

# AI Monitoring & Explainability: The Critical Hidden Connection

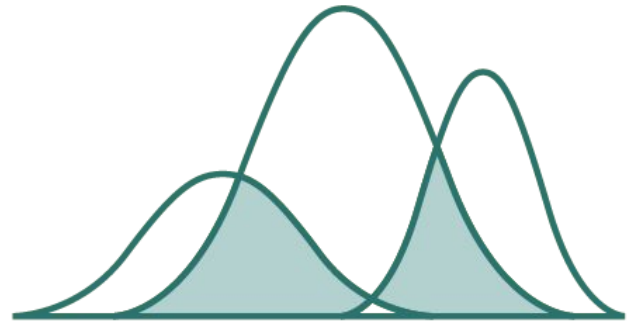
Anupam Datta

Co-Founder, President, Chief Scientist

TruEra

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**truera**



# What people think ML Monitoring is like...

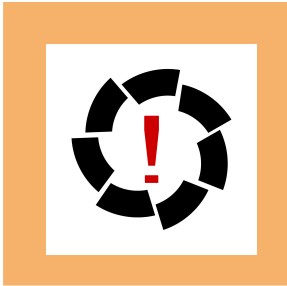
## and what it's actually like.



# A lot can go wrong.



Data Bugs



Unforeseen Changes



New, untrained use cases



Shifting concepts & behavior



Adversarial attacks

# The harsh reality of ML.

**The moment you put a model in production, it goes on a wild ride.**

**So monitoring is key.**

# Monitoring is not that easy today.

## Data Science and ML Ops teams struggle to minimize ML risk.

There's a wild goose chase going on.

How can I better understand **how** my models are working?

How do I identify **real problems** with the model?

What is the problem's **root cause**?  
How can I **debug** quickly?

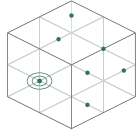
How can I make **monitoring work easily** in my environment?

Teams struggle with:

- Visibility and observability
- Diagnosis and actionability
- Complex environments and workflow (diverse models, diverse stakeholders)

# Monitoring Requirements

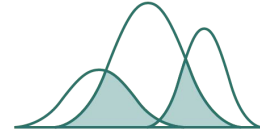
Fast, precise, and complete.



**Broad coverage of model & data quality metrics**



**Fast, precise debugging**

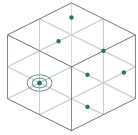


**Easy to deploy and scale**

**AI Monitoring & Explainability:  
The Critical Hidden Connection**

# Focus Today: Monitoring Requirements

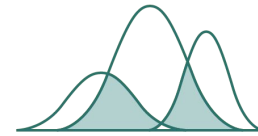
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**Model Drift & Performance  
Metrics**



**Fast, precise debugging with  
root cause analysis**



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# Outline

- Overview
  - Why does drift happen?
  - What are different kinds of drift?
  - What is consequential drift?
- How to identify drift?
  - Measures
  - Challenges
- How to mitigate drift?
- Monitoring





# — Overview of Drift

## Overview of Drift



Bikes used to look like this



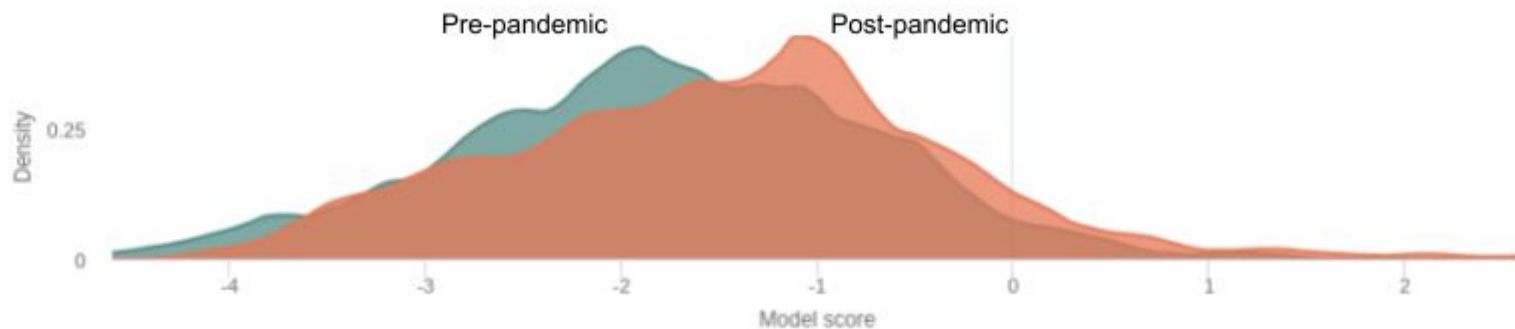
... now they look like this

**Will an ML model trained on images like the left continue to work well?**

# Overview of Drift

This is similar to what happened to models with Covid.

Example: risk scoring model. Lower model score shows lower risk.



**Will an ML model trained on pre-pandemic data continue to work well?**

# Overview:

## Why does drift happen?

### Data quality issues

Examples:

NaN

- Broken feature pipelines

### The External World Has Changed

Examples:

- The pandemic
- Housing market fluctuations



### Model Applied to a New Context

Example:

- Model trained on Wikipedia applied to news articles

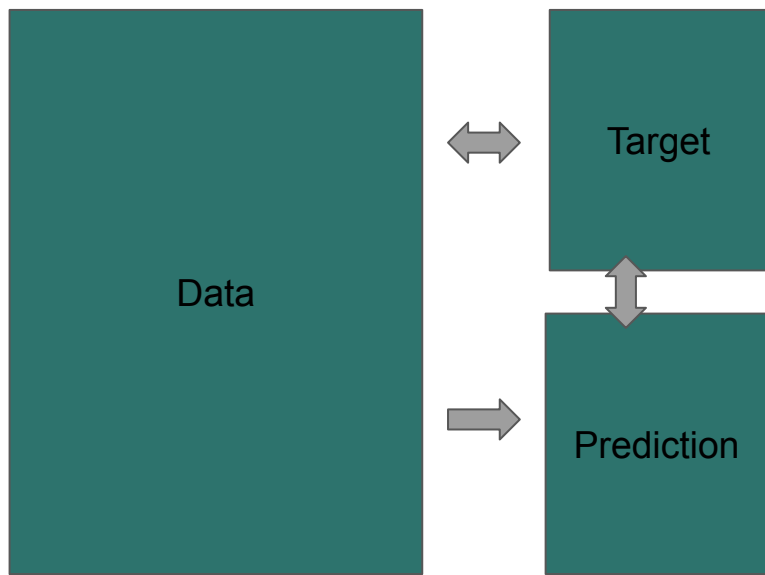
### Collected Training Data Is Different

Example:

- For credit decisions, labels are only available for approved applicants
- Impact of your models on the data



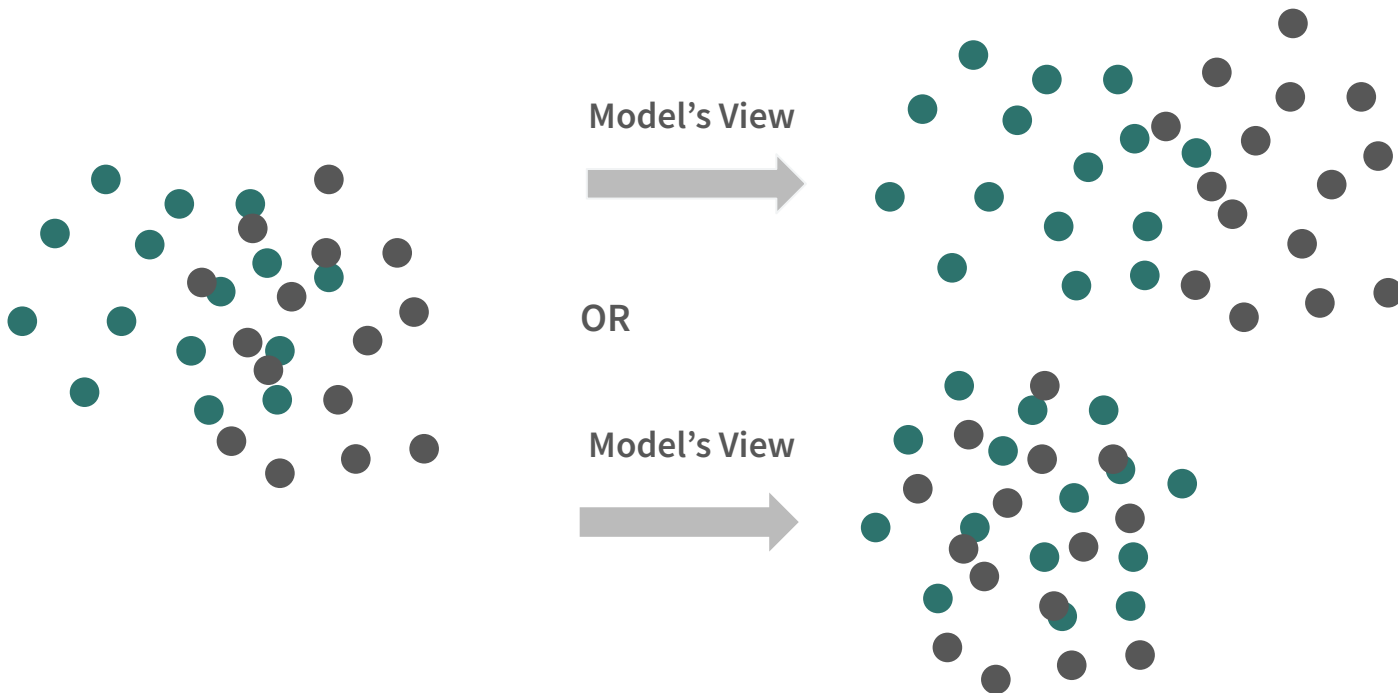
# Overview: What are the Different Kinds of Drift?



1. Data drift
  - a. Covariate shift -- drift in input features
  - b. Concept drift -- drift in relationship between input and target
2. Model decay -- performance loss due to data drift
3. "Prediction shift" -- drift in model predictions

# Overview: Which Drifts are Consequential and Why?

- Sept
- Nov



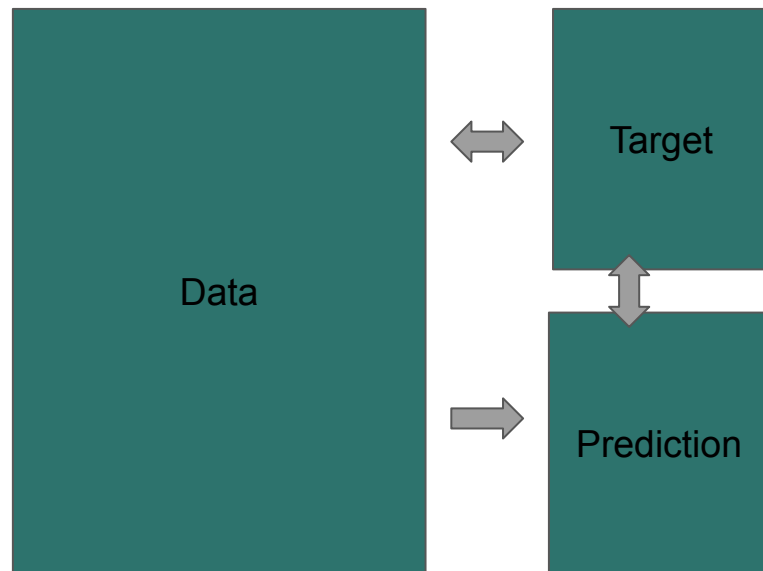
High-dimensional data always drifts  
(curse of dimensionality)

... but not necessarily in  
ways that affect the model

# — How to identify drift?

# Standard Approaches To Measuring Drift

- Measure model performance in deployment
- Compare distributions of
  - Ground Truth
  - Single input features
  - Prediction
  - Full data sets





# Challenges with Standard Approaches

- Measure model performance in deployment
  - Don't have ground truth in many cases.
- Compare distributions of
  - Does a 5% shift in feature 28 matter?
  - Ground Truth
    - Why is the prediction shifting?
  - Single input features
    - Curse of dimensionality
  - Prediction
  - Full data sets

# How to mitigate drift?

example scenarios

## — Key Takeaway: How to mitigate drift?

Blind model retraining is often not the best answer to counter drift.

## How to mitigate drift?

# Step 1: Understand root causes of drift:

*Where* is it happening?

*When* is it happening?

*How* much is there?

*What* is causing it?

Monitoring & Explainability – The Critical Hidden Connection!

## — How to mitigate drift?

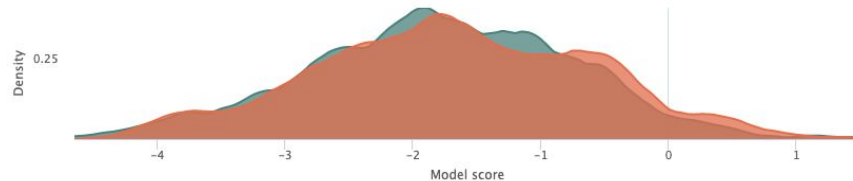
Step 2: Understanding the root cause of drift leads to targeted ways to address drift

# How to mitigate drift?

Is the drift caused by an unstable feature?

- Identify and address cause (of prediction drift).
  - Remove a feature without retraining (i.e. replace with mean/mode).
  - Remove a feature and retrain with existing data.

Feature	Importance	Feature value drift ↓	Feature values distribution
annual_inc	1.95%	19156.559	
	2.14%		
revol_bal	2.65%	6702.749	
	2.95%		
total_bc_limit	3.68%	759.644	
	3.92%		



drift in input features

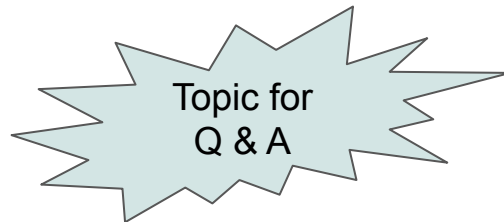




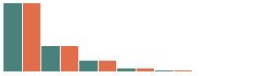
drift in model output

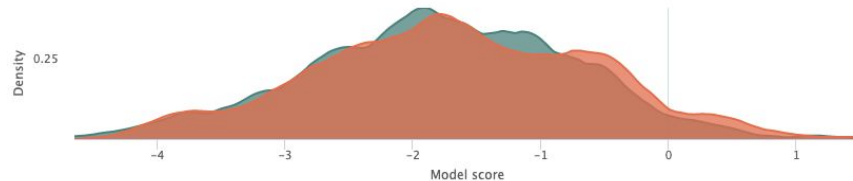
# How to mitigate drift?

Is the drift caused by an unstable feature?

- Explainability technology under the hood
  - Feature importances based on Shapley Values, gradients & more



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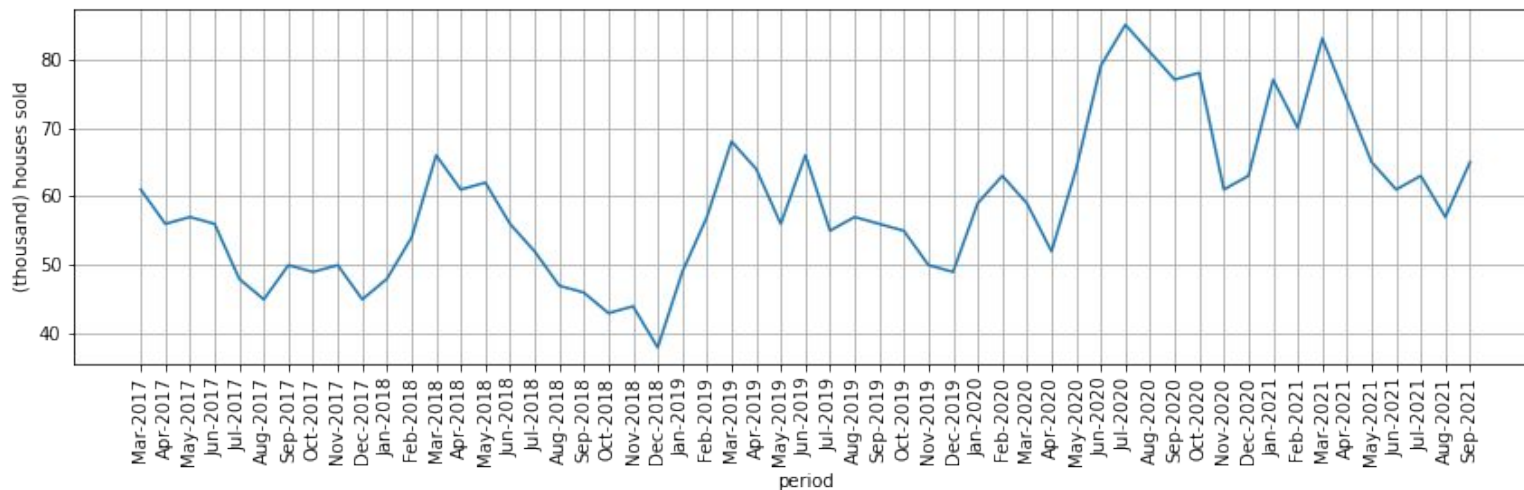


drift in input features → drift in model output

# How to mitigate drift?

Is the drift periodic or learnable?

- Concept drift --> Covariate drift with feature engineering
  - Add features to learn periodic change over time.
  - Add indicators of effects of unexpected events ("is-covid" vs "unemployment-rate")
  - Might not need labeling additional data.

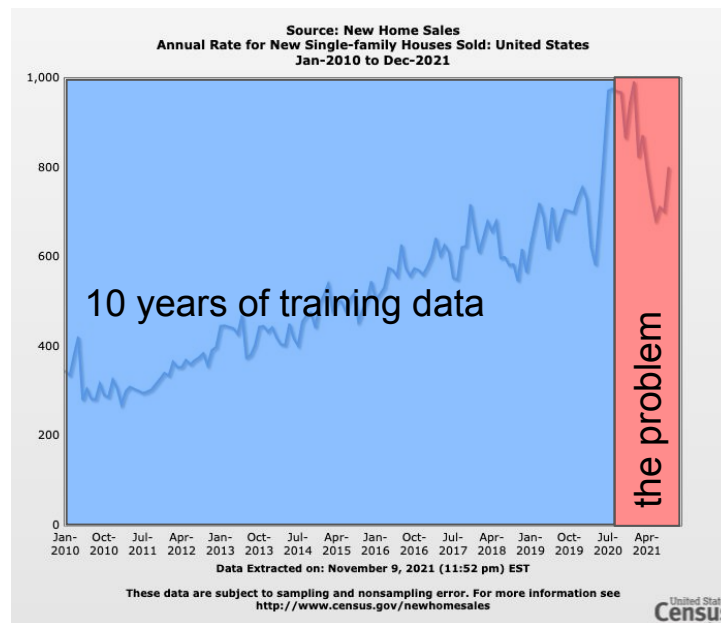




# How to mitigate drift?

Is the drift sudden relative to training period?

- Drift period may be too insignificant for a retrained model to pick up on it.
- Options:
  - Upweight recent data.
  - Fine tune model with recent data.
  - Identify new features that can help generalize to newer data
    - Example: newer data might be characterized by lower interest rates which might not have been predictive before



# What can we do about drift?

Is the drift periodic or learnable?

- Concept drift --> Covariate drift with feature engineering
  - Add features to learn periodic change over time.
  - Add indicators of effects of unexpected events ("is-covid" vs "unemployment-rate")
  - Might not need labeling additional data.



# How to mitigate drift?

Is the drift significant enough? Is it affecting model outputs? Is it affecting performance?

- No action may be needed.
  - It might be the case that the model has shifted in a way that is still reasonable.
  - Also needs understanding the root cause of drift.

# ML Monitoring

ML Monitoring involves computing drift on data or metrics over time

- Track drift over time
  - Basics: Feature Data, Predictions
    - If available: Ground truth, Accuracy
    - Consequences: Influences, MSI, etc
- Set alerts if drift above specific threshold
- Run automated root cause analysis
- Mitigate

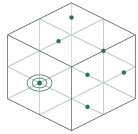
# Takeaways

- Overview
  - Data drift can happen due to a variety of internal and external causes.
  - Not all drift impacts the model
  - Important to identify consequential drift
- How to identify drift?
  - Different classes of metrics to capture different types of drift: features, ground truth, model output, relationships
  - How to use TruEra to identify root causes of drift
- How to mitigate drift?
  - Not just retrain: Important to understand type and root cause of drift in order to mitigate
  - Retraining, adding features, feature engineering, fixing data quality, and more



# Focus Today: Monitoring Requirements

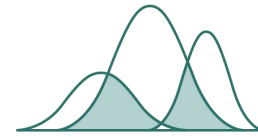
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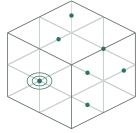


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# Monitoring Requirements

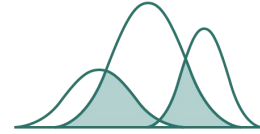
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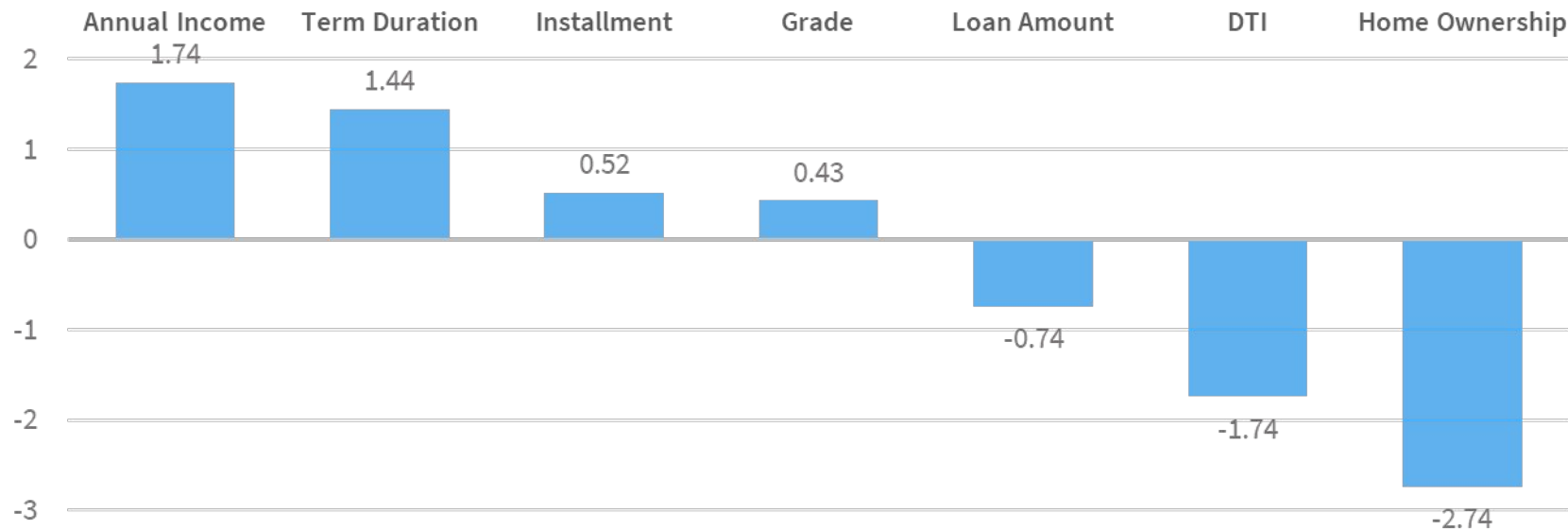
Thank you!

Q&A Time


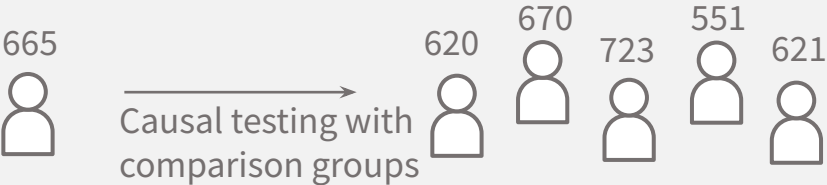


# Appendix: Explainability Methods

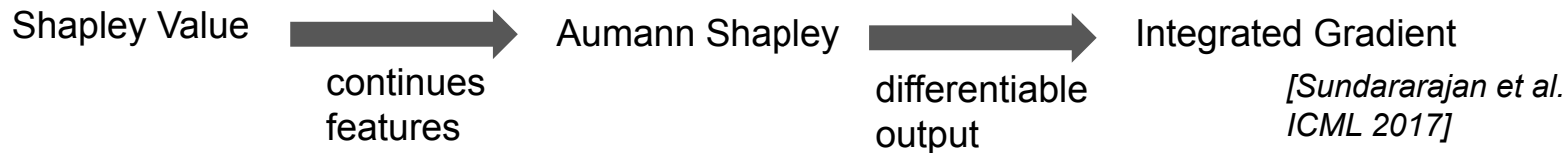
# Input Feature Importance for a Tree Model



# Elements of Explanation Methods

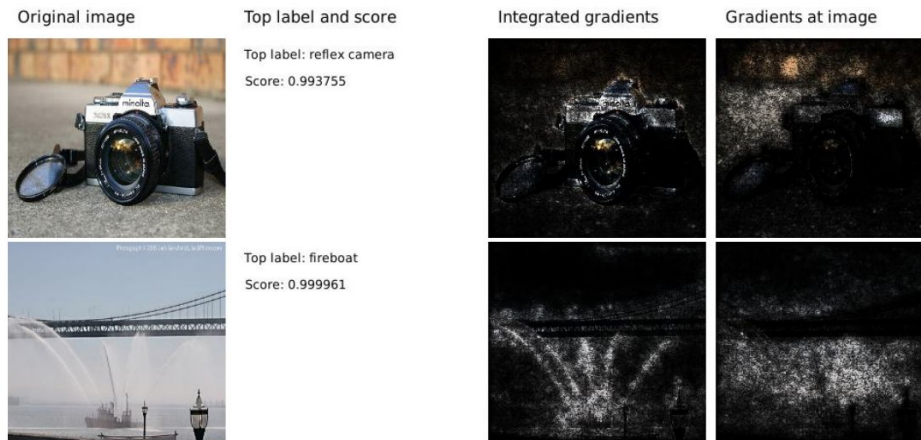
1	<b>QUERY DEFINITION</b>	Why does the model:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• have a score of 665 for Jane</li><li>• have disparate impact</li><li>• deny Jane</li></ul>
2	<b>OUTPUT COMPARISON</b>	665 	Causal testing with comparison groups 
3	<b>SUMMARIZATION</b>	Of 665, 133 is accounted for by DTI, -45 by income, etc. (Aumann) Shapley accurate estimation	

# Integrated Gradient



Integrated Gradient is the **only** path method that satisfies

- Symmetry
- Dummy
- Efficiency(Completeness)
- Additivity



# What Makes Orlando Bloom Orlando Bloom?

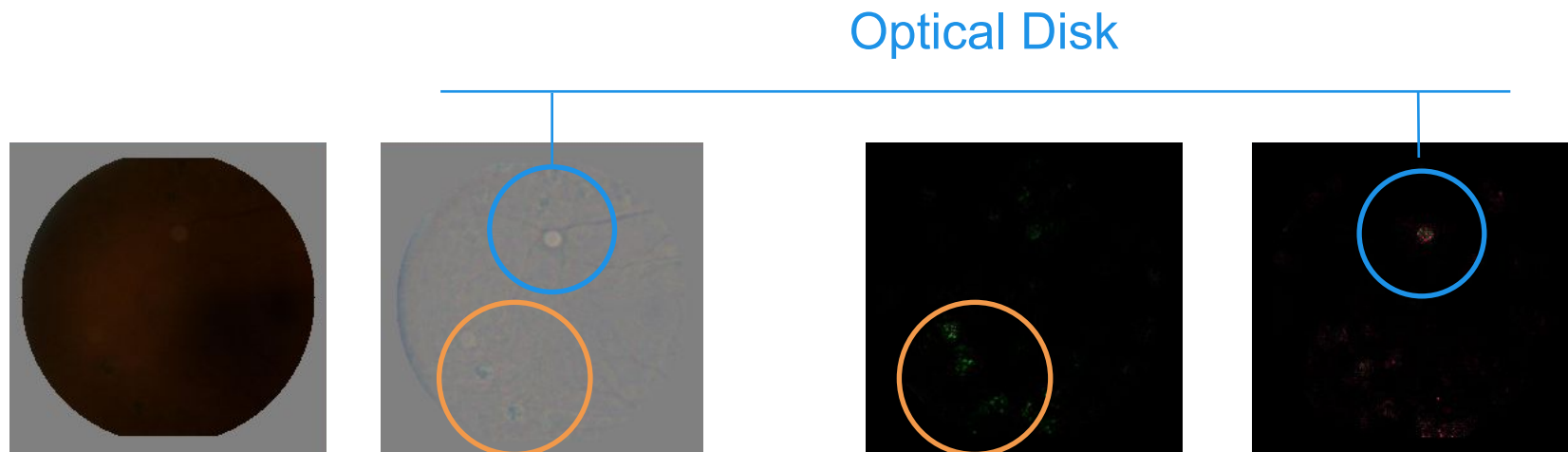


Internal explanation for a deep network

**Influence-Directed  
Explanations**

Leino, Sen, Fredrikson, Datta, Li, ITC '18

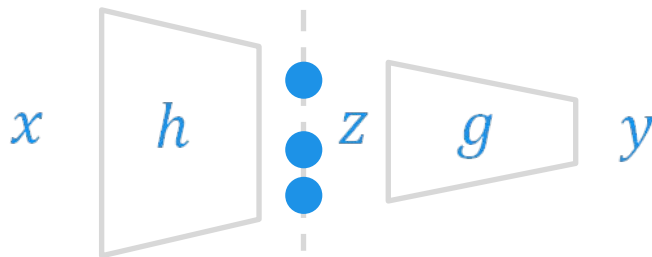
# Detecting Diabetic Retinopathy Stage 5



**Influence-Directed  
Explanations**

Leino, Sen, Fredrikson, Datta, Li 2018

# Requirements for “Good” Explanations



## Causal

Identify features that are causing model predictions

## Succinct

A “few” features explain model predictions

## Distributional Faithfulness

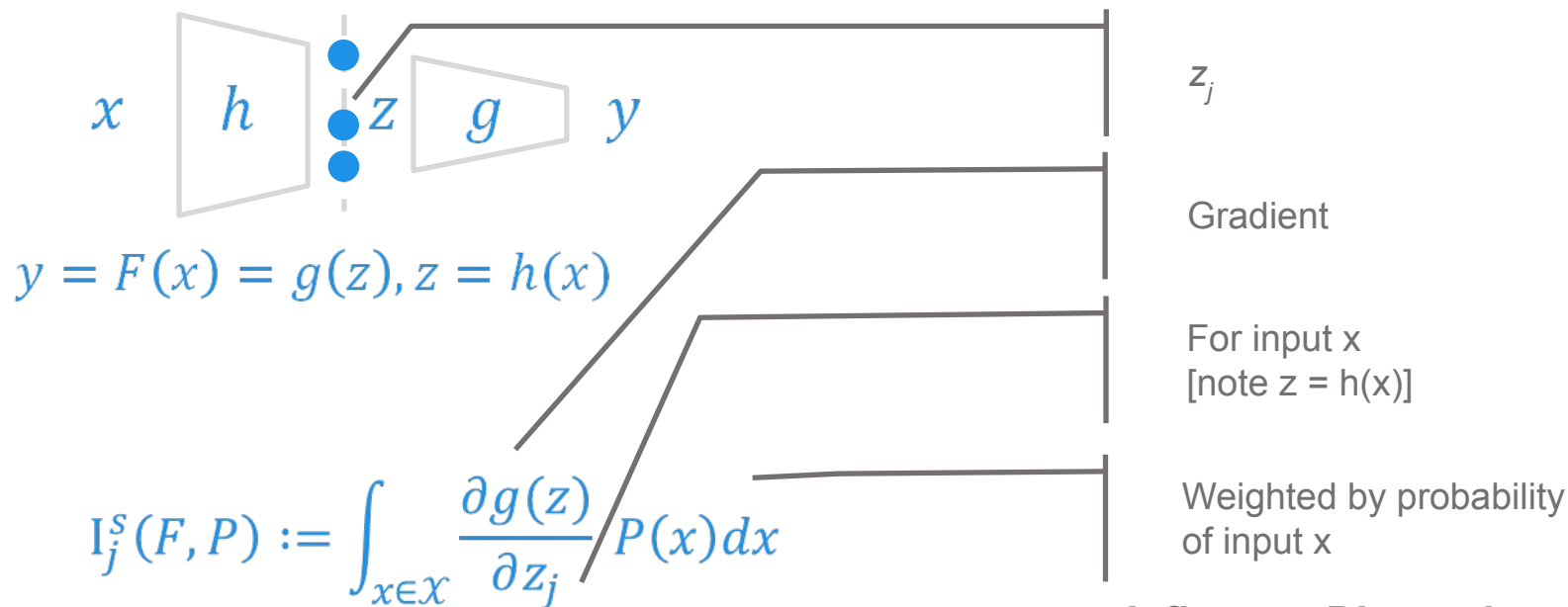
Model is fed “familiar” inputs

## Influence-Directed Explanations

Leino, Sen, Fredrikson, Datta, Li, ITC '18

# Distributional Influence

Influence = average gradient over distribution of interest



## Influence-Directed Explanations

Leino, Sen, Fredrikson, Datta, Li, ITC '18