



# ESEM 2023

Empirical Software Engineering and Measurement

*October 2023 - New Orleans, LA, USA*

## AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON LOW- AND HIGH- LEVEL EXPLANATIONS OF DEEP LEARNING MISBEHAVIOURS



TAHEREH  
ZOHDINASAB

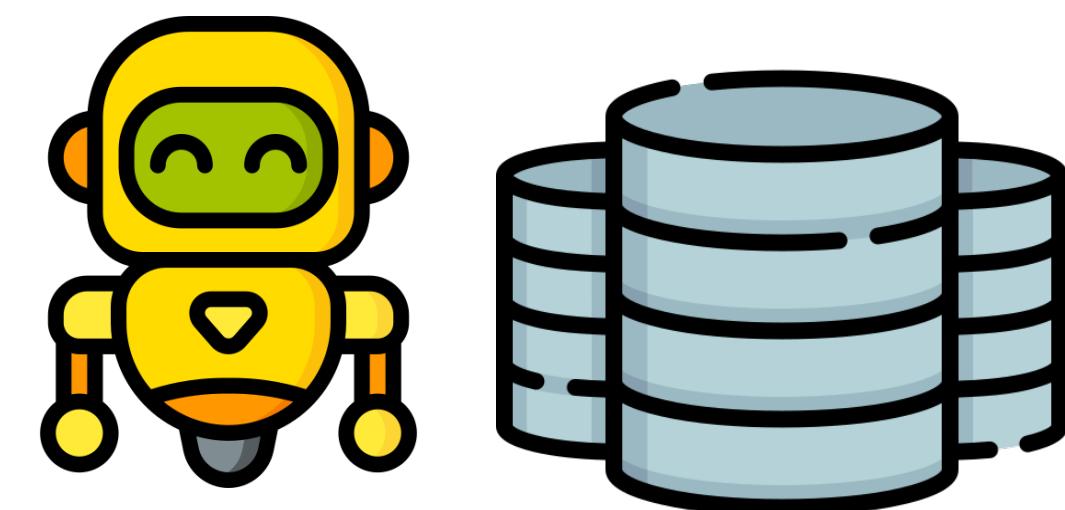


VINCENZO  
RICCIO

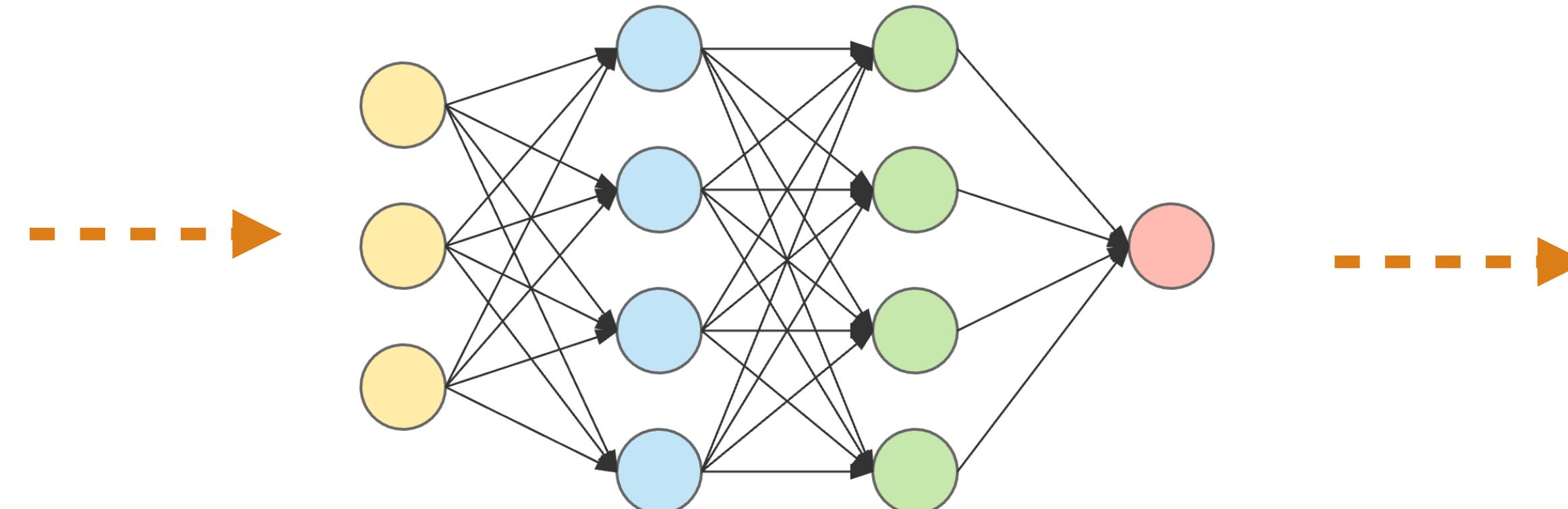


PAOLO  
TONELLA

# DEEP LEARNING (DL) SYSTEM ASSESSMENT



TEST GENERATORS &  
ORIGINAL TEST SET



DL SYSTEM  
UNDER TEST

ACC = 95%

PERFORMANCE  
METRIC



How can we explain the misbehaviours  
of DL systems?

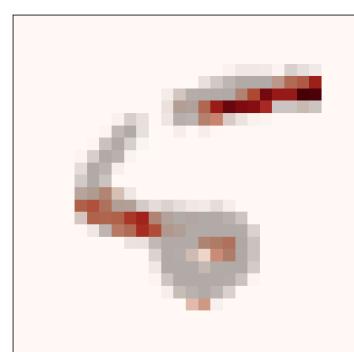
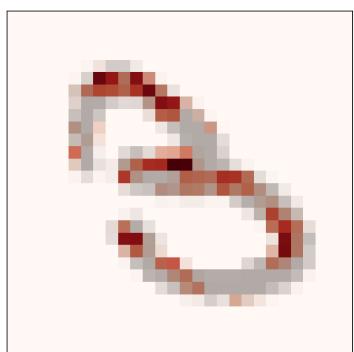
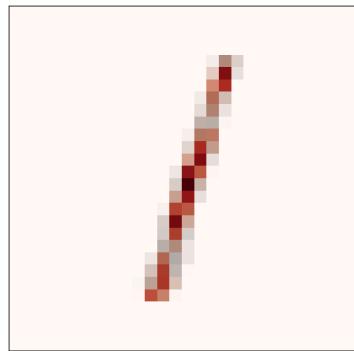
# OPAQUENESS OF DL

3

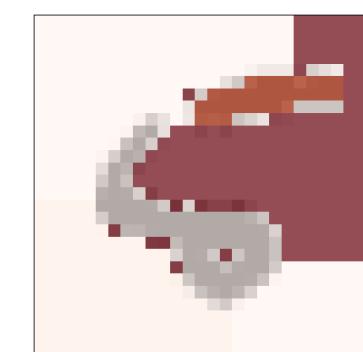
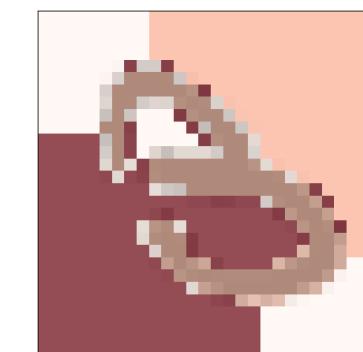
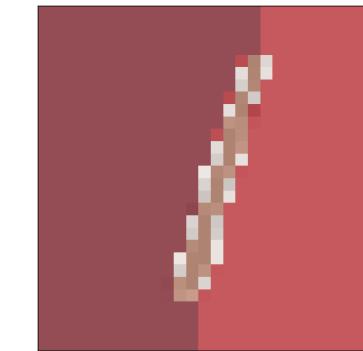
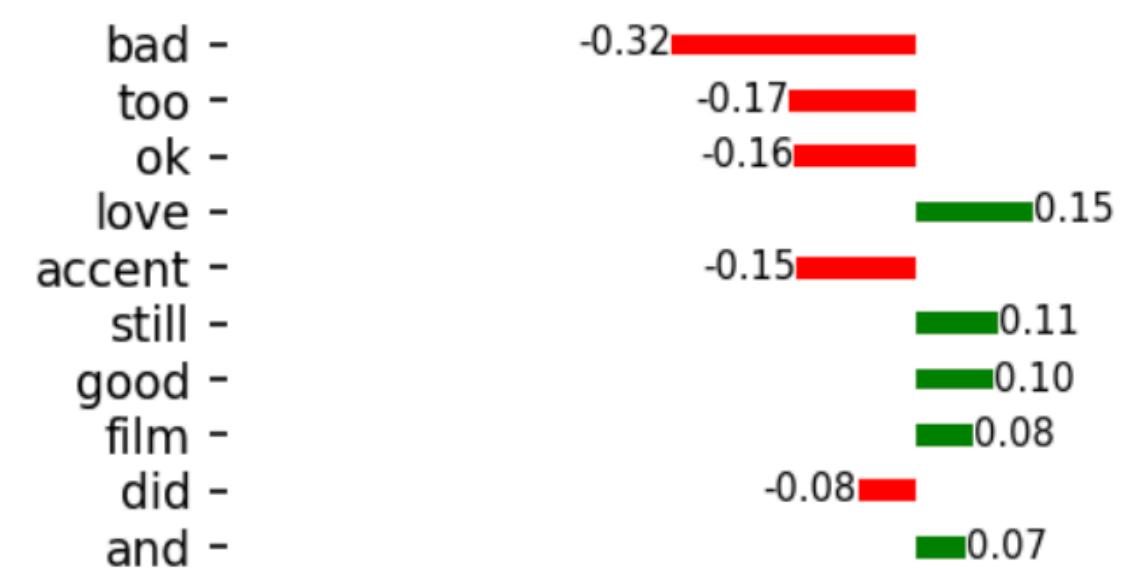


# LOW-LEVEL EXPLANATIONS

## Integrated Gradients

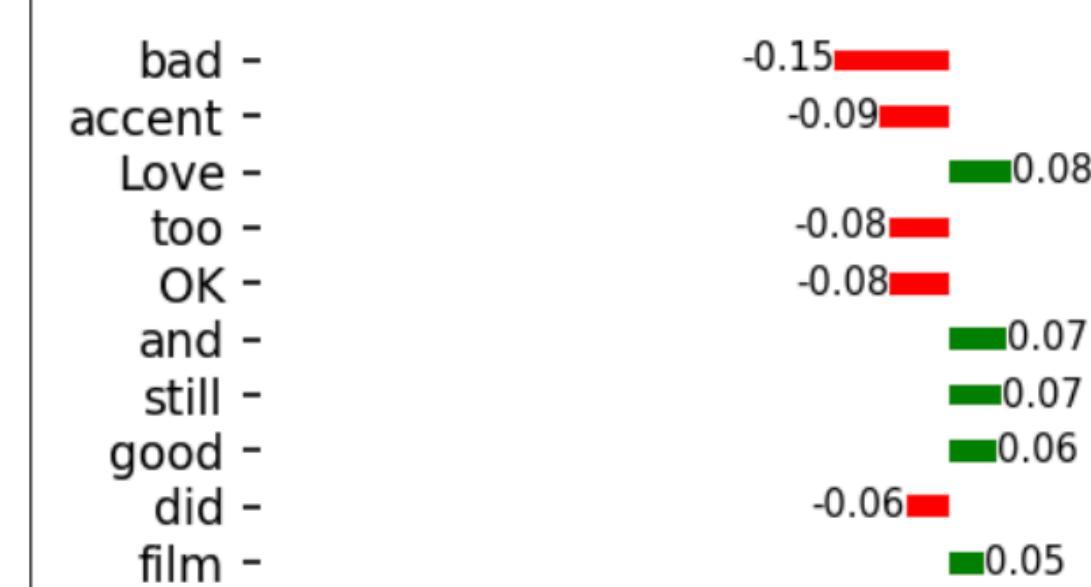


I've taken another look at this film and still consider it pretty good. Chloe is one of the few hardcore stars who really can act. She appears occasionally in soft core such as "Body of Love" and "Lady Chatterly's Stories" on Showtime. I thought Nicole Hilbig did OK too with her nice body and charming accent. Too bad she's not in more films.



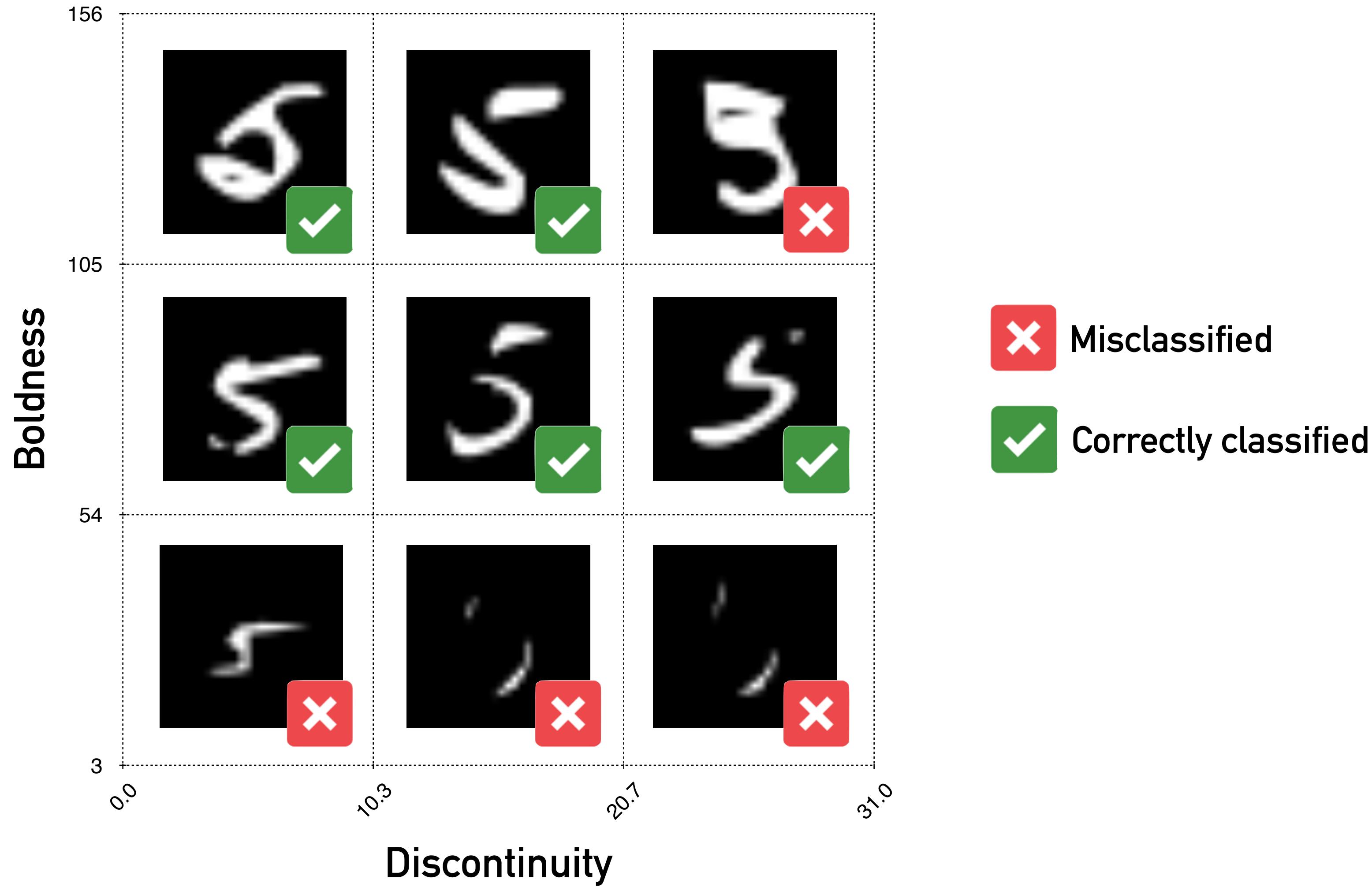
## LIME

I've taken another look at this film and still consider it pretty good. Chloe is one of the few hardcore stars who really can act. She appears occasionally in soft core such as "Body of Love" and "Lady Chatterly's Stories" on Showtime. I thought Nicole Hilbig did OK too with her nice body and charming accent. Too bad she's not in more films.



# HIGH-LEVEL EXPLANATIONS

## Feature Maps



Features

MNIST

- ▶ Boldness
- ▶ Discontinuity
- ▶ Orientation

▶ IMDB

- ▶ Positive Words
- ▶ Negative Words
- ▶ Verbs

# COMPARISON BETWEEN LOW-LEVEL AND HIGH-LEVEL EXPLANATIONS



# STEP 1

## Sample Generation

E0

E1

E2

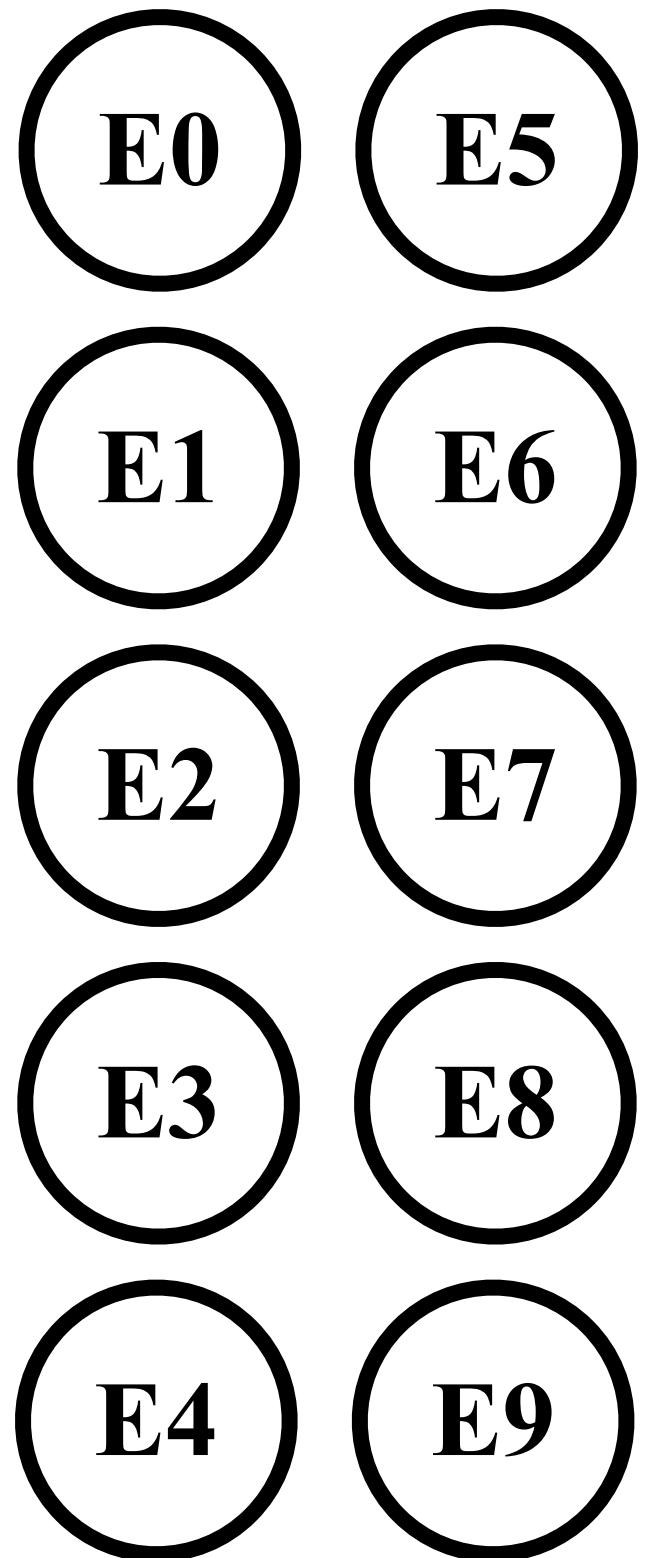
E3

E4

Original test set +  
automatically  
generated

# STEP 1

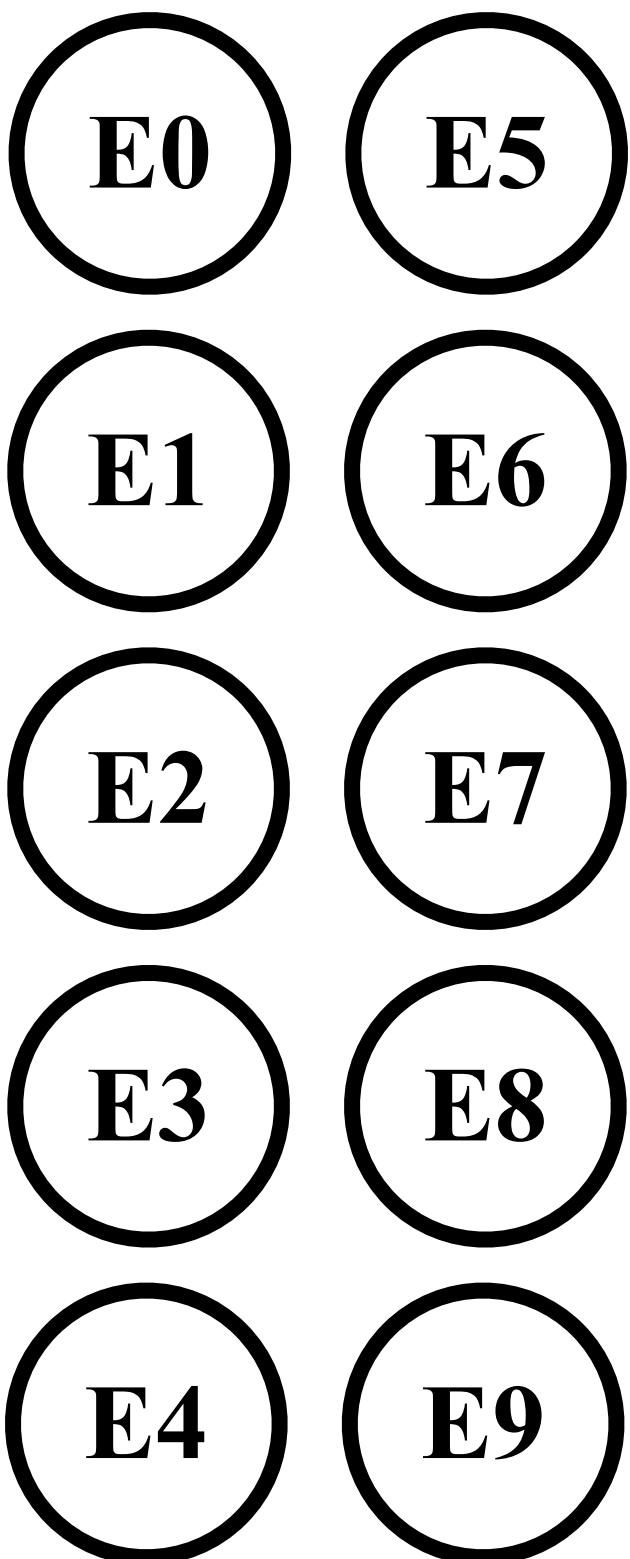
## Sample Generation



Original test set +  
automatically  
generated

## STEP 1

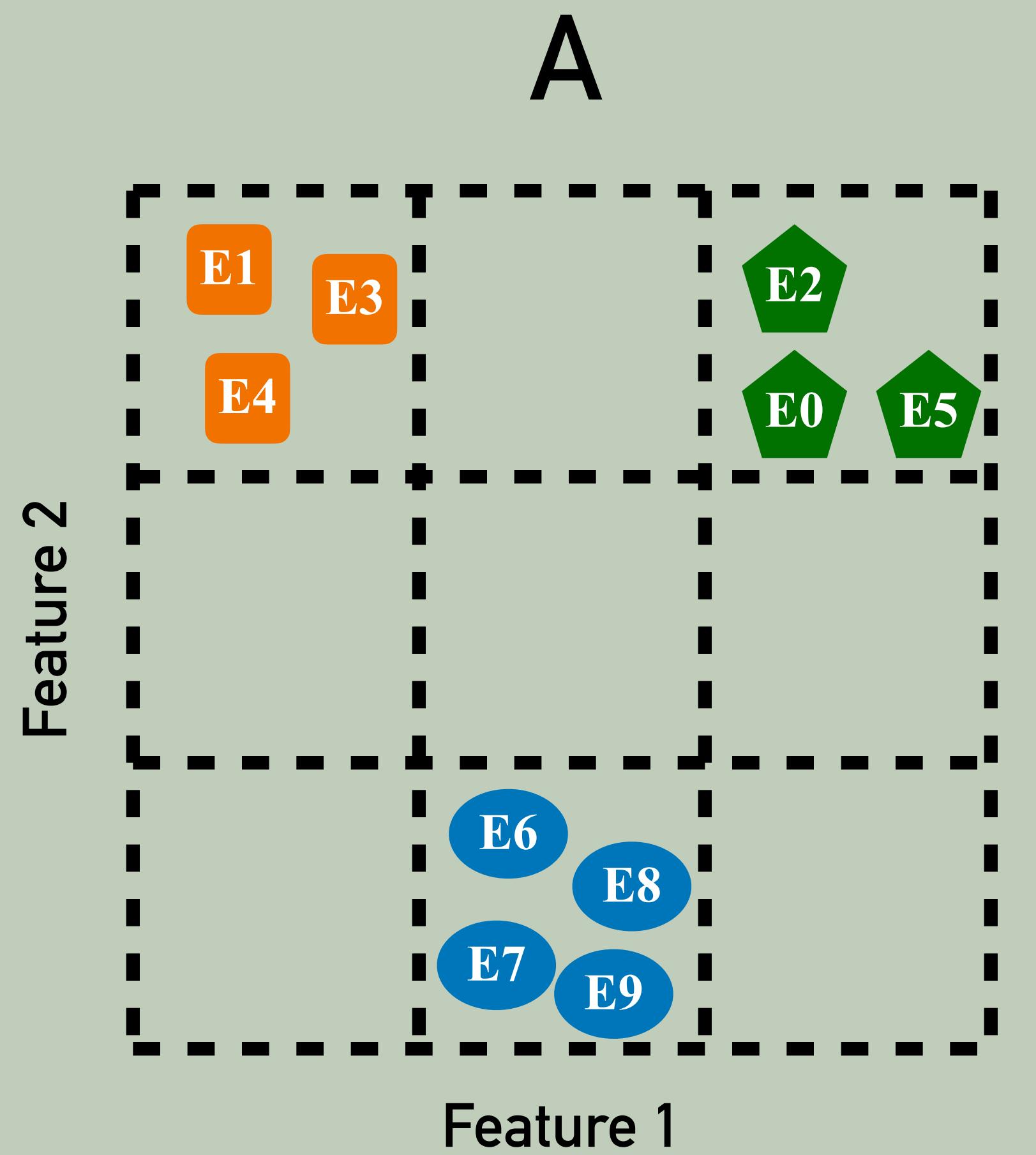
### Sample Generation



Original test set +  
automatically  
generated

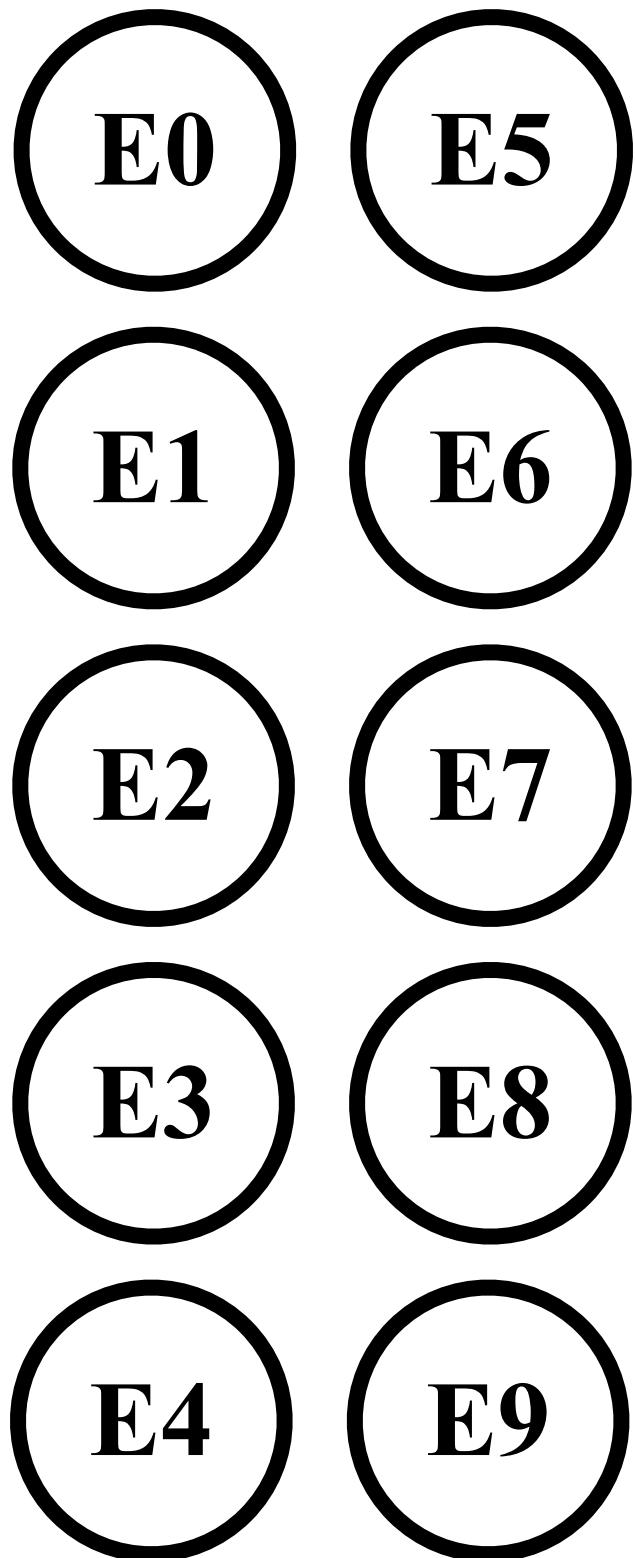
## STEP 2

### Feature Map Computation



## STEP 1

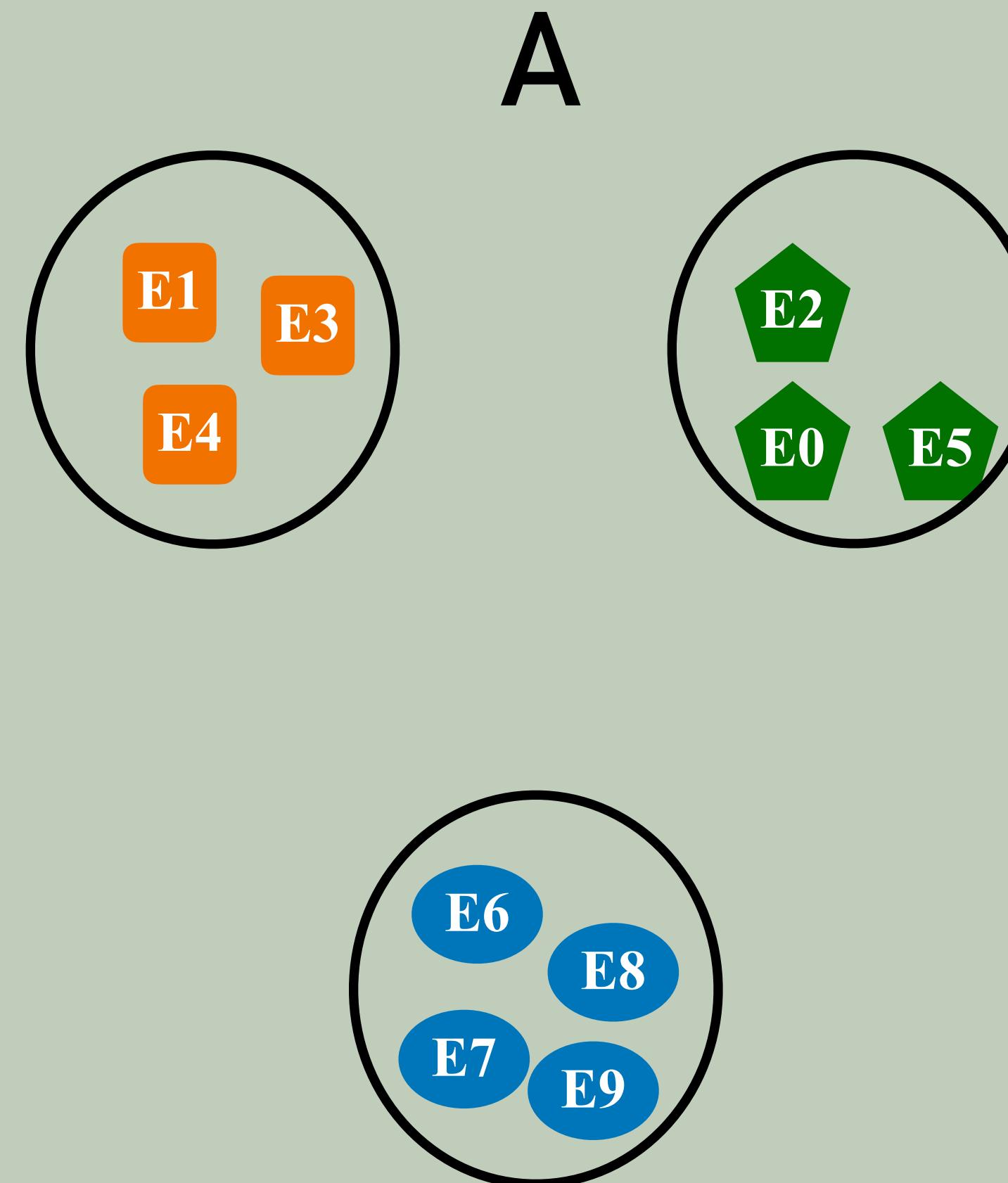
### Sample Generation



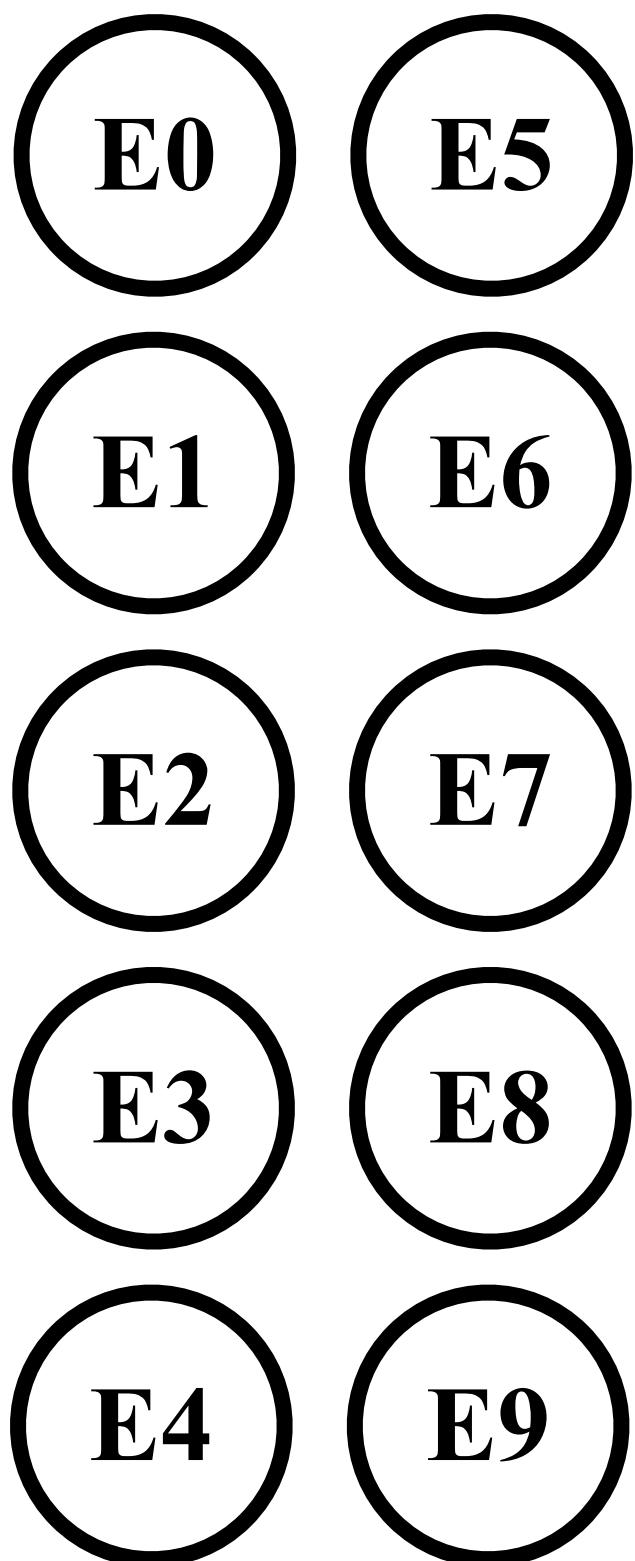
Original test set +  
automatically  
generated

## STEP 2

### Feature Map Computation

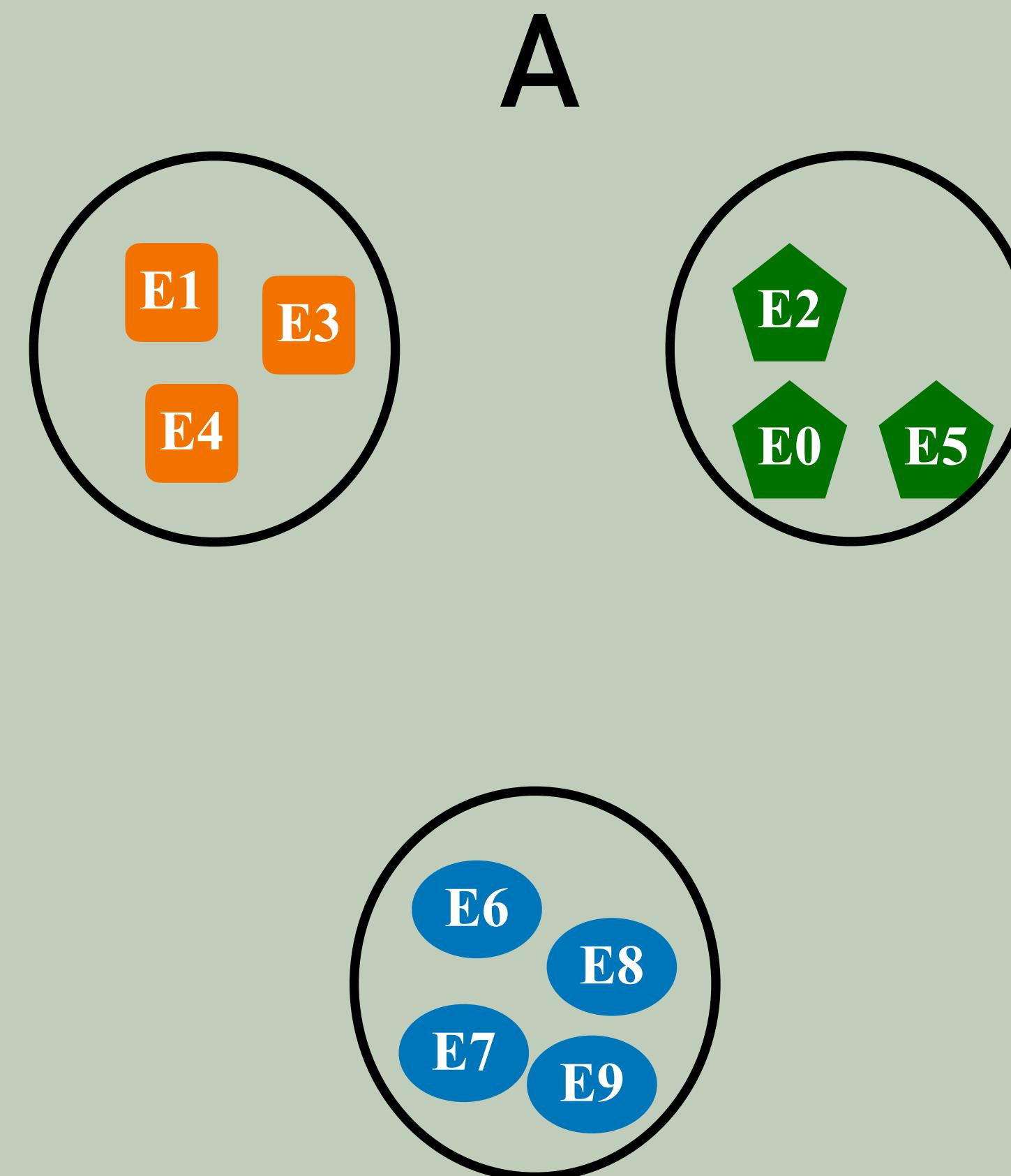


## STEP 1 Sample Generation



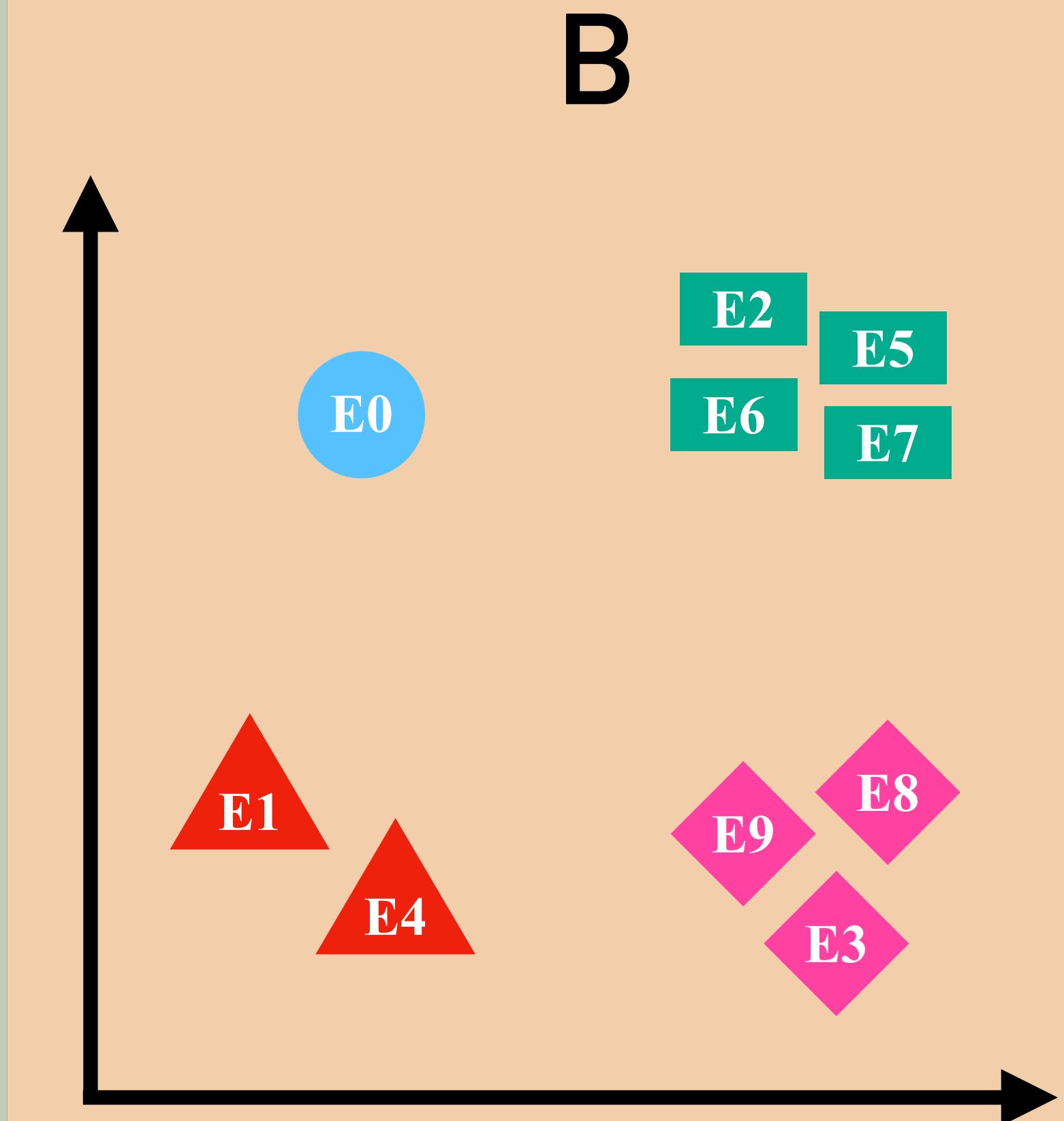
Original test set +  
automatically  
generated

## STEP 2 Feature Map Computation



A

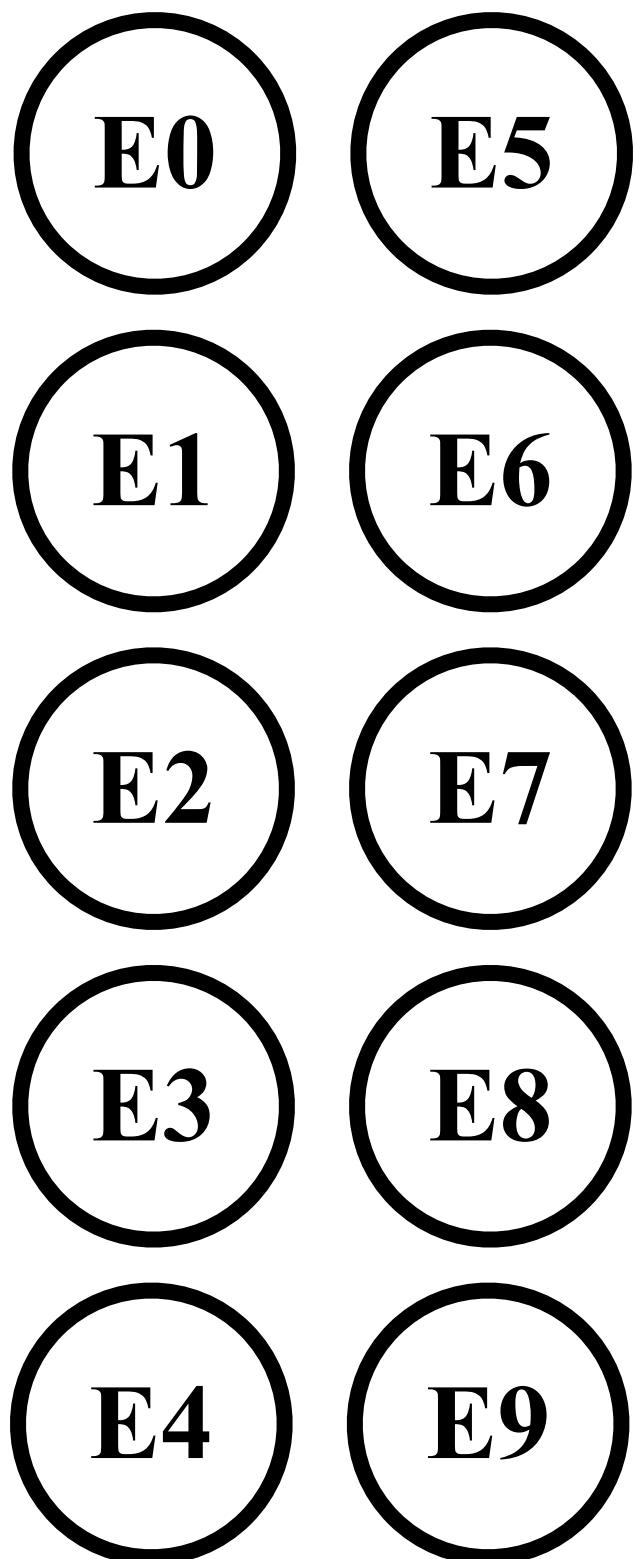
## STEP 3 LL Explanation Clustering



B

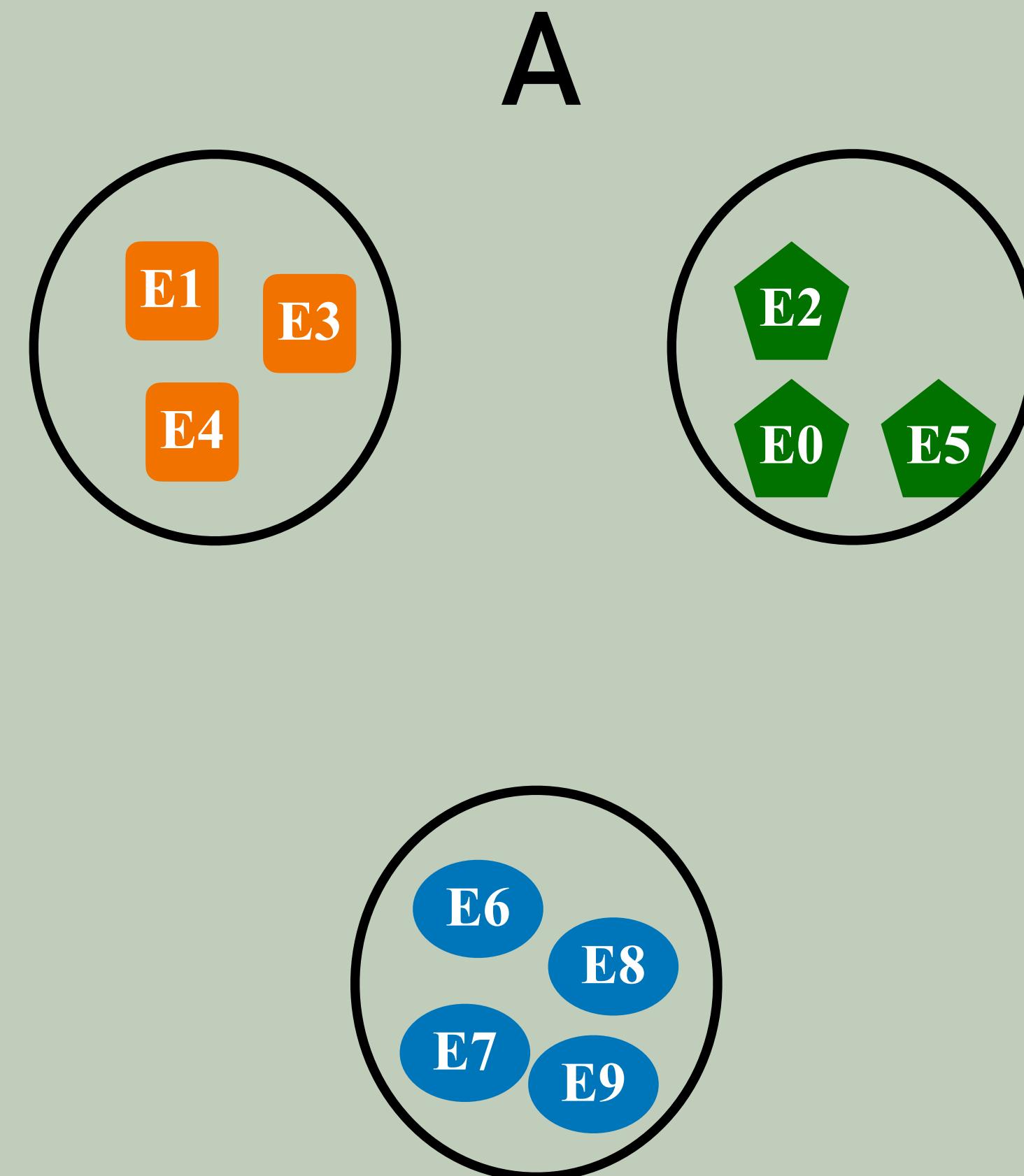
Alternative input spaces:  
1. Original space  
2. Latent Space

## STEP 1 Sample Generation

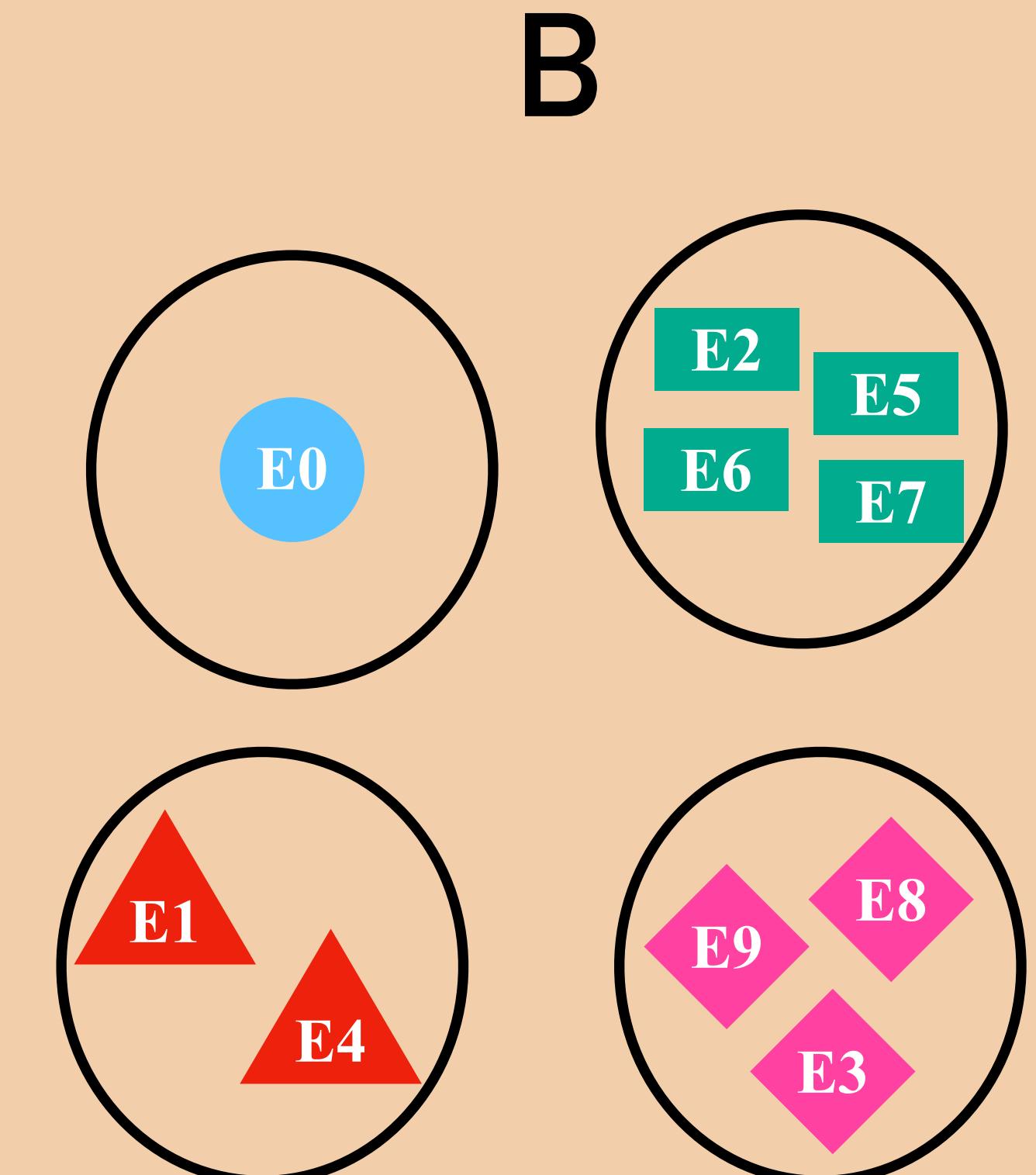


Original test set +  
automatically  
generated

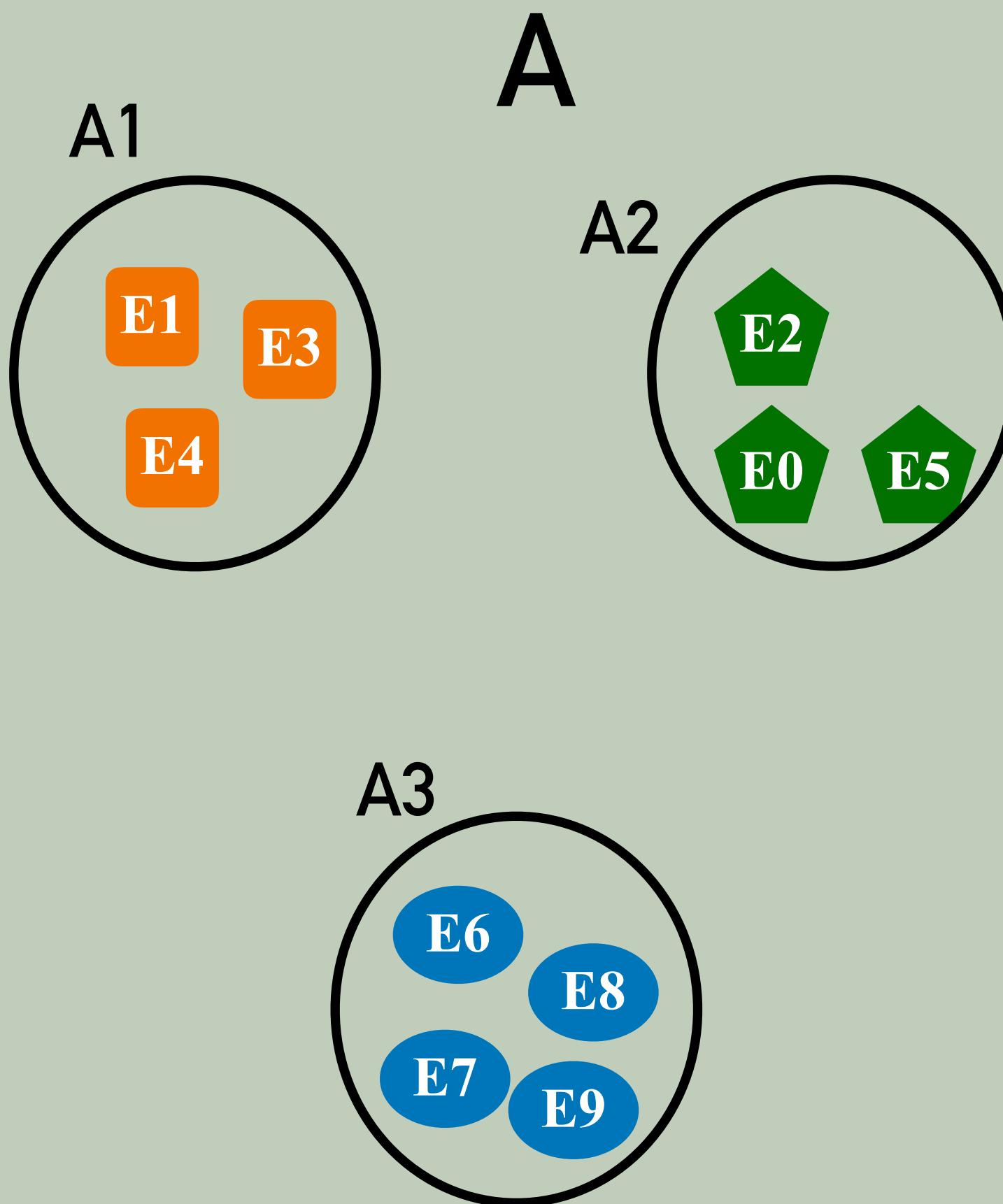
## STEP 2 Feature Map Computation



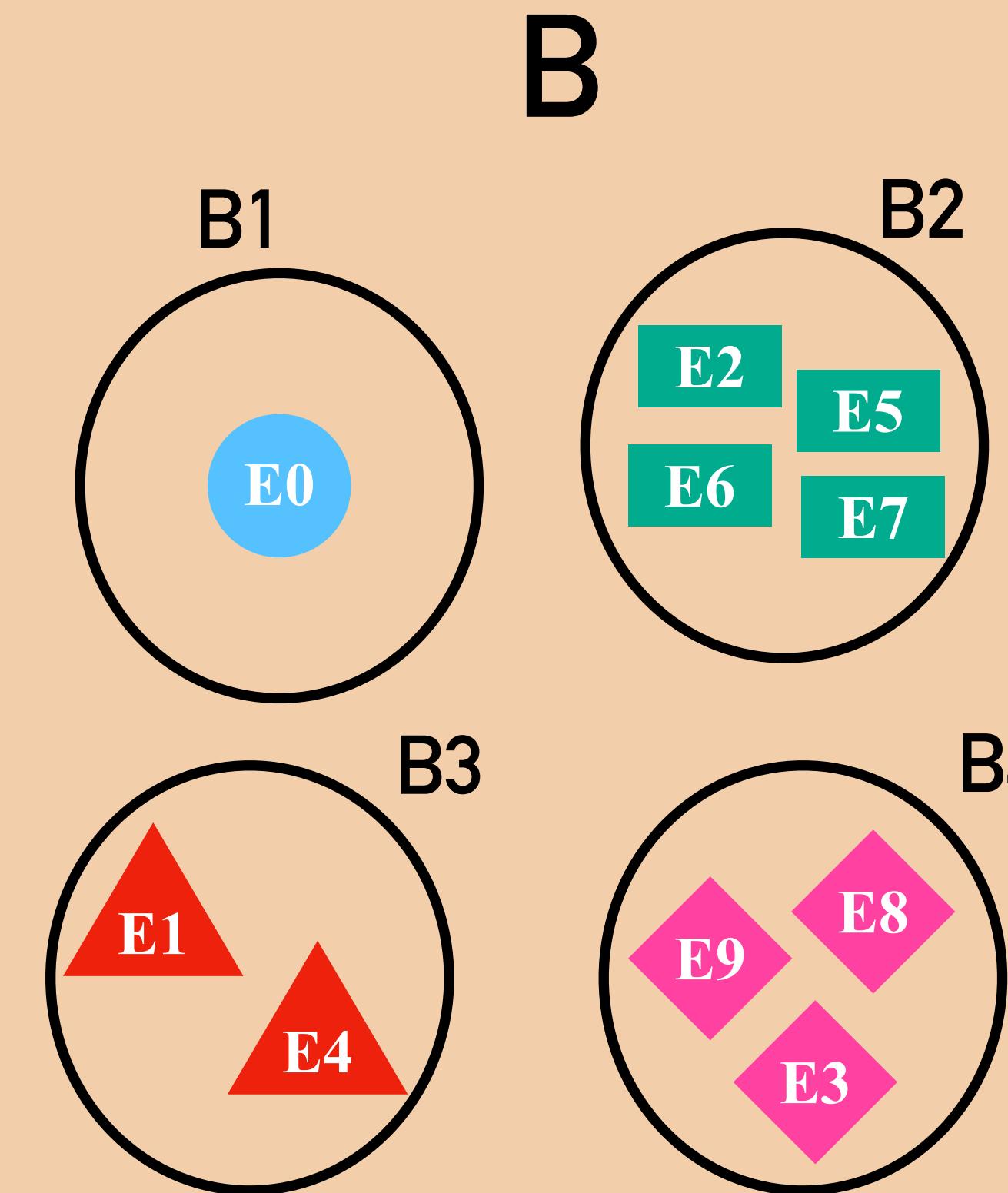
## STEP 3 LL Explanation Clustering



## STEP 2 Feature Map Computation



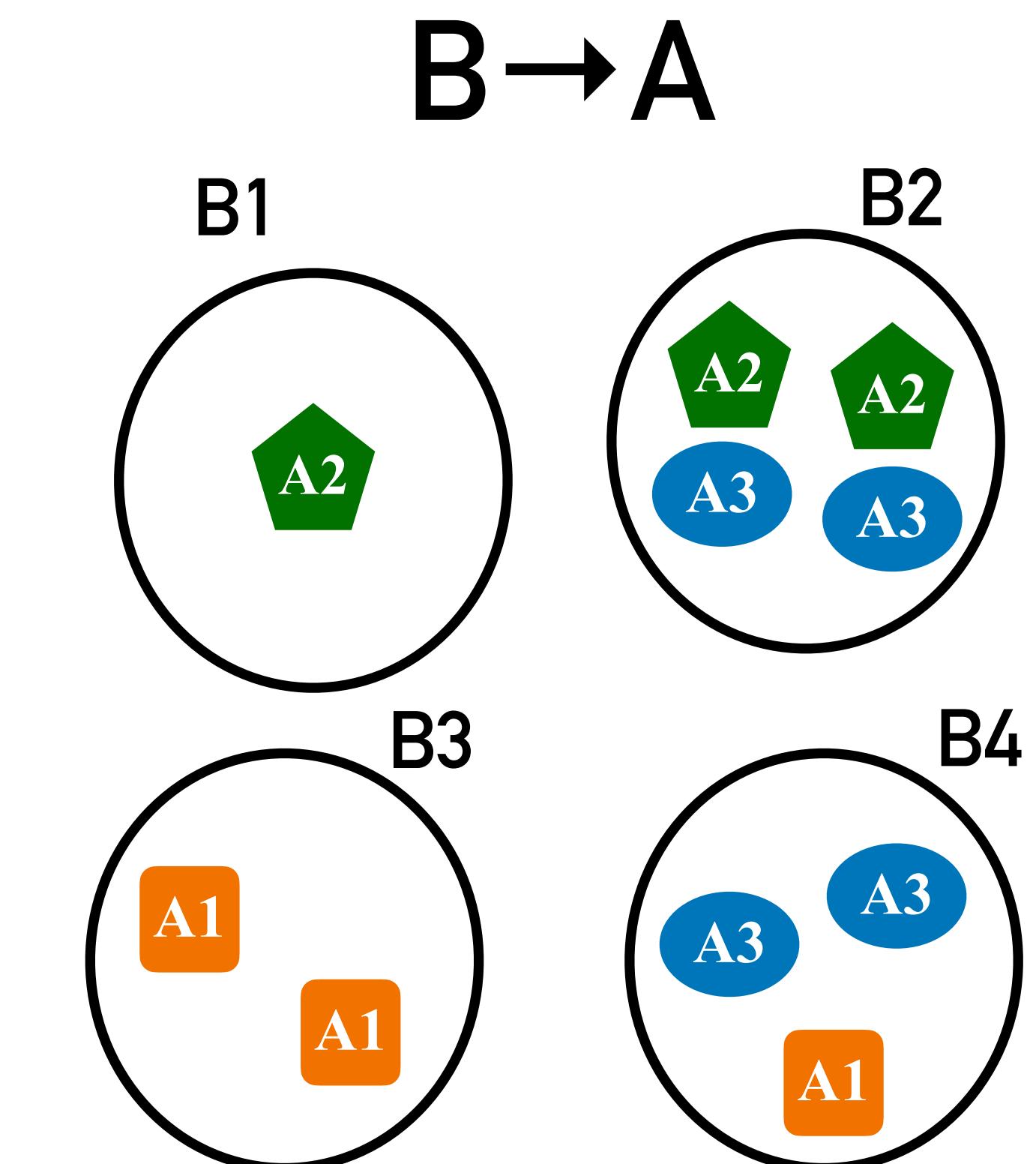
## STEP 3 LL Explanation Clustering



Alternative distance metrics:

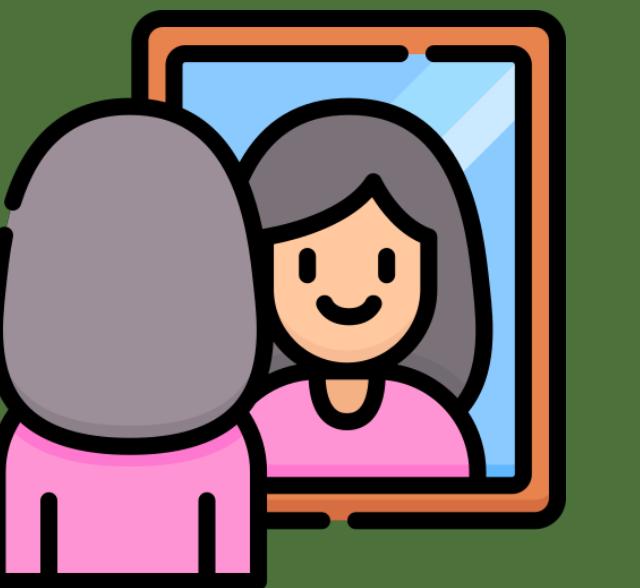
1. Original space
2. Latent Space

## STEP 4 Gini Similarity



$$GS_{(B,A)} = 1 - \frac{1}{|B|} \sum_{i=1}^{|B|} GI(CB_i, A)$$

# RQ1: SIMILARITY



# RQ1: SIMILARITY

 MNIST  IMDB

High Level	Low Level	Input space	GSim	GSim
3D	IG	Original	<b>0.70</b>	<b>0.74</b>
		Latent	0.55	0.68
	LIME	Original	0.55	<b>0.81</b>
		Latent	0.53	0.66
2D	IG	Original	<b>0.76</b>	<b>0.76</b>
		Latent	0.49	0.56
	LIME	Original	<b>0.62</b>	<b>0.80</b>
		Latent	0.47	0.59
1D	IG	Original	<b>0.85</b>	<b>0.83</b>
		Latent	0.59	0.66
	LIME	Original	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.85</b>
		Latent	0.59	0.68

# RQ1: SIMILARITY

5 MNIST IMDb IMDB

<b>High Level</b>	<b>Low Level</b>	<b>Input space</b>	<b>GSim</b>	<b>GSim</b>
3D	IG	Original	<b>0.70</b>	<b>0.74</b>
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1D Feature Maps and Original Space achieve the highest similarity, but with the highest difference in # of clusters (up to 39)

# RQ1: SIMILARITY

5 MNIST IMDb IMDB

<b>High Level</b>	<b>Low Level</b>	<b>Input space</b>	<b>GSim</b>	<b>GSim</b>
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	LIME	Original	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.85</b>
		Latent	0.59	0.68

2D Feature Maps  
and Latent Space  
achieve the lowest  
difference in # of  
clusters, but the  
lowest similarity

## RQ1: CONCLUSIONS

High-level explanations  
based on human  
experience and low-  
level XAI techniques  
partition inputs in  
different ways



# RQ2: UNDERSTANDABILITY



## RQ2: UNDERSTANDABILITY

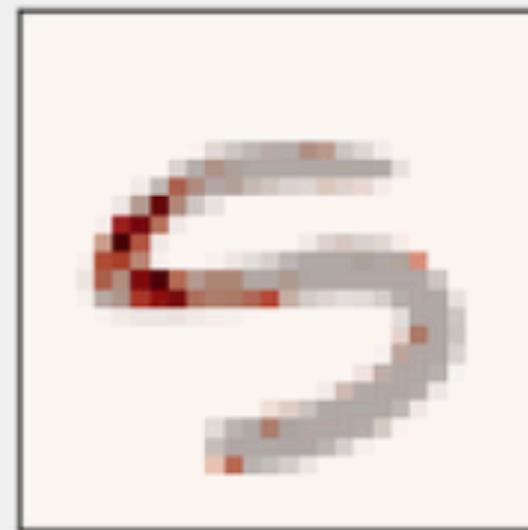


### Survey: 48 SE experts

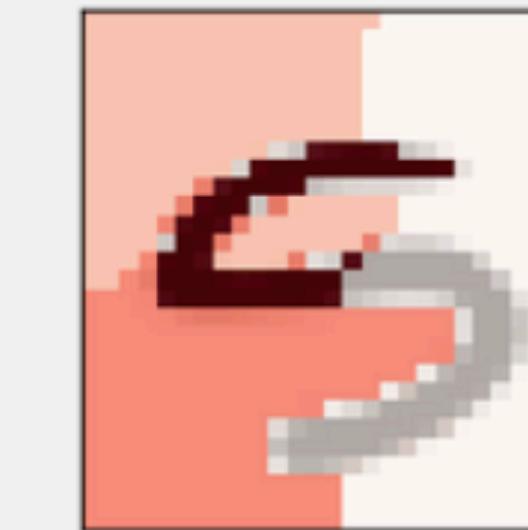


The digit is bold, oriented to left and very continuous.

The following highlighted pixels:



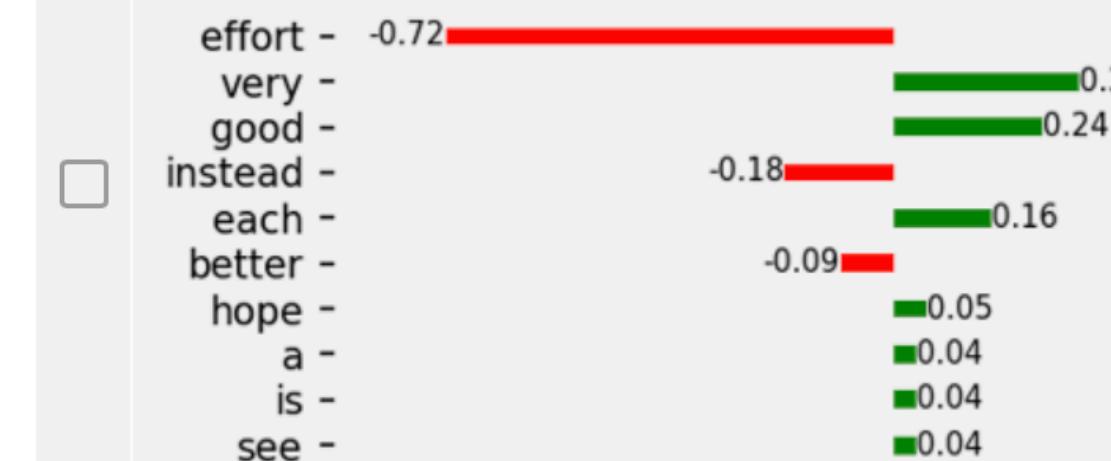
The following highlighted regions:



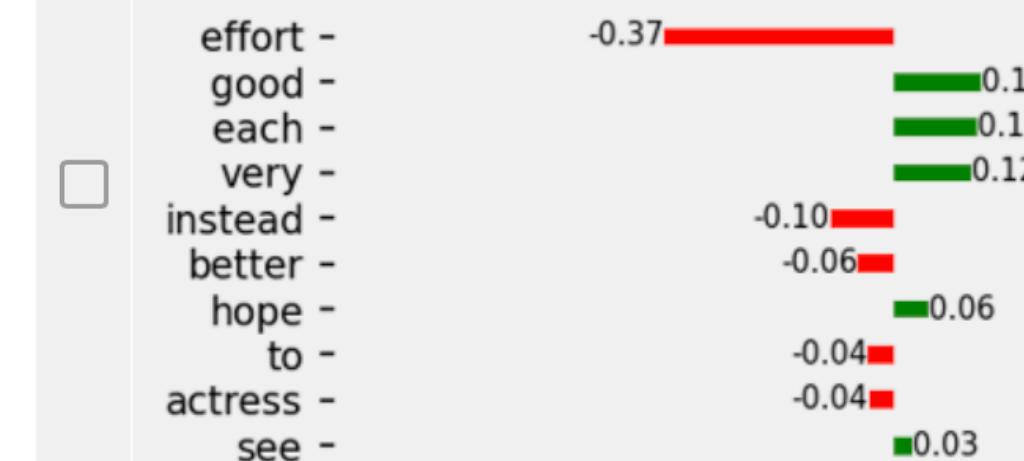
A very good offering from HBO. Traci Lords is becoming a much-better dramatic actress with each effort. I hope to see this attractive lady in more challenging roles in the future, instead of the "flighty" roles she has been stuck with in the past.

- The review contains 3 positive words, 3 negative words and 7 verbs (the number of verbs is an indicator of the text complexity).

The review contains the following words contributing to negative (red) and positive (green) sentiments:



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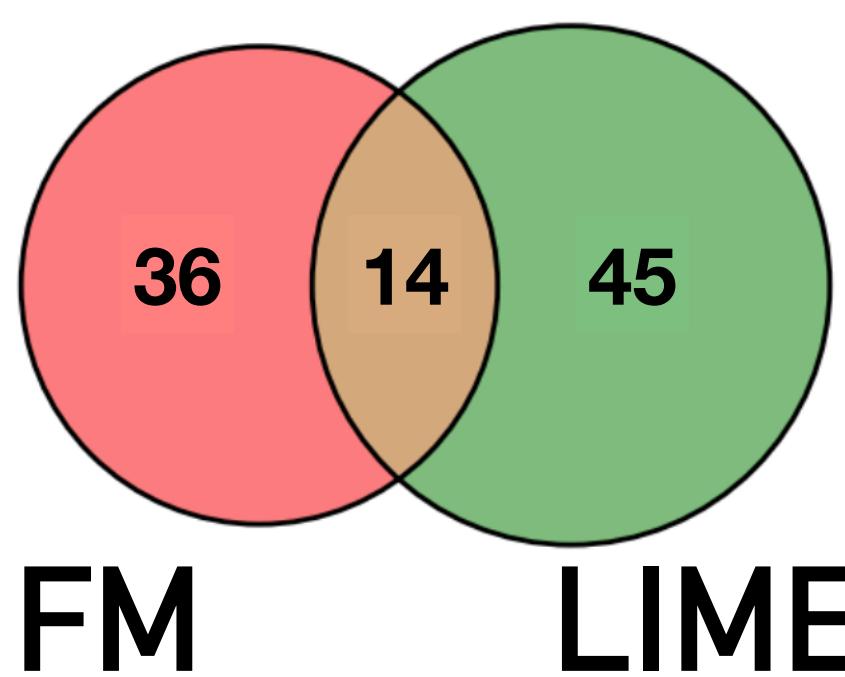


## RQ2: UNDERSTANDABILITY

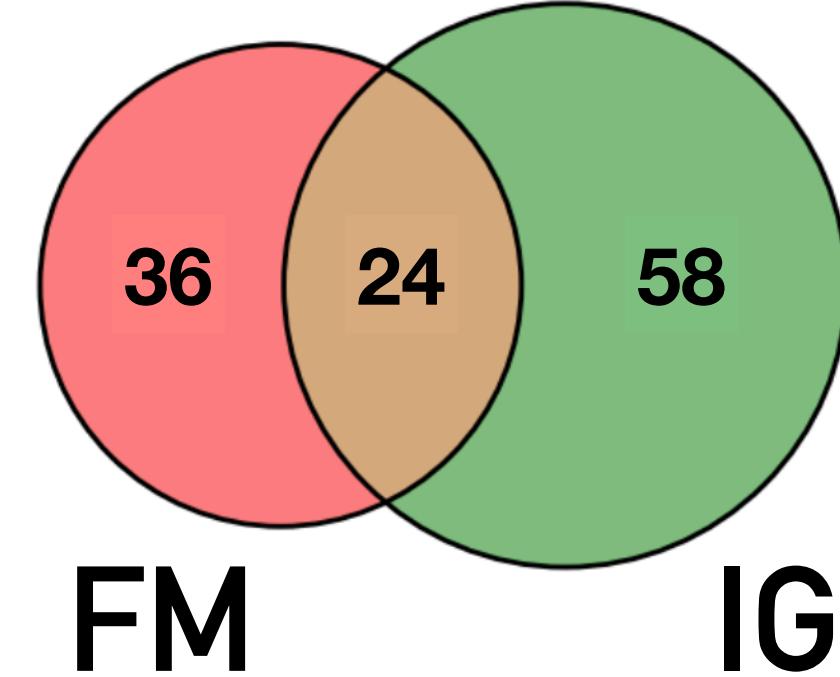


# of times the explanation matches with human expectations

5 MNIST



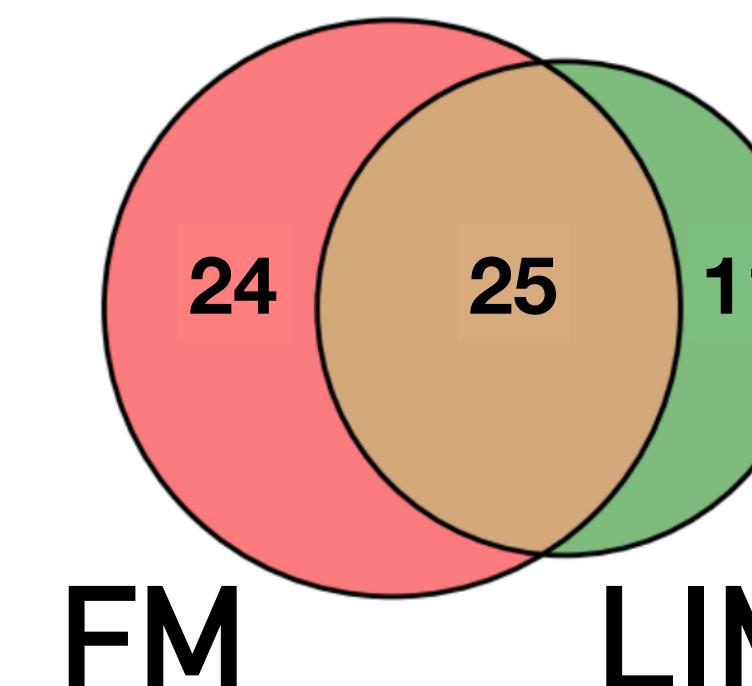
LIME



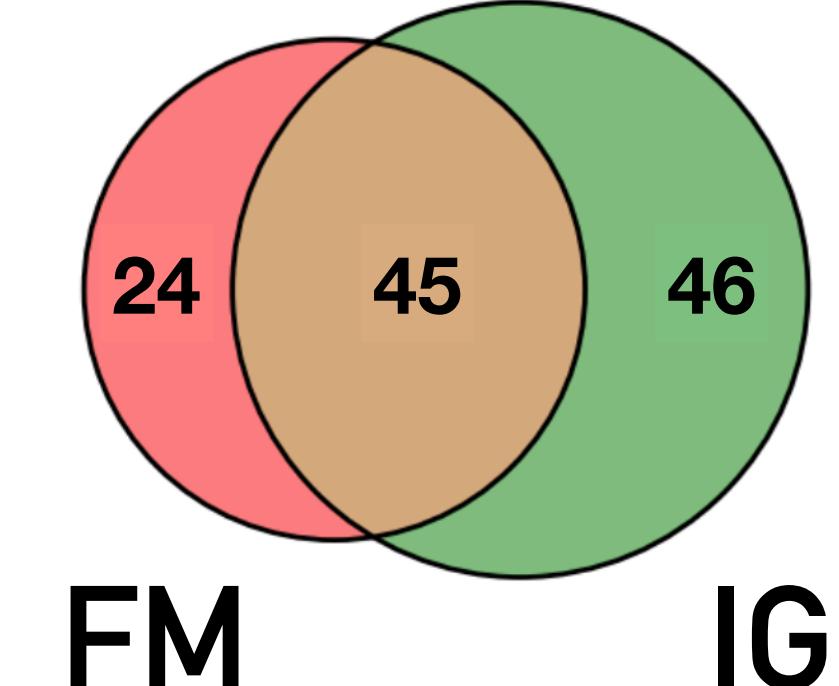
IG

None: 108

IMDb IMDB



LIME

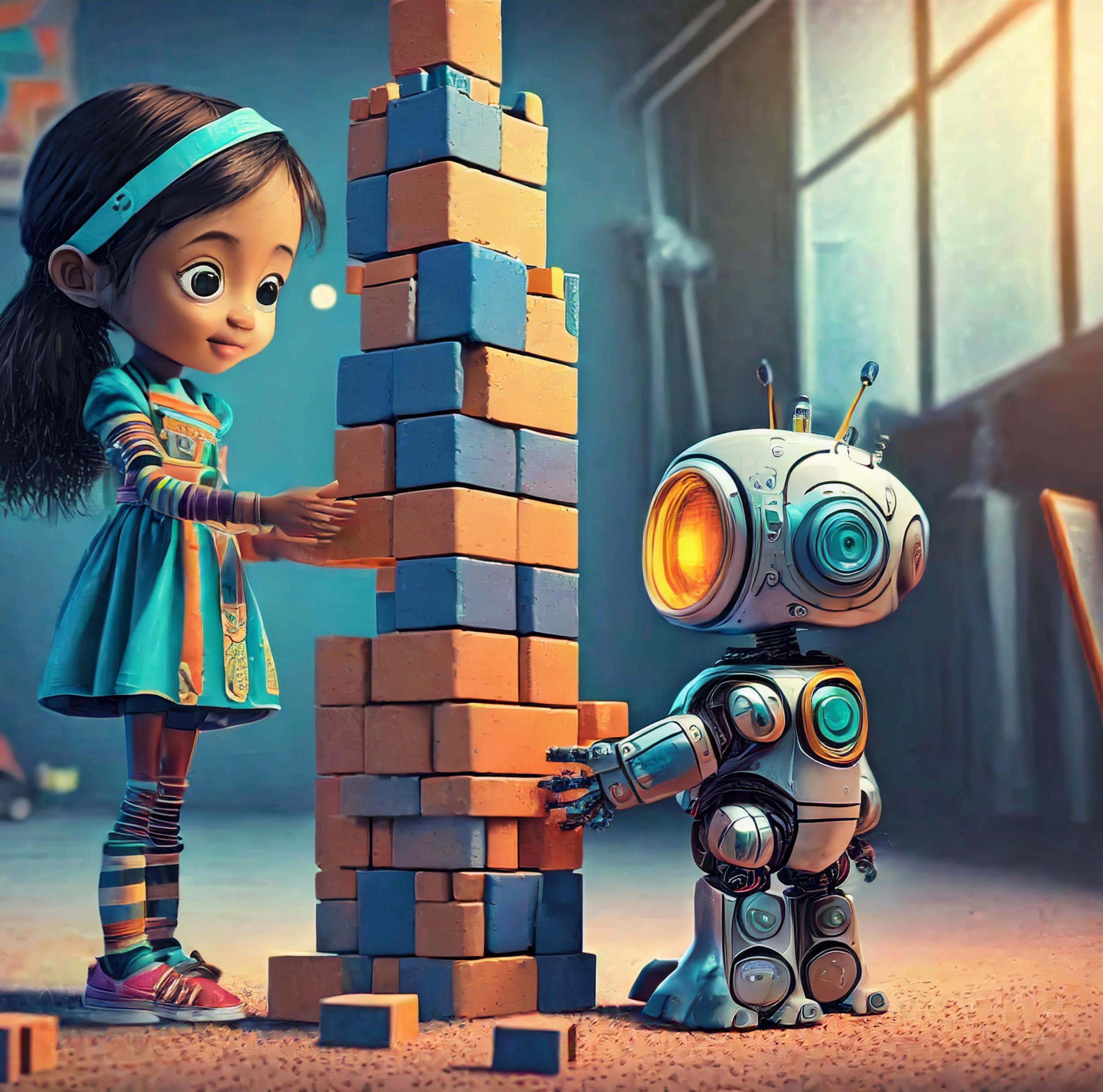


IG

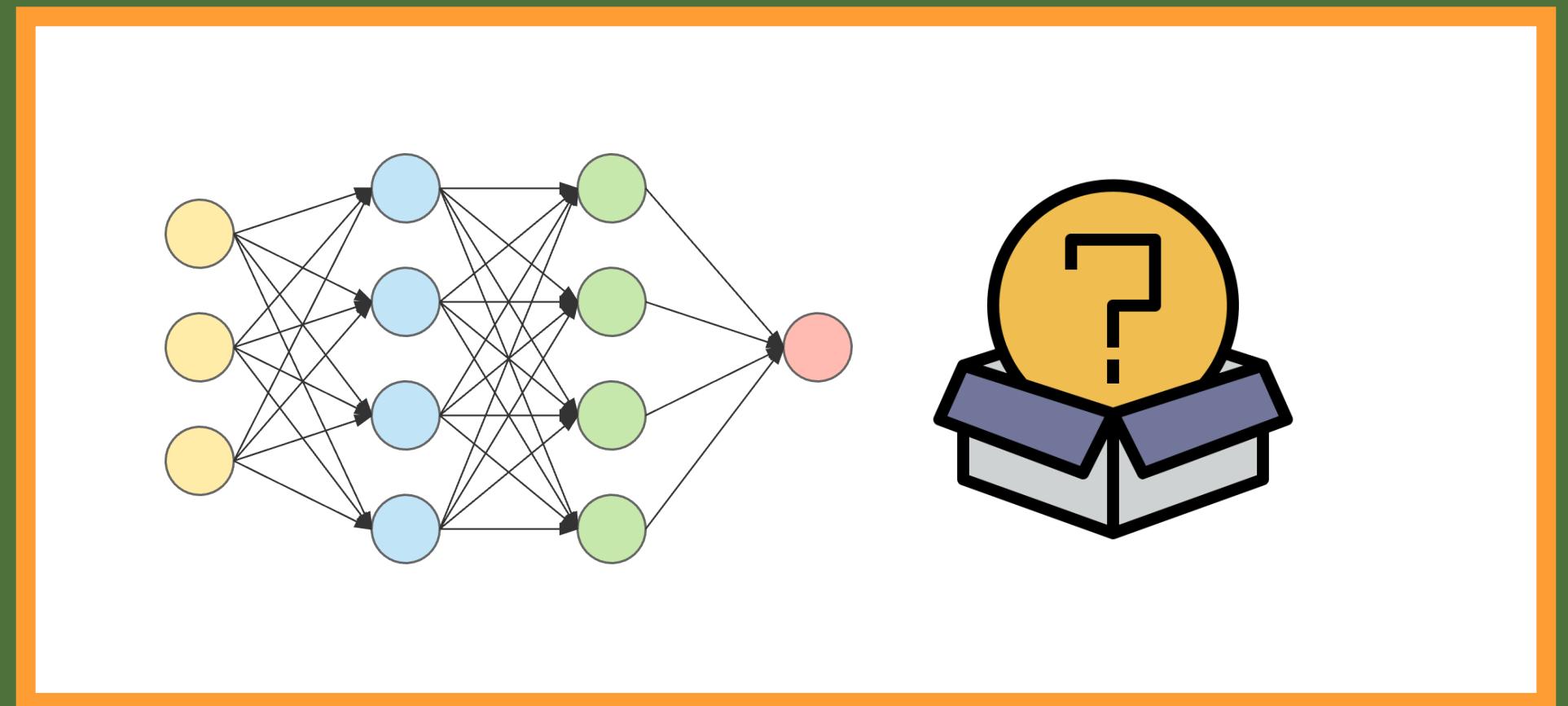
None: 25

## RQ2: CONCLUSIONS

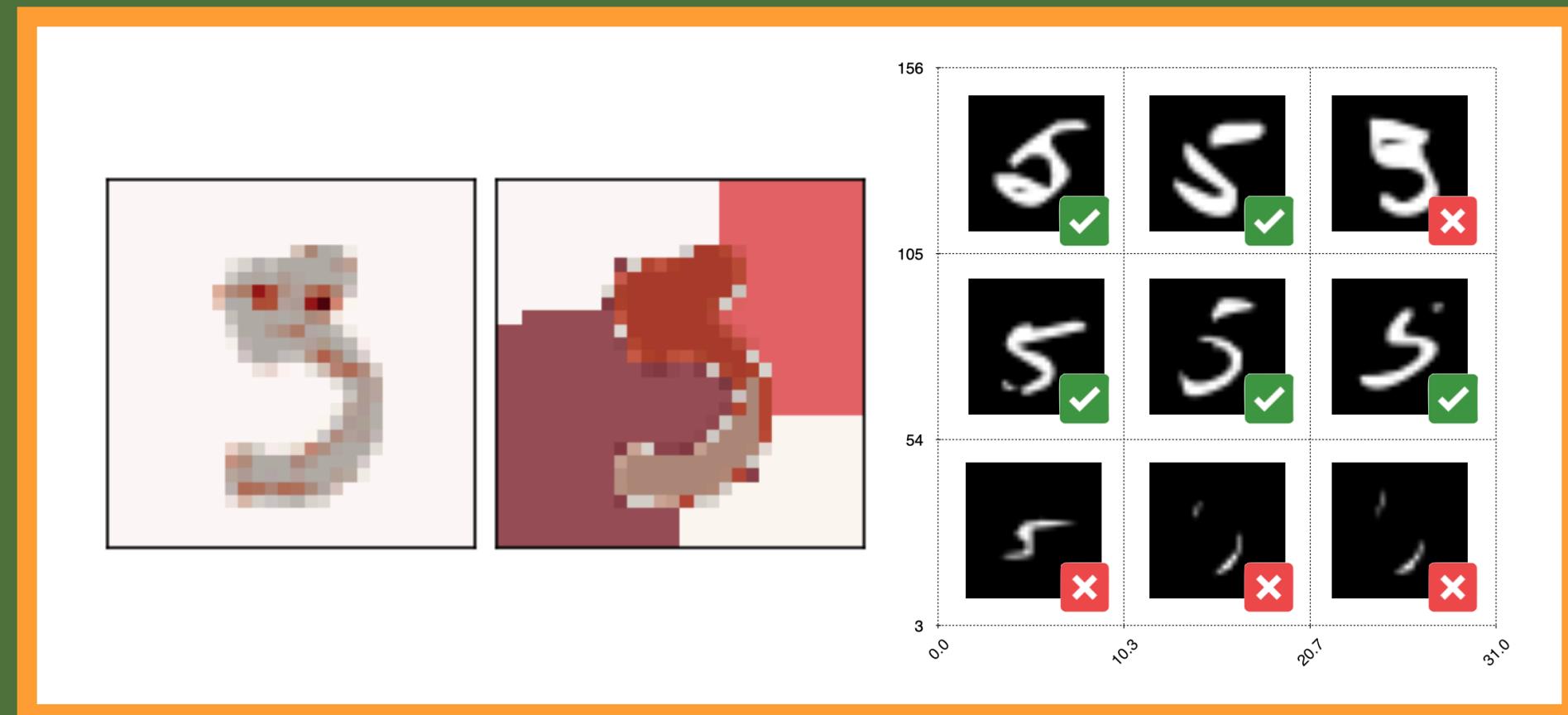
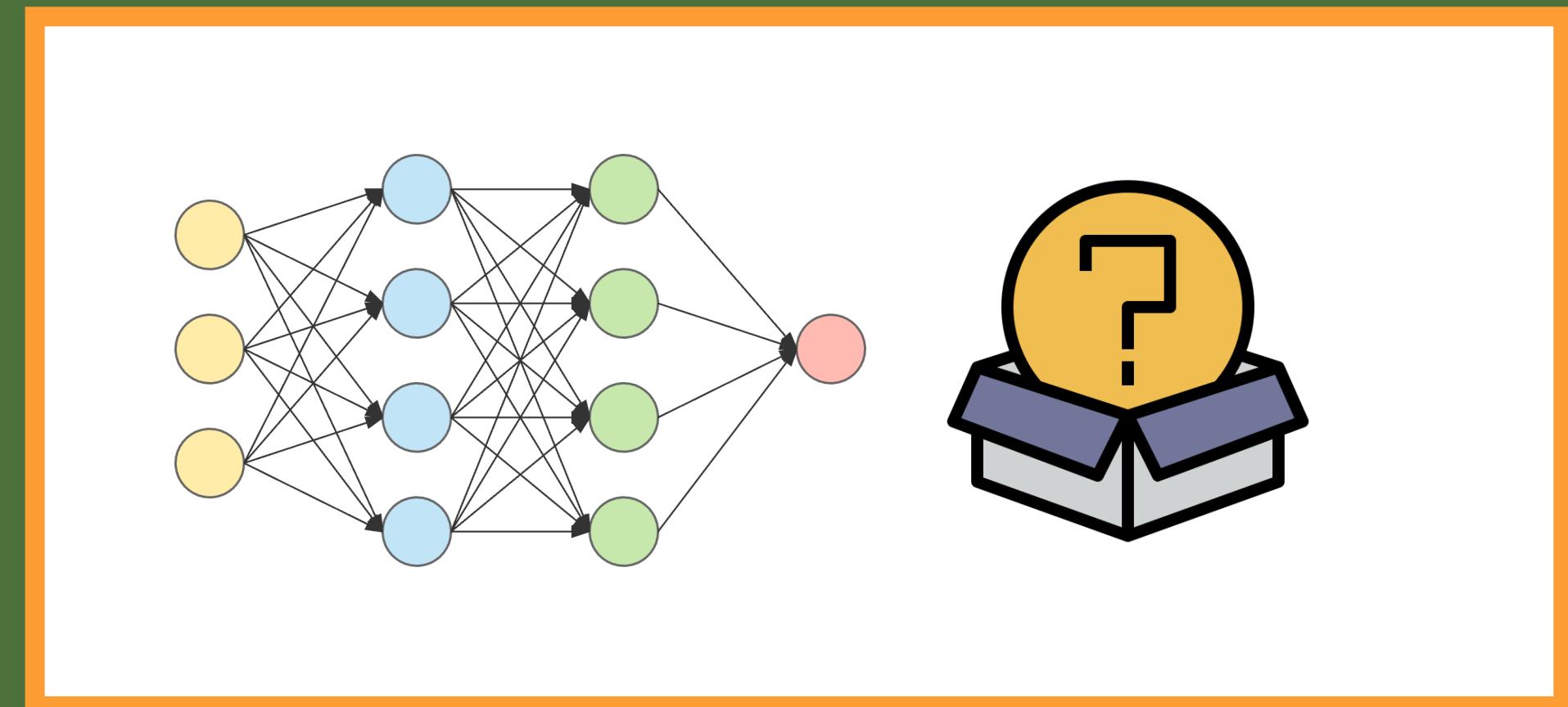
- ▶ High- and low-level explanations provide complementary insights
- ▶ Current explanations are not always satisfactory



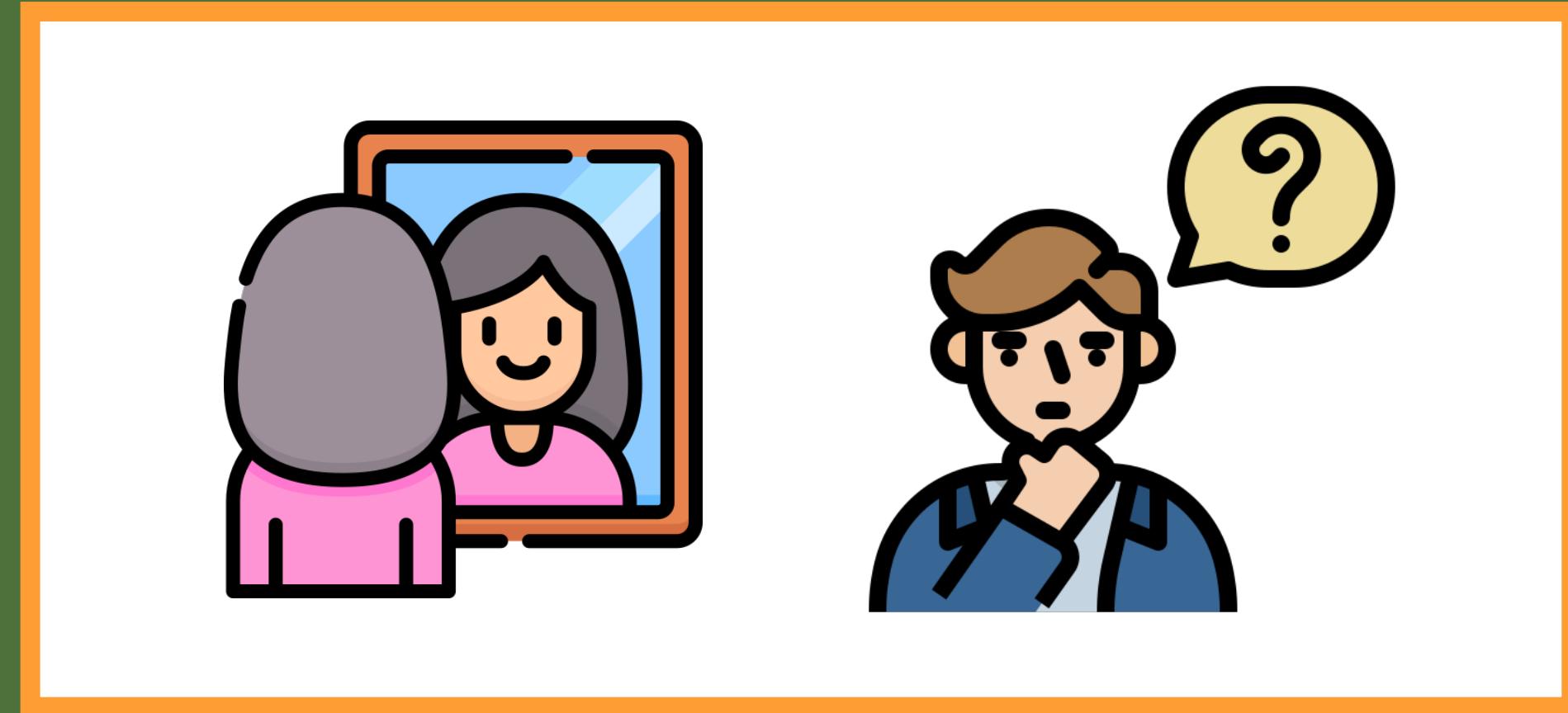
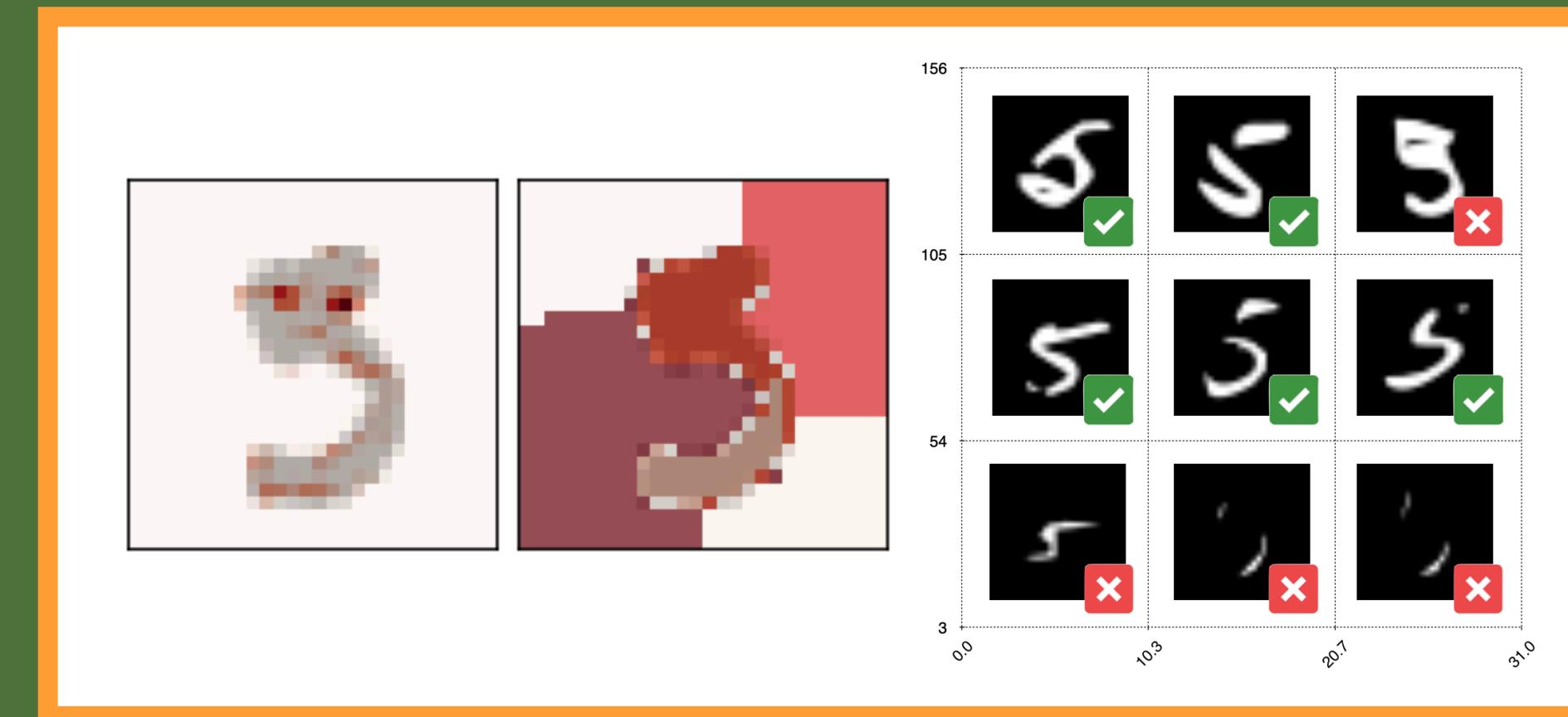
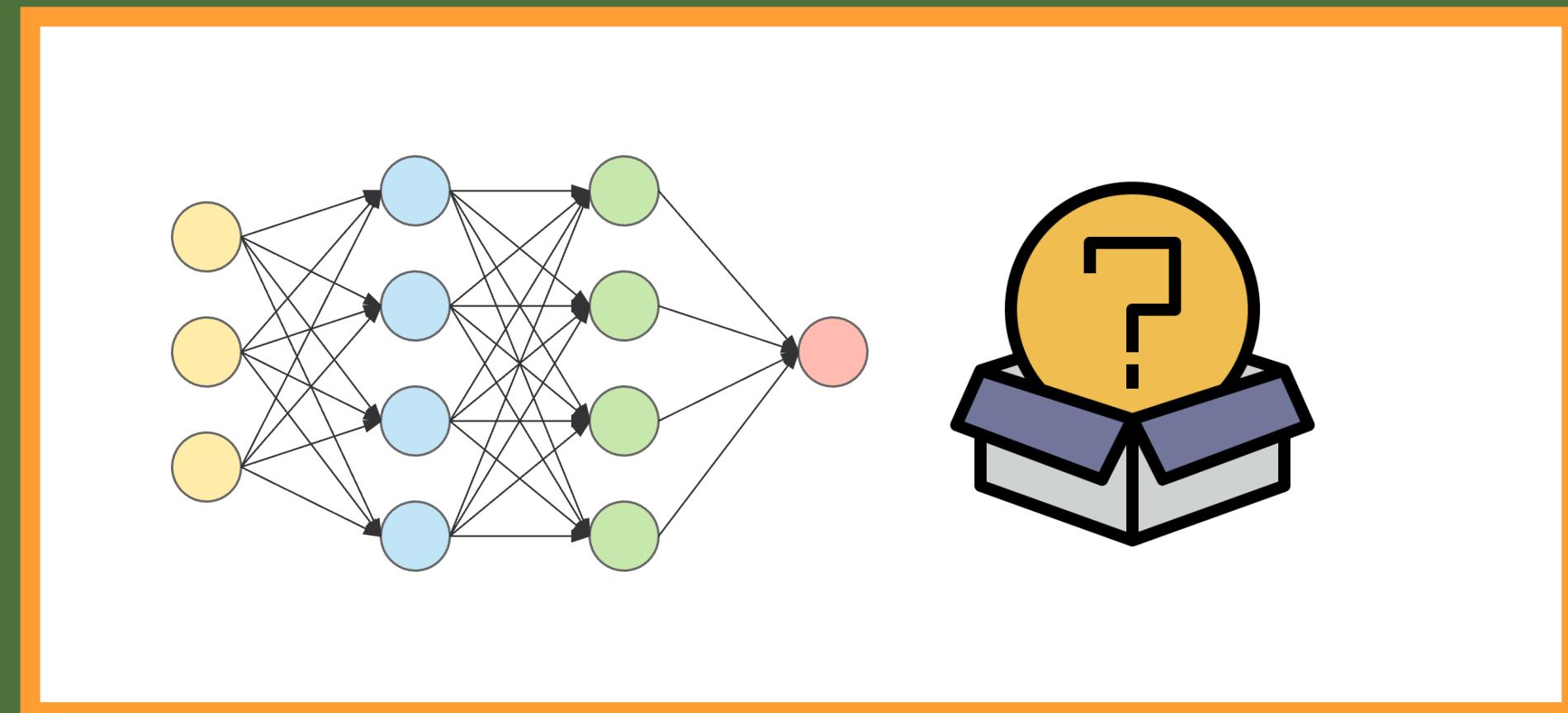
# SUMMARY



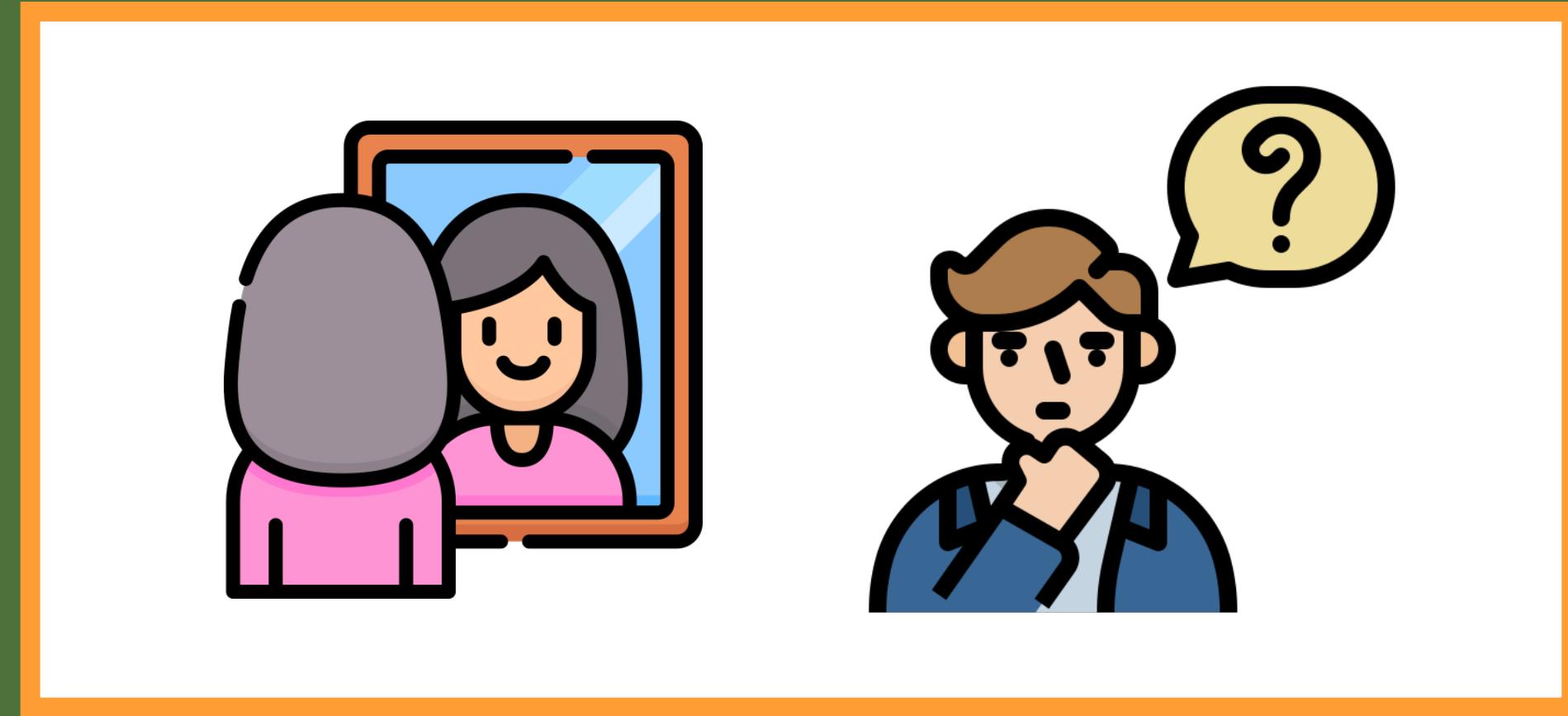
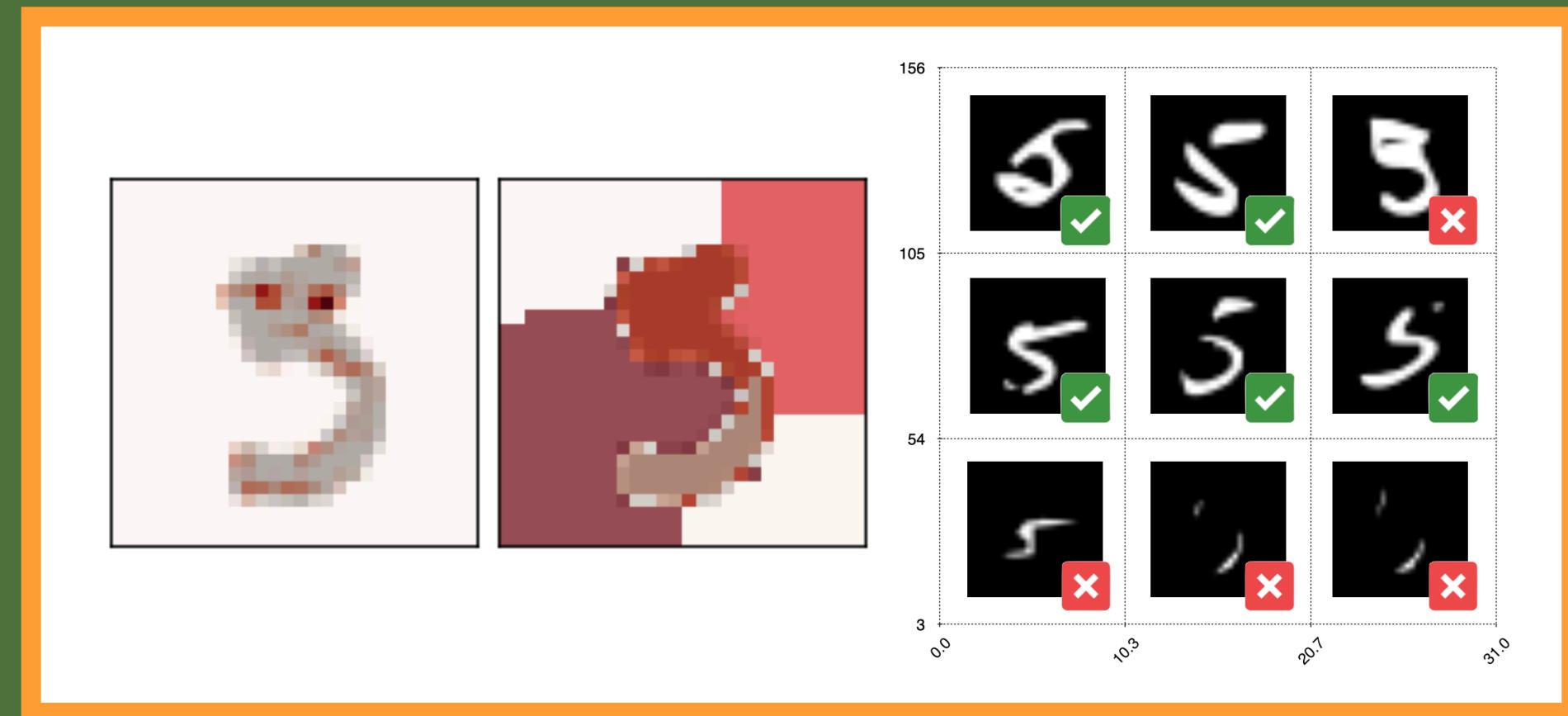
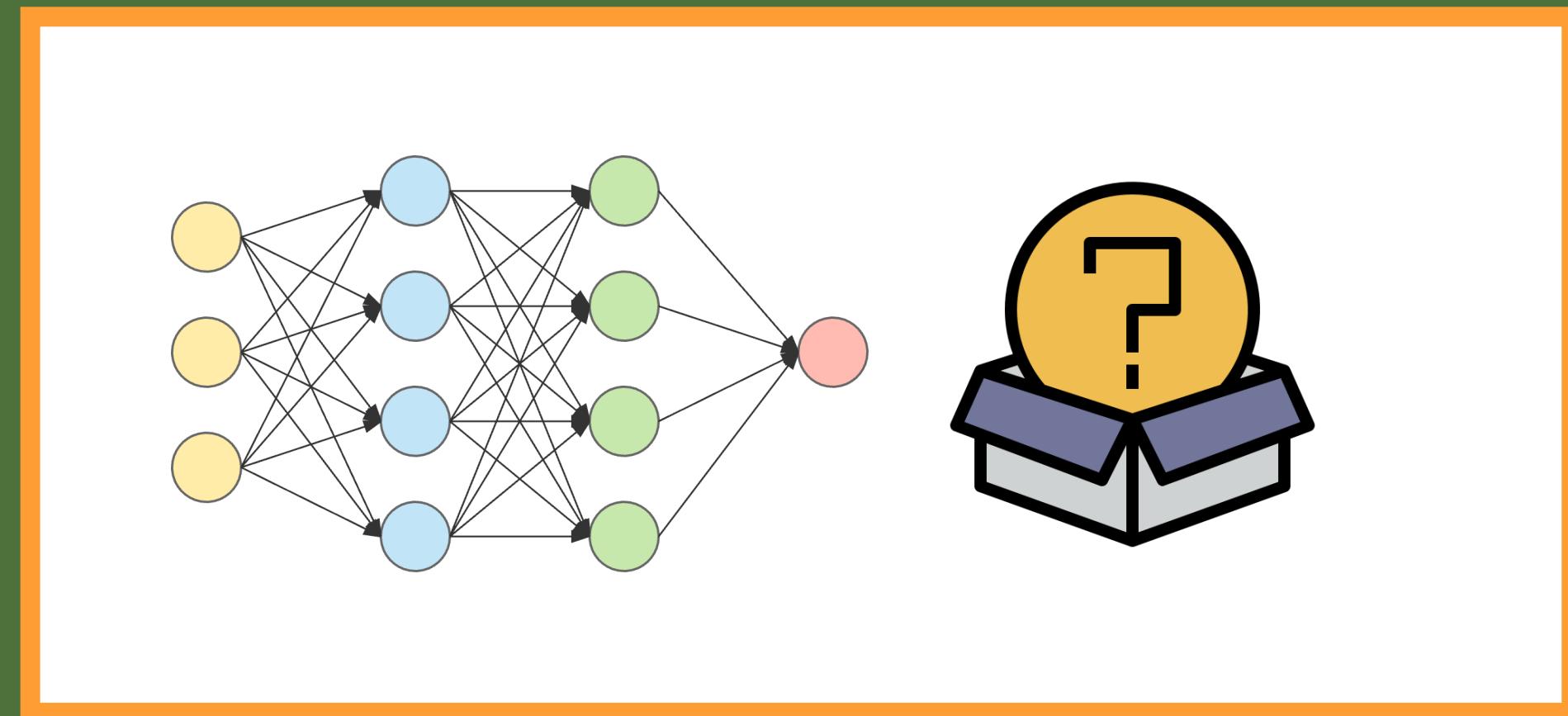
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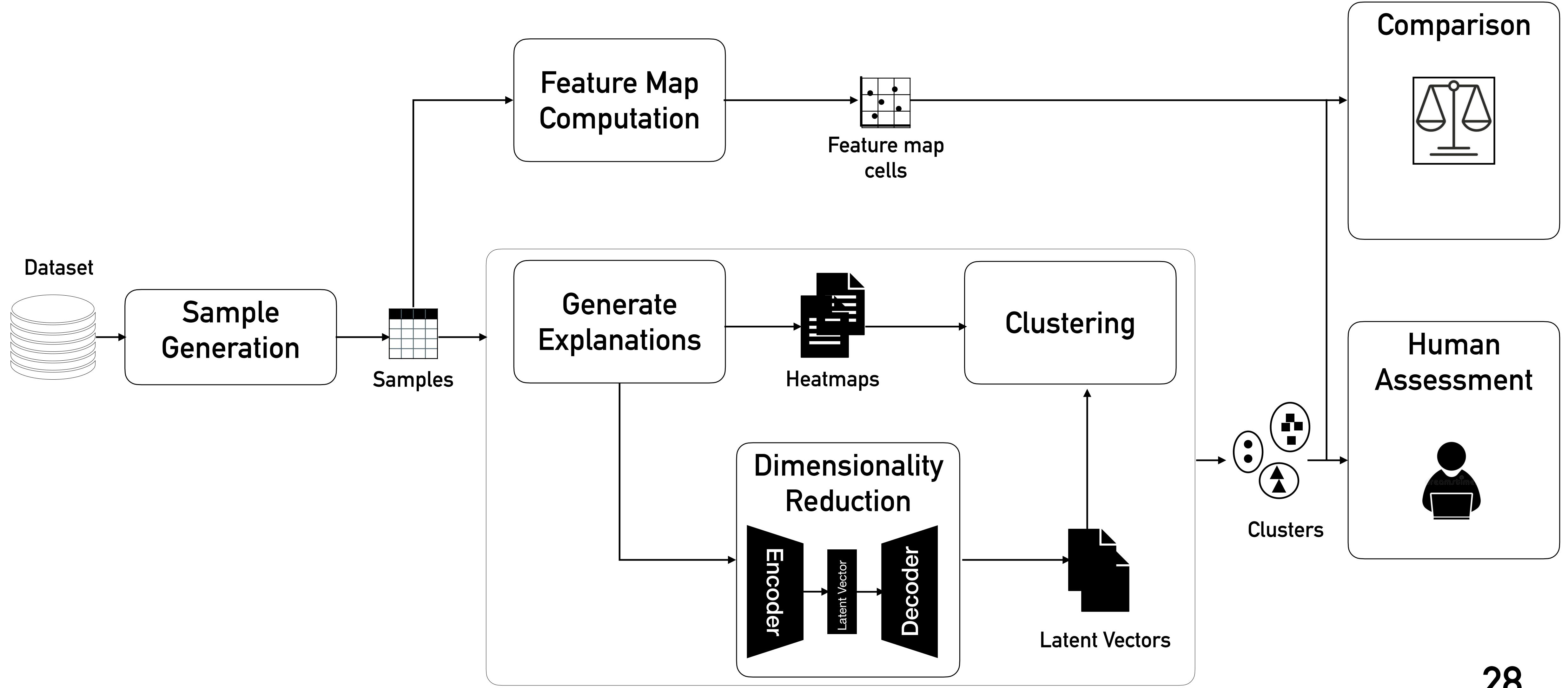
# SUMMARY



# EXTRA SLIDES



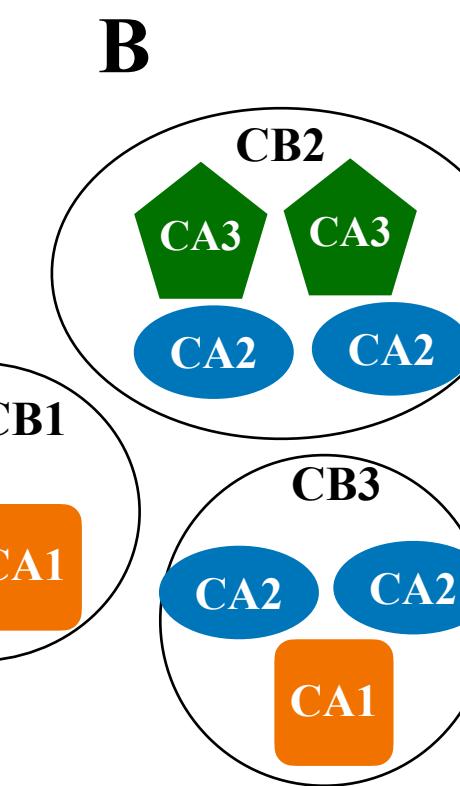
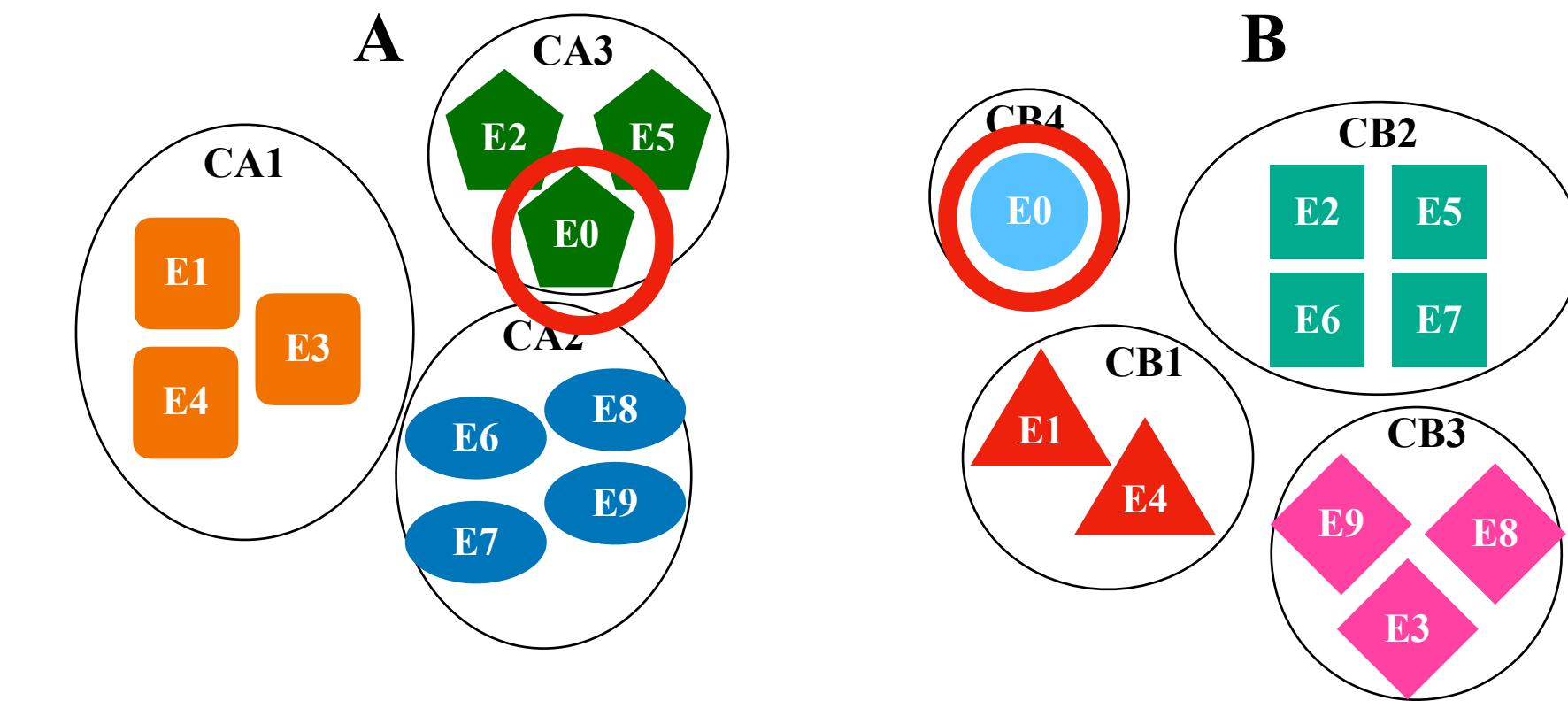
# EVALUATION PIPELINE



# GINI SIMILARITY

$$GI(D, A) = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{|A|} p_{Ai}^2$$

$$GS_{(B,A)} = 1 - \frac{1}{|B|} \sum_{i=1}^{|B|} GI(CB_i, A)$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 GS_{(B,A)} &= 1 - \frac{1}{4}(GI(CB1, A) + GI(CB2, A) + GI(CB3, A) + GI(CB4, A)) \\
 &= 1 - \frac{1}{4}(0 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{4}{9} + 0) = 0.76
 \end{aligned}$$

# RQ1: SIMILARITY

5 MNIST IMDb IMDB

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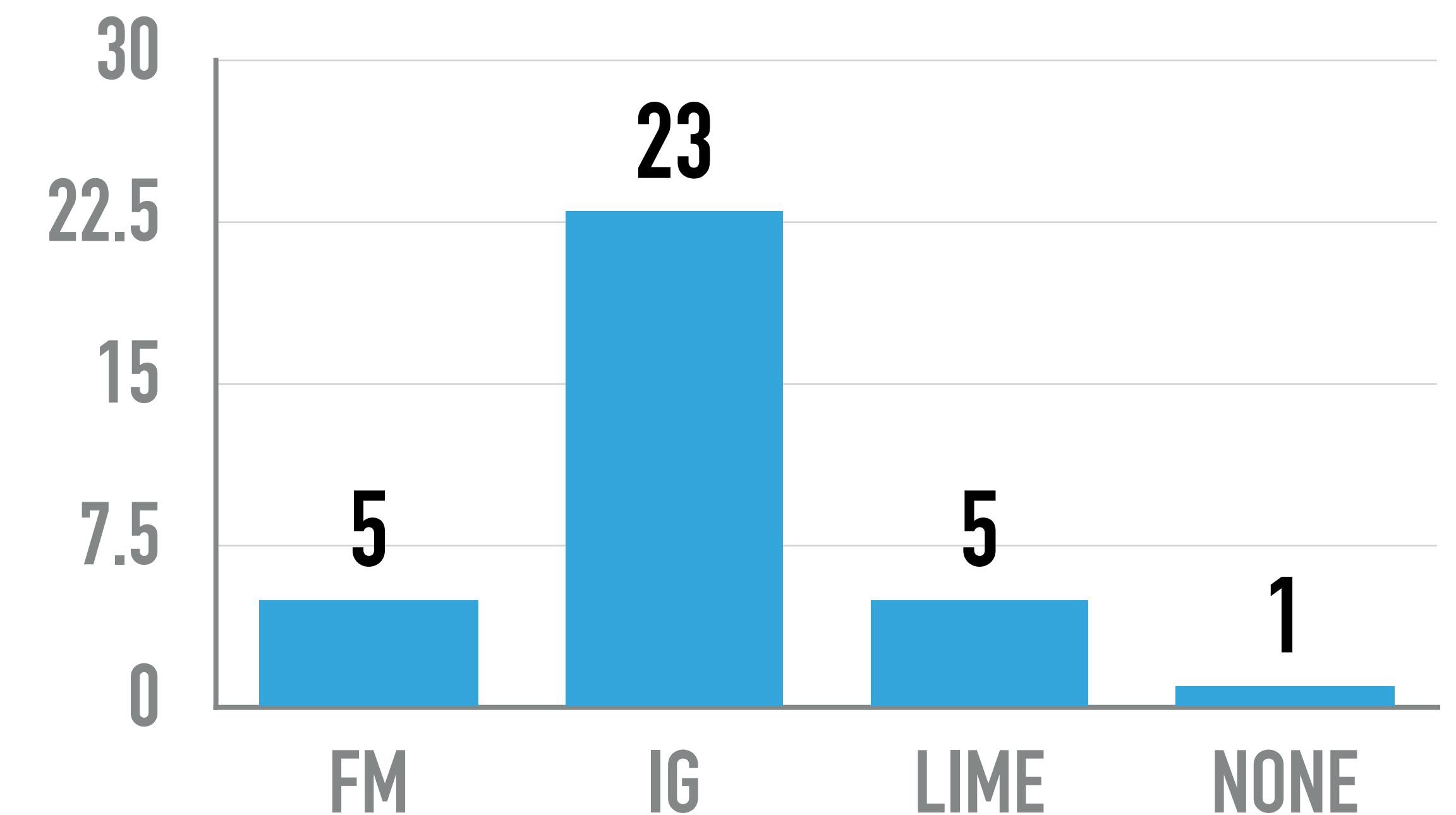
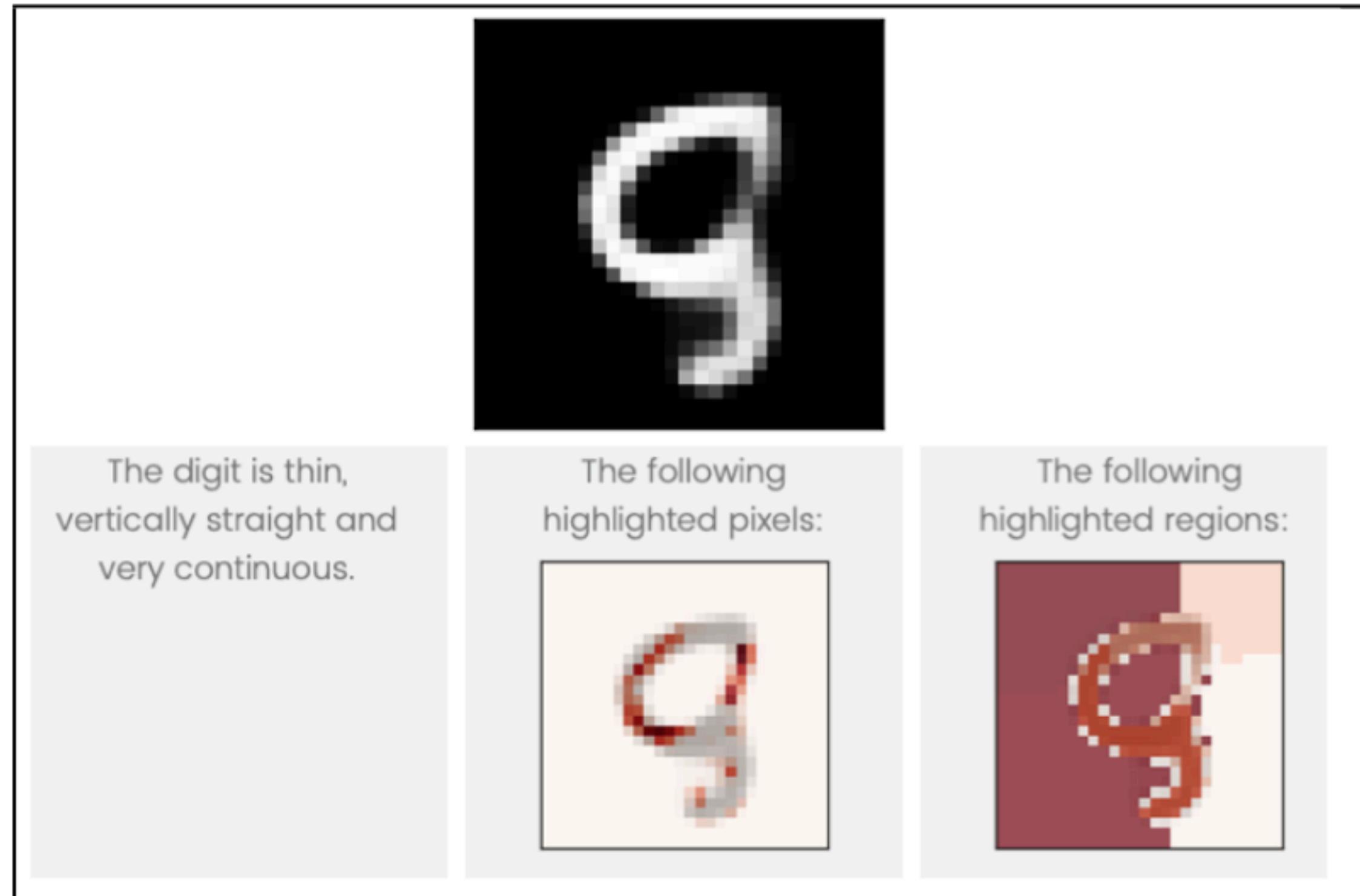
Original space  
always achieves  
better similarity

## RQ2: UNDERSTANDABILITY

TABLE V: RQ2 - Number of Matches with Human Explanations (MH); ‘None’ indicates the number of cases when no match was found.

Q#	MNIST				IMDB					
	FM	3D	IG	LIME	None	FM	3D	IG	LIME	None
Q1	12	2		10	8	2		13	3	3
Q2	5	23		5	1	5		3	3	9
Q3	4	7		9	12	11		17	8	0
Q4	6	7		5	14	6		15	3	2
Q5	3	15		2	11	10		14	7	1
Q6	7	6		4	14	12		15	8	0
Q7	7	11		7	10	0		14	5	3
Q8	9	5		8	13	11		14	12	1
Q9	5	1		9	17	6		8	4	4
Q10	13	10		5	8	11		12	7	2
Sum	71	87		64	108	74		125	60	25

# DISCUSSION



# DISCUSSION

If folks were really this stupid I could be the SRW - Supreme Ruler of the World. In this one Knotts plays a dimwitted bean counter for some little jerk water town run by a group of crooked simpletons only slightly brighter than he is. When things appear a bit shaky for the crooks they go for a frame-up of the patsy Figg. Plenty of laughs as Knotts does his usual bumbling, stumbling act. I especially appreciated the extension cord scene; asininity at its highest level.

The review contains 3 positive words, 5 negative words and 11 verbs (the number of verbs is an indicator of the text complexity).

The review contains the following words contributing to negative (red) and positive (green) sentiments:



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