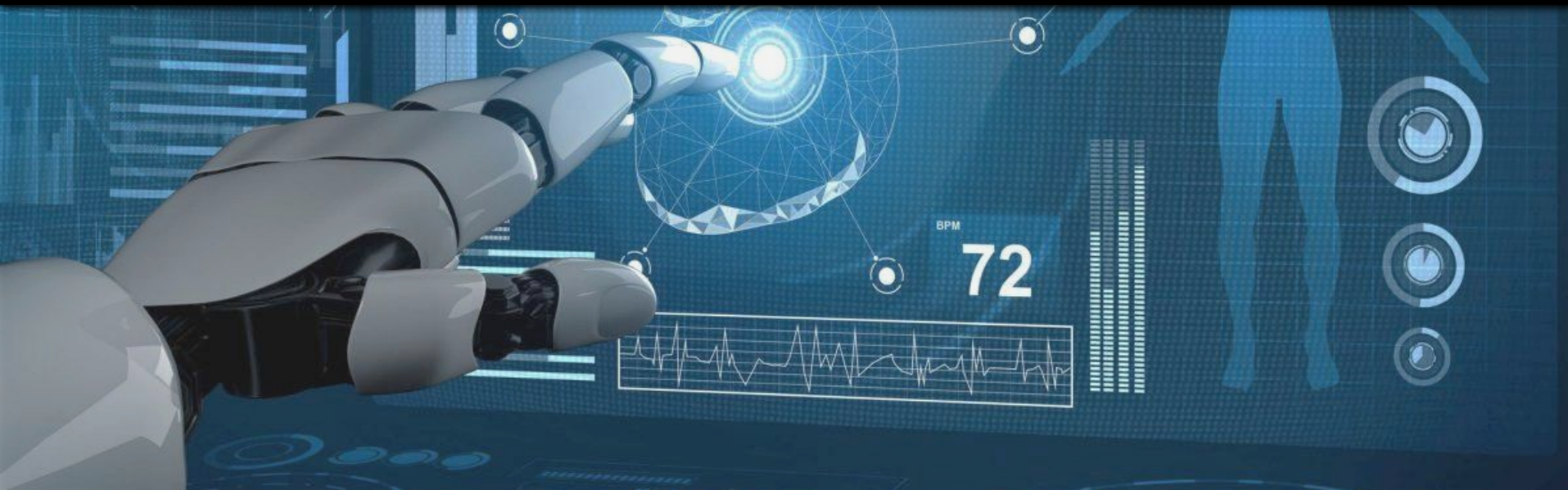
# Feature Importance – Ensemble Model





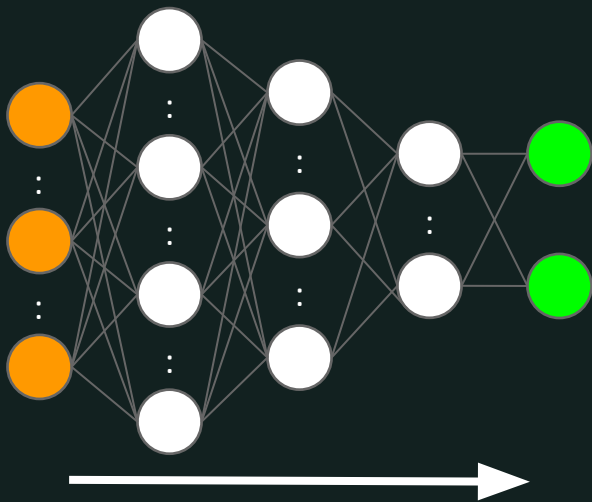
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# Neural Network Models



# Neural Network Interpretation

- Inputs: Same the other models (13 variables)
- Architecture: Inverse Pyramid[13, 256, 128, 64, 2]

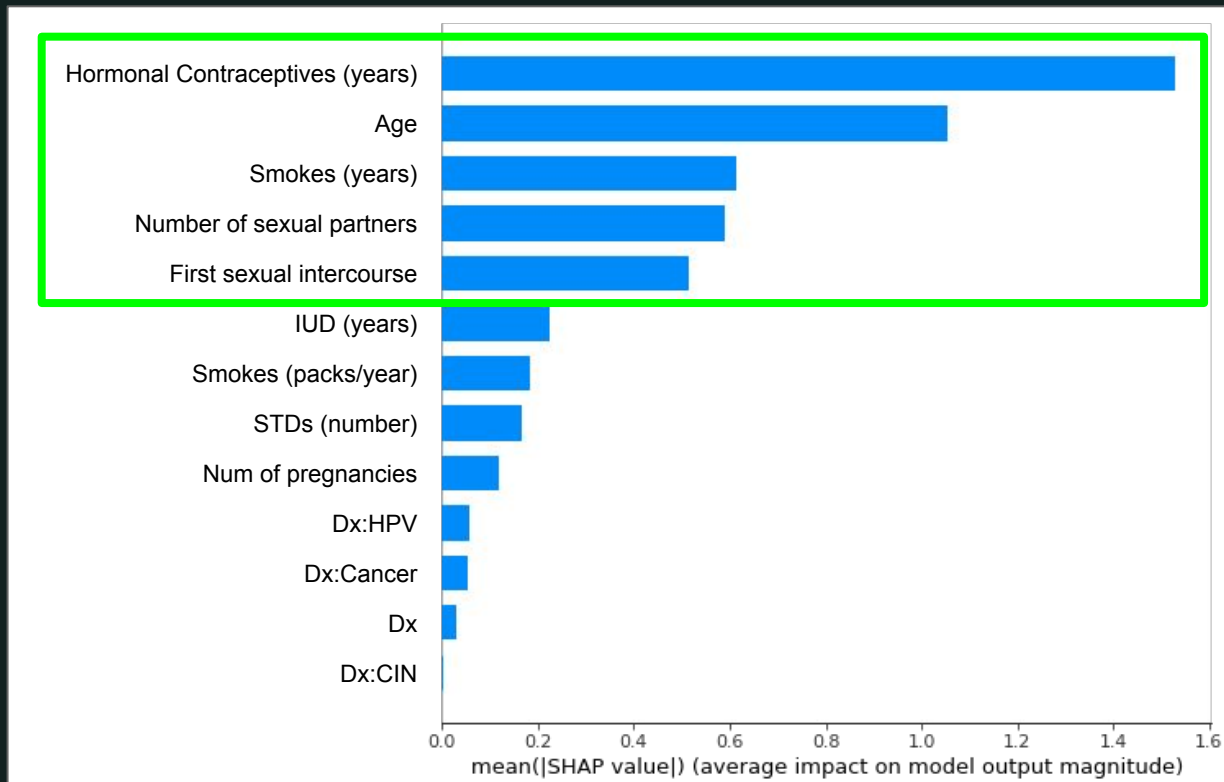



- Test data result:  
Detect positive patients  
with TPR 64.3%



# Neural Network Interpretation

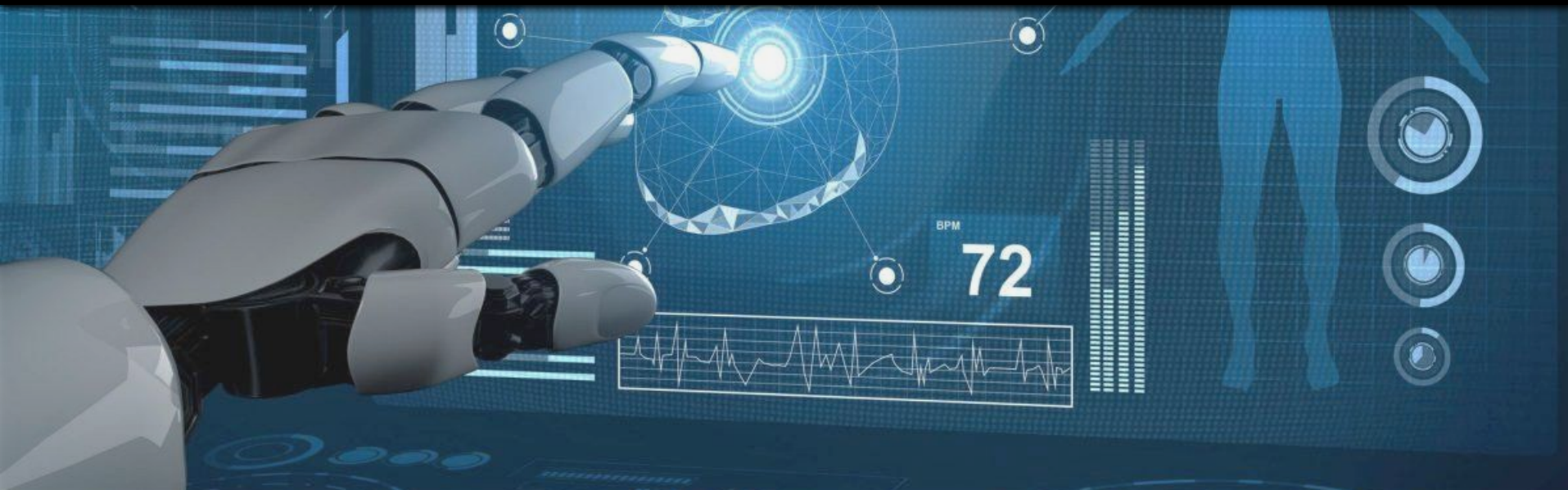
- Extract feature importance with SHAPLEY; similar to the ML models' results





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# Causal Inference Models



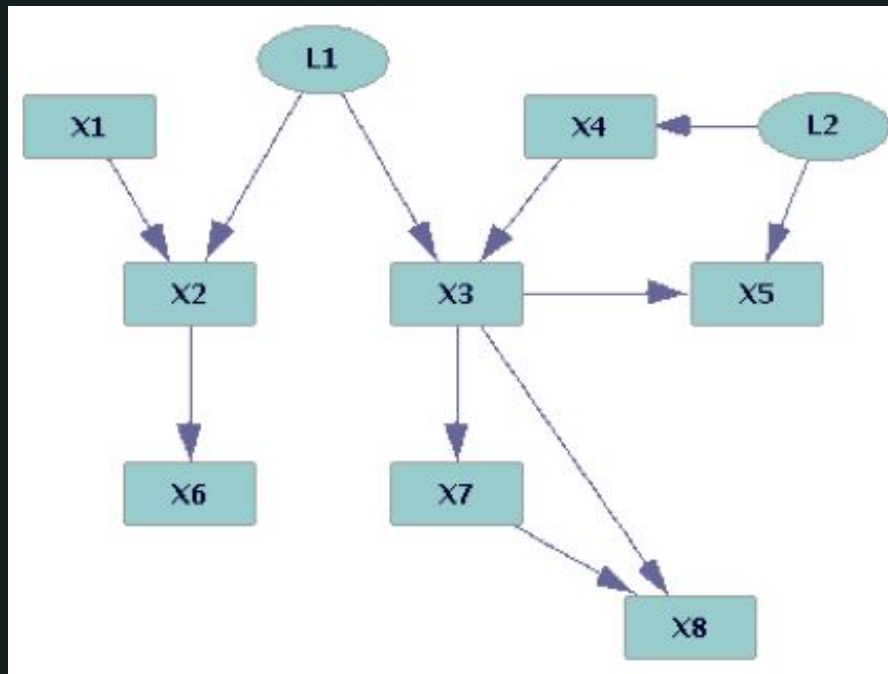


# Causal Inference Experiment

Apply **Fast Causal Inference**

- constraint-based algorithm
- Non-parametric model
- Detect causation with latent unmeasured variables
- Expert knowledge will clarify causal direction

Use Tetrad:  
Java-based desktop application

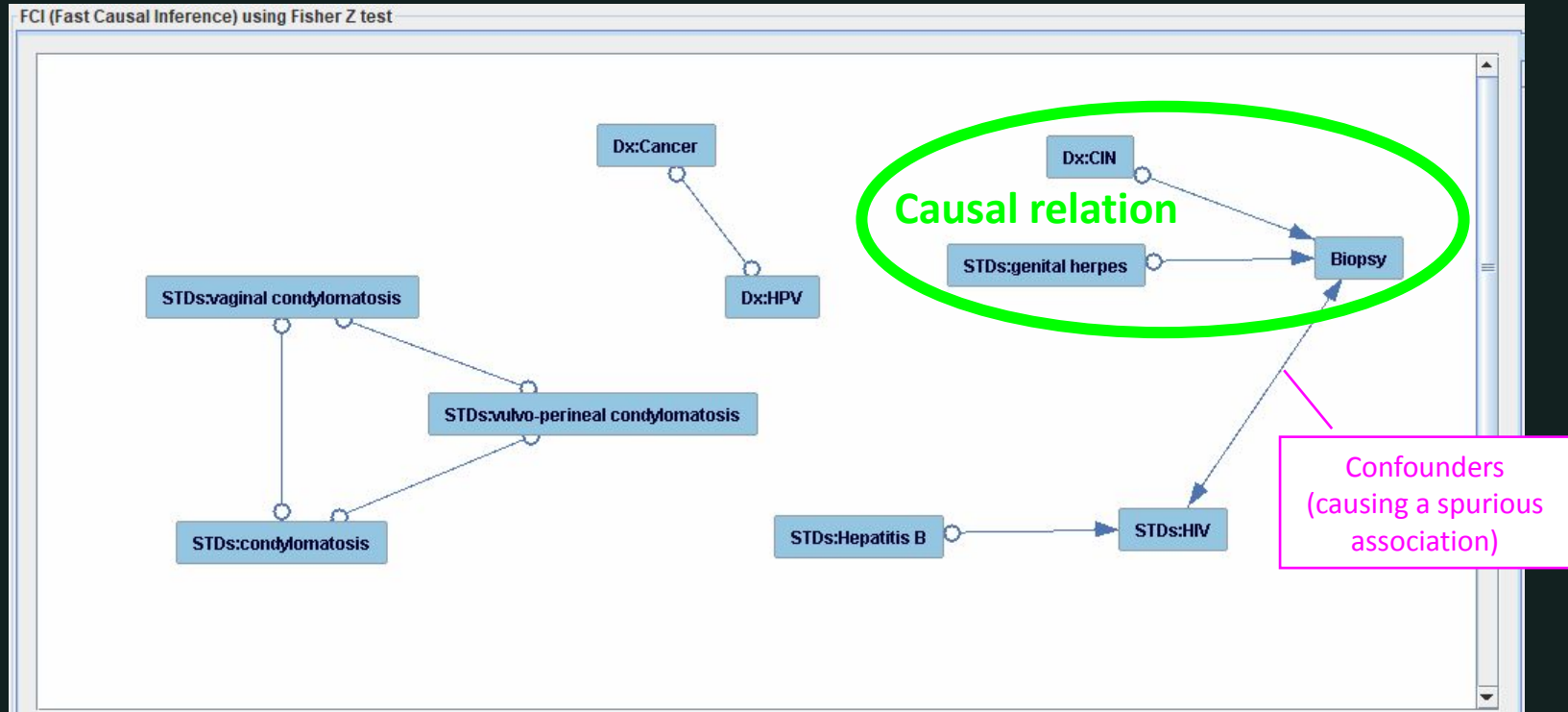


Source: “cmu-phil/tetrad.” <https://github.com/cmu-phil/tetrad>

“Tetrad Single HTML Manual.” <https://cmu-phil.github.io/tetrad/manual/#completeRuleSetUsed>

# Causal Inference Experiment

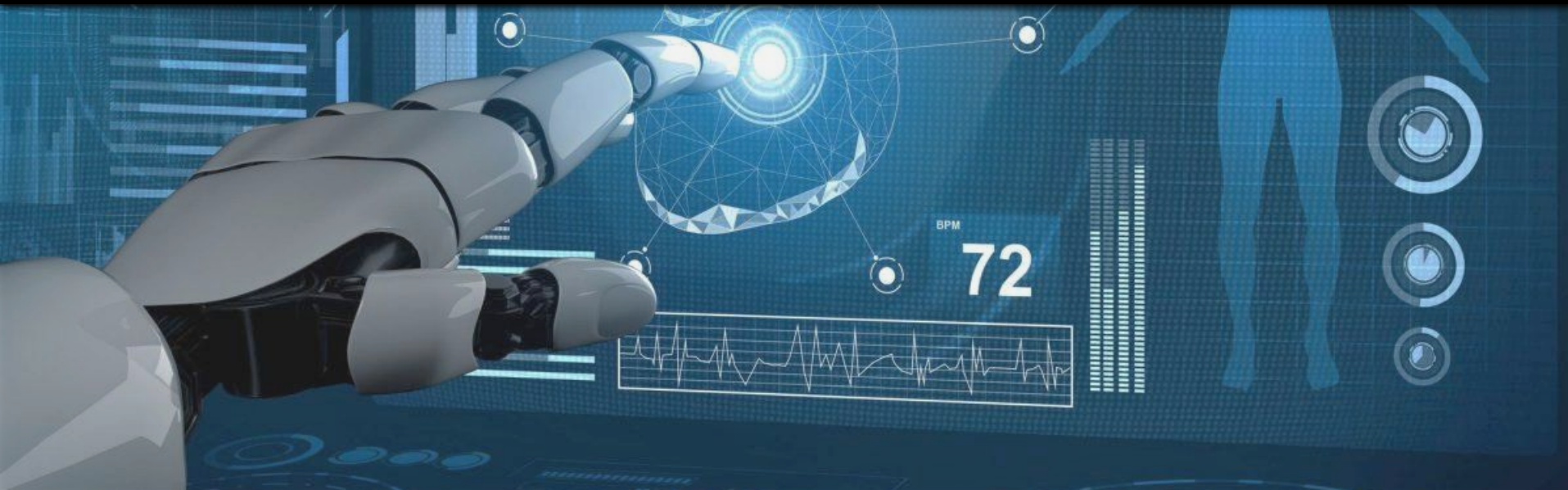
- FCI algorithm can detect existence of confounder





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# Summary





# Conclusion



Interpretability  $\neq$  Explainability



Interpretable AI  $\rightarrow$  Explainable AI  
(One approach: Causal ML/AI)

# Challenges

## Limitation of Interpretable ML



Interpretation  
extracted by tool  
is not statistically  
rigorous

## Domain Expert Knowledge



Engaging domain  
experts is  
necessary =  
Human + AI

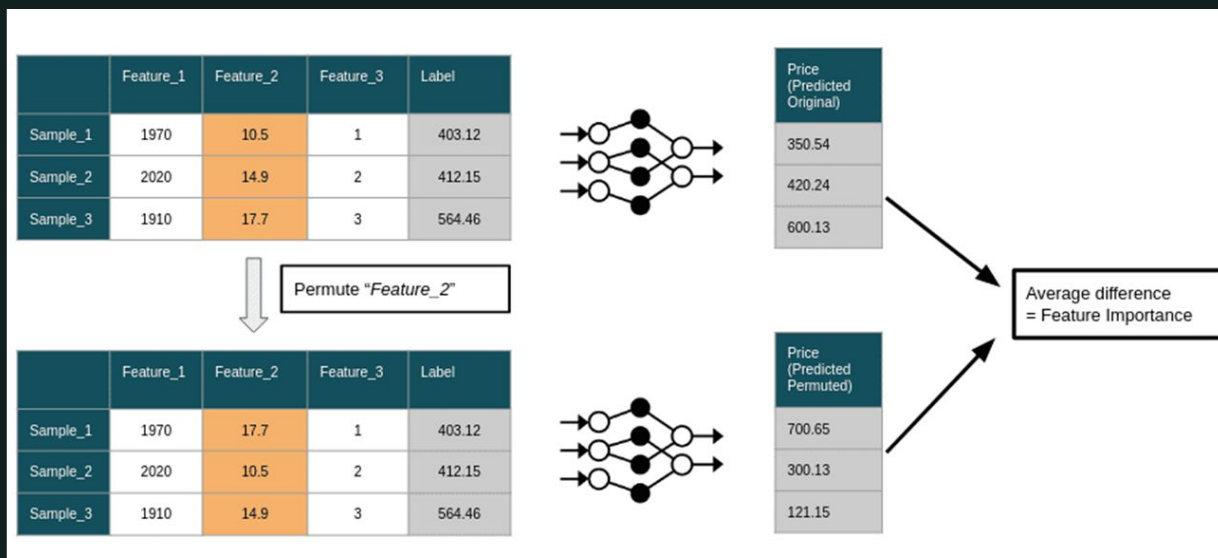
Thank you !!

# Appendix

# Interpretation Mechanism: Permutation Feature Importance

Permutation by **shuffling variable values**

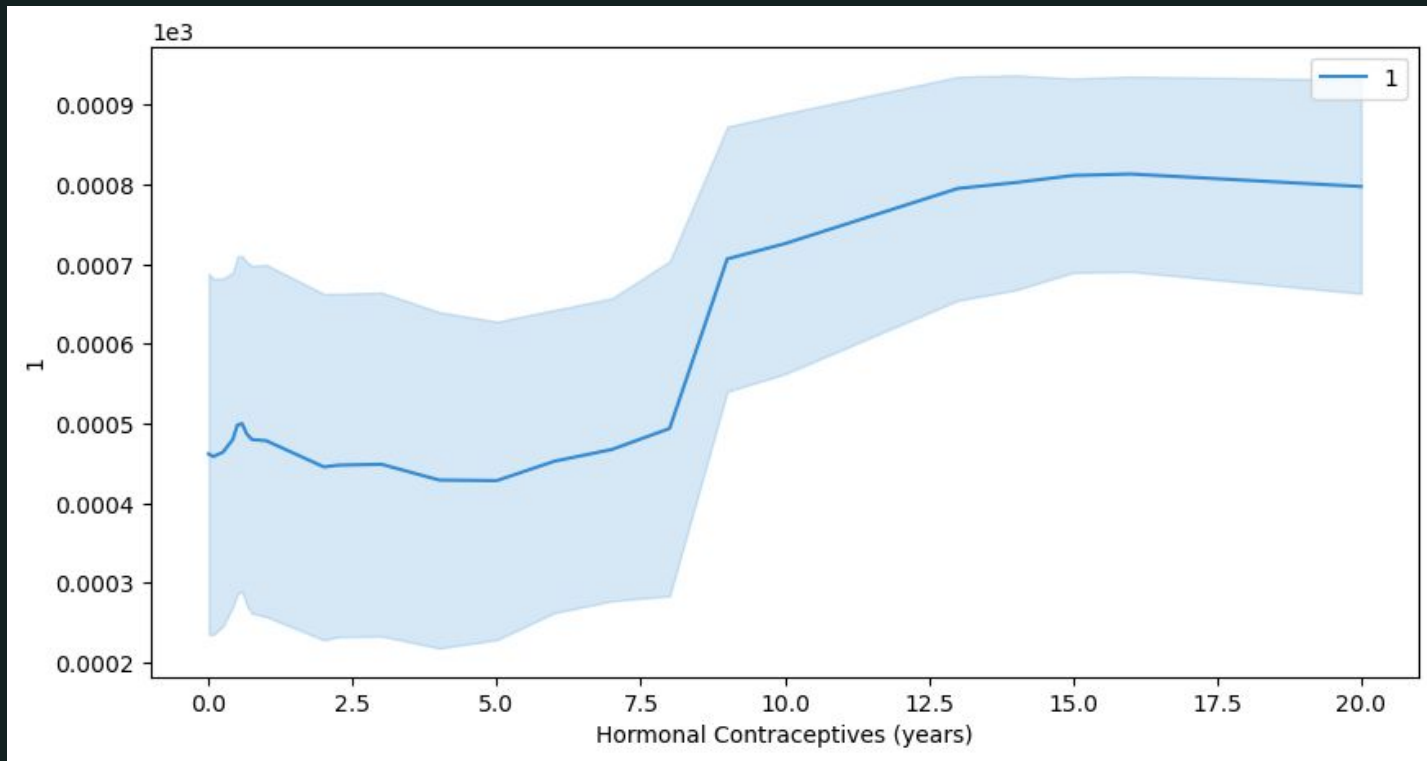
- Pros: Nice interpretation, Comparable different problems
- Cons: Generating unrealistic data, and correlation vulnerable



Source:  
<https://www.modulos.ai/blog/permutation-feature-importance-deep-dive/>

# Partial Dependence Plot

- Non-Linear dependency



# Causal Inference Experiment

- FCI algorithm can detect causal relationship and reject association

FCI (Fast Causal Inference) using Fisher Z test

