

# Algorithmic Transparency in Machine Learning

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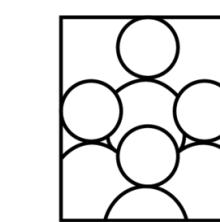


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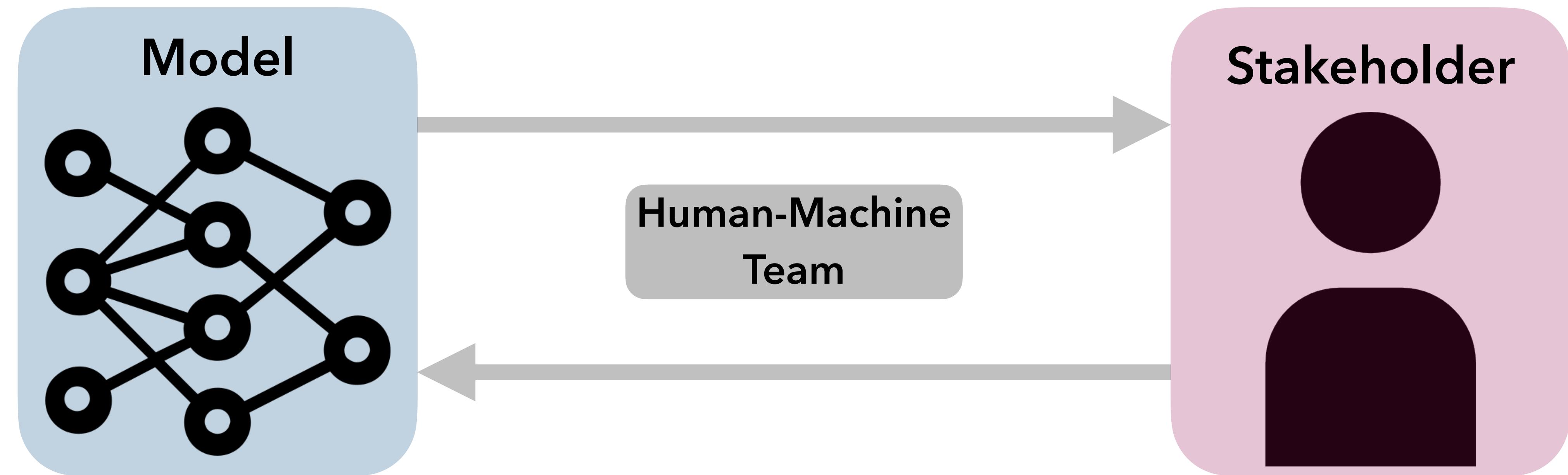
The  
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Institute

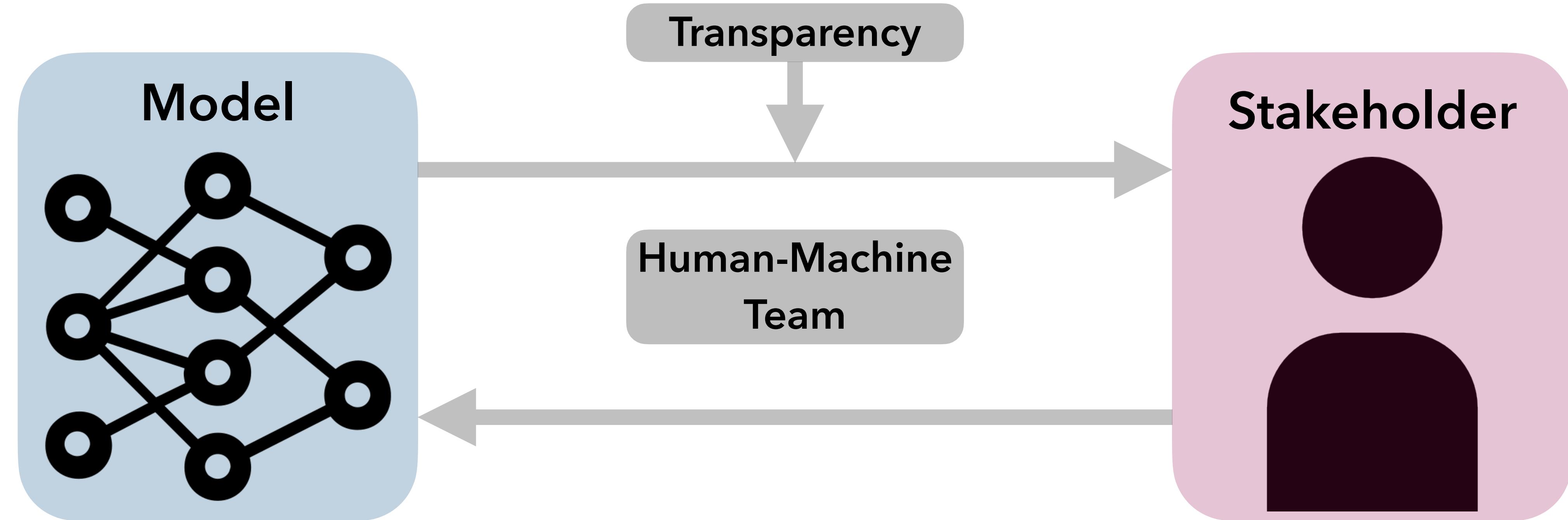


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FUTURE OF INTELLIGENCE

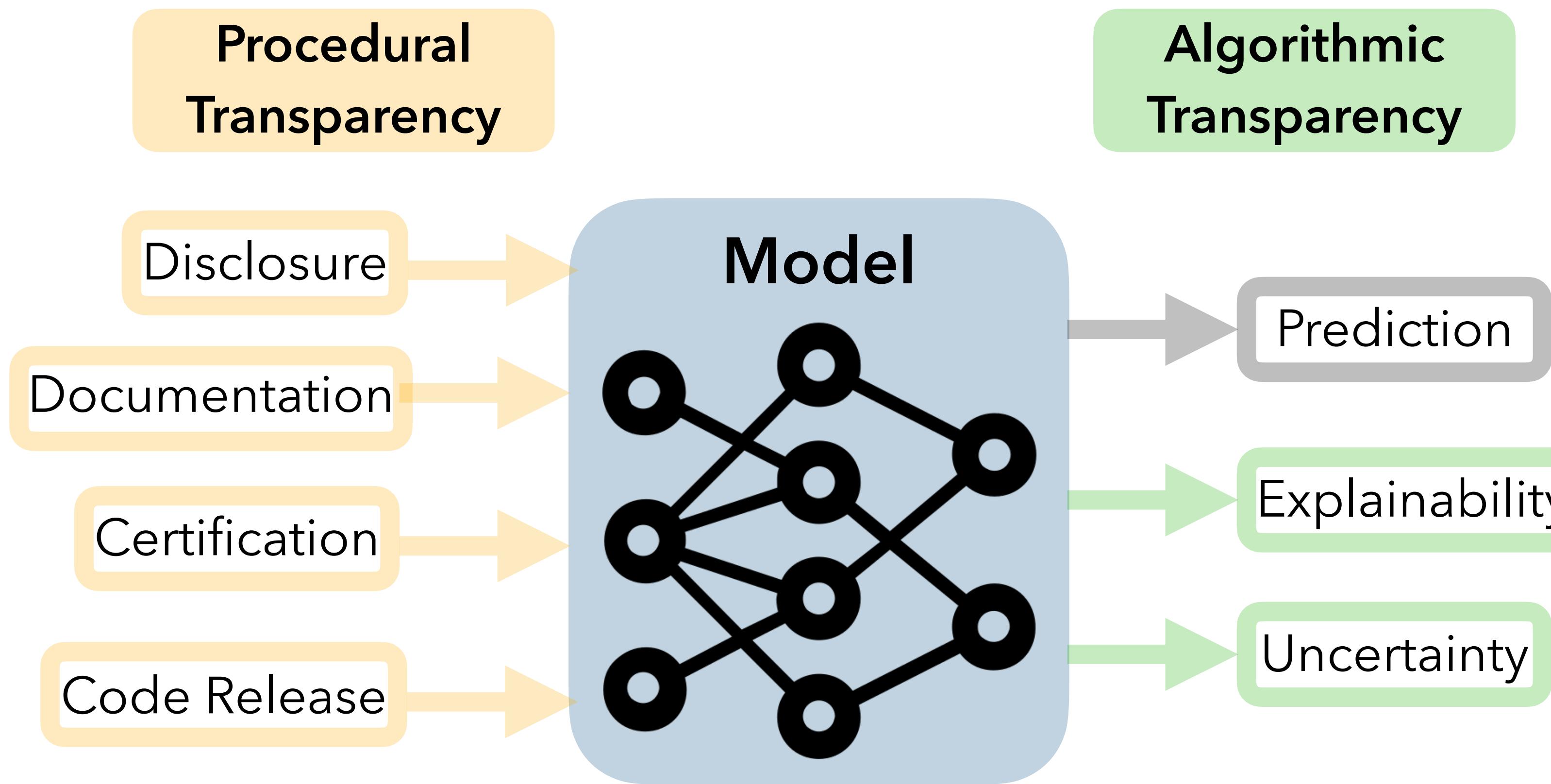


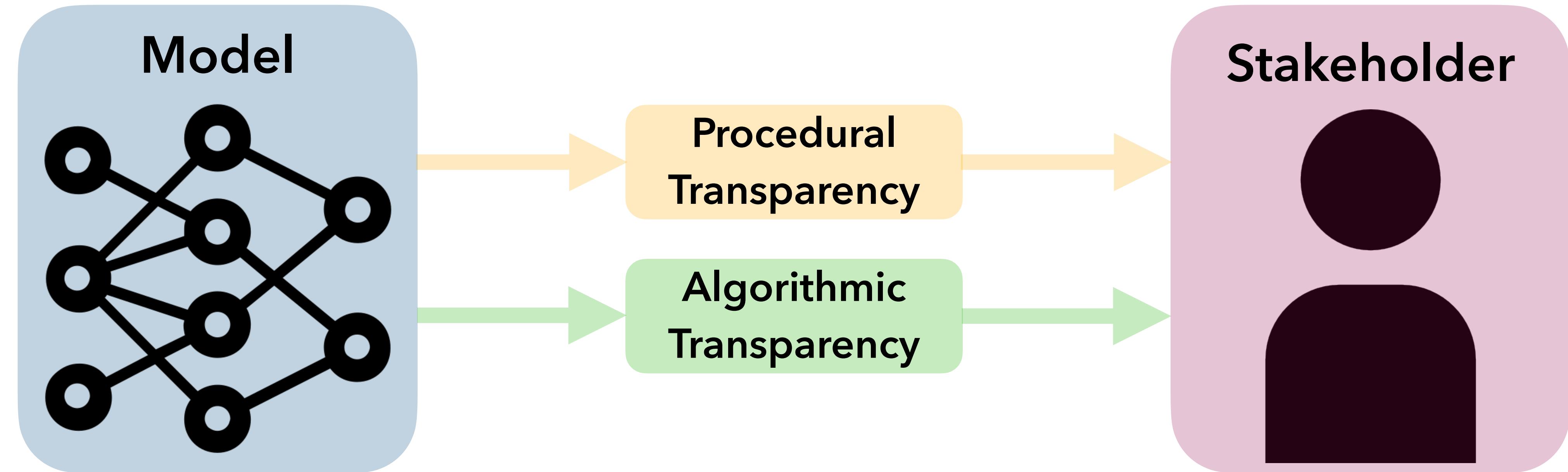
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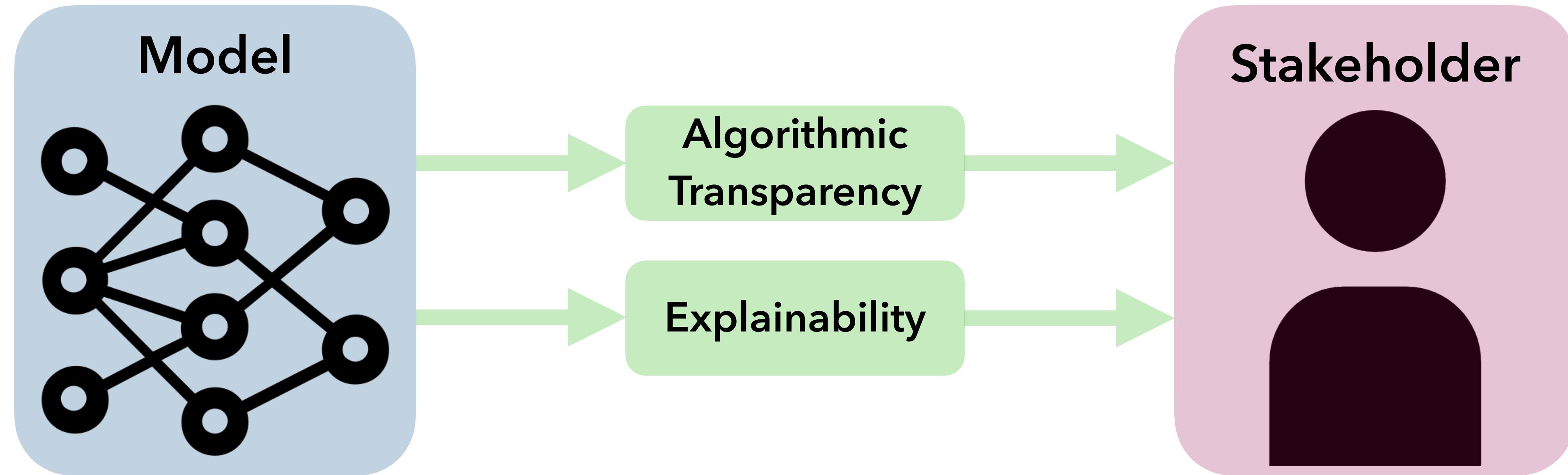




**Transparency** means providing stakeholders with relevant information about how a model works







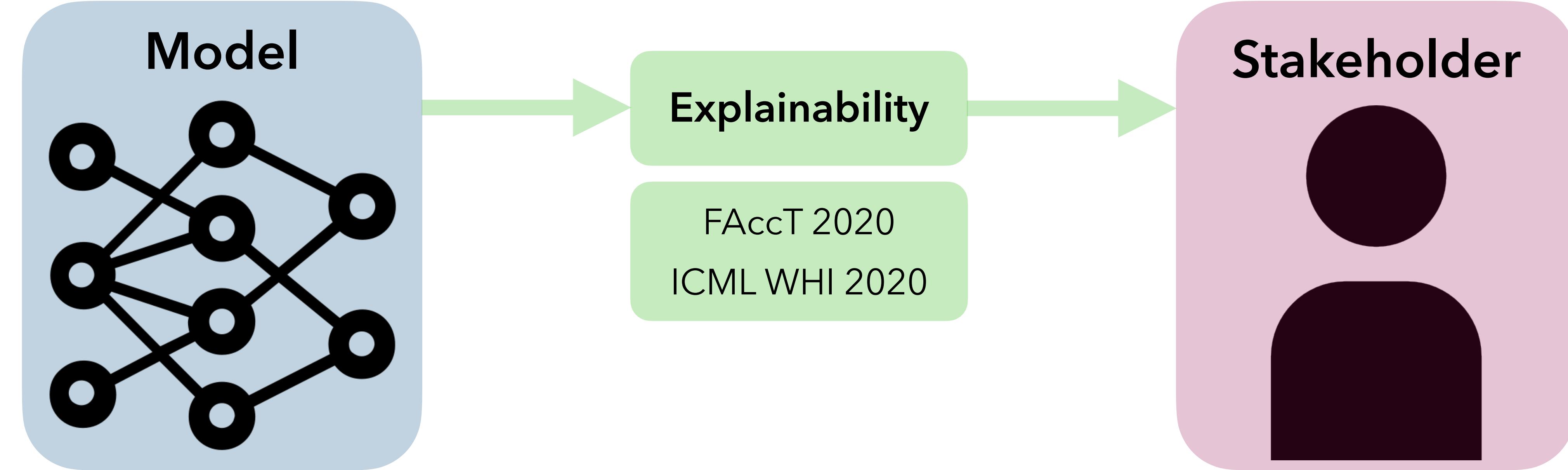
**Explainability** means providing insight into a model's behavior for specific datapoint(s)

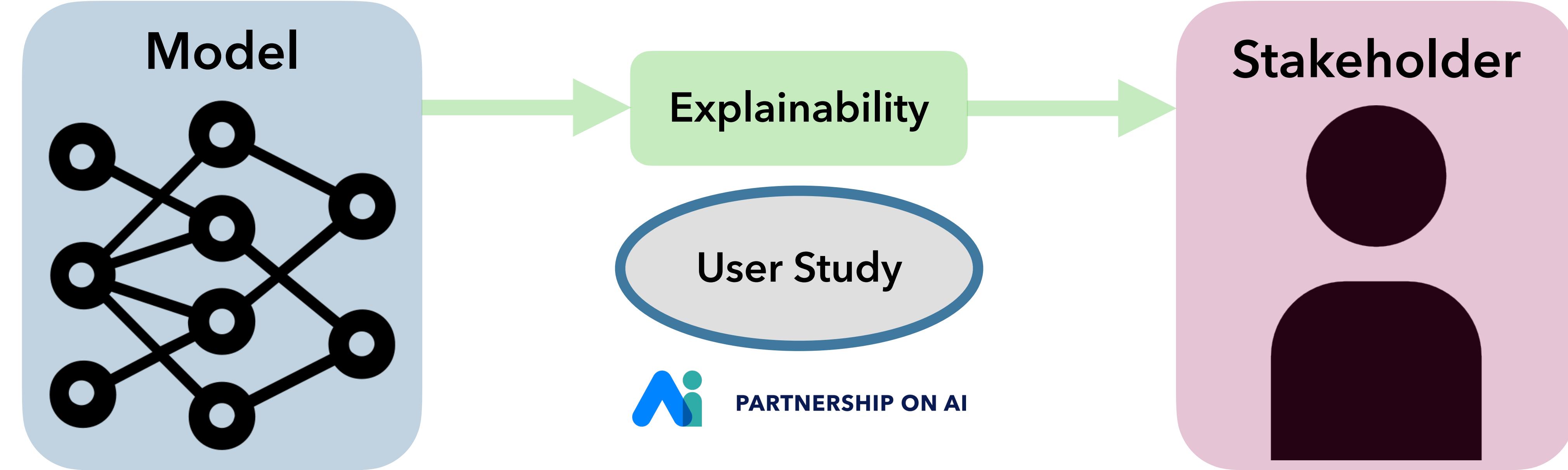
# Research Style

**Convenings**

**Methods**

**User Studies**

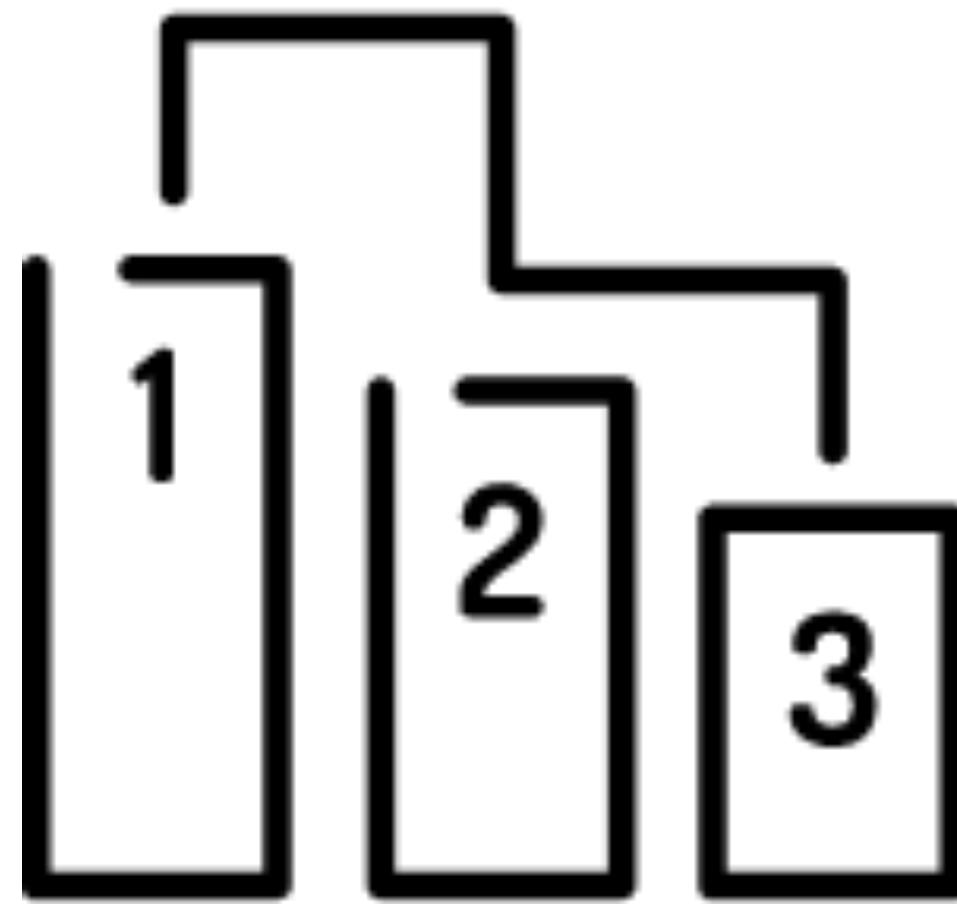




**Goal:** understand how explainability methods are used in *practice*

**Approach:** 30min to 2hr *semi-structured* interviews with 50 individuals from 30 organizations

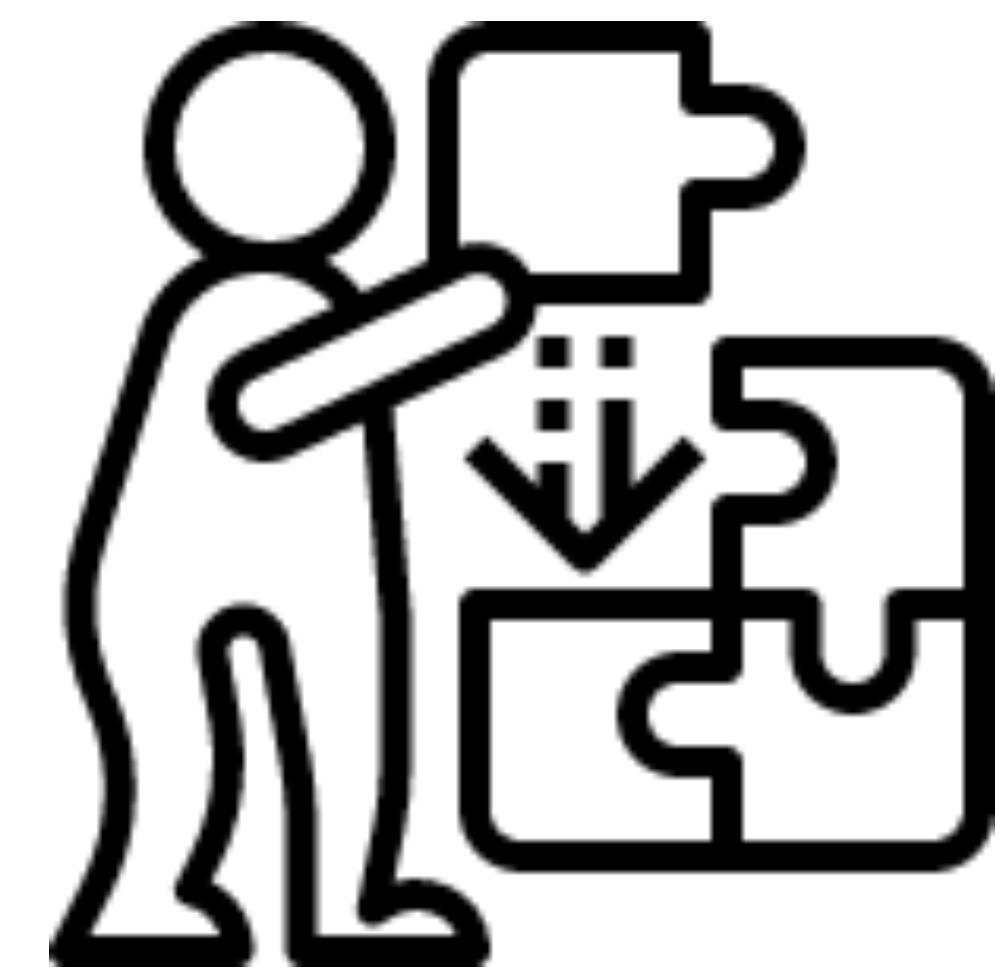
# Popular Explanation Styles



Feature Importance

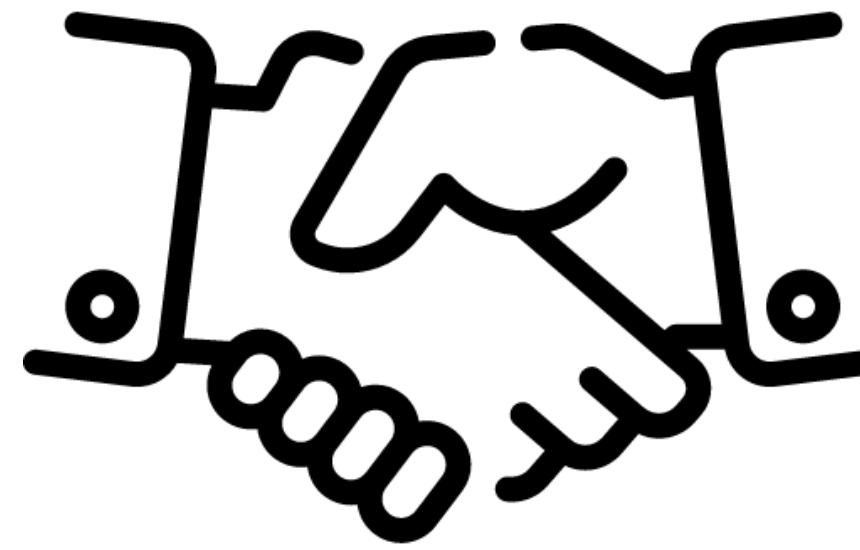


Sample Importance

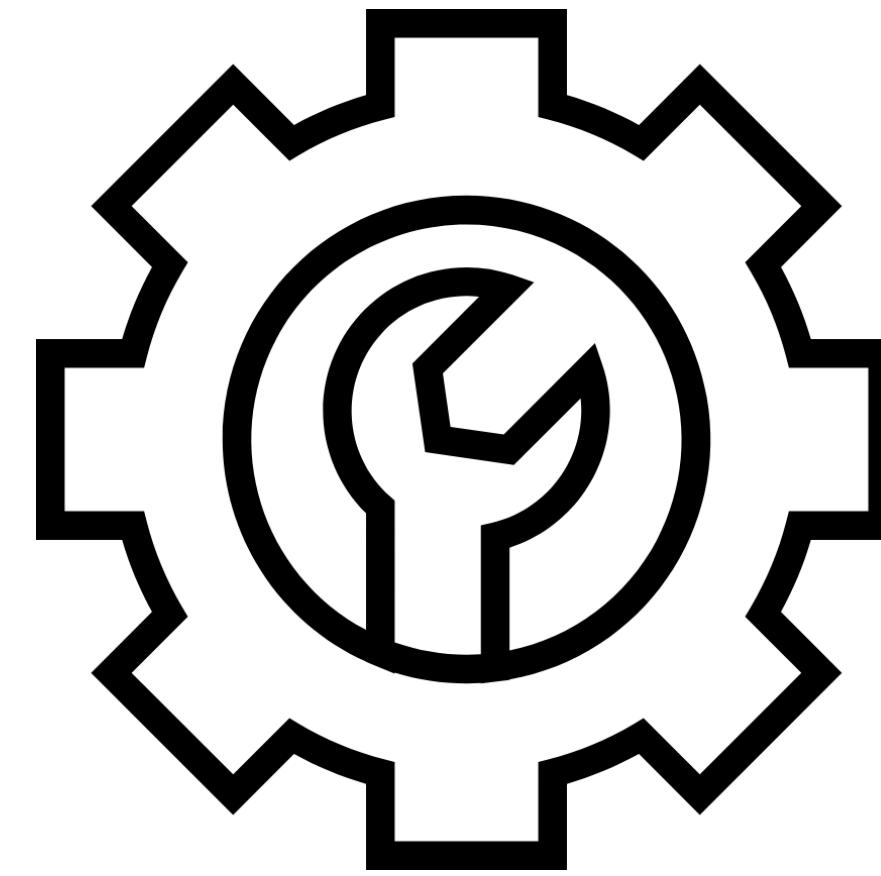


Counterfactuals

# Common Explanation Stakeholders



Executives



Engineers



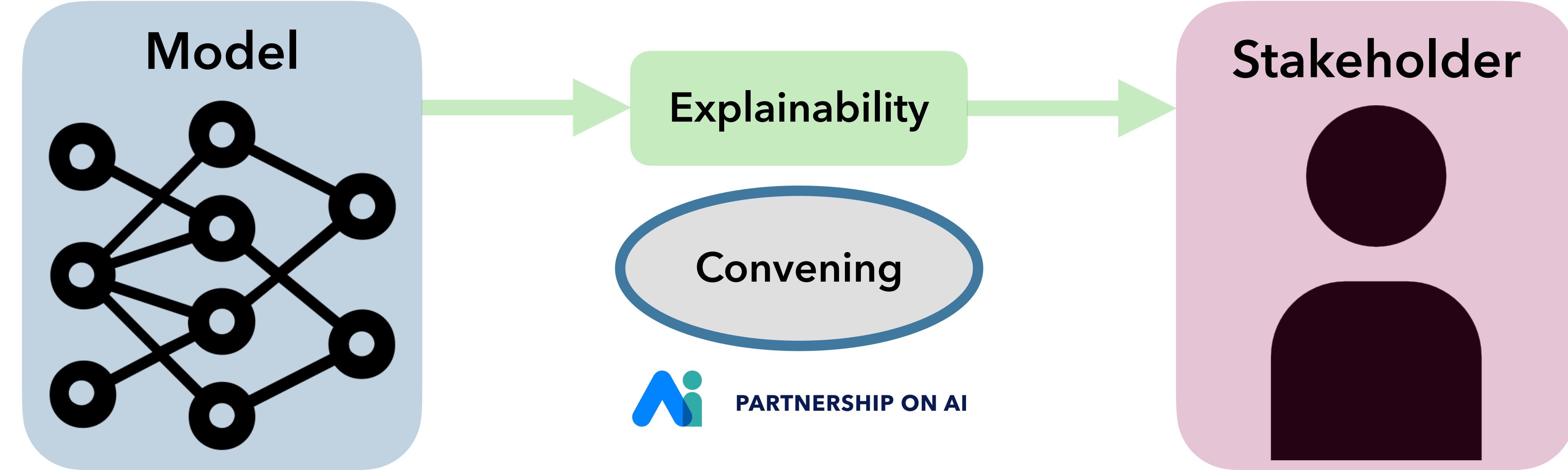
End Users



Regulators

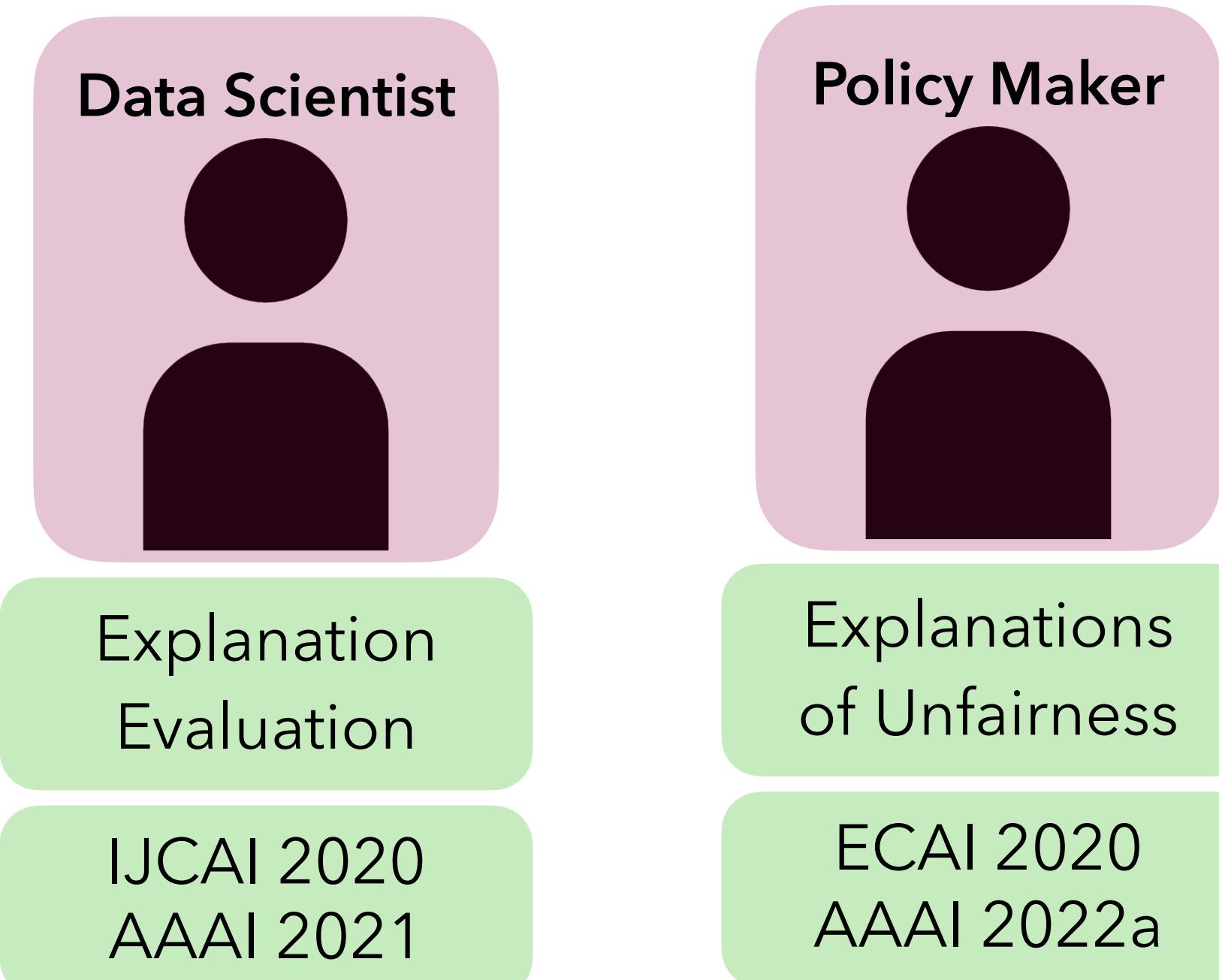
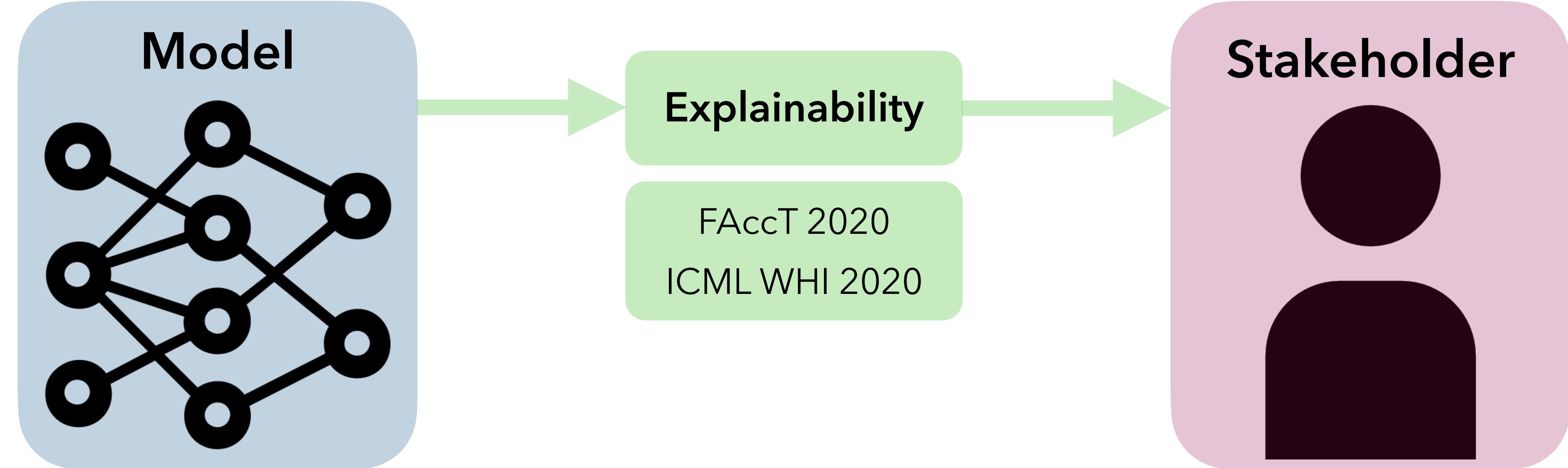
# Findings

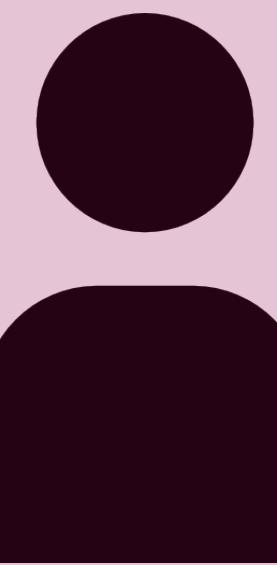
1. Explainability is used for **debugging** internally
2. **Goals** of explainability are not clearly defined within organizations
3. Technical **limitations** make explainability hard to deploy in real-time



**Goal:** facilitate an *inter-stakeholder* conversation around explainability

**Conclusion:** *Community engagement* and *context consideration* are important factors in deploying explainability thoughtfully





# Assess properties of explanations

Methods

**Model**  $f: \mathcal{X} \mapsto \mathcal{Y}$

**Explanation Function**  $g: \mathcal{F} \times \mathcal{X} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$

**Problem:** “There are many of candidate explanation methods (LIME, SHAP, etc.) but it is unclear how to decide when to use each.”

## Candidate Properties

**Sensitivity:** Do similar inputs have similar explanations?

$$\mu(f, g, x, r) = \int_{\rho(x, z) \leq r} D(g(f, x), g(f, z)) \mathbb{P}_x(z) dz$$

**Faithfulness:** Does the explanation capture features important for prediction?

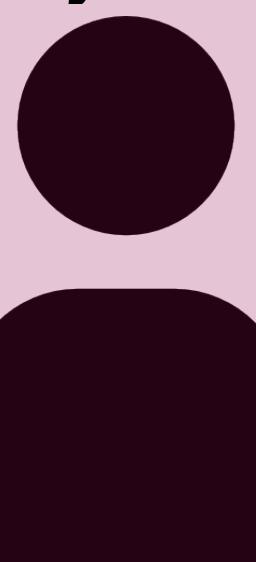
$$\mu(f, g, x, S) = \text{corr}\left(\frac{1}{|S|} \sum_{i \in S} g(f, x)_i, f(x) - f(x_{[x_s=\bar{x}_s]})\right)$$

**Complexity:** Is the explanation digestible?

$$\mu(f, g, x) = H(x) = \mathbb{E}_i[-\ln(|g(f, x)_i|)]$$

We go on to show how to (A) **aggregate** multiple explanations into a consensus and (B) how to **optimize** an explanation for a selected criterion

Policy Maker



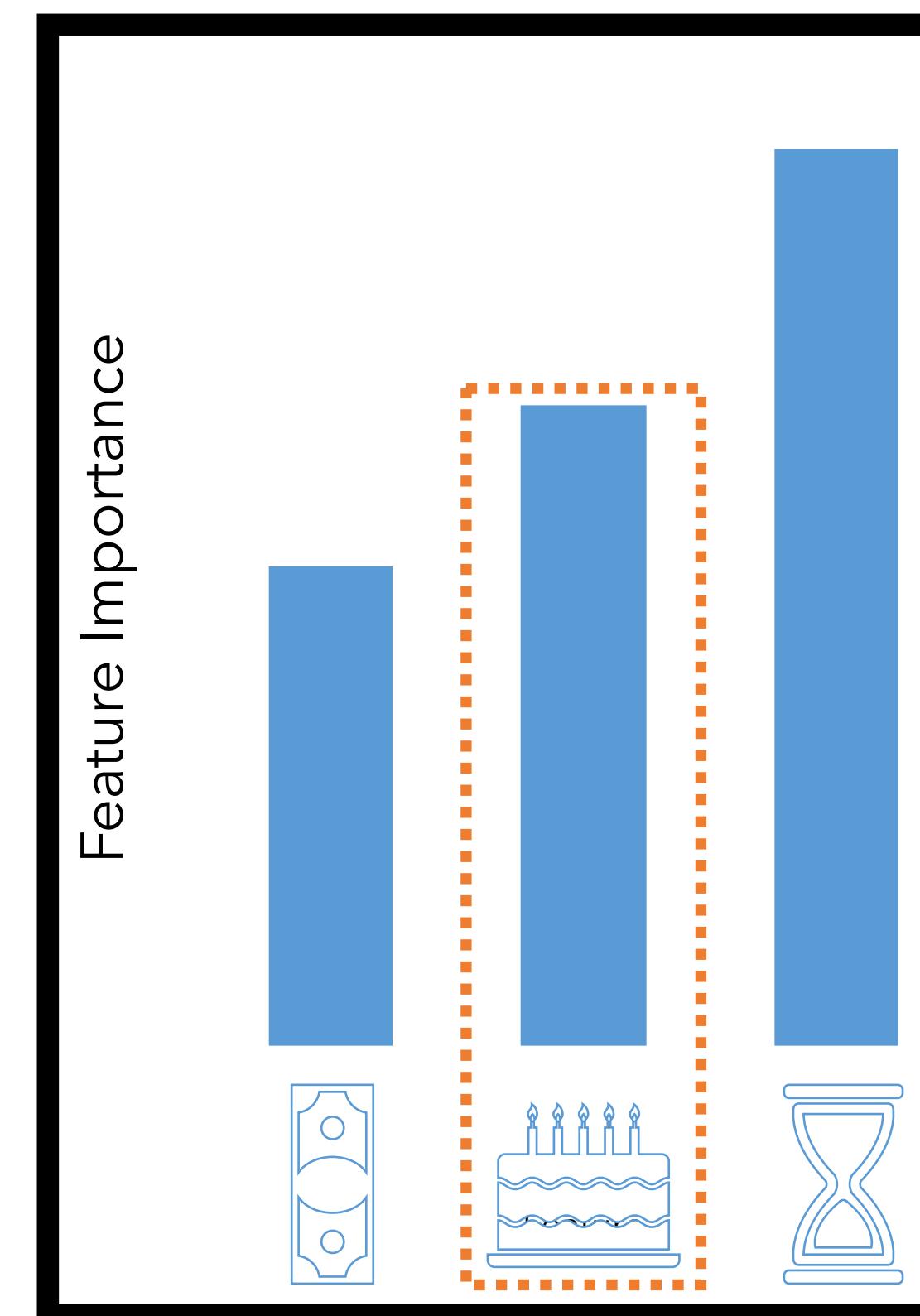
Explanations  
of Unfairness

**ECAI 2020**  
AAAI 2022a

# Assure model fairness via explanations

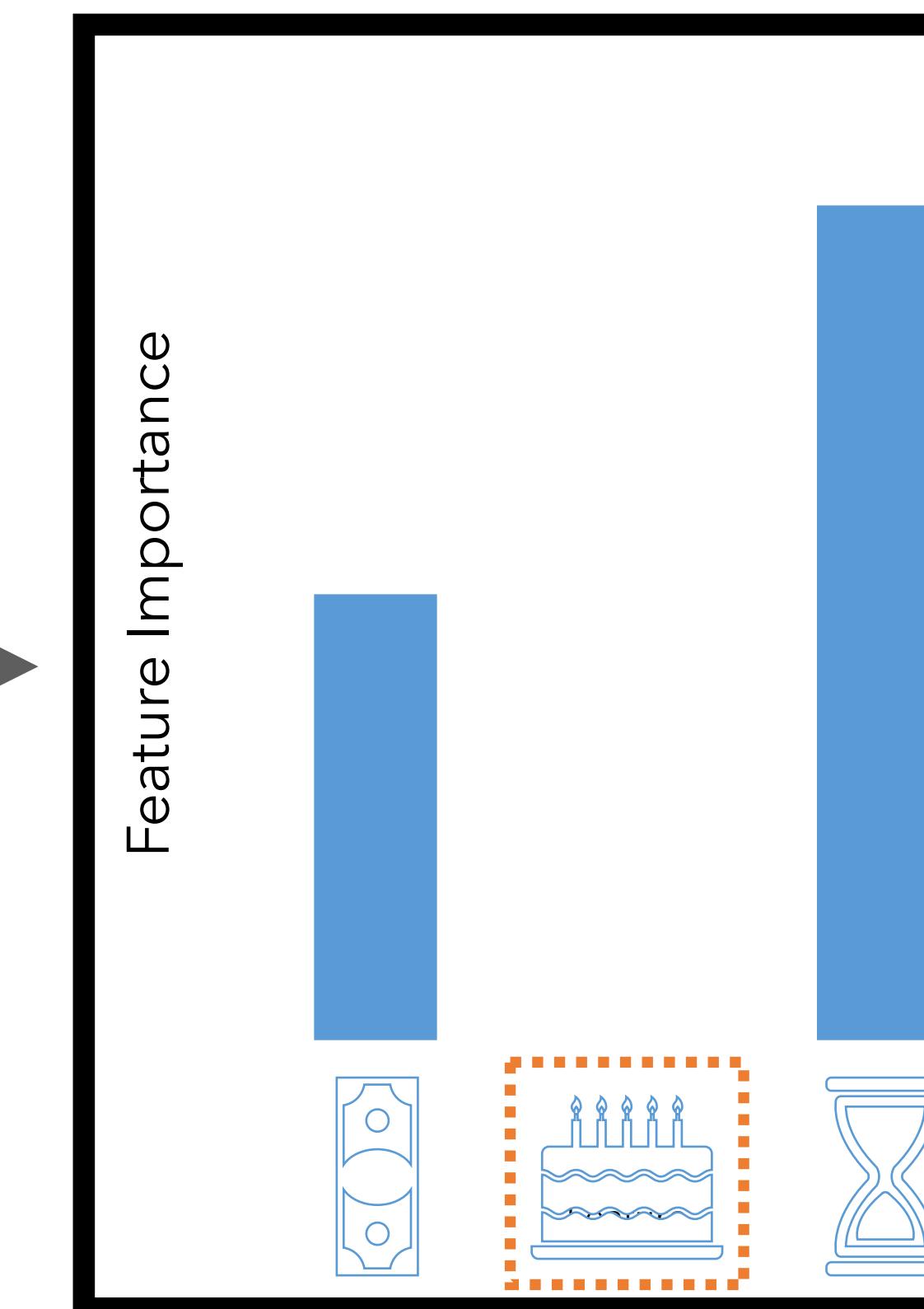
Methods

Model A



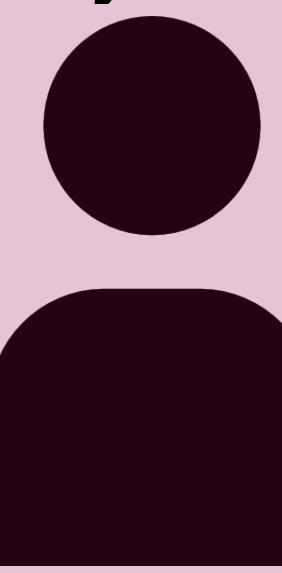
Unfair

Model B



Fair

Policy Maker



Explanations  
of Unfairness

ECAI 2020  
AAAI 2022a

# Don't assume model fairness via explanations

Methods

Attribution of Sensitive Attribute

Our Goal  $f_\theta \rightarrow f_{\theta+\delta}$

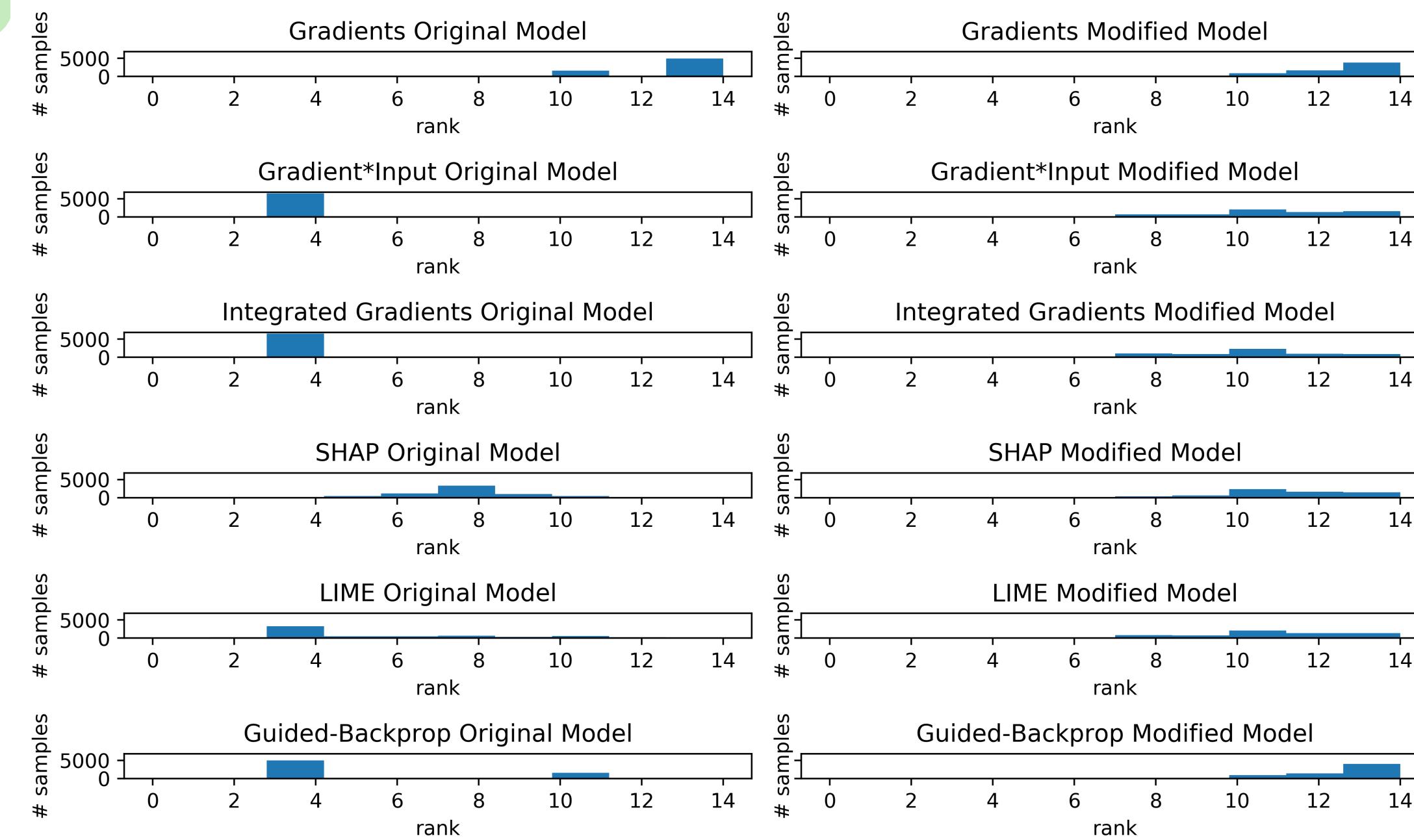
$$g(f, x)_j$$

1. Model Similarity  $\forall i, f_{\theta+\delta}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}) \approx f_\theta(\mathbf{x}^{(i)})$

2. Low Target Attribution  $\forall i, |g(f_{\theta+\delta}, \mathbf{x}^{(i)})_j| \ll |g(f_\theta, \mathbf{x}^{(i)})_j|$

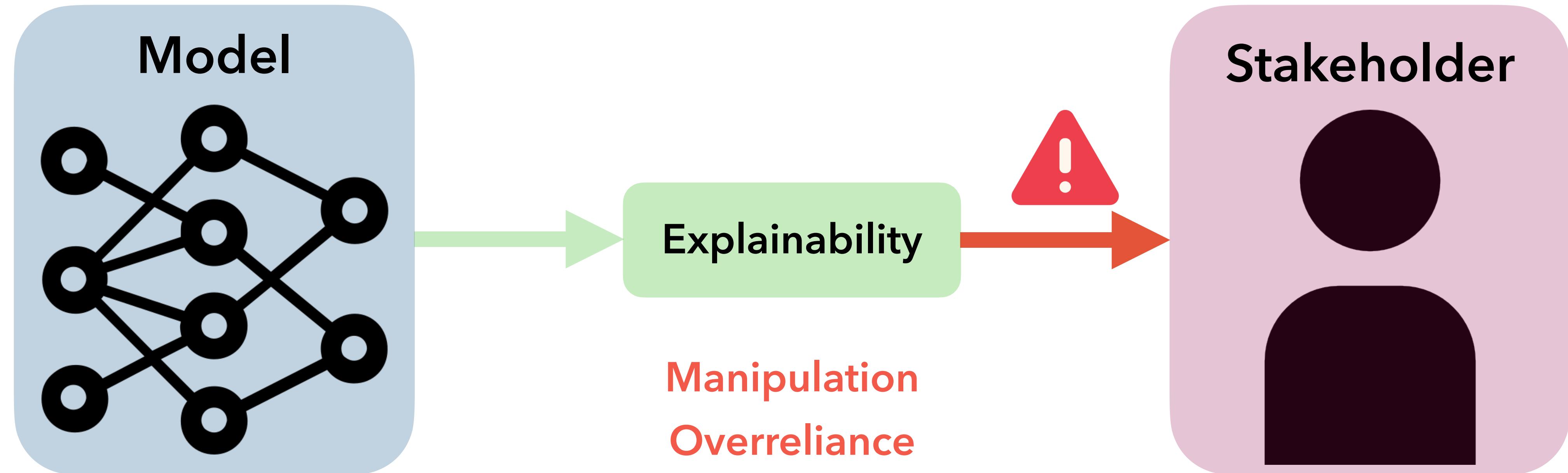
Adversarial Explanation Attack

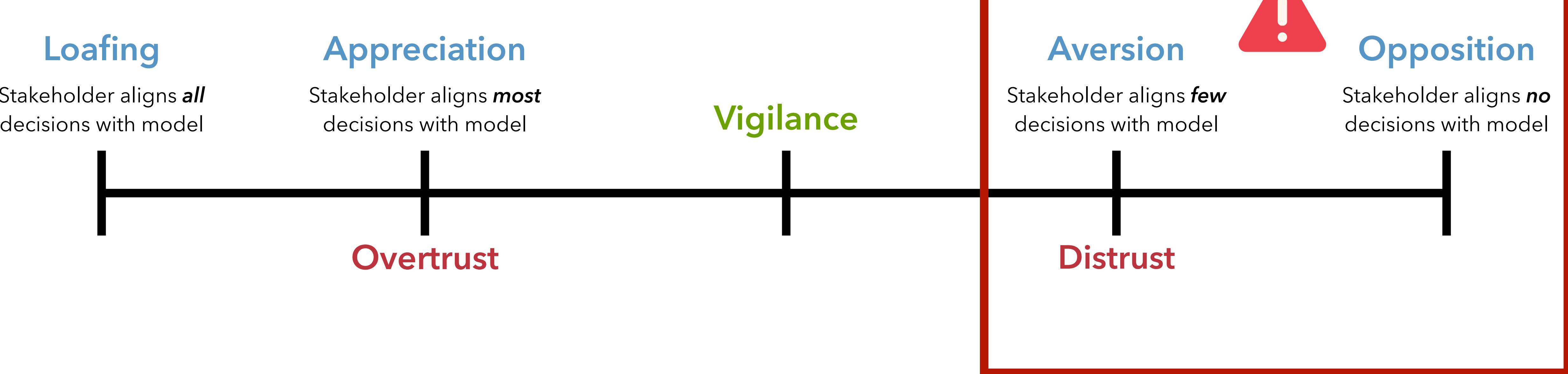
$$\operatorname{argmin}_\delta L' = L(f_{\theta+\delta}, x, y) + \frac{\alpha}{n} \left\| \nabla_{\mathbf{X}_{:,j}} L(f_{\theta+\delta}, x, y) \right\|_p$$



Our proposed attack:

1. Decreases relative importance significantly.
2. Generalizes to test points.
3. Transfers across explanation methods.





Dietvorst, Simmons, Massey. *Algorithm aversion: People Erroneously Avoid Algorithms after Seeing Them Err*. Journal of Experimental Psychology. 2015.  
Logg, Minson, Moore. *Algorithm appreciation: People prefer algorithmic to human judgment*. Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes. 2019.  
Zerilli, B, Weller. *How transparency modulates trust in artificial intelligence*. Patterns. 2022.

## Loafing

Stakeholder aligns **all** decisions with model

## Appreciation

Stakeholder aligns **most** decisions with model

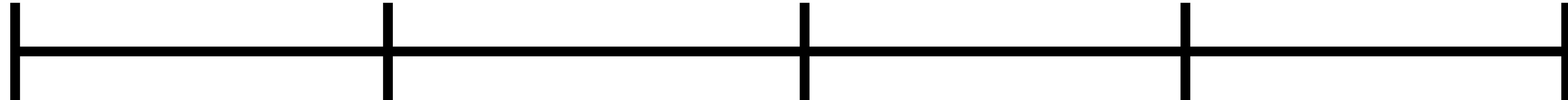
## Aversion

Stakeholder aligns **few** decisions with model

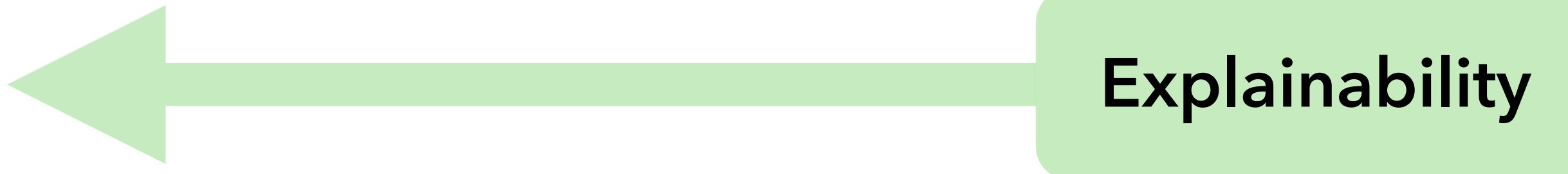
## Opposition

Stakeholder aligns **no** decisions with model

## Vigilance

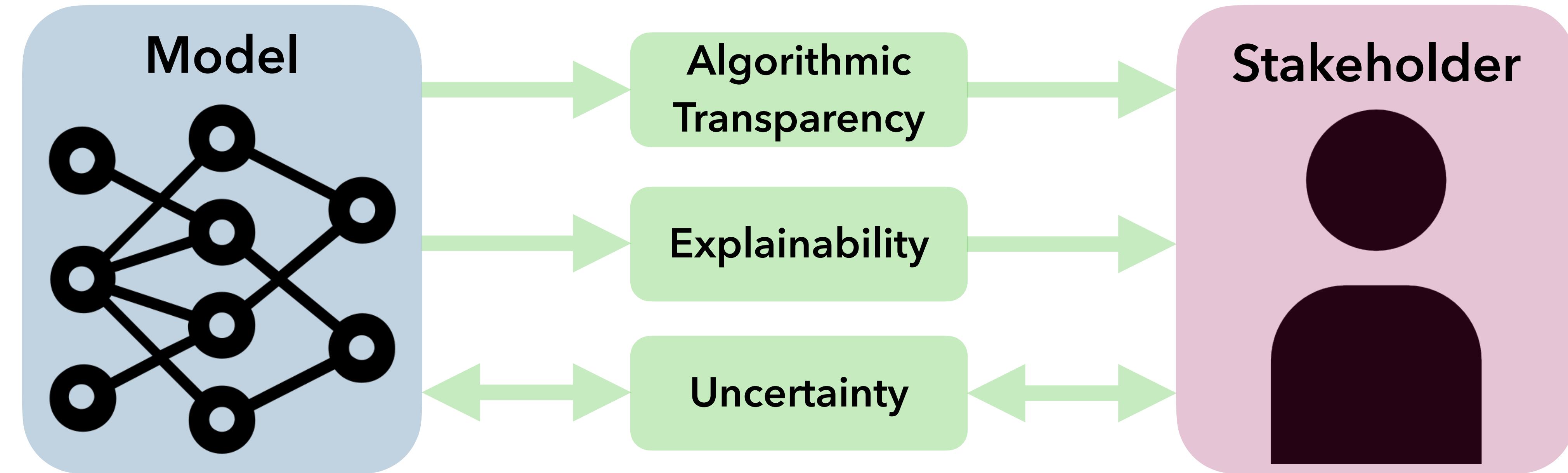


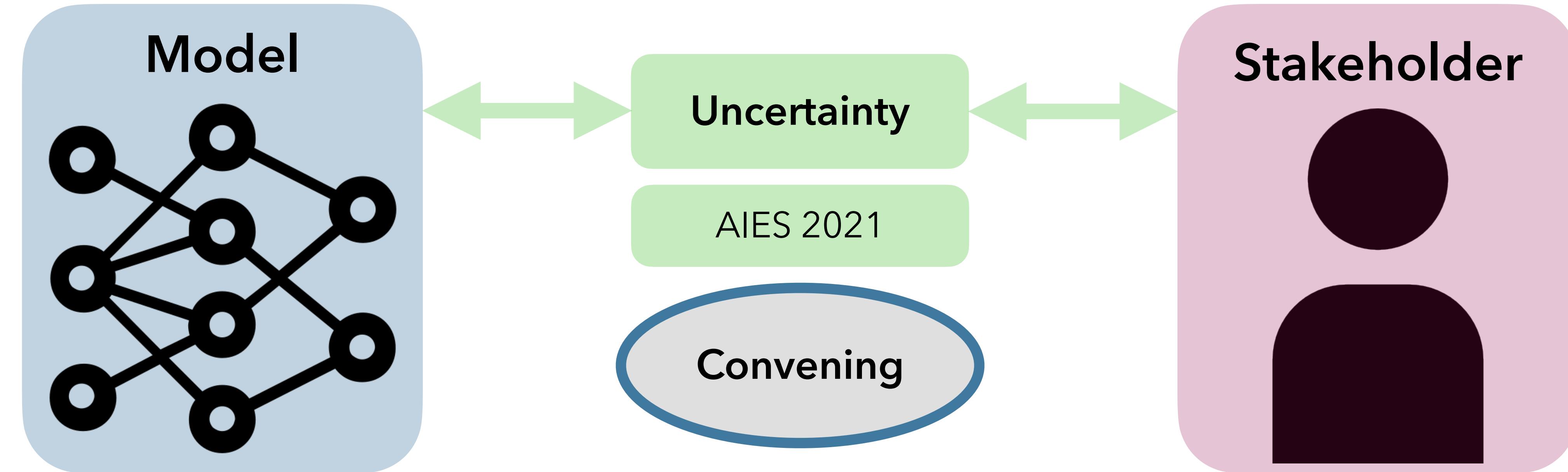
Explainability



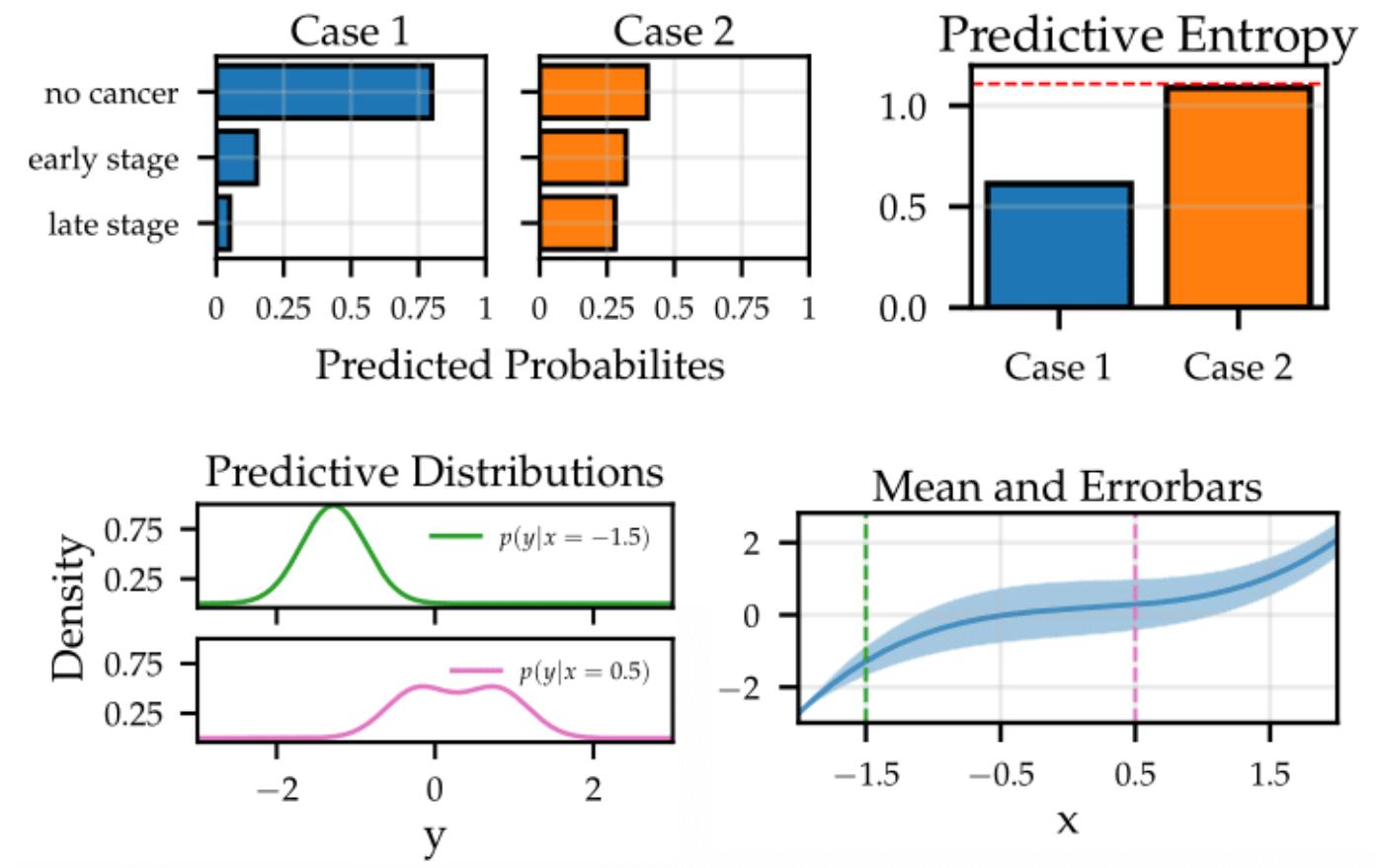
Uncertainty







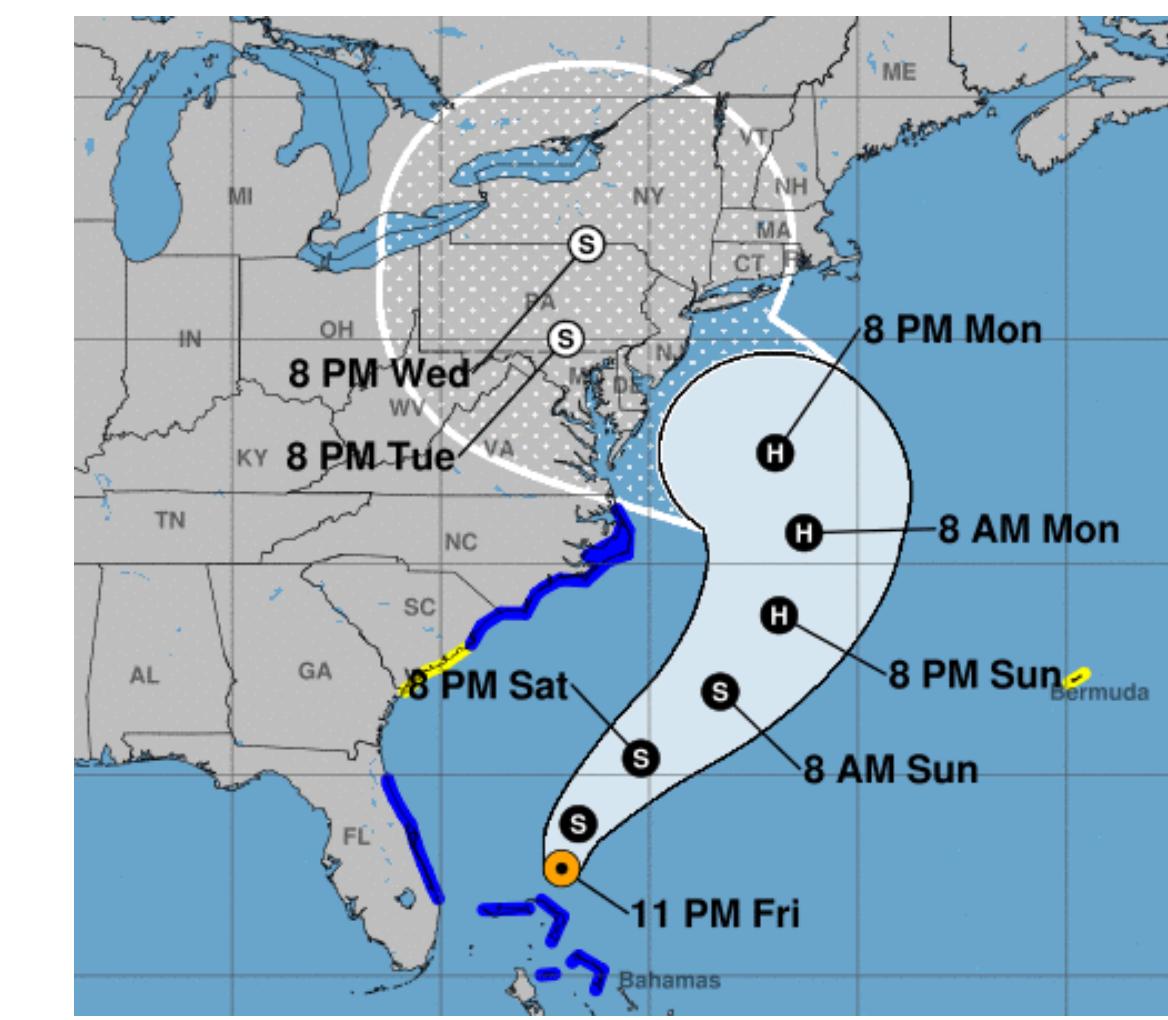
### Step 1: Measuring

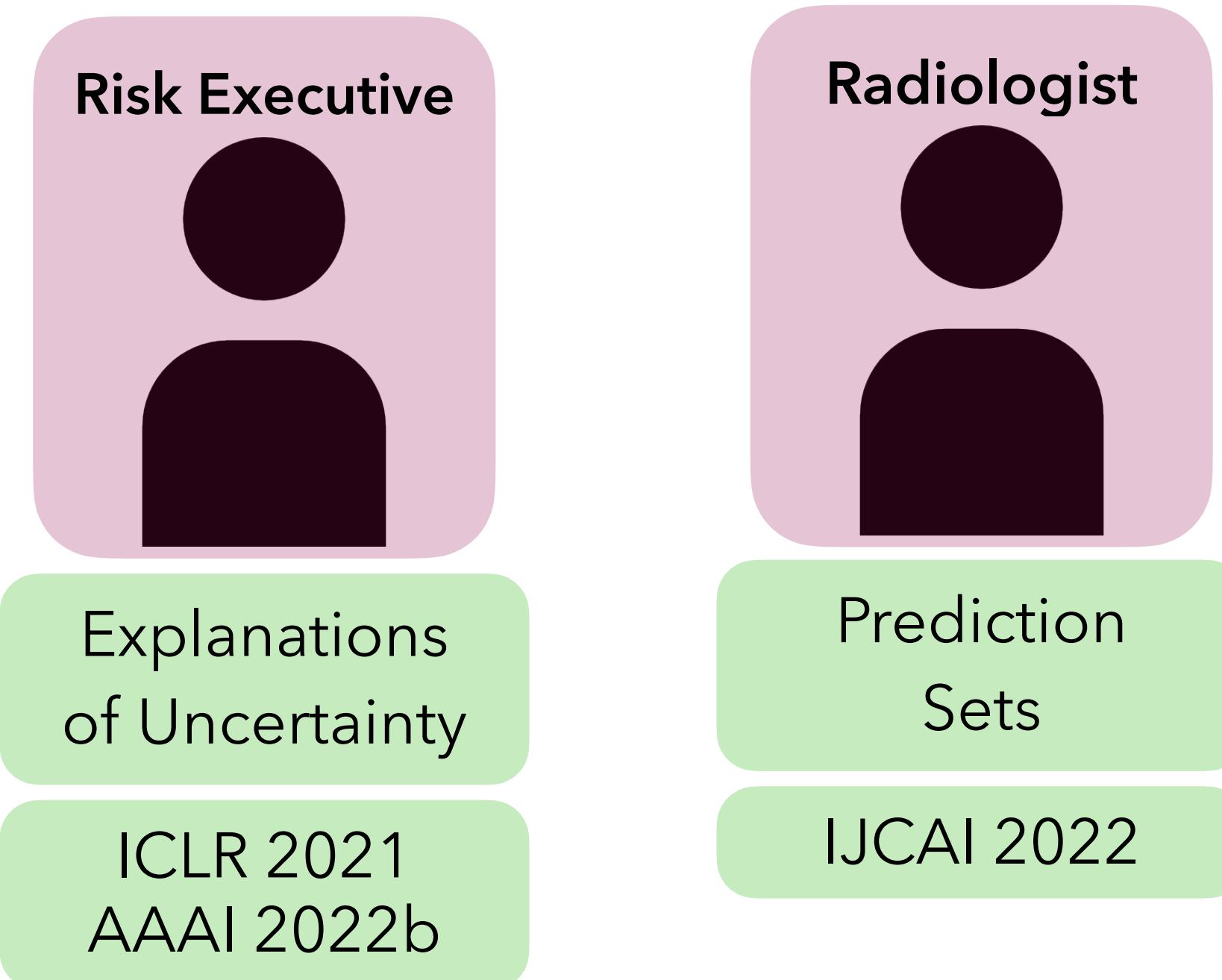
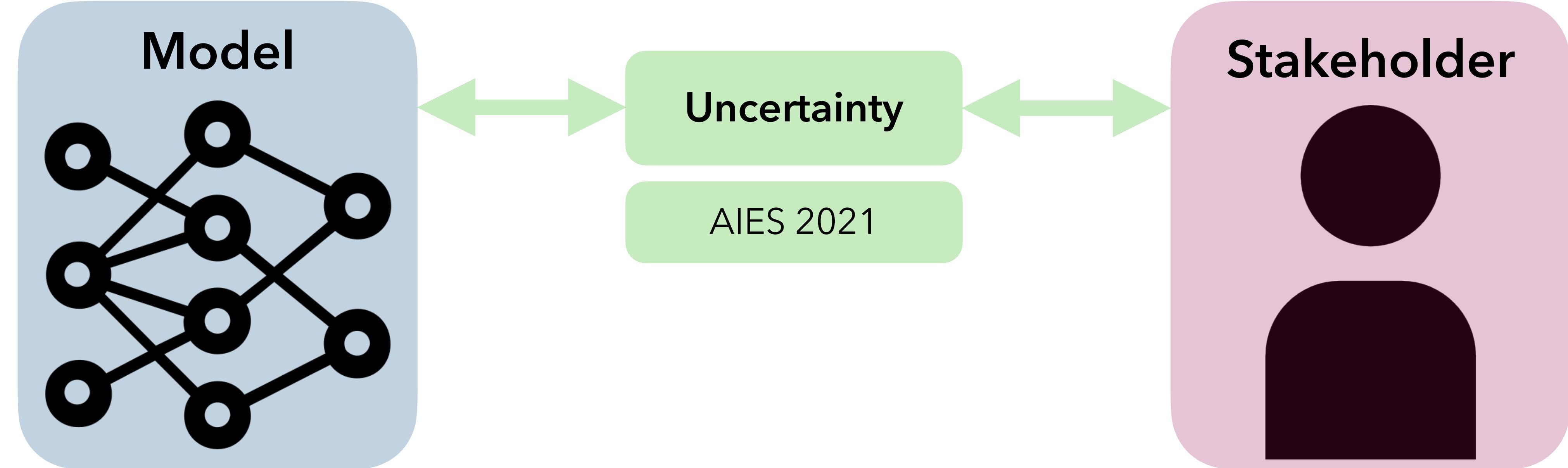


### Step 2: Using

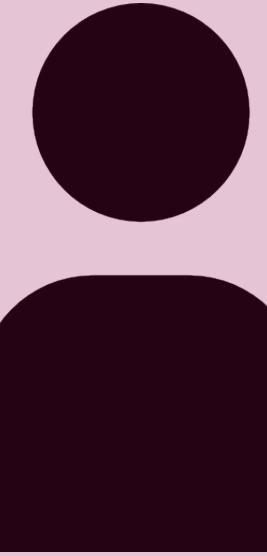
- **Fairness:** Measurement and Sampling Bias
- **Decision-Making:** Building Reject Option Classifiers
- **Trust Formation:** Displaying Ability, Benevolence, and Integrity

### Step 3: Communicating





Risk Executive



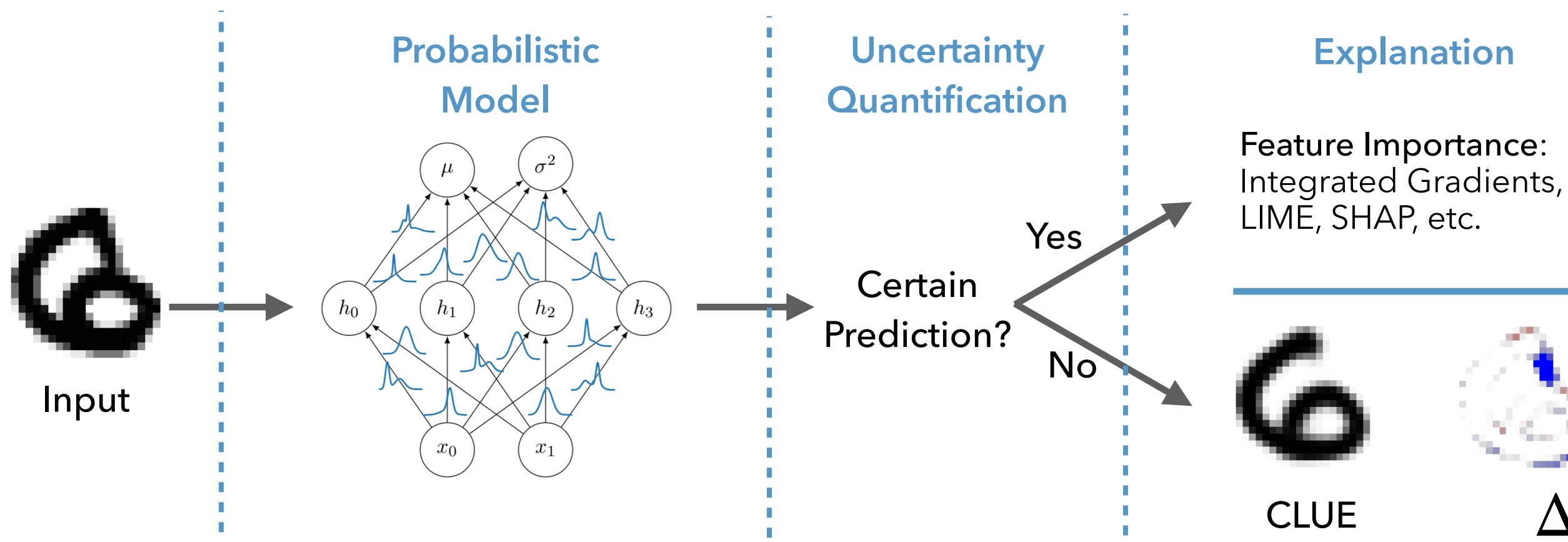
Explanations  
of Uncertainty

ICLR 2021  
AAAI 2022b

# CLUE: Counterfactual Latent Uncertainty Explanations

Methods

Question: "Where in my input does uncertainty about my outcome lie?"



Formulation: What is the smallest change we need to make to an input, while staying in-distribution, such that our model produces more certain predictions?

Sensitivity



$$-\eta \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} H(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{x}_0)$$



$$H(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{x}_0) = 1.77$$

$$H(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{x}_{sens}) = 0.12$$

CLUE



$$\mu_{\phi}(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x}_0)$$

$$\mu_{\theta}(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{z}_{CLUE})$$

$$-\eta \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{z}} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{z})$$

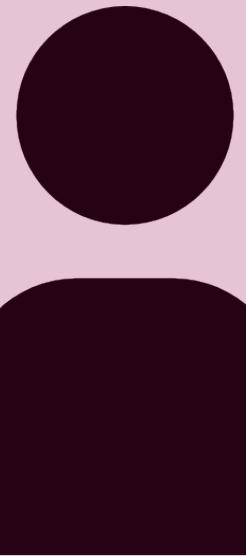


$$H(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{x}_{CLUE}) = 0.19$$

Antoran, B, Adel, Weller, Hernandez-Lobato. Getting a CLUE: A Method for Explaining Uncertainty Estimates. ICLR. 2021.

Ley, B, Weller. Diverse and Amortised Counterfactual Explanations for Uncertainty Estimates. AAAI. 2022.

Risk Executive

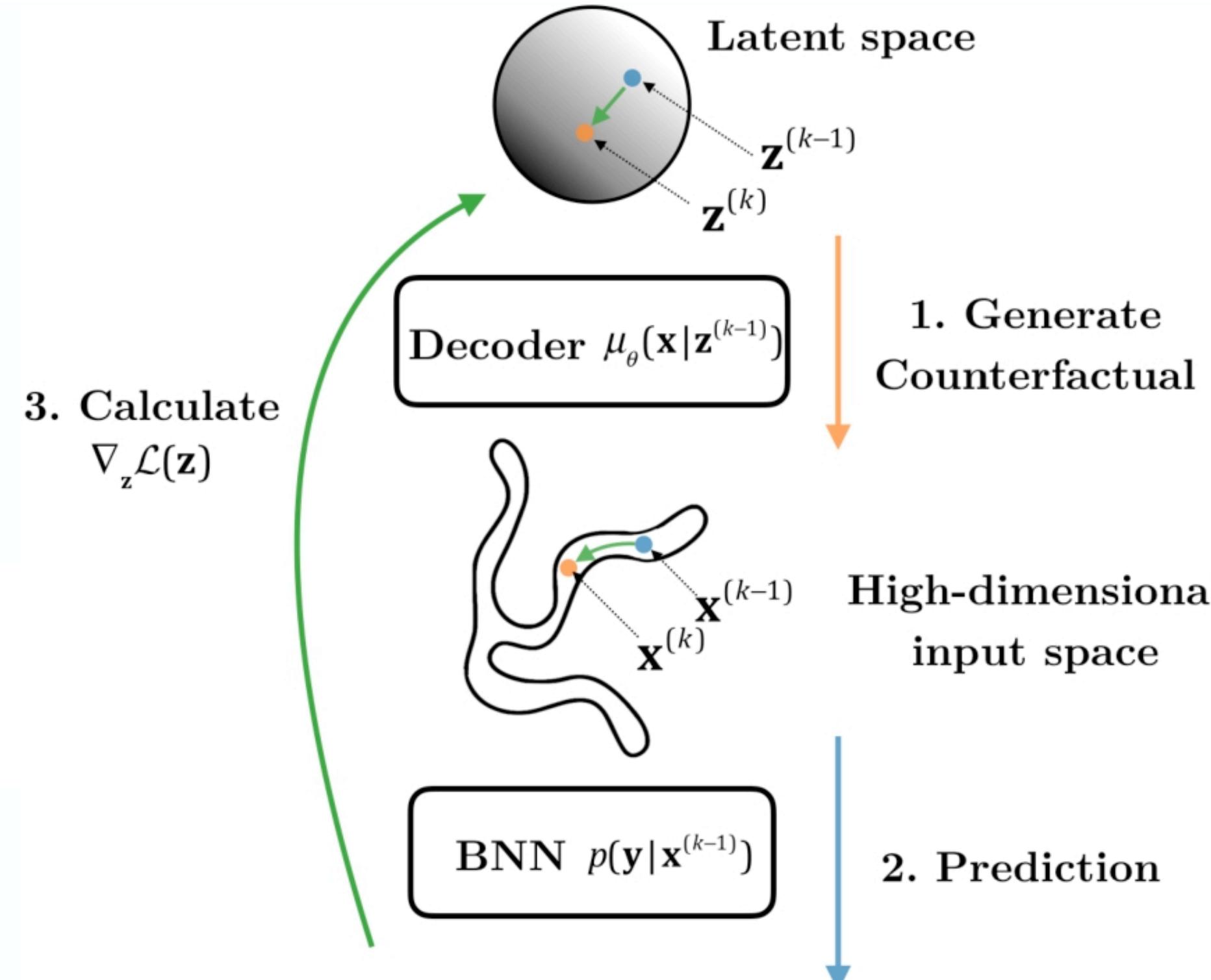


Explanations  
of Uncertainty

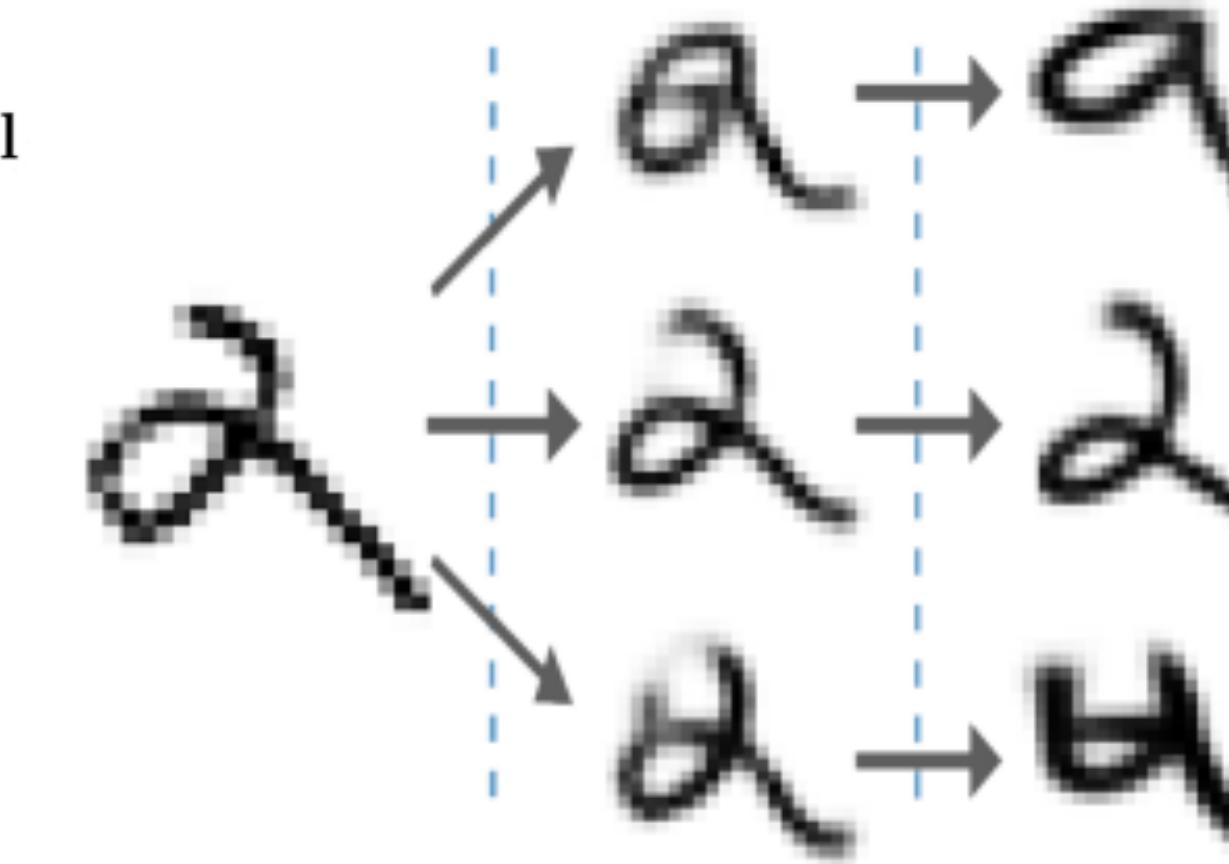
ICLR 2021  
AAAI 2022b

# CLUE: Counterfactual Latent Uncertainty Explanations

Methods



Original    CLUE     $\Delta$ CLUE

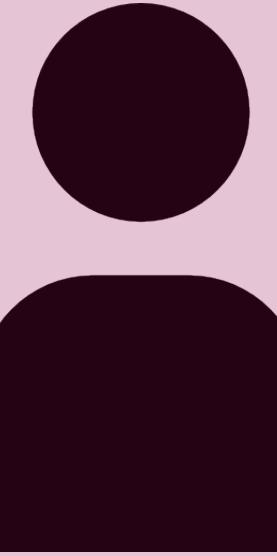


INCREASING DISTANCE →

Antoran, B, Adel, Weller, Hernandez-Lobato. Getting a CLUE: A Method for Explaining Uncertainty Estimates. ICLR. 2021.

Ley, B, Weller. Diverse and Amortised Counterfactual Explanations for Uncertainty Estimates. AAAI. 2022.

Risk Executive



Explanations  
of Uncertainty

ICLR 2021  
AAAI 2022b

# CLUE: Counterfactual Latent Uncertainty Explanations

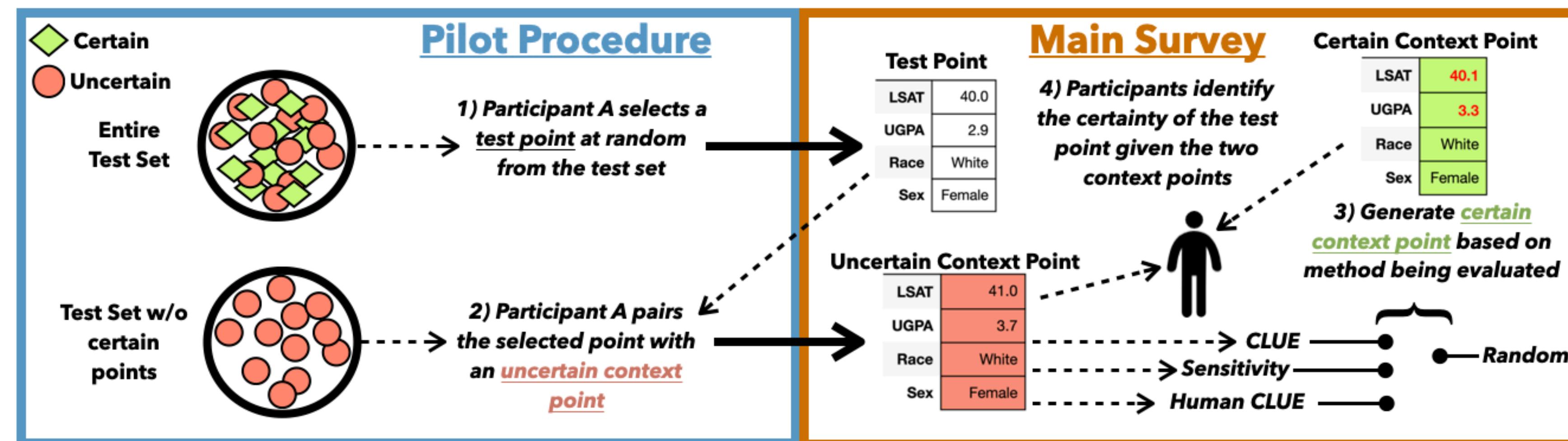
User Studies

Human Simulability: Users are shown context examples and are tasked with predicting model behavior on new datapoint.

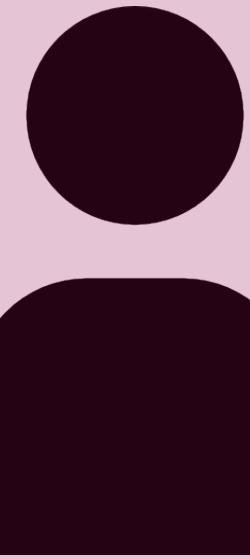
	Uncertain	Certain		?	
Age	Less than 25	Age	Less than 25	Age	Less than 25
Race	Caucasian	Race	African-American	Race	Hispanic
Sex	Male	Sex	Male	Sex	Male
Current Charge	Misdemeanour	Current Charge	Misdemeanour	Current Charge	Misdemeanour
Reoffended Before	Yes	Reoffended Before	No	Reoffended Before	No
Prior Convictions	1	Prior Convictions	0	Prior Convictions	0
Days Served	0	Days Served	0	Days Served	0

	Combined	LSAT	COMPAS
CLUE	<b>82.22</b>	<b>83.33</b>	<b>81.11</b>
Human CLUE	62.22	61.11	63.33
Random	61.67	62.22	61.11
Local Sensitivity	52.78	56.67	48.89

CLUE outperforms other approaches with statistical significance.  
(Using Nemenyi test for average ranks across test questions)



Radiologist



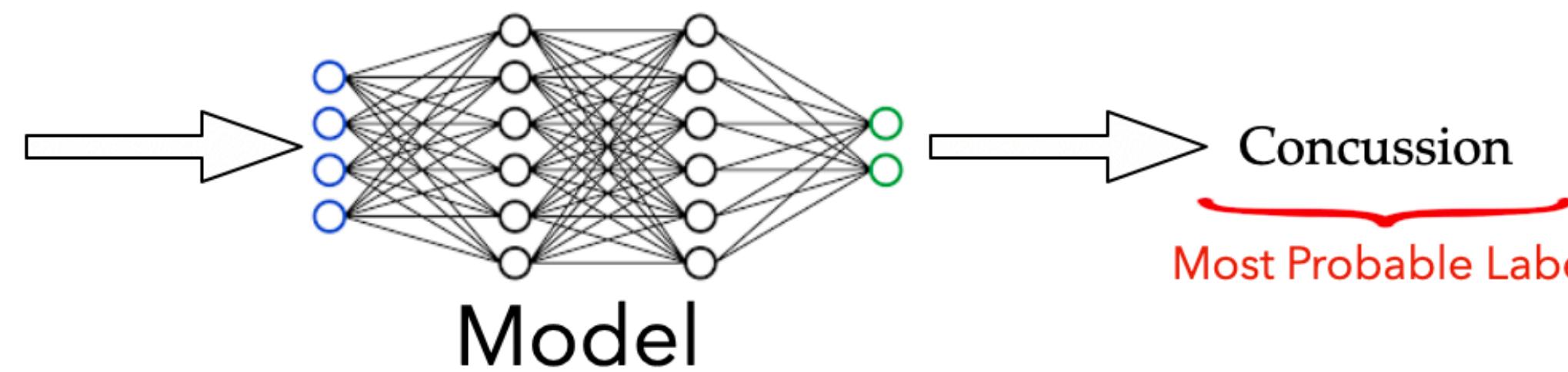
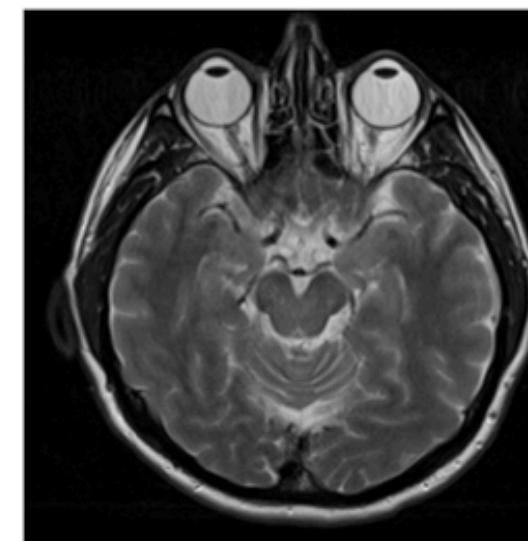
Prediction  
Sets

IJCAI 2022

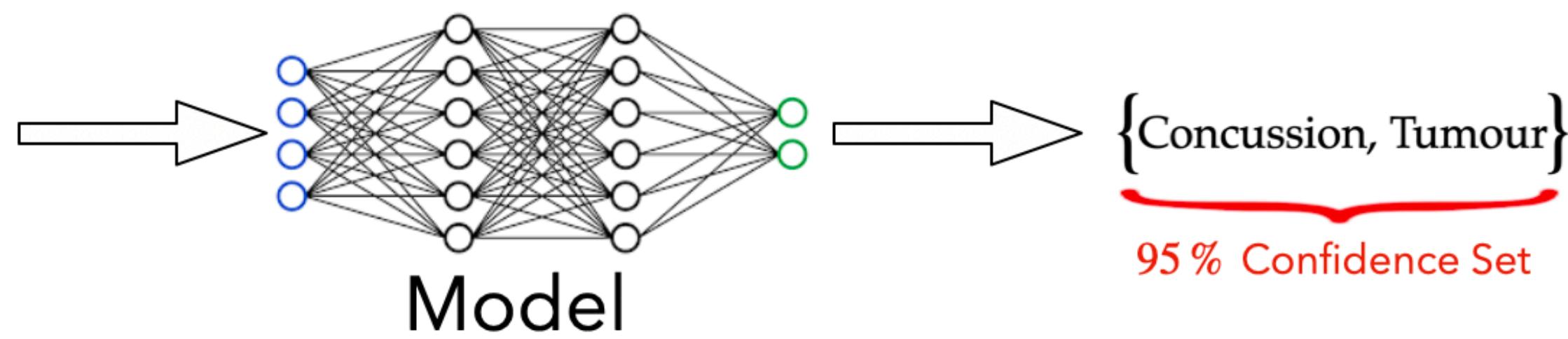
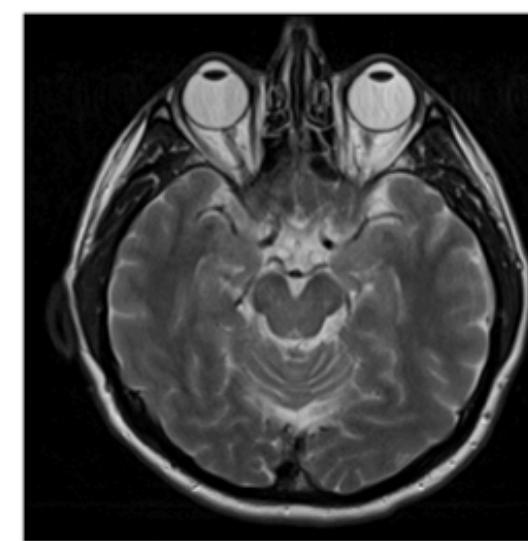
# Generate prediction sets for experts

Methods

Question: "What other outcomes are probable?"



**Top-1  
Classifier**



**Set Valued  
Classifier**

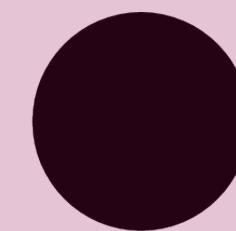
**Prediction Set**  $\Gamma(x) = \{y \in \mathcal{Y} \mid P(y|x) \geq \tau\}$

**Conformal Prediction**  $FNR \leq \alpha \equiv P(y \notin \Gamma(x)) \leq \alpha$

**Risk Controlling Prediction Sets**  $P(\underbrace{\mathbb{E}[L(y, \Gamma(x))]}_{\text{Risk}} \leq \alpha) \geq 1 - \delta$

Vovk, Gammerman, Shafer. Algorithms in the Real World. 2005  
Bates, Angelopoulos, Lei, Malik, Jordan. *Distribution-Free, Risk-Controlling Prediction Sets*. Journal of the ACM. 202.  
Babbar, B, Weller. *On the Utility of Prediction Sets in Human-AI Teams*. IJCAI. 2022.

Radiologist



Prediction  
Sets

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# Generate prediction sets for experts

User Studies

Question: Do prediction sets improve human-machine team performance?

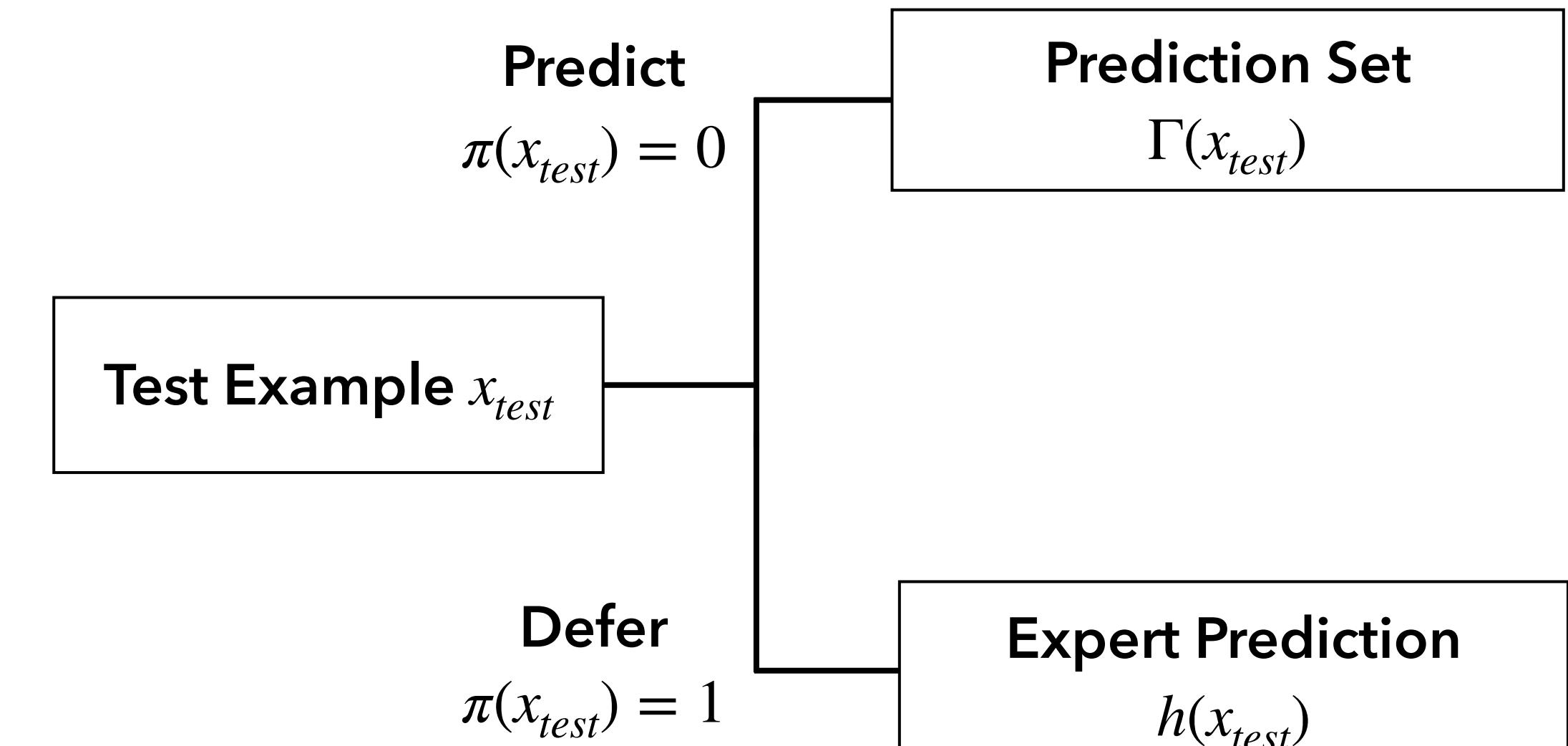
For CIFAR-100:

1. Prediction sets are perceived to be more useful ✓
2. Users trust prediction sets more than Top-1 classifiers ✓

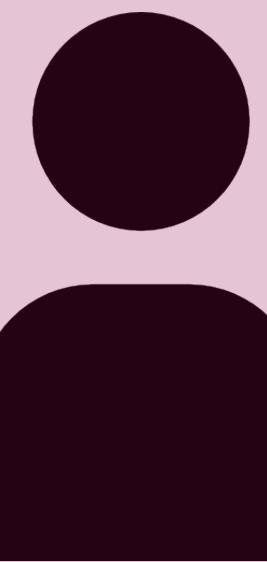
Metric	Top-1	RAPS	p value	Effect Size
Accuracy	$0.76 \pm 0.05$	$0.76 \pm 0.05$	0.999	0.000
Reported Utility	$5.43 \pm 0.69$	$6.94 \pm 0.69$	0.003	1.160
Reported Confidence	$7.21 \pm 0.55$	$7.88 \pm 0.29$	0.082	0.674
Reported Trust in Model	$5.87 \pm 0.81$	$8.00 \pm 0.69$	< 0.001	1.487

Observation: Some prediction sets can be quite large, rendering them useless to experts!

Idea: Learn a deferral policy  $\pi(x) \in \{0,1\}$  and reduce prediction set size on remaining examples



Radiologist



Prediction  
Sets

IJCAI 2022

# Generate prediction sets for experts

User Studies

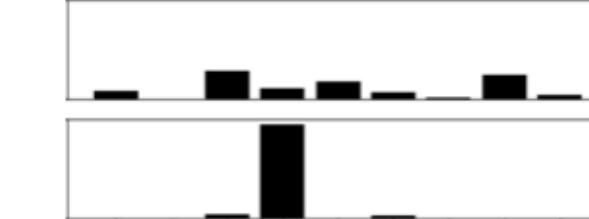
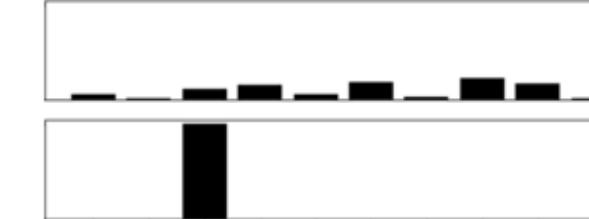
Using our [deferral plus prediction set scheme](#), we achieve:

1. Higher perceived utility ✓
2. Higher reported trust ✓
3. Higher team accuracy ✓

Model Uncertain — Humans Confident



Model  
Human



Class

Class

Class

Defer

Defer

Defer

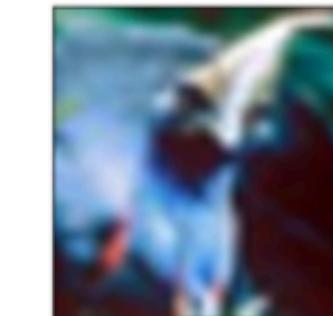
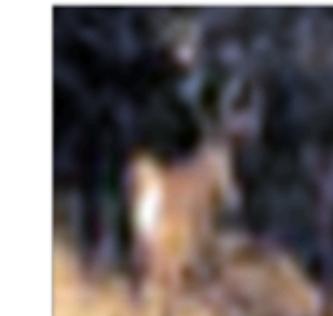
D-RAPS

{Airplane, Ship, Automobile}

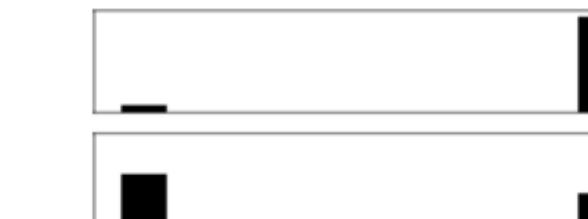
{Horse, Dog, Cat}

{Bird, Horse, Deer}

Model Confident — Humans Uncertain



Model  
Human



Class

Class

Class

D-RAPS

RAPS

{Deer}

{Deer, Horse}

{Bird, Cat}

{Bird, Airplane, Cat}

{Airplane}

{Airplane, Ship}

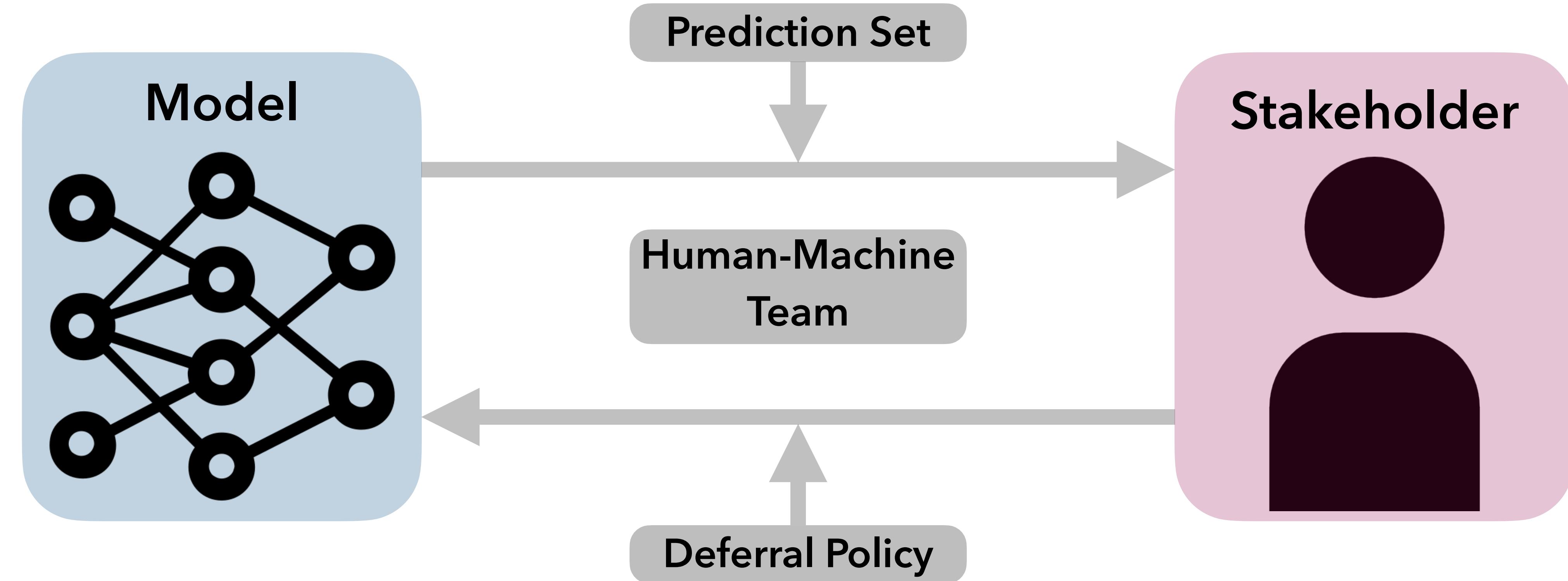
We also (A) [prove](#) that set size is reduced for the non-deferred examples and (B) [optimize](#) for additional set properties (e.g., sets with similar labels).

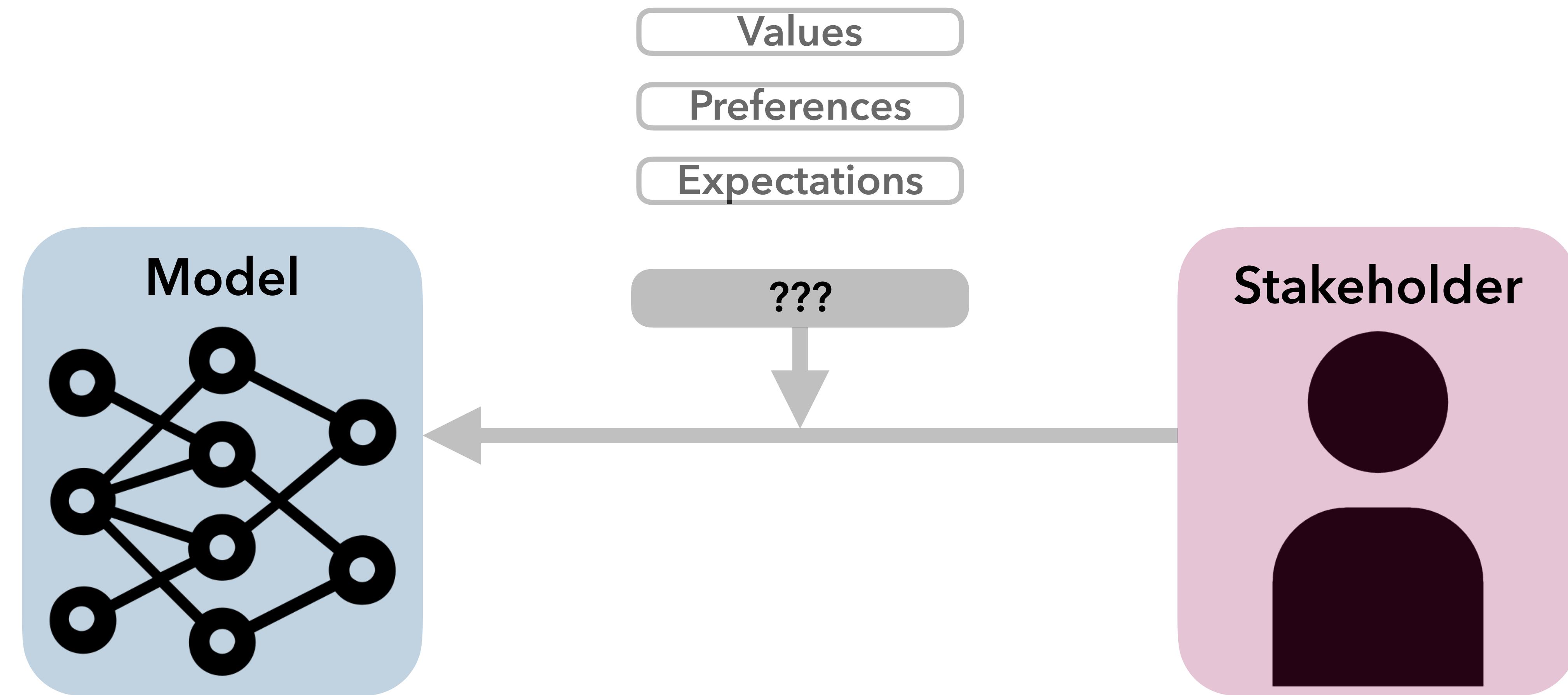
# Takeaways

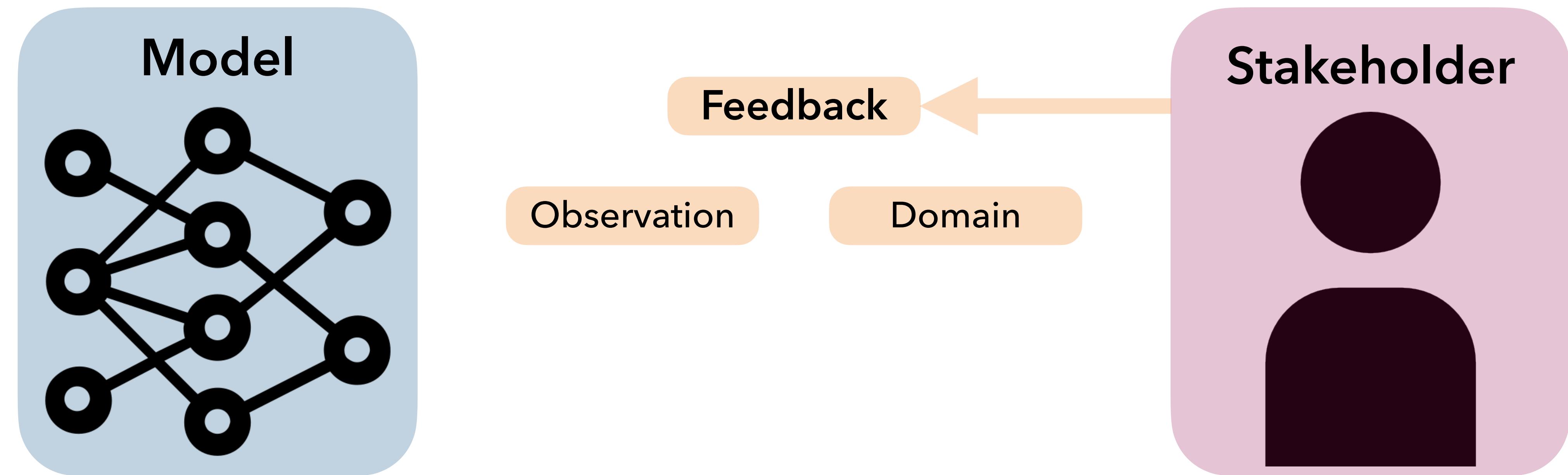
Algorithmic transparency is important but difficult

- Explanations are desirable in theory but are hard to operationalize
- Uncertainty can be treated as a form of transparency that can be used to alter stakeholder interaction with model
- We need to consider the context of transparency carefully to improve outcomes of human-machine teams

Convening is powerful tool to motivate technical and socio-technical research

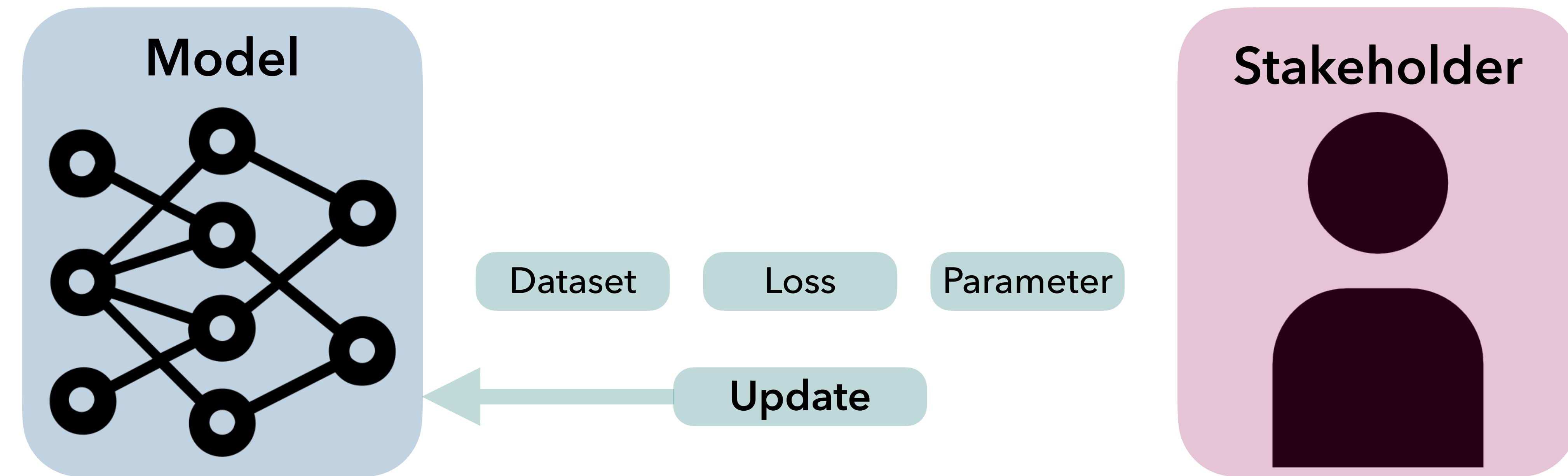




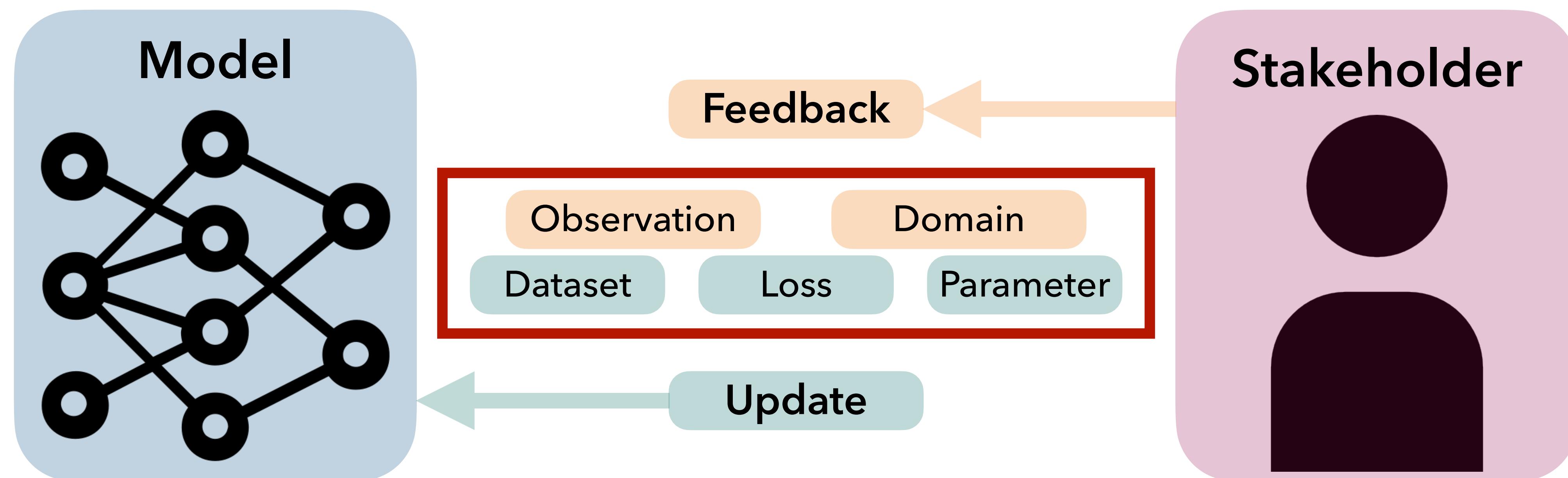


Hertwig, Erev. *The description-experience gap in risky choice*. Trends in Cognitive Science. 2009.

Chen\*, B\*, Heidari, Weller, Talwalkar. *Perspectives on Incorporating Expert Feedback into Model Updates*. ICML Workshop on Updatable ML. 2022.

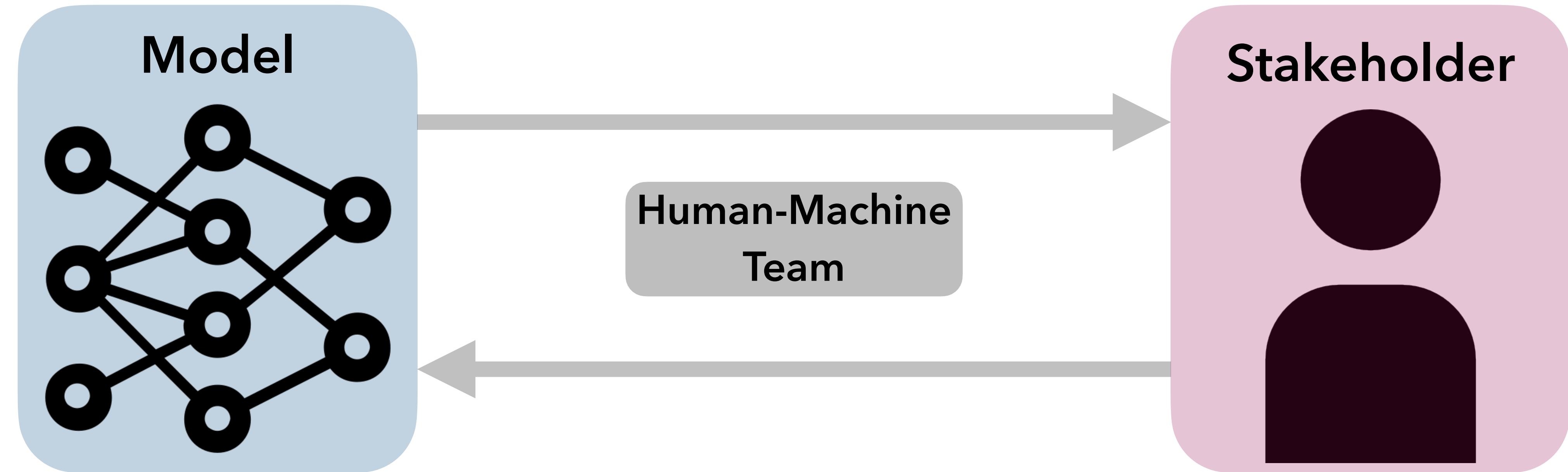


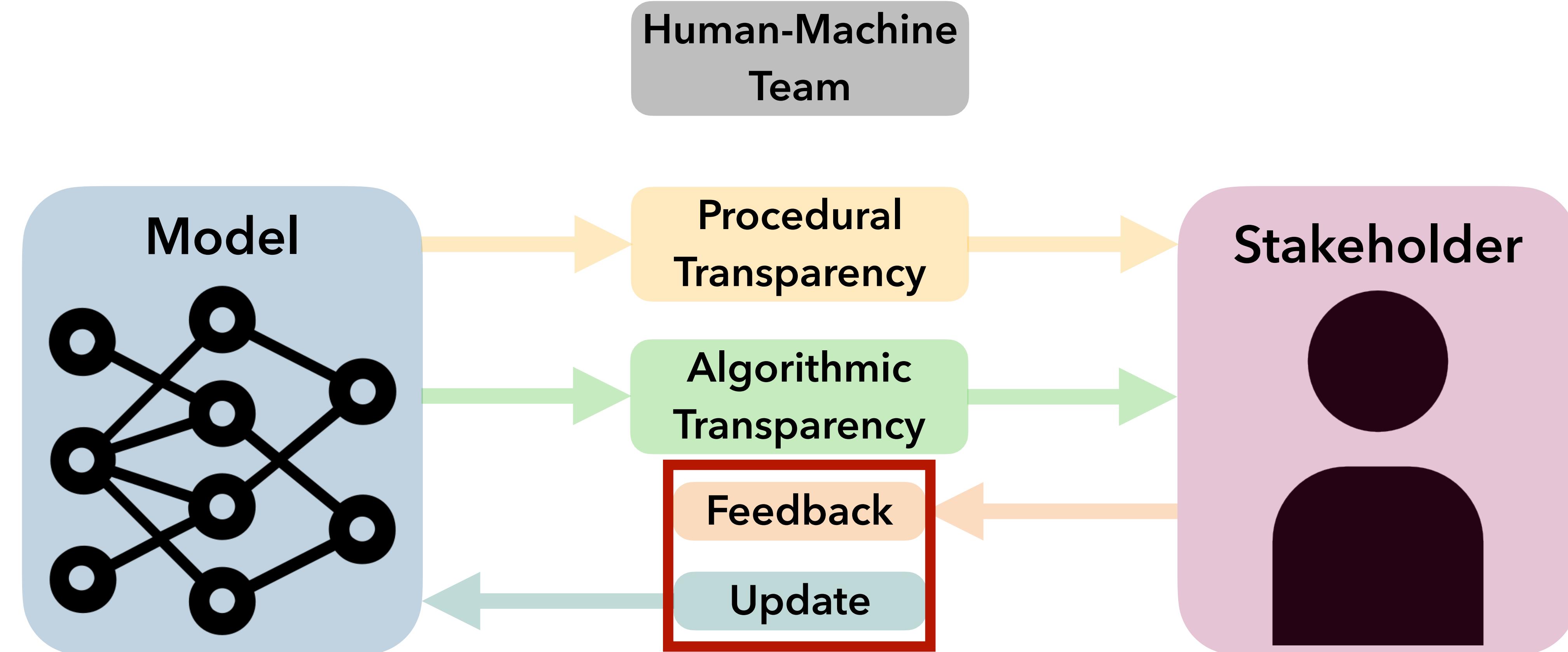
## Feedback-Update Taxonomy



# Future Directions

- Open technical questions around algorithmic transparency can be addressed with new [methods](#) and well-designed [user studies](#)
- Study the [socio-technical](#) nature and societal implications of providing transparency in specific [contexts](#)
- Conduct general research into [human-machine teams](#)







# Algorithmic Transparency in Machine Learning

Thank you for listening! Questions?

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