

# Algorithmic Resignation

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The  
Alan Turing  
Institute

CFI

# When Should Algorithms Resign?

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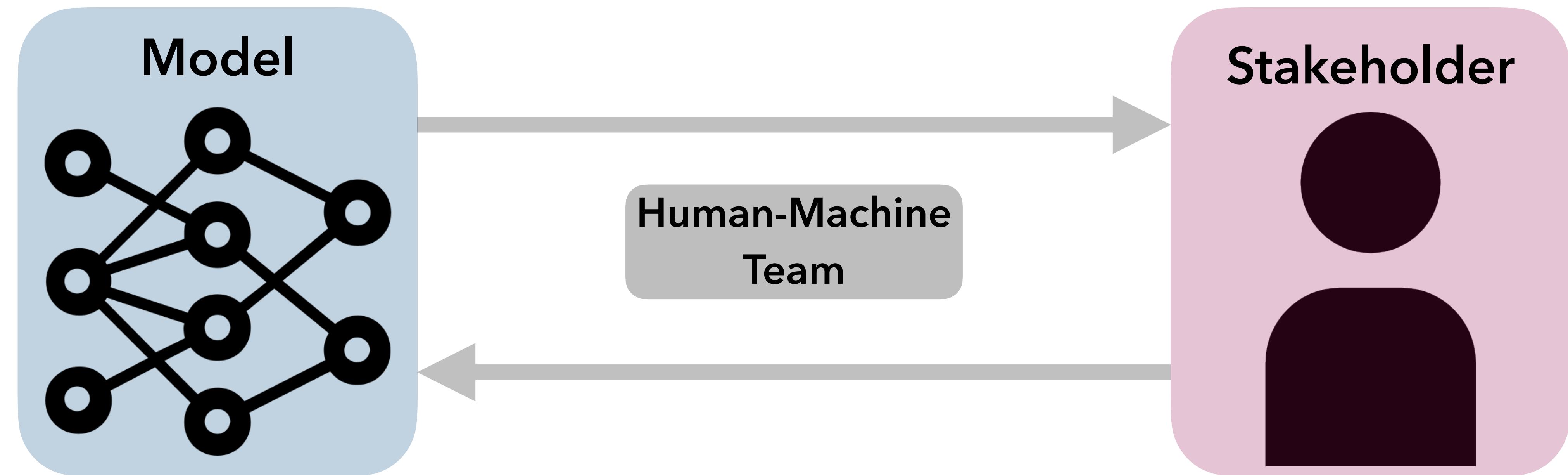
@umangsbhatt

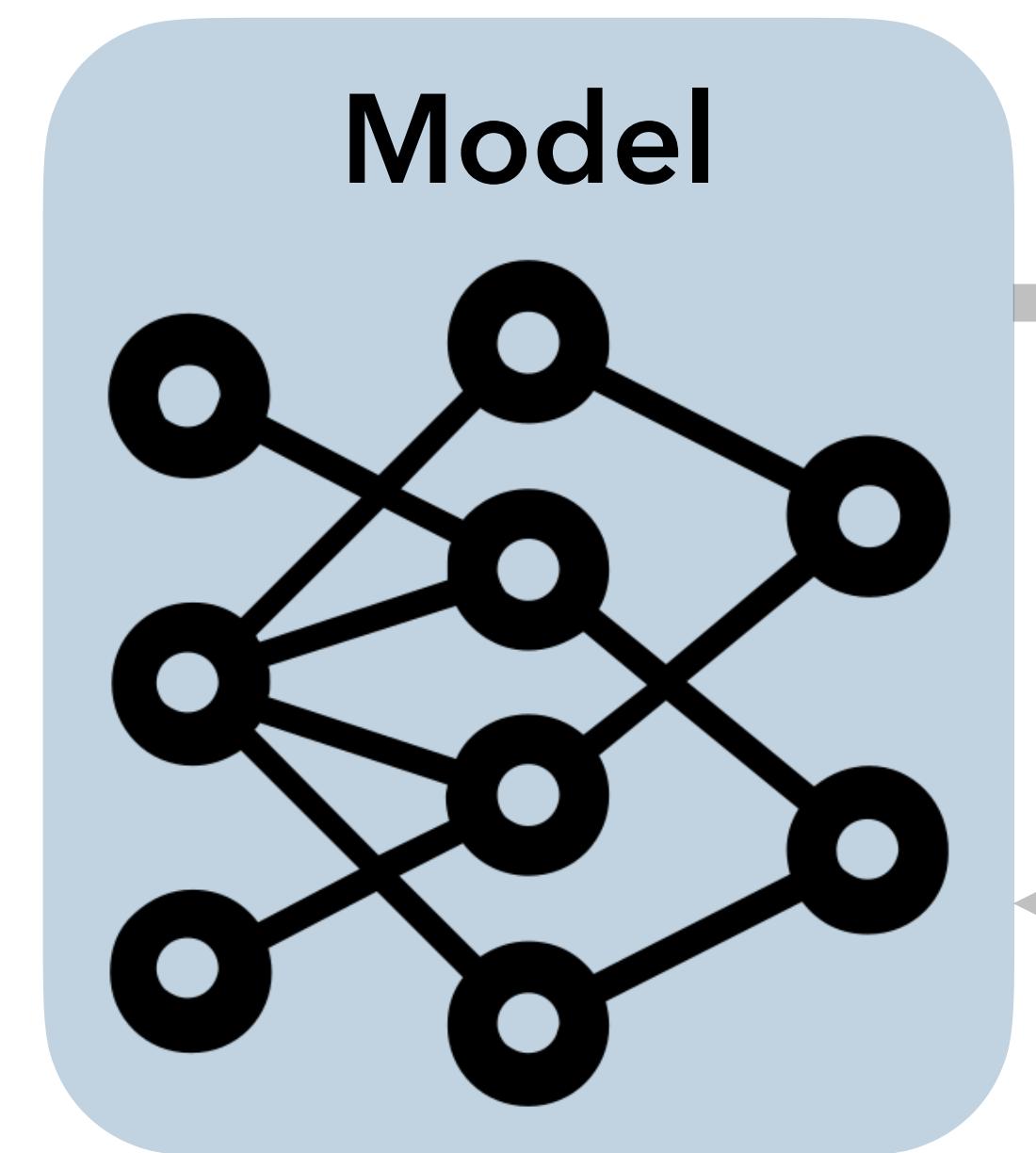
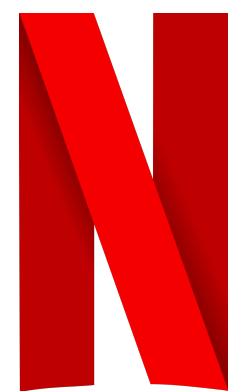
[umangbhatt@nyu.edu](mailto:umangbhatt@nyu.edu)



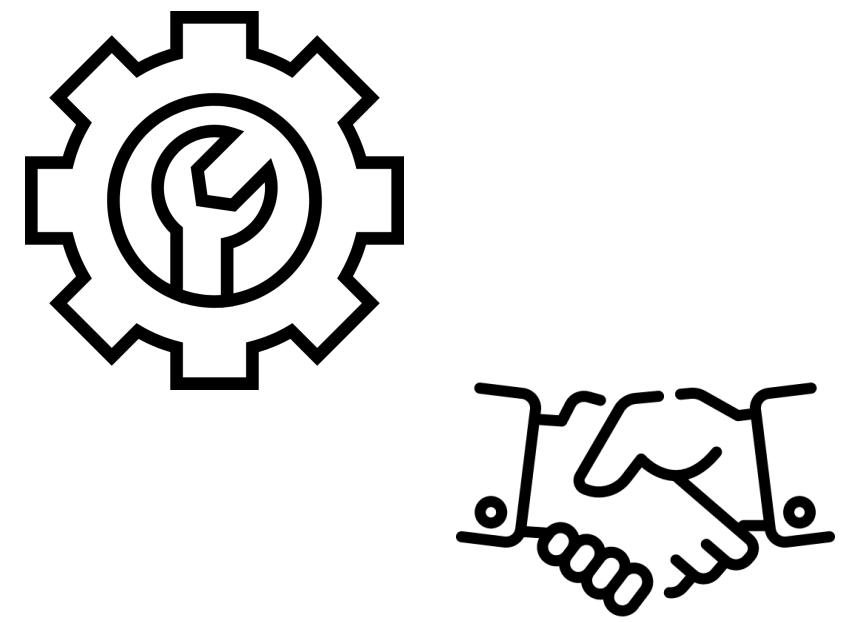
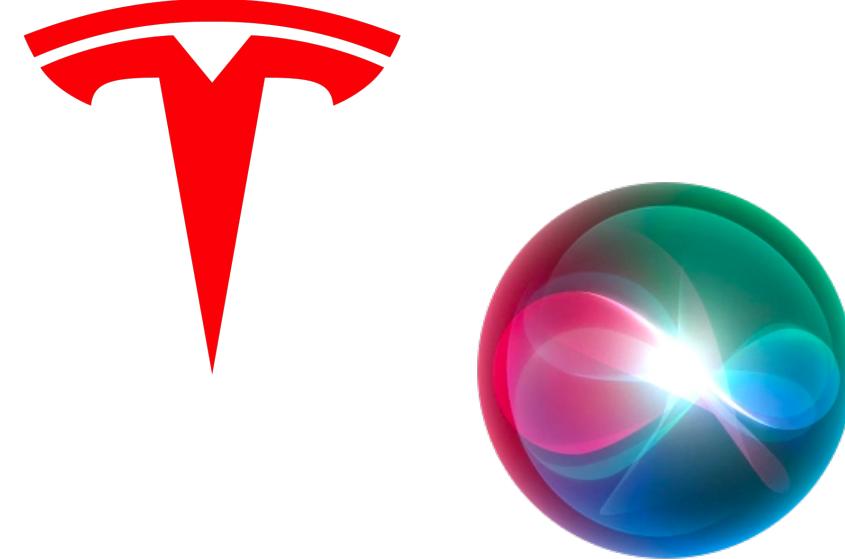
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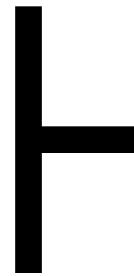
Human-Machine  
Team



**Me**

## 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



## Overtrust

## Distrust

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.

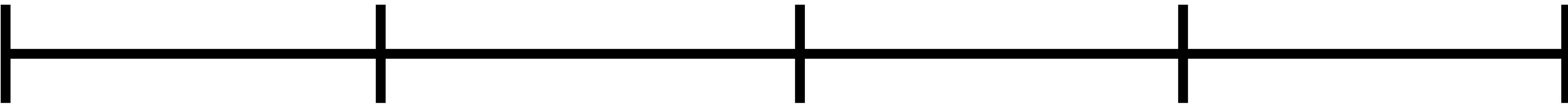
Loafing

Appreciation

Vigilance

Aversion

Opposition



POLITICS

## Judge sanctions lawyers for brief written by A.I. with fake citations

PUBLISHED THU, JUN 22 2023 2:34 PM EDT | UPDATED THU, JUN 22 2023 3:53 PM EDT



Dan Mangan  
@\_DANMANGAN

SHARE f t in e

## Tesla wins first US Autopilot trial involving fatal crash

By Dan Levine and Hyunjoo Jin

November 1, 2023 12:58 AM EDT · Updated a month ago

## Cops cuff pregnant woman for carjacking after facial recog gets it wrong, again

Not-so smart tech, or officers, it seems

Thomas Claburn

Tue 8 Aug 2023 00:24 UTC

FROM AFP NEWS

## Brazil Judge Investigated For AI Errors In Ruling

By AFP - Agence France Presse November 13, 2023

## Is your health insurer using AI to deny you services? Lawsuit says errors harmed elders.



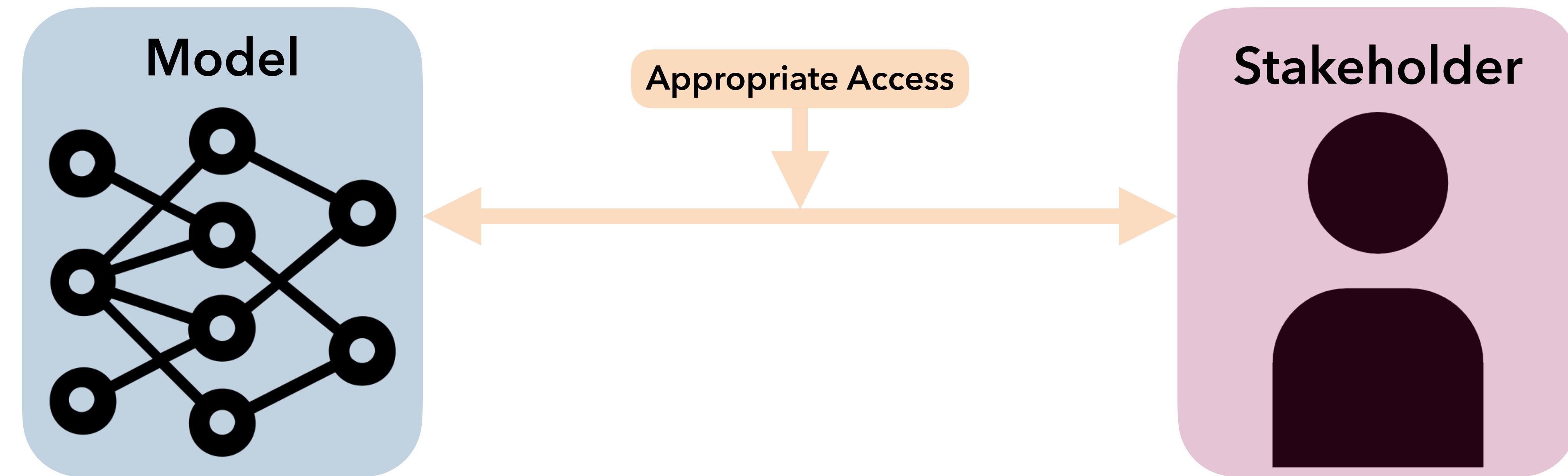
Ken Alltucker  
USA TODAY

Published 5:18 a.m. ET Nov. 19, 2023 | Updated 11:19 a.m. ET Nov. 20, 2023

## A Milton resident's lawsuit against CVS raises questions about the use of AI lie detectors in hiring

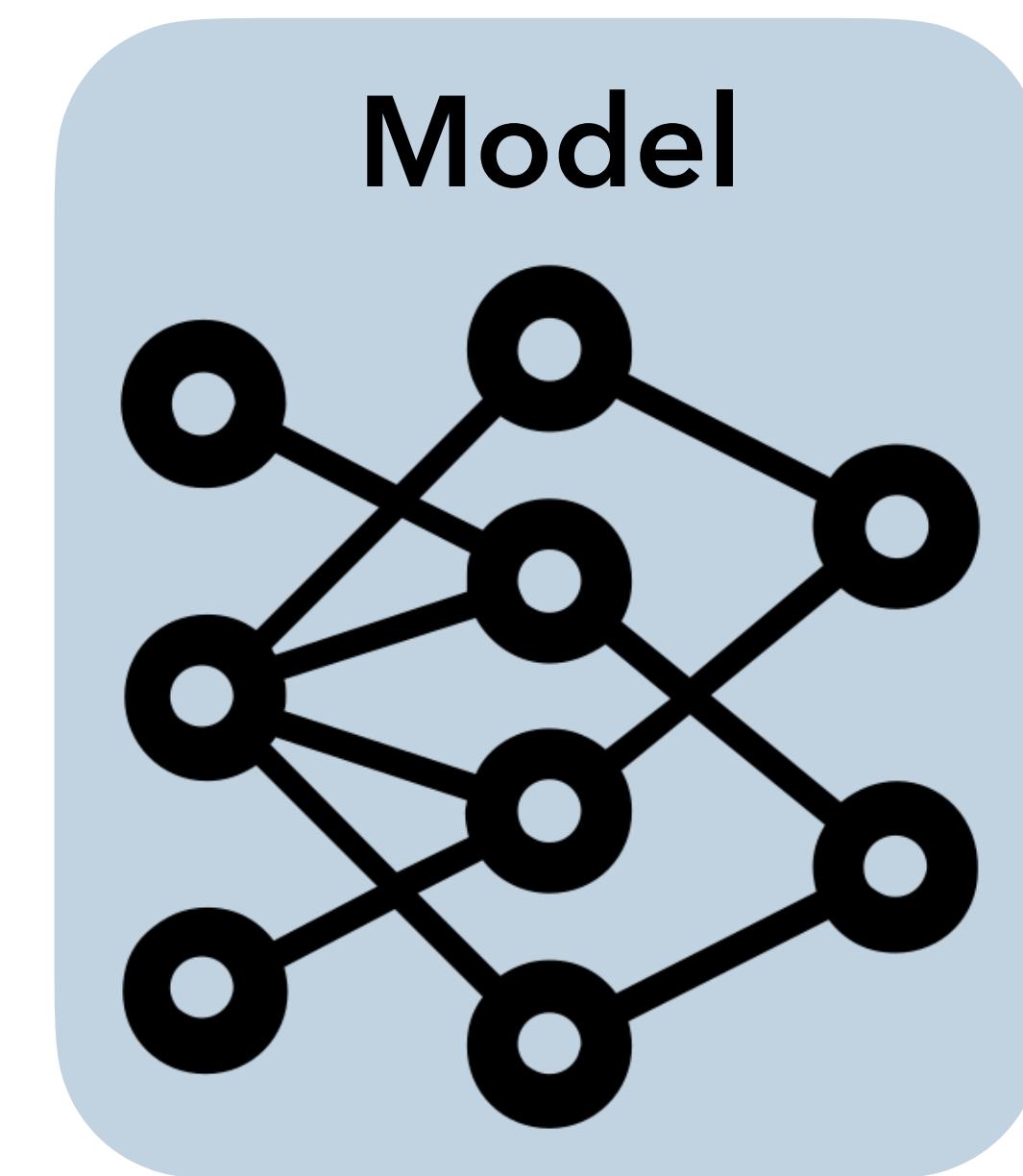
By Katie Johnston Globe Staff, Updated May 21, 2023, 4:56 p.m.

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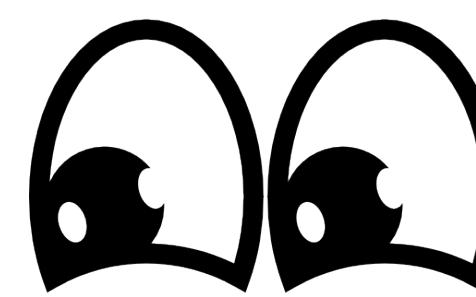
B\*, Sargeant\*. *When Should Algorithms Resign?* Preprint. 2023.

B\*, Chen\*, Collins, P. Kamalaruban, Kallina, Weller, Talwalkar. *Learning Personalized Decision Support Policies*. Under Review. 2023.



Model

Veil of Selectivity



Stakeholder

Model Performance

Domain Expertise



B\*, Sargeant\*. When Should Algorithms Resign? Preprint. 2023.

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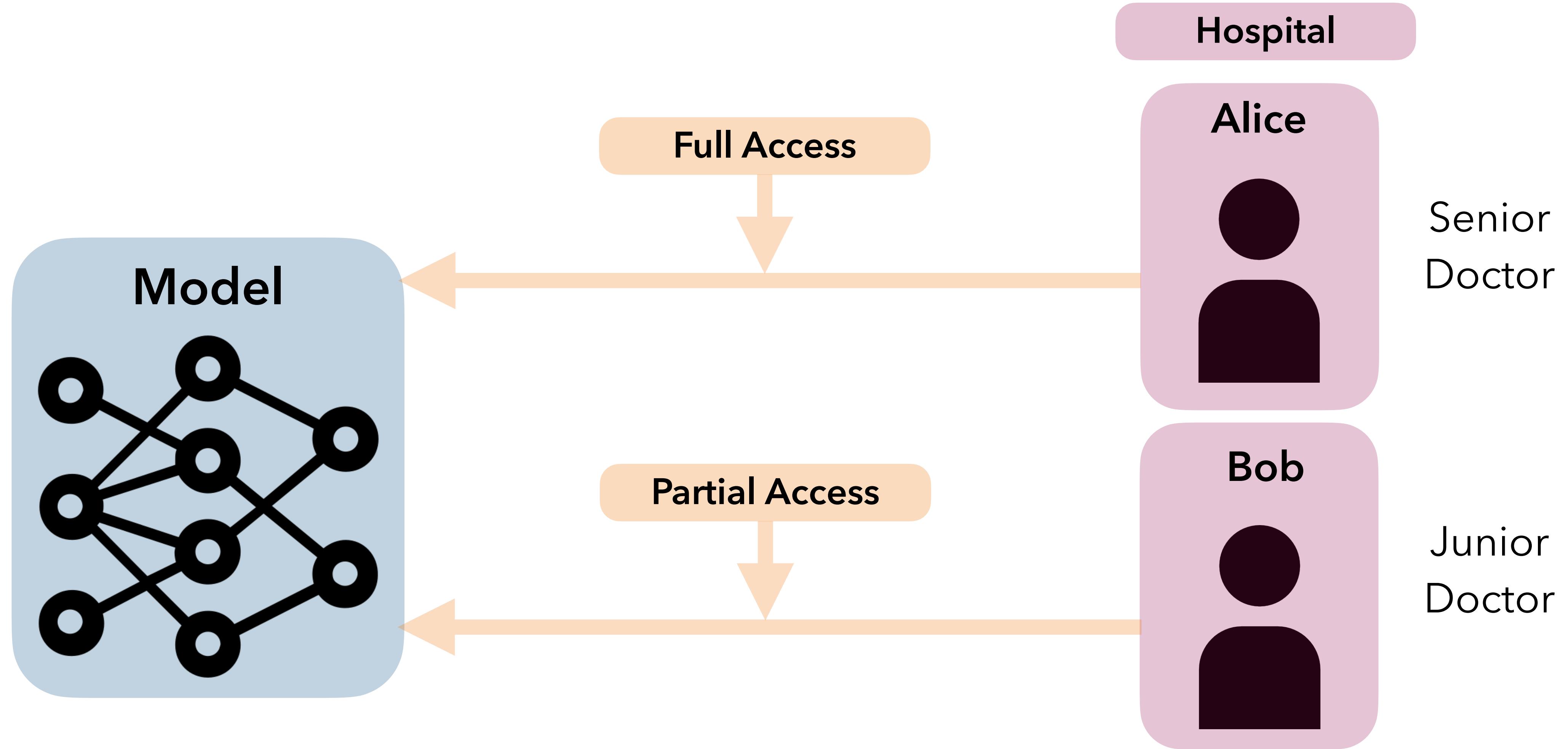
# Outline

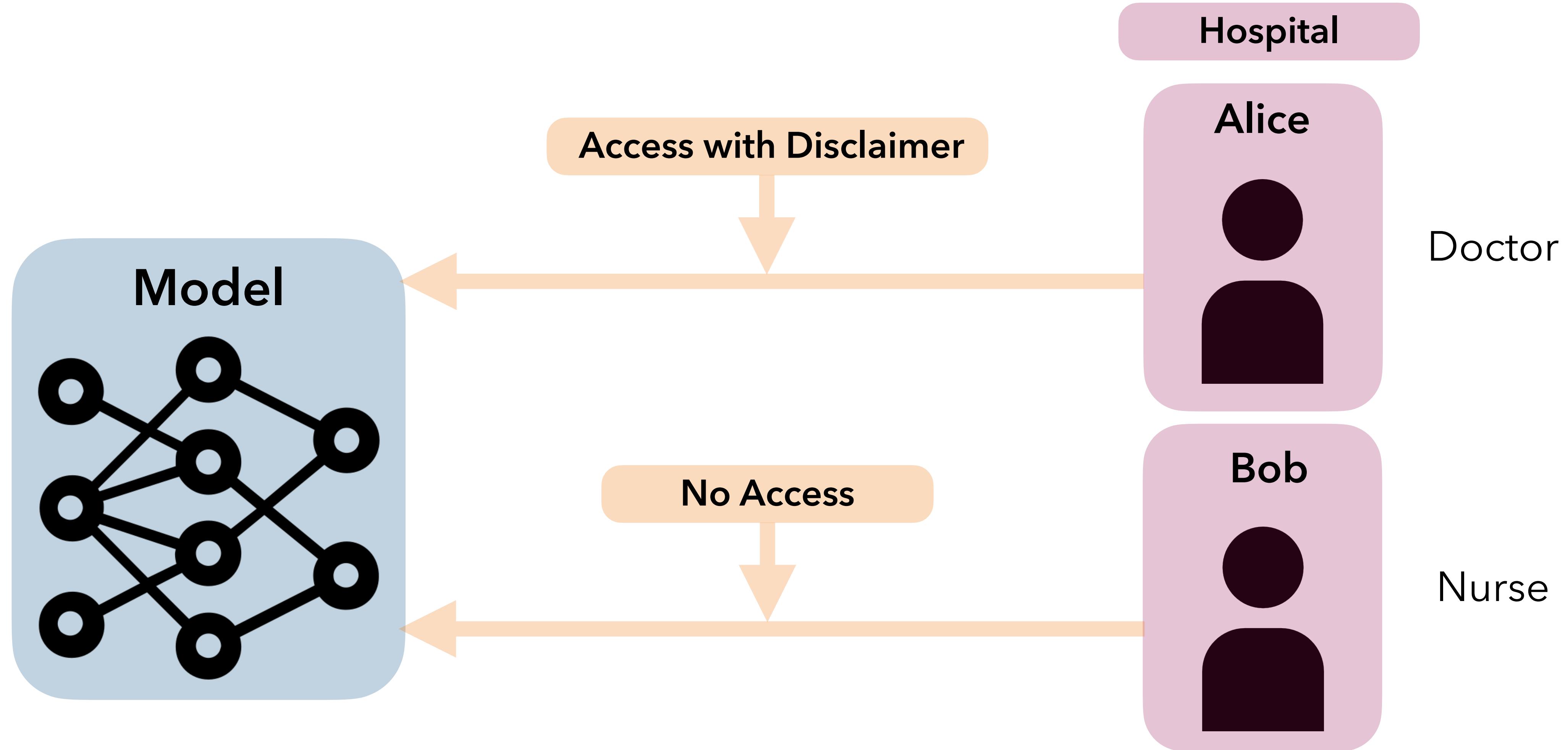
- I. What is *Algorithmic Resignation*?
- II. Benefits of *Algorithmic Resignation*
- III. Considerations for *Algorithmic Resignation*
- IV. *Algorithmic Resignation* in Practice

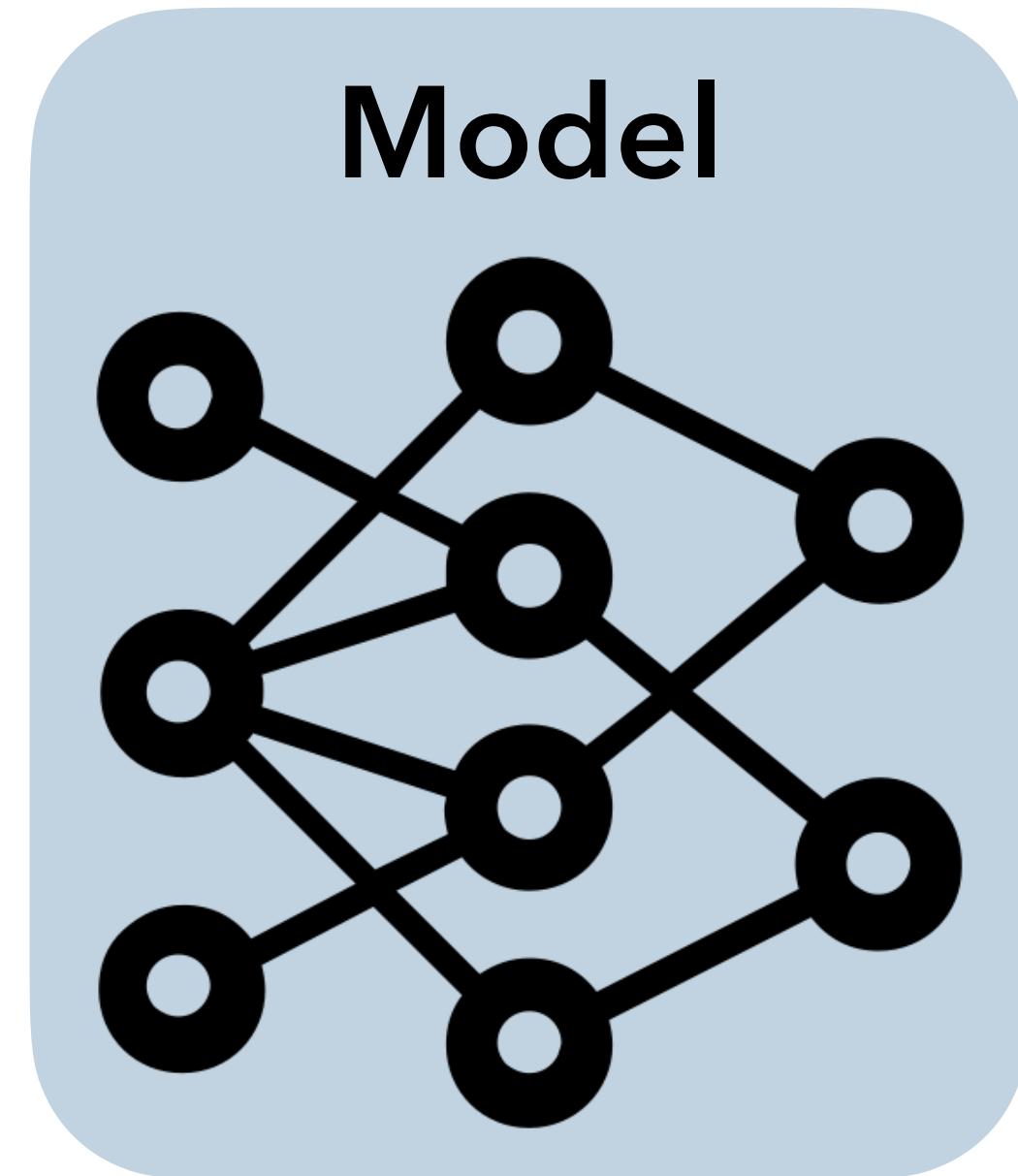
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**Algorithmic resignation** is the *deliberate* and *informed* disengagement from AI assistance in certain scenarios.







Appropriate Access

Cost

Expertise

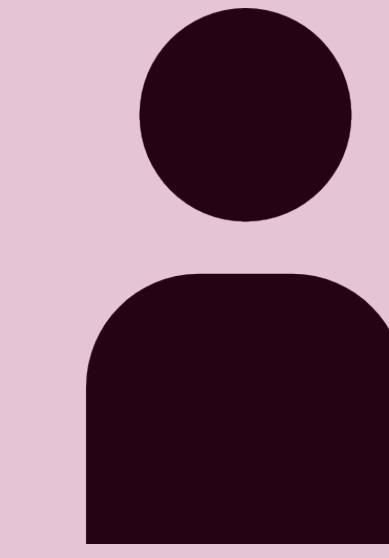
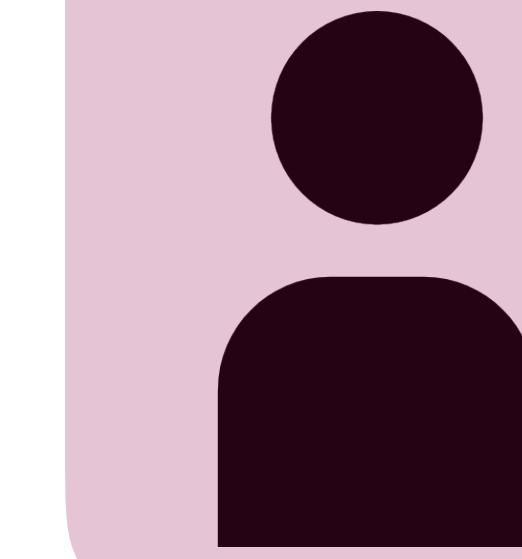
Internal Policy

External Regulation

Hospital

Alice

Bob



# Algorithmic resignation goes beyond the disuse of AI systems.

It is about embedding **governance** mechanisms directly within AI systems, guiding when and how these systems should be used or abstained from.

**B\***, Sargeant\*. *When Should Algorithms Resign?* Preprint. 2023.

**B\***, Chen\*, Collins, P. Kamalaruban, Kallina, Weller, Talwalkar. *Learning Personalized Decision Support Policies*. Under Review. 2023.

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# Benefits of Algorithmic Resignation



Economic Efficiency



Reputational Gain



Legal Compliance

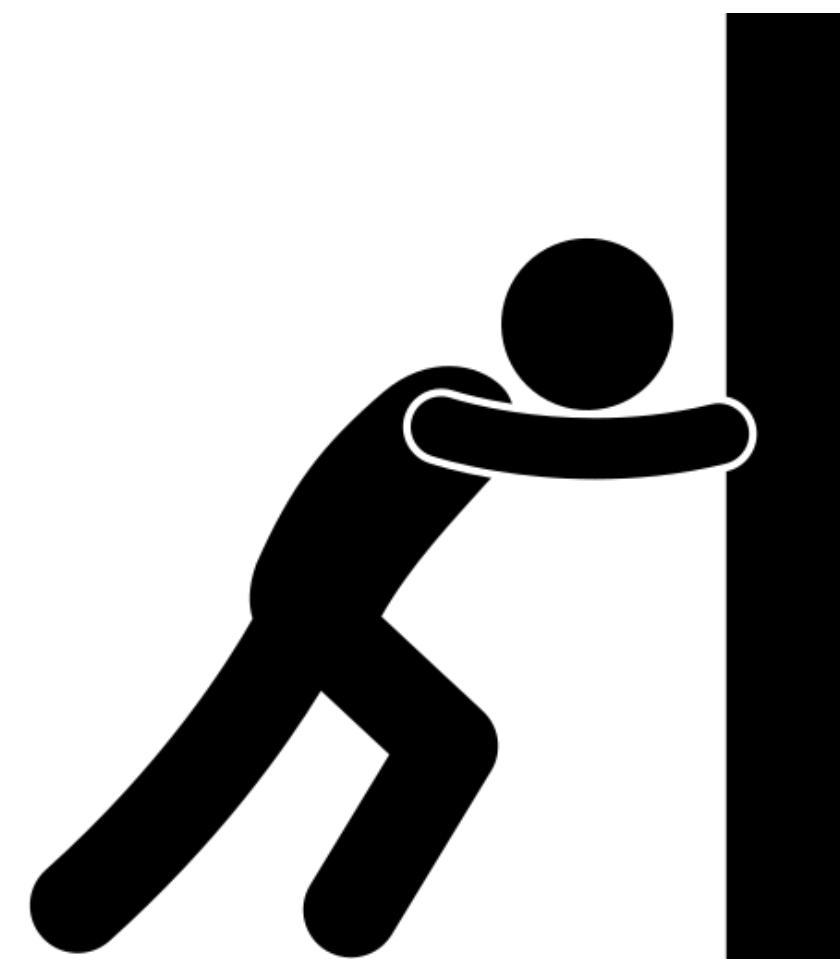
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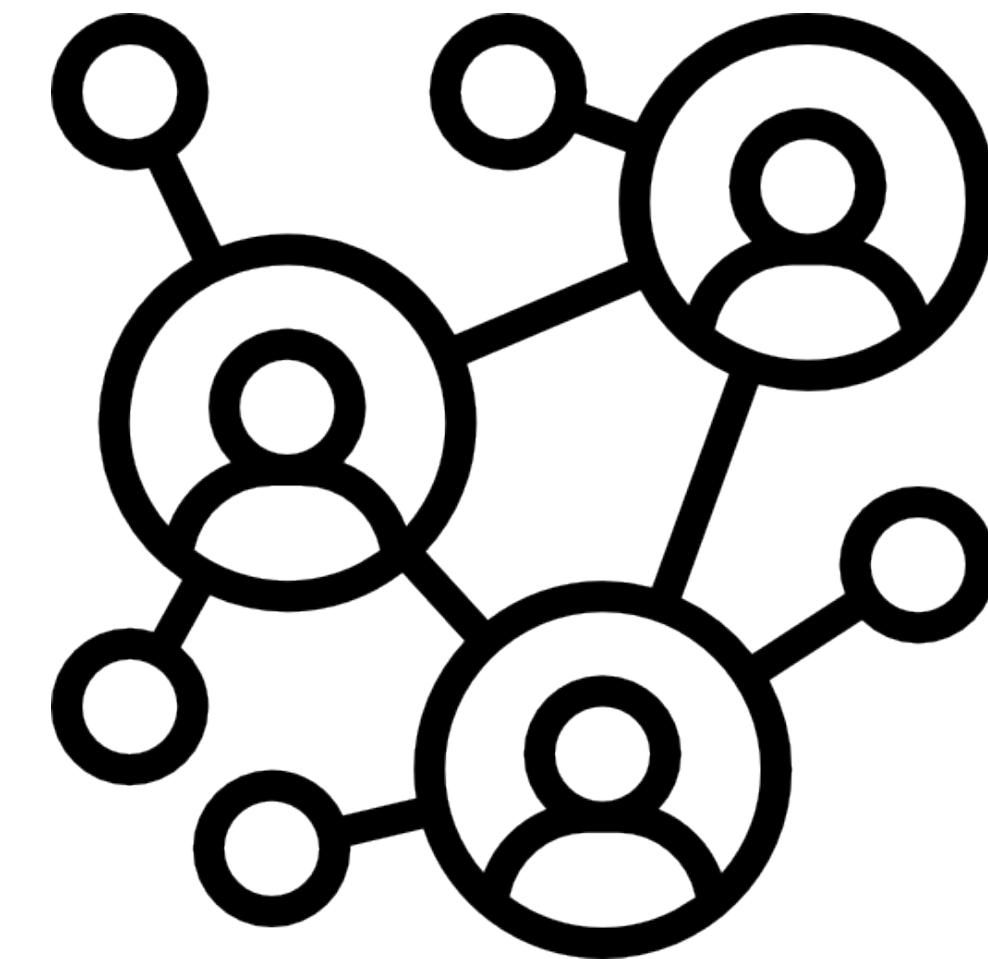
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# Considerations for Algorithmic Resignation



Directionality of  
Selectivity



Stakeholder  
Incentives



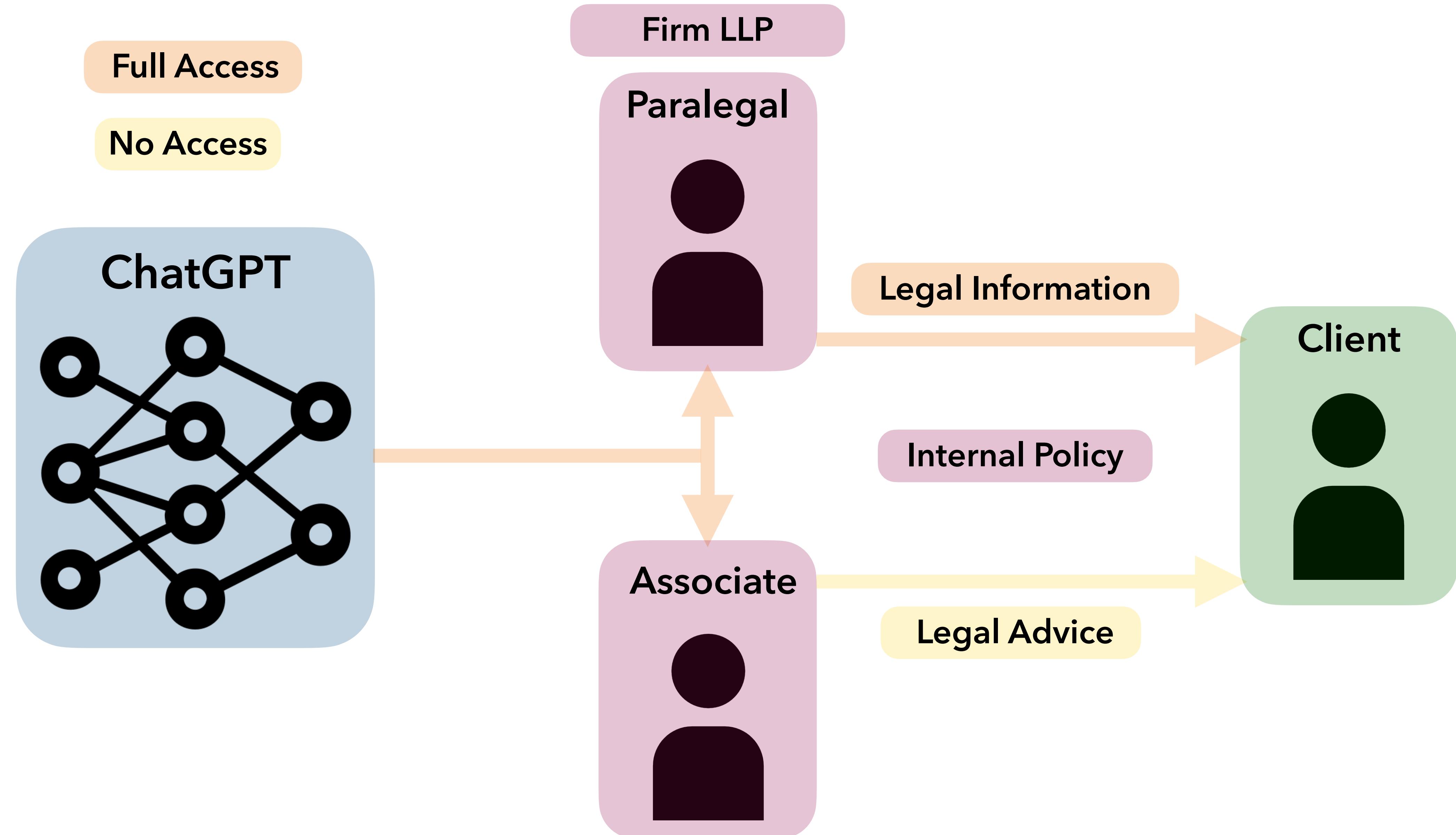
Level of Engagement

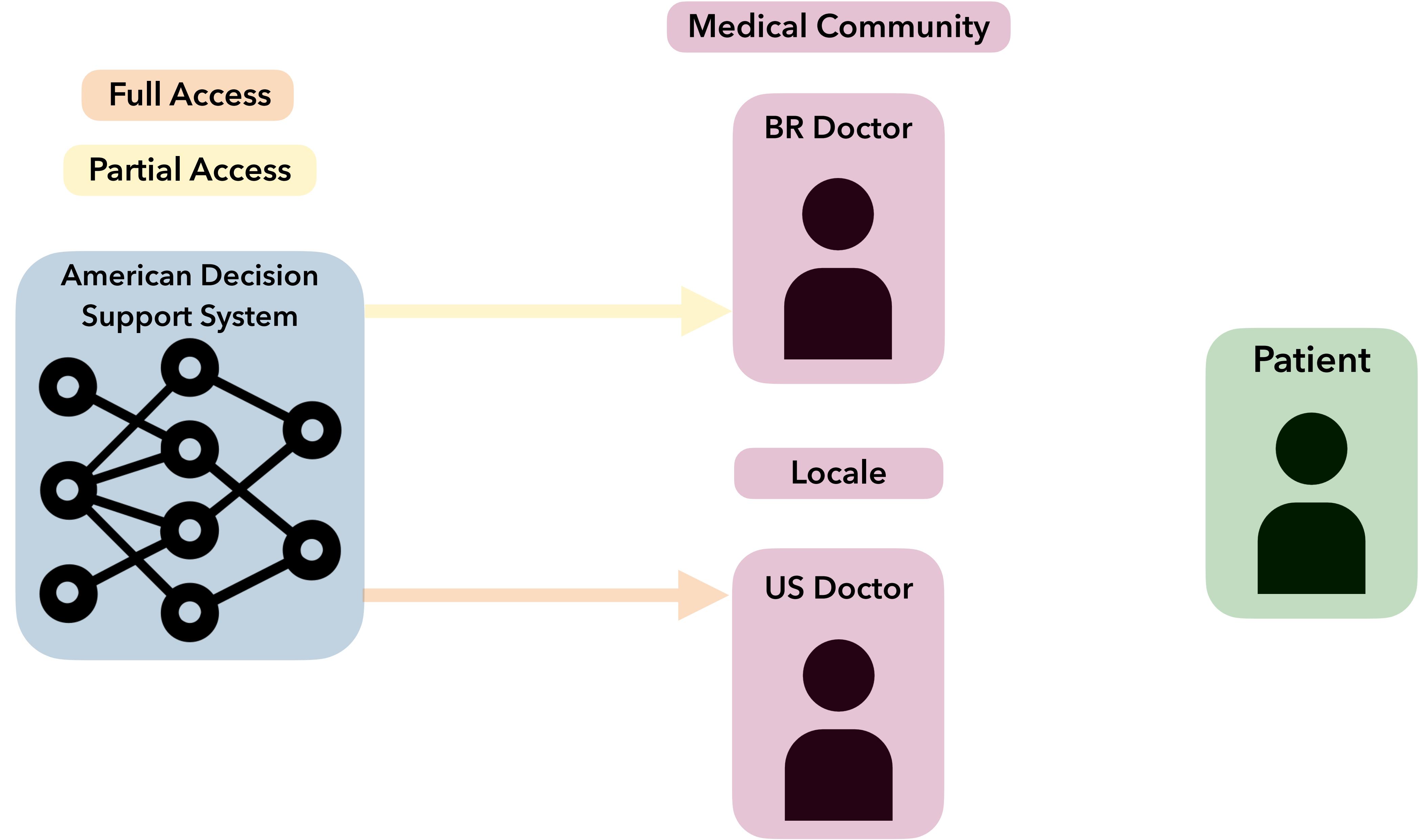
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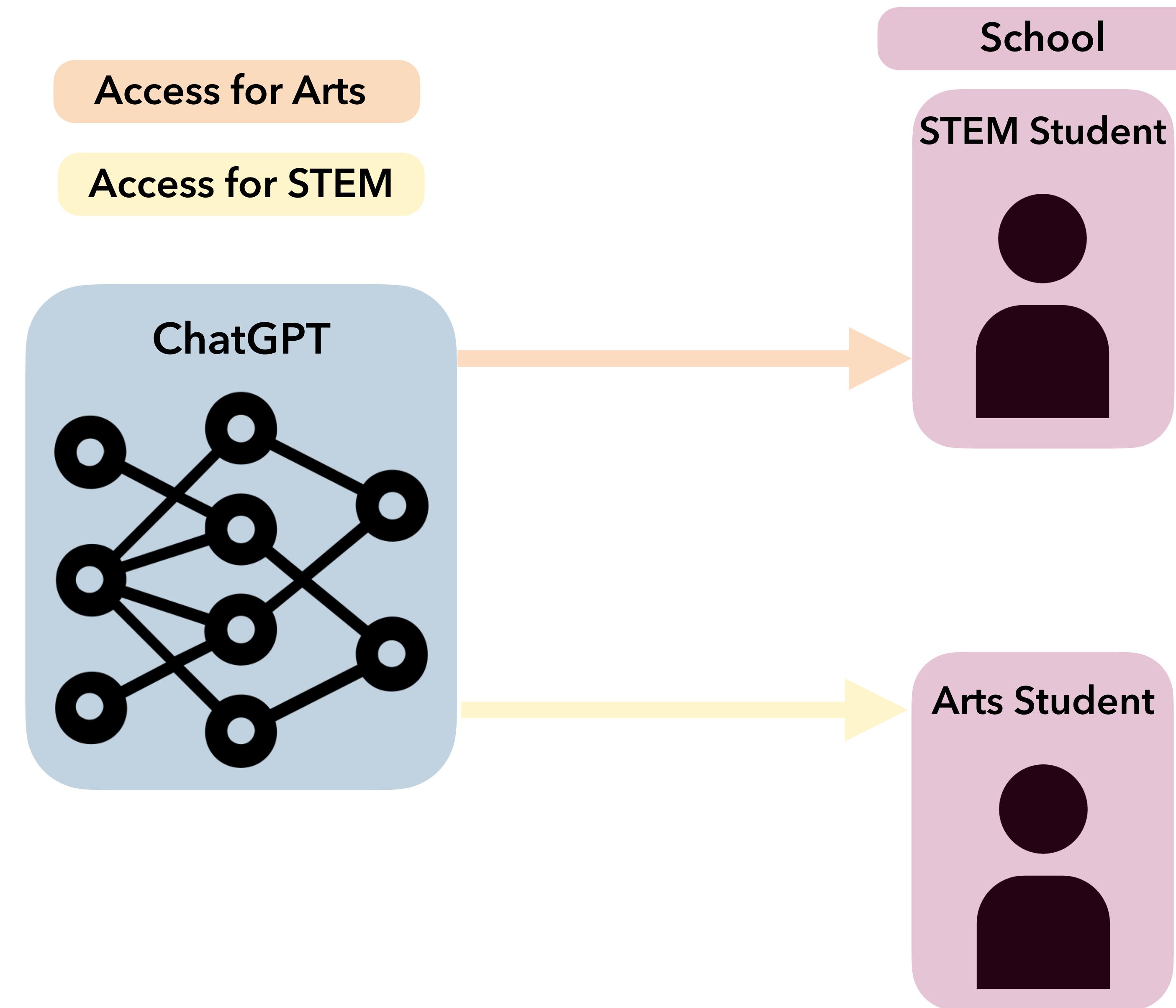
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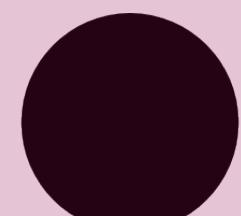






1. Different students will need **different** levels of support
2. Access to support can be **learned** over a series of interactions
3. Access may be **complementary** to expertise

Student

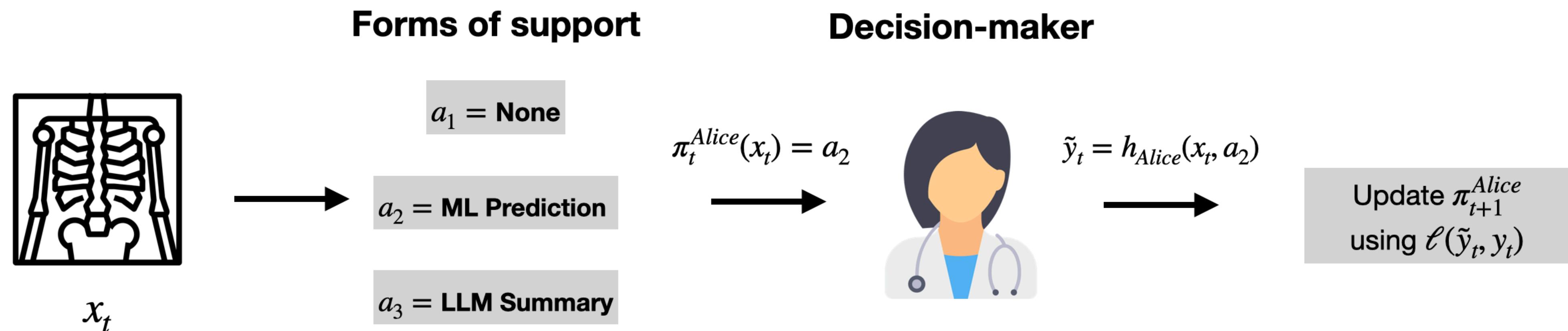


Personalize  
Access

# Learning Personalized Decision Support Policies

Methods

Question: "When is it appropriate to provide decision support (e.g. ML model predictions) to a specific decision-maker?"



**Formulation:** For an unseen decision-maker, which available form of decision support would improve their decision outcome performance the most?

## Set Up

We select a form of support  $a_t \in A$  using a decision support policy  $\pi_t : X \rightarrow \Delta(A)$

The decision-maker makes the final prediction:  $\tilde{y}_t = h(x_t, a_t)$

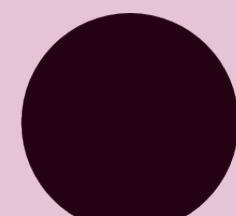
Performance differs under each form of support:  $r_{A_i}(x; h) = \mathbb{E}_{y|x}[\ell(y, h(x, A_i))]$

## Core Idea of THREAD

Learn policy  $\pi_t$  using a existing contextual bandits techniques

Include cost of  $a_t$  in the objective

Student



Personalize  
Access

# Learning Personalized Decision Support Policies

Methods

MMLU Task: 60 questions from 4 categories

Computer Science, Elementary Math, Biology, Foreign Policy

## Expertise Profiles

Invariant:  $r_{A_1}(X_j; h) \approx r_{A_2}(X_j; h), \forall j \in [N]$

Varying:  $r_{A_1}(X_j; h) \leq r_{A_2}(X_j; h)$  and  $r_{A_2}(X_k; h) \leq r_{A_1}(X_k; h)$

Strictly Better:  $r_{A_1}(X_j; h) < r_{A_2}(X_j; h), \forall j \in [N]$

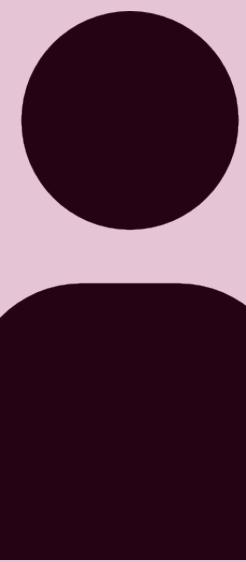
Excess loss over optimal loss

MMLU

| Algorithm     | Invariant       | Strictly Better | Varying         |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| H-ONLY        | $0.01 \pm 0.01$ | $0.18 \pm 0.17$ | $0.22 \pm 0.12$ |
| H-LLM         | $0.01 \pm 0.01$ | $0.18 \pm 0.21$ | $0.12 \pm 0.17$ |
| Population    | $0.00 \pm 0.02$ | $0.19 \pm 0.07$ | $0.12 \pm 0.09$ |
| THREAD-LinUCB | $0.00 \pm 0.01$ | $0.12 \pm 0.03$ | $0.07 \pm 0.04$ |
| THREAD-KNN    | $0.01 \pm 0.01$ | $0.05 \pm 0.03$ | $0.05 \pm 0.03$ |

If a decision-maker benefits from having support some of the time, we can learn their policy [online](#)

Student



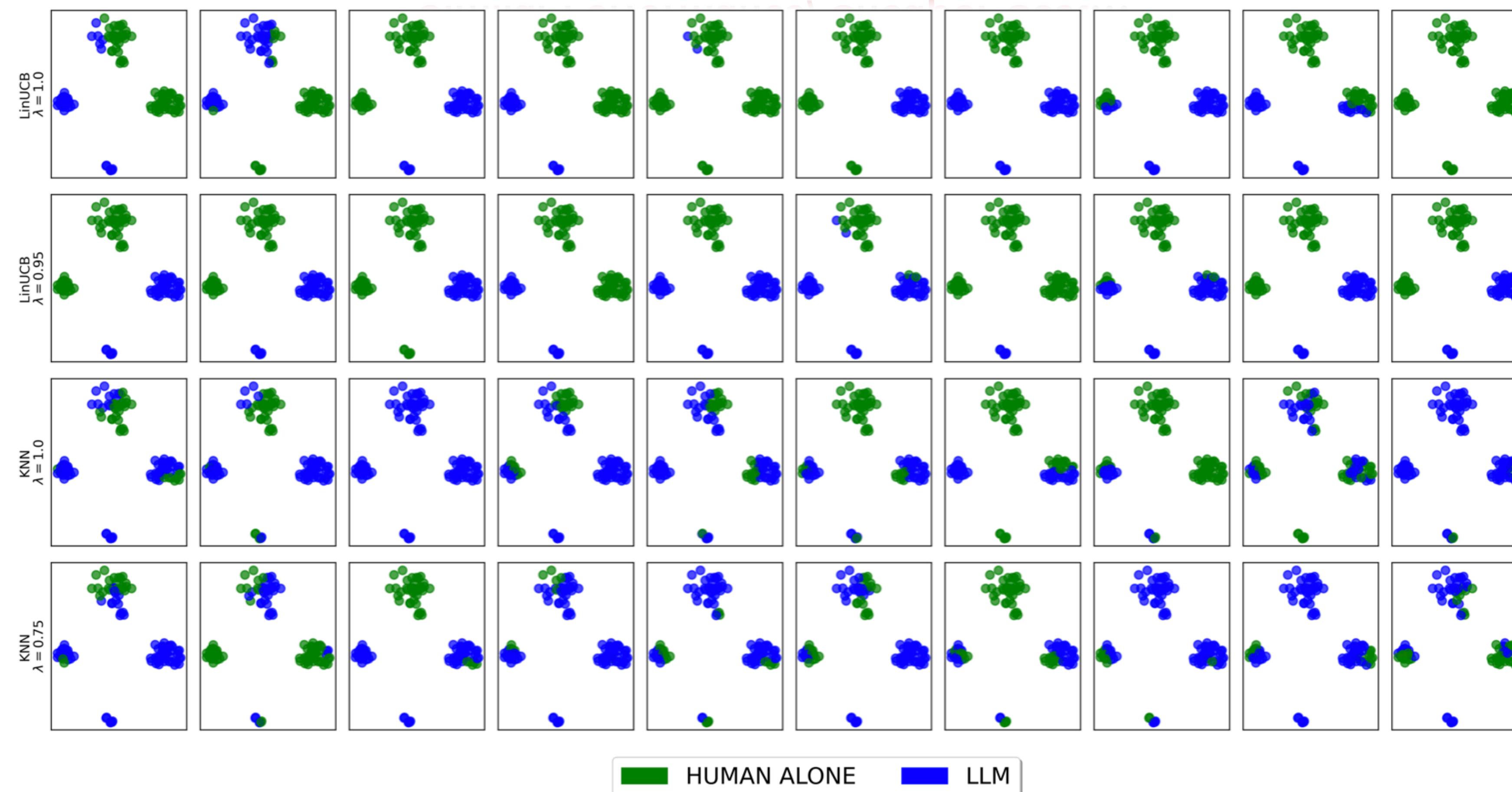
Personalize  
Access

# Learning Personalized Decision Support Policies

User Studies

Interactive Evaluation: Users interact with our tool, **Modiste**, which uses THREAD to learn when users require support online.

Similar Performance, Cheaper Cost!!!



# Takeaways

[Resignation](#) is a new mechanism for self-regulating (e.g., corporate compliance can establish policies to restrict AI use).

[Algorithmic resignation](#) orchestrates human-machine collaboration to improve outcomes and processes (e.g., AI-powered content moderation tools may only escalate content to human moderators as and when needed).

[Personalized access to decision support](#) (e.g., ML models) can be learned and improve decision-maker performance.

# When Should Algorithms Resign?

Thank you to my collaborators!



John Zerilli  
Edinburgh



P. Kamalaruban  
Turing



Emma Kallina  
Cambridge



Katie Collins  
Cambridge



Adrian Weller  
Cambridge



Holli Sargeant  
Berkman Klein



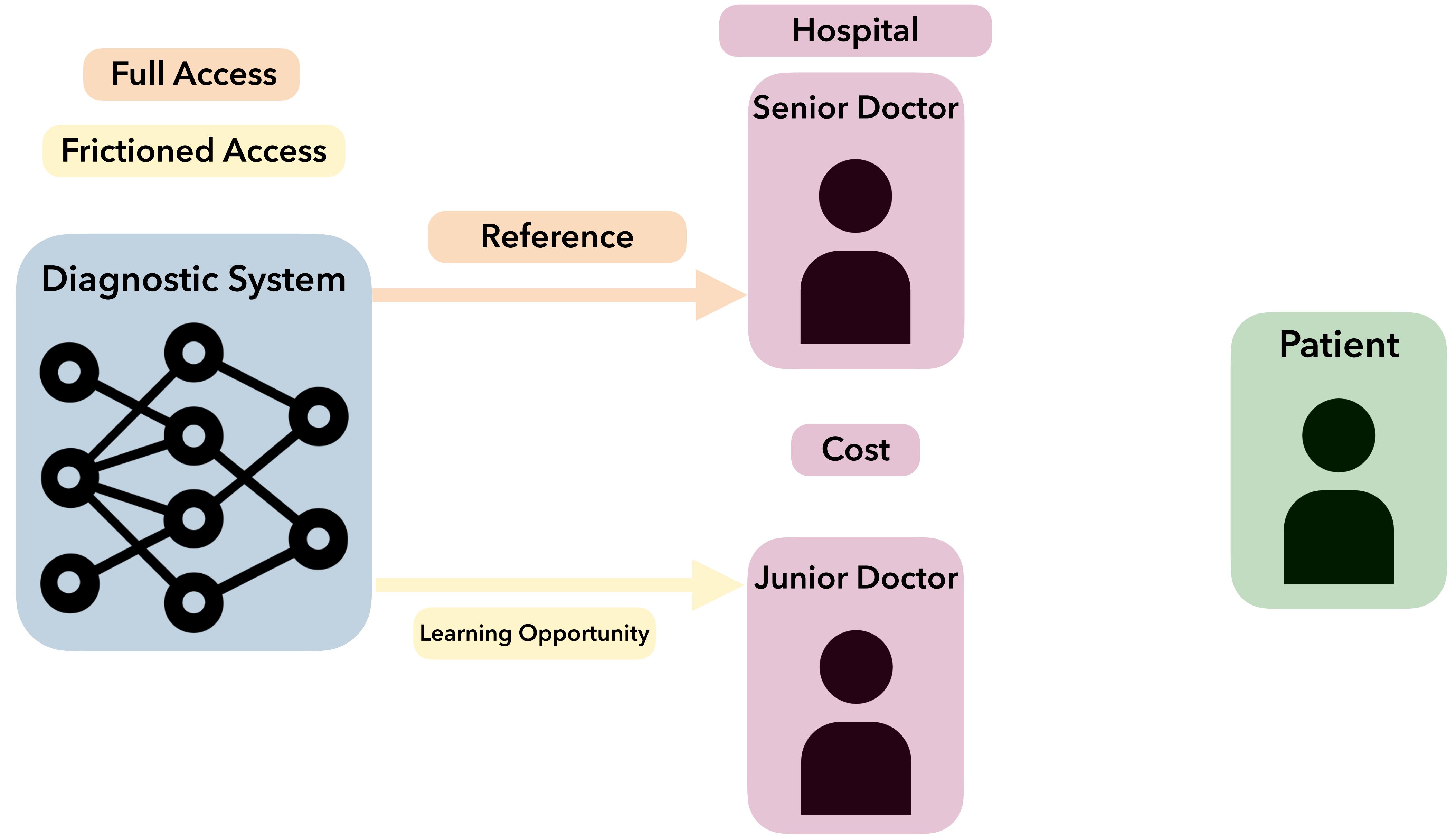
Valerie Chen  
CMU



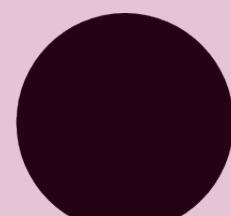
Ameet Talwalkar  
CMU

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# Appendix



Decision Maker



Personalize  
Access

# Learning Personalized Decision Support Policies

Methods

## Expertise Profiles

Invariant:  $r_{A_1}(X_j; h) \approx r_{A_2}(X_j; h), \forall j \in [N]$

Varying:  $r_{A_1}(X_j; h) \leq r_{A_2}(X_j; h)$  and  $r_{A_2}(X_k; h) \leq r_{A_1}(X_k; h)$

Strictly Better:  $r_{A_1}(X_j; h) < r_{A_2}(X_j; h), \forall j \in [N]$

CIFAR10 Task: 3 forms of support (None, Model, or Expert Consensus) and 5 classes

MMLU Task: 2 forms of support (None or LLM) and 4 categories

## CIFAR

Excess loss over optimal loss

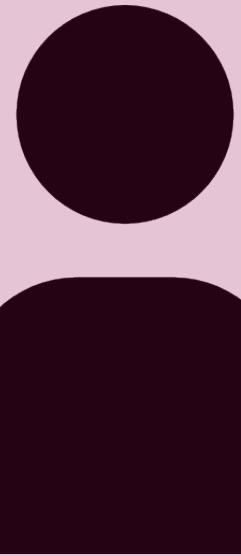
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|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| H-ONLY        | $0.00 \pm 0.01$ | $0.09 \pm 0.08$                   | $0.50 \pm 0.06$                   |
| H-MODEL       | $0.00 \pm 0.01$ | $0.22 \pm 0.19$                   | $0.35 \pm 0.05$                   |
| H-CONSENSUS   | $0.00 \pm 0.01$ | $0.23 \pm 0.13$                   | $0.27 \pm 0.08$                   |
| Population    | $0.00 \pm 0.02$ | $0.18 \pm 0.08$                   | $0.15 \pm 0.03$                   |
| THREAD-LinUCB | $0.00 \pm 0.01$ | $0.17 \pm 0.05$                   | $0.19 \pm 0.05$                   |
| THREAD-KNN    | $0.00 \pm 0.01$ | <b><math>0.06 \pm 0.01</math></b> | <b><math>0.08 \pm 0.02</math></b> |

## MMLU

| Algorithm     | Invariant       | Strictly Better                   | Varying                           |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
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If a decision-maker benefits from having support some of the time, we can learn their policy [online](#)

Decision Maker

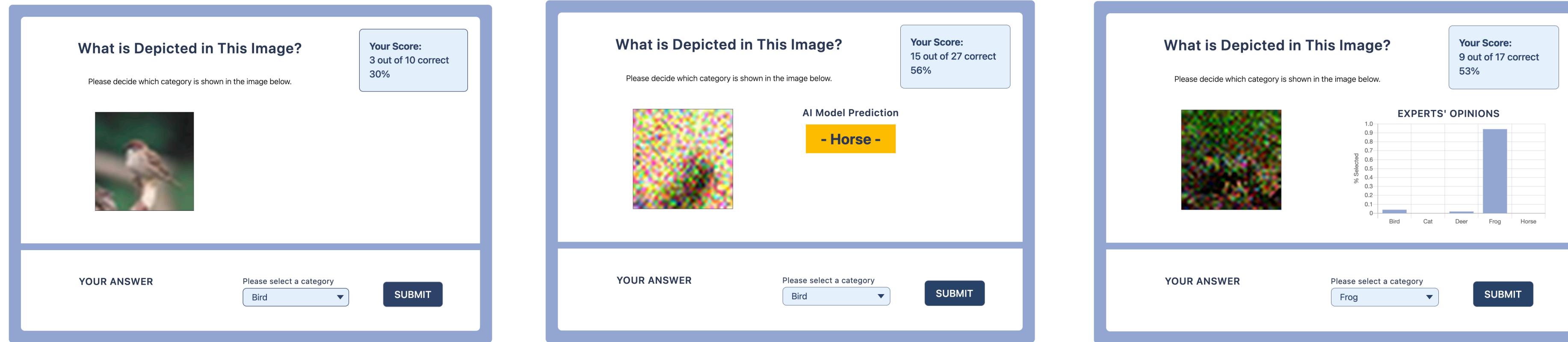


Personalize  
Access

# Learning Personalized Decision Support Policies

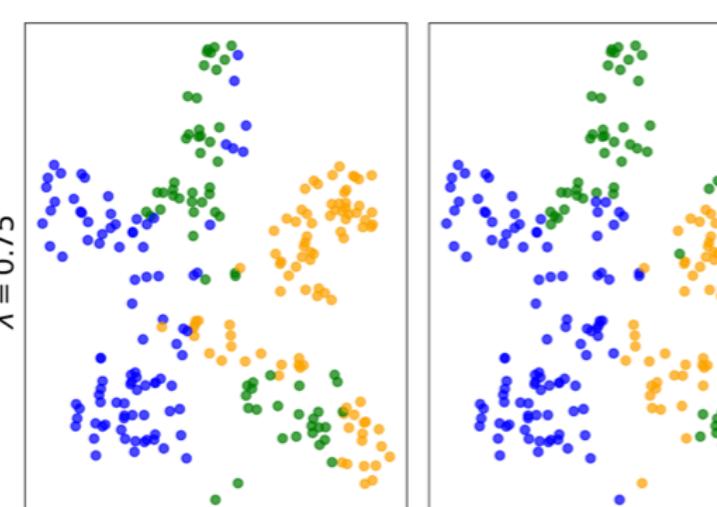
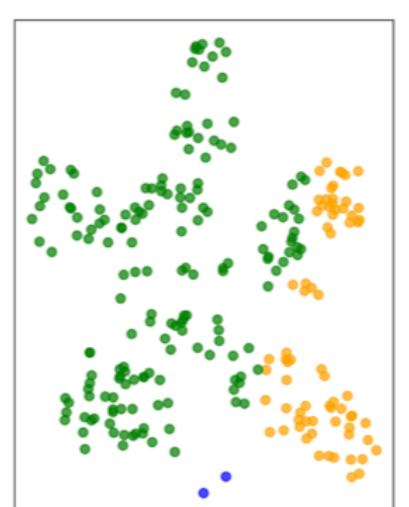
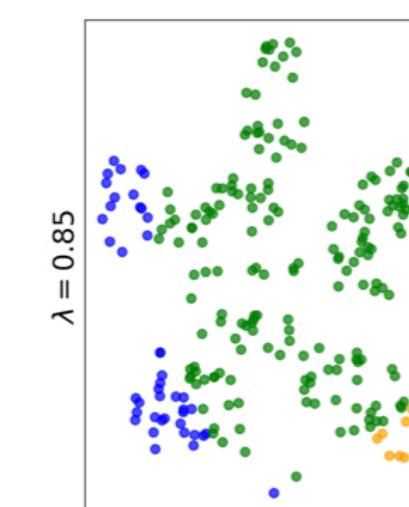
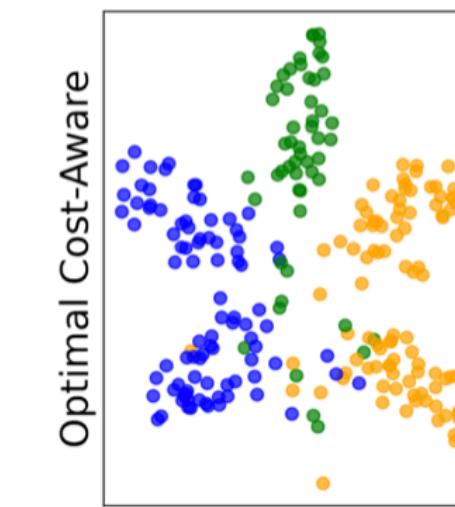
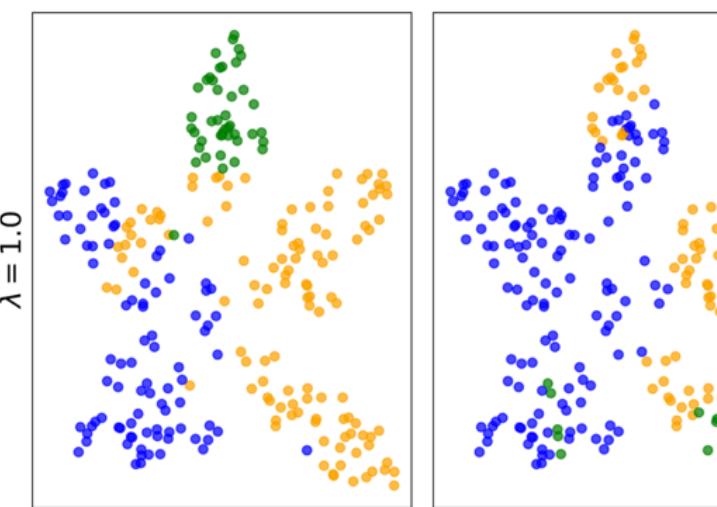
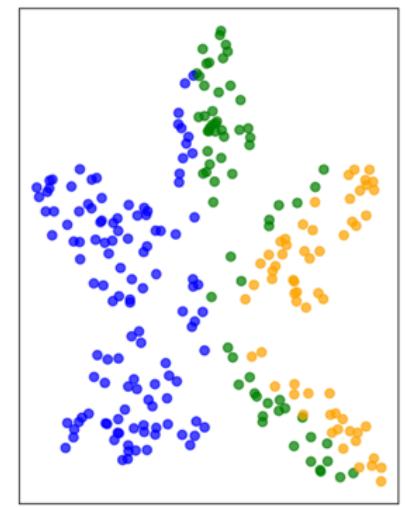
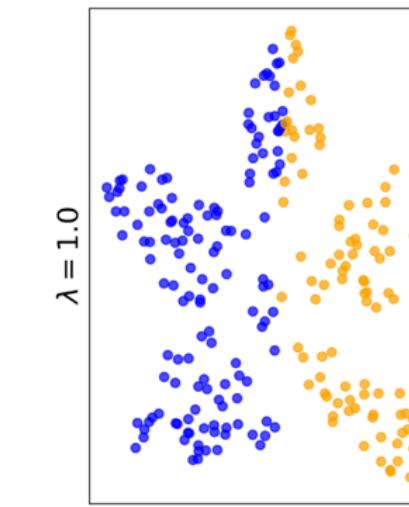
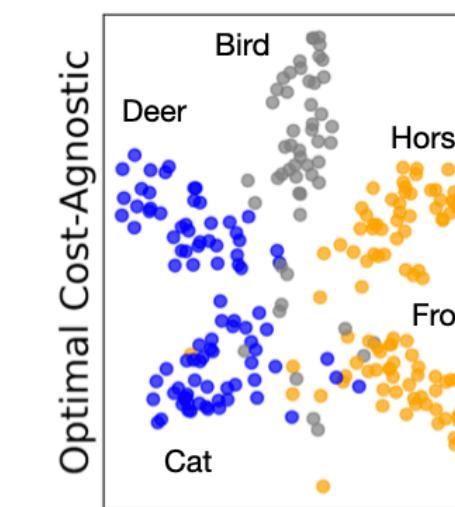
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LinUCB

KNN



■ HUMAN ALONE ■ MODEL ■ CONSENSUS ■ ANY