# Questioning the AI: Towards User Centered Explainable AI (XAI)

Research work 2018-2021

Q. Vera Liao IBM **Research** 

# Our HCI research: Bridging work

Transfer emerging AI technologies by creating tangible tools, guidelines, and design methods that support practitioners to navigate the technical and design space

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# Explainable AI (XAI): Definition

# Narrow definition:

**Broader definition:** 

(comprehensible/intelligible AI)

Techniques and methods that make a model's decisions understandable by people

**Everything that makes Al understandable** (e.g., also including data, functions, performance, etc.)

XAI is not just ML (also explainable robotics, planning, etc.), but our current work focuses on **explaining supervised ML** 

# Al is increasingly used in many high-stakes tasks



# The quest for explainable AI (XAI)

**Companies Grapple With AI's Opaque Decision-Making Process** 

## We Need AI That Is Explainable, Auditable, and Transparent

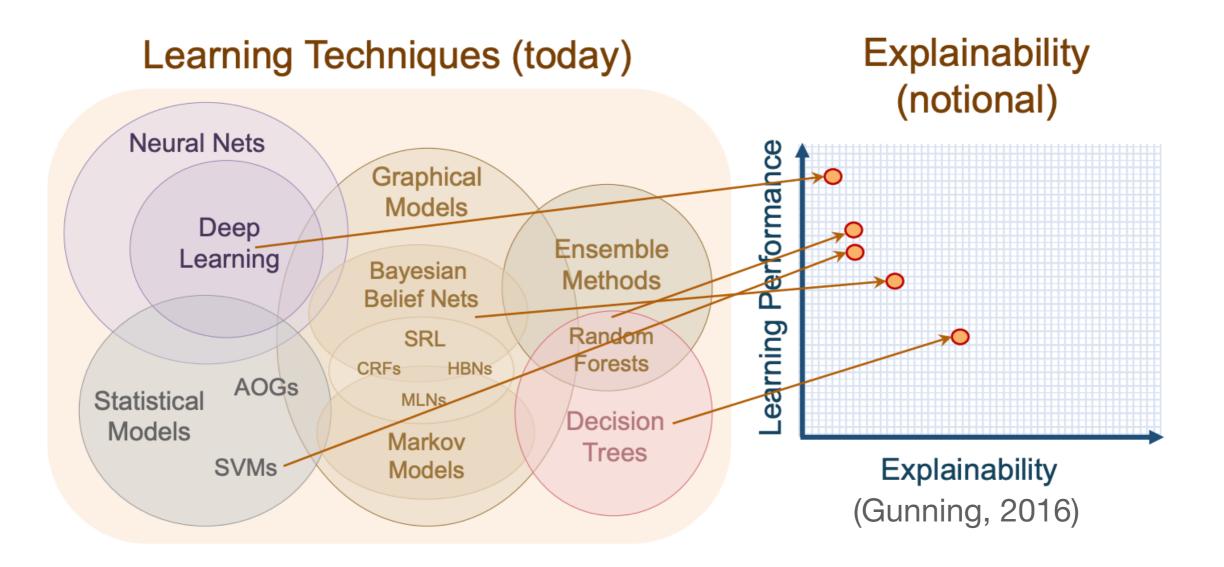
Why "Explainability" Is A Big Deal In AI

From black box to white box: Reclaiming human power in Al

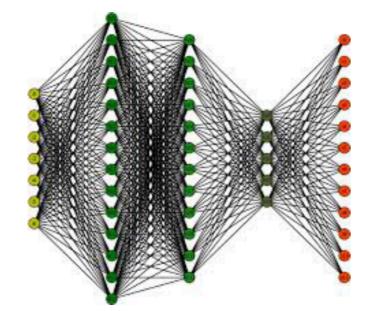
How Explainable AI Is Helping Algorithms Avoid Bias



# The needs for XAI algorithms

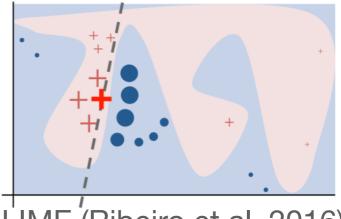


# XAI "post-hoc" algorithm example: LIME



Neural network, not directly explainable

(a) Original Image



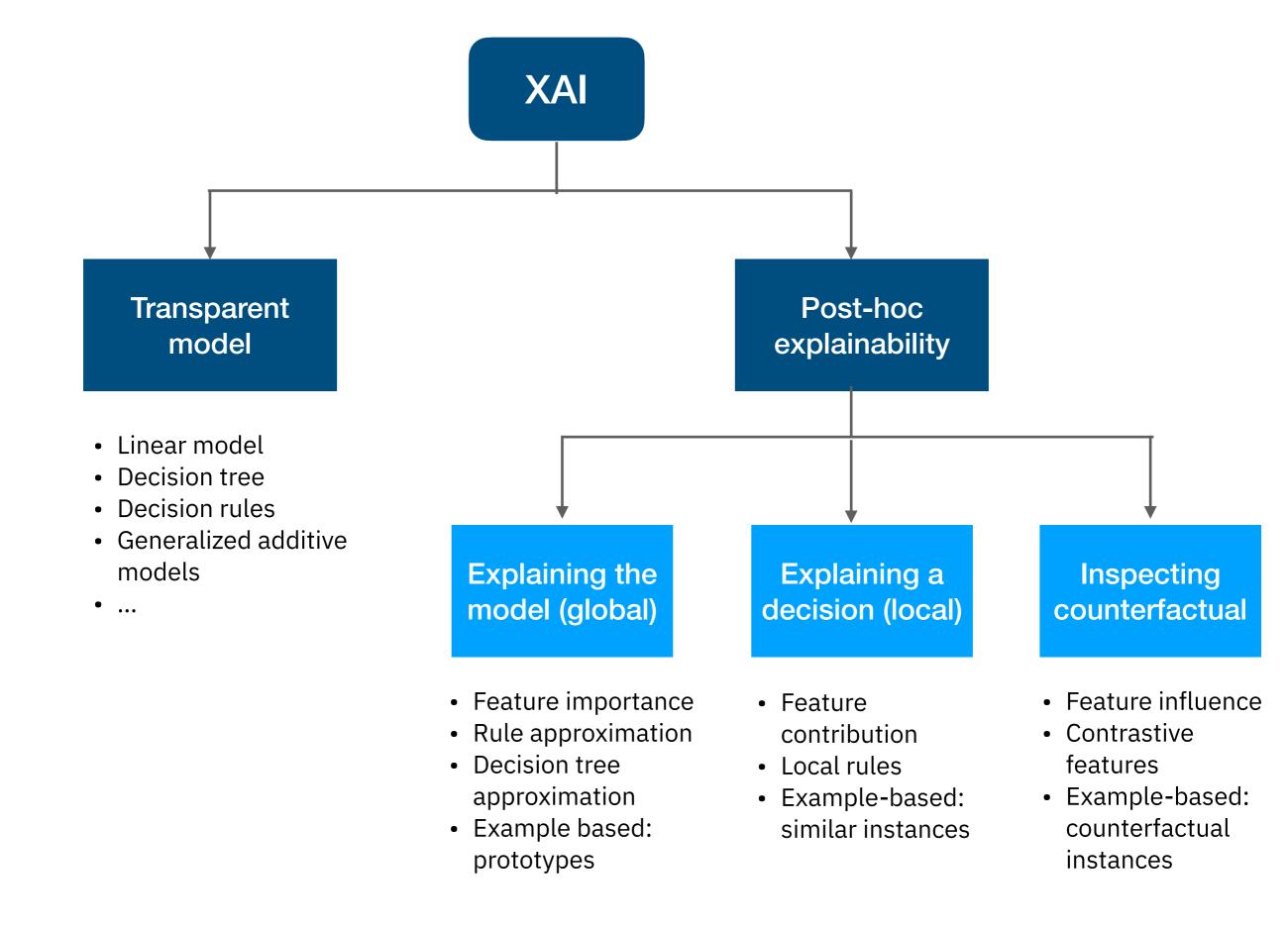
LIME (Ribeiro et al. 2016)

#### Use a post-hoc XAI technique



(b) Explaining *Electric guitar* (c) Explaining *Acoustic guitar* 

(d) Explaining Labrador



We will be teaching a virtual tutorial on this at CHI 2021! https://hcixaitutorial.github.io/



#### Machine Learning Interpretability: A Survey on **Methods and Metrics**

Diogo V. Carvalho <sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Eduardo M. Pereira <sup>1</sup> and

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- <sup>2</sup> Faculty of Engineering, University of Porto, Dr. Rober
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Received: 21 June 2019; Accepted: 24 July 2019; Published

Abstract: Machine learning systems are becoming in has been expanding, accelerating the shift towar algorithmically informed decisions have greater pe most of these accurate decision support systems rem logic and inner workings are hidden to the user ( ratic

#### Explaining Explanations: An Overview of Interpretability of Machine Learning

Leilani H. Gilpin, David Bau, Ben Z. Yuan, Ayesha Bajwa, Michael Specter and Lalana Kagal Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge, MA 02139 {lgilpin, davidbau, bzy, abajwa, specter, lkagal}@ mit.edu

Abstract-There has recently been a surge of work in ex-As a first step towards creating explanation mechanisms planatory artificial intelligence (XAI). This research area tackles there is a new line of research in interpretability, loosel the important problem that complex machines and algorithms defined as the science of comprehending what a model did (c

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networks in image recognition

Received August 5, 2018, accepted September 4, 2018, date of publication September 17, 2018, date of current version October 12, 2018. Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/ACCESS.2018.2870052

#### Peeking Inside the Black-Box: A Survey on **Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI)**

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**ABSTRACT** At the dawn of the fourth industrial revolution, we are witnessing a fast and widespread adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) in our daily life, which contributes to accelerating the shift towards a more algorithmic society. However, even with such unprecedented advancements, a key impediment to the use of AI-based systems is that they often lack transparency. Indeed, the black-box nature of these systems allows powerful predictions, but it cannot be directly explained. This issue has triggered a new debate on explainable AI (XAI). A research field holds substantial promise for improving trust and transparency of

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# A growing collection of XAI techniques

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omies,

challenges for identifying appropriate design and evaluation methodology and consolidating knowledge from across efforts. To this end, this paper presents a survey and framework intended to share knowledge and experiences of XAI design and evaluation methods across multiple disciplines. Aiming to support diverse design goals and evaluation method in XAI research, after a thorough review of XAI related papers in the fields of machine learning, visualization, and human-computer interaction we pre-

#### A Survey of Methods for Explaining

#### RICCARDO GUIDOTTI, ANNA MONREALE, SALV/ FRANCO TURINI, KDDLab, University of Pisa, Italy FOSCA GIANNOTTI, KDDLab, ISTI-CNR, Italy DINO PEDRESCHI, KDDLab, University of Pisa, Italy

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#### Explanation Methods in Deep Learning: Users, Values, Concerns and Challenges<sup>\*</sup>

Gabriëlle Ras, Marcel van Gerven, Pim Haselager

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#### Abstract

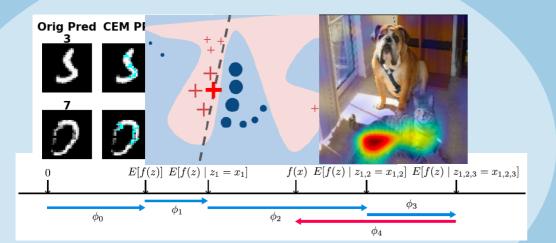
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mputational Intelligence, University of Granada, 18071 Granada, Spain nica, 28050 Madrid, Spain

(AI) has achieved a notable momentum that, if harnessed tions over many application sectors across the field. For this ire community stands in front of the barrier of explainability, brought by sub-symbolism (e.g. ensembles or Deep Neural type of AI (namely, expert systems and rule based models). in the so-called *eXplainable* AI (XAI) field, which is widely ctical deployment of AI models. The overview presented in id contributions already done in the field of XAI, including a r this purpose we summarize previous efforts made to define ning a novel definition of explainable Machine Learning that th a major focus on the audience for which the explainability propose and discuss about a taxonomy of recent contributions

#### **XAI in Practice**

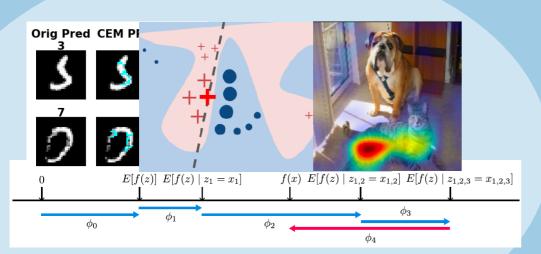


# An abundance of XAI algorithms

IBM Research Trusted AI		Home	Demo	Resources
AI Explainability 3	60			
This extensible open sour models predict labels by v you to use it and improve	arious means throughout	•	0	ivite
API Docs ↗ Get Code ↗				
Not sure what to do first?	Start here!			
Read More	Try a Web Demo	Watch Videos	Re	ad a Paper
Learn more about explainability concepts, terminology, and tools before you begin.	Step through the process of explaining models to consumers with different personas in an interactive	Watch videos to learn more about AI Explainability 360 toolkit.	we	ad a paper descr designed AI blainability 360 t

#### **Toolbox of XAI techniques**

# From academic research into a practitioners' toolbox



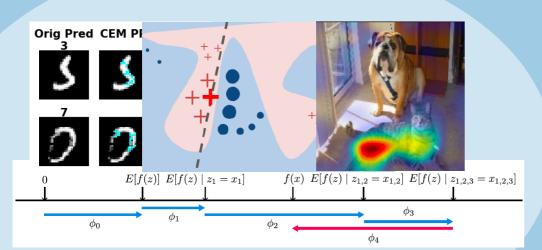
#### An abundance of XAI algorithms

#### 🔊 ALIBI , 🎯 Captum IBM Research Trusted AI Demo AI Explainability 360 This extensible open source toolkit can help you comprehend how machine learning models predict labels by various means throughout the AI application lifecycle. We invite you to use it and improve it. README.md lack-InterpretML · API Docs Get Code / license MIT python 3.6 | 3.7 maintained yes Not sure what to do first? Start here! In the beginning n aggled in the v Read More Try a Web Demo Watch Videos **Read a Paper** Learn more about Step through the process of Watch videos to learn more Read a paper descr Let there be light. explainability concepts, explaining models to about AI Explainability 360 we designed AI InterpretML is an open-se Explainability 360 t terminology, and tools before consumers with different toolkit. interpretability technique vou begin. personas in an interactive models and explain blackbox systems, interpretivit, neips you understand your through s groupes or Py forch models and can be used behavior, or understand the reasons behind individual predictions. odification to the original neural network.

#### **Toolbox of XAI techniques**

**XAI in Practice** 

## From academic research into a practitioners' toolbox

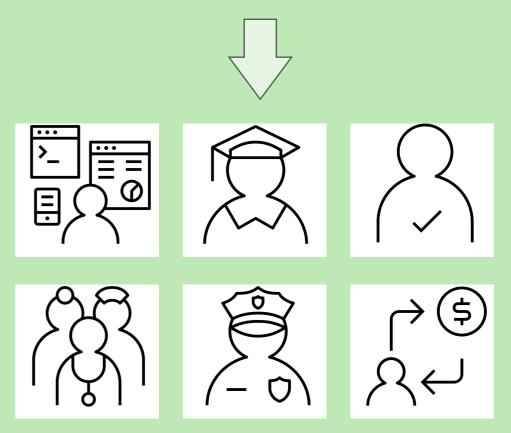


#### An abundance of XAI algorithms

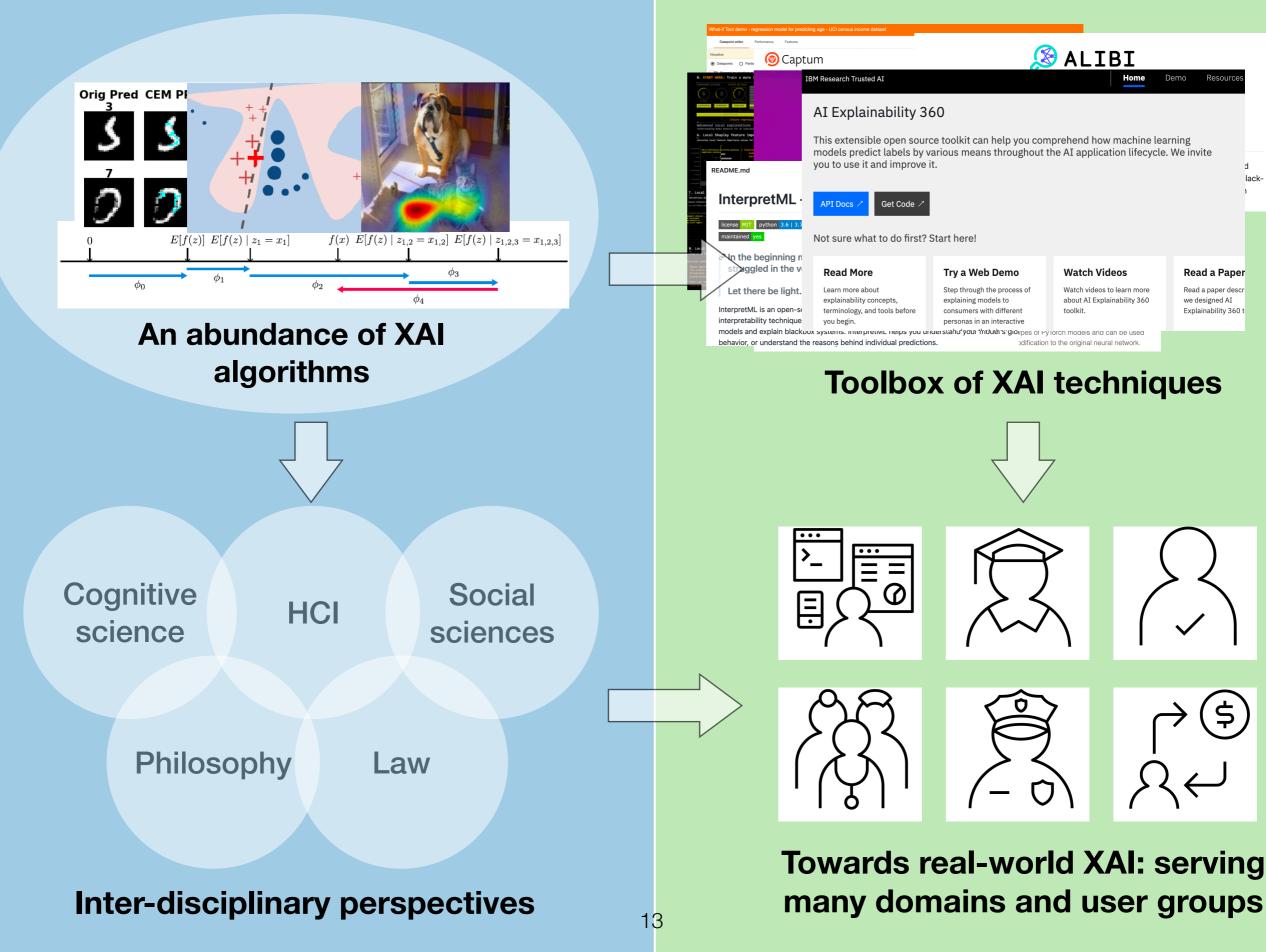
# **XAI in Practice**

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	IBM Research Trusted AI			Demo Resources
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license MIT python 3.6   3.7 maintained yes	Not sure what to do first?	Start here!		
In the beginning n straggled in the v	Read More	Try a Web Demo	Watch Videos	Read a Paper
	Learn more about explainability concepts, terminology, and tools before you begin. xxx systems, met pretwict neips you un e reasons behind individual predictior		Watch videos to learn more about AI Explainability 360 toolkit. y lorch models and can be used to the original neural network.	Read a paper descr we designed AI Explainability 360 t

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#### **Towards real-world XAI: serving** many domains and user groups



#### **XAI in Practice**

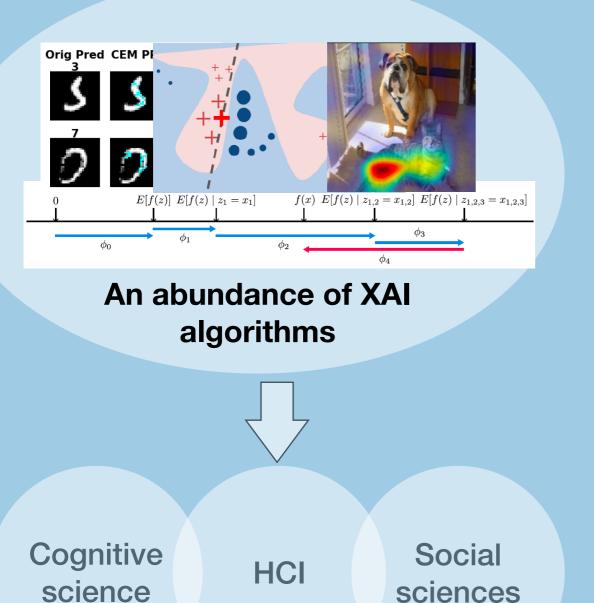
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**Read a Paper** 

Read a paper desci

Explainability 360 t

we designed AI



# Inter-disciplinary perspectives

- Plurality of motivation for explanation: diagnosis, predicting the future, sensemaking, justification, reconciling dissonance, etc. (Kiel 2006; Lombrozo, 2006)
- Explanatory power is **recipient dependent**, including the question asked (**explanatory relevance**) (Hilton, 1990; Walton, 2004)
- More complexities:
  - The plurality of cognitive processes
     (Petty and Cacioppo, 1986; Horne et al, 2013)
  - Socio-technical systems (Ehsan et al., 2021)

#### **Inter-disciplinary perspectives**

Law

Philosophy

From XAI algorithms to XAI UX

With a toolbox: How to **select?** How to **translate**?

Our paths:

- Develop context-specific design guidelines: HCI research with XAI use cases
- Tackle the design process: User centered design of XAI

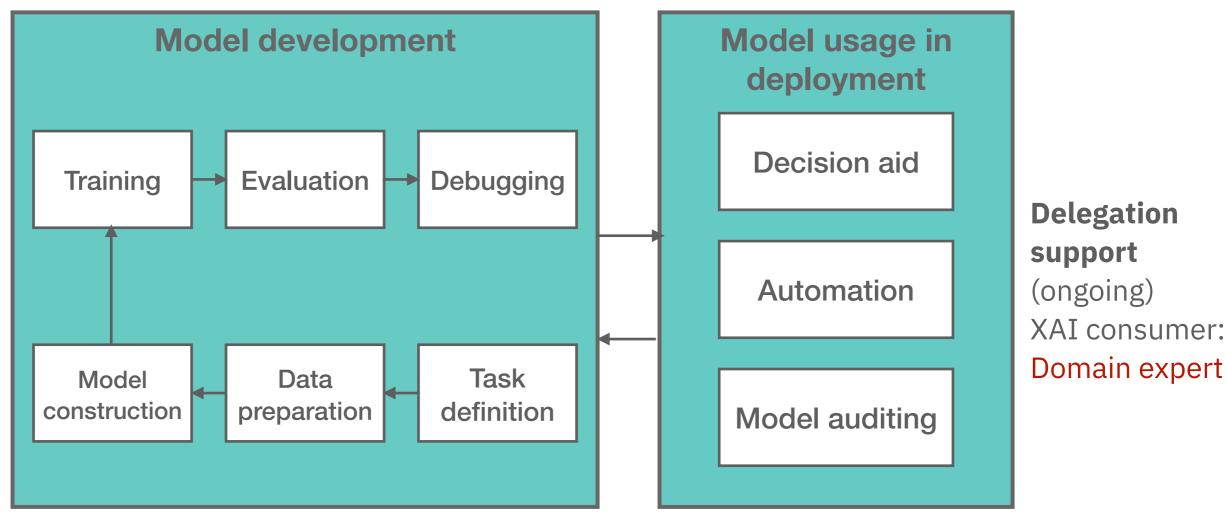
## **XAI in Practice**



# XAI use cases in AI lifecycle

# **Model evaluation and selection** (IUI2021)

XAI consumer: Data scientist



**Explainable active learning** (CSCW 2020) XAI consumer: Annotator (domain expert) **Fairness assessment** (IUI 2019 8) XAI consumer: Regulator, impacted groups

**Trust calibration and decision** 

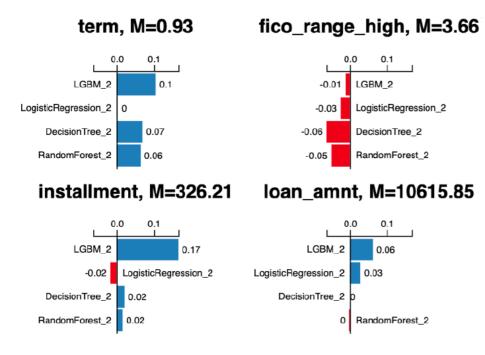
XAI consumer: Decision-maker

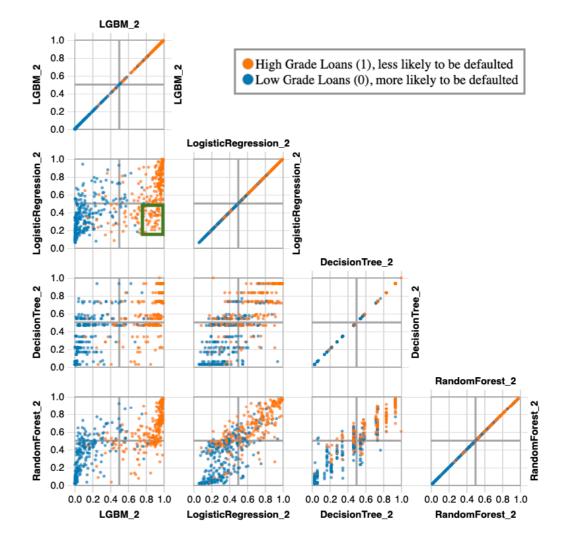
support (FAT\* 2020, CHI 2021 8)

# XAI for model evaluation and selection

	f1	accuracy	roc_auc	precision	recall	neg_log_loss
LGBM_2	0.922	0.923	0.923	0.926	0.918	-2.66
LogisticRegression_2	0.699	0.712	0.712	0.725	0.675	-9.95
DecisionTree_2	0.694	0.707	0.706	0.719	0.67	-10.1
RandomForest_2	0.752	0.755	0.755	0.756	0.747	-8.46

(a) Screenshot of the Metrics Table showing metrics for four selected models.



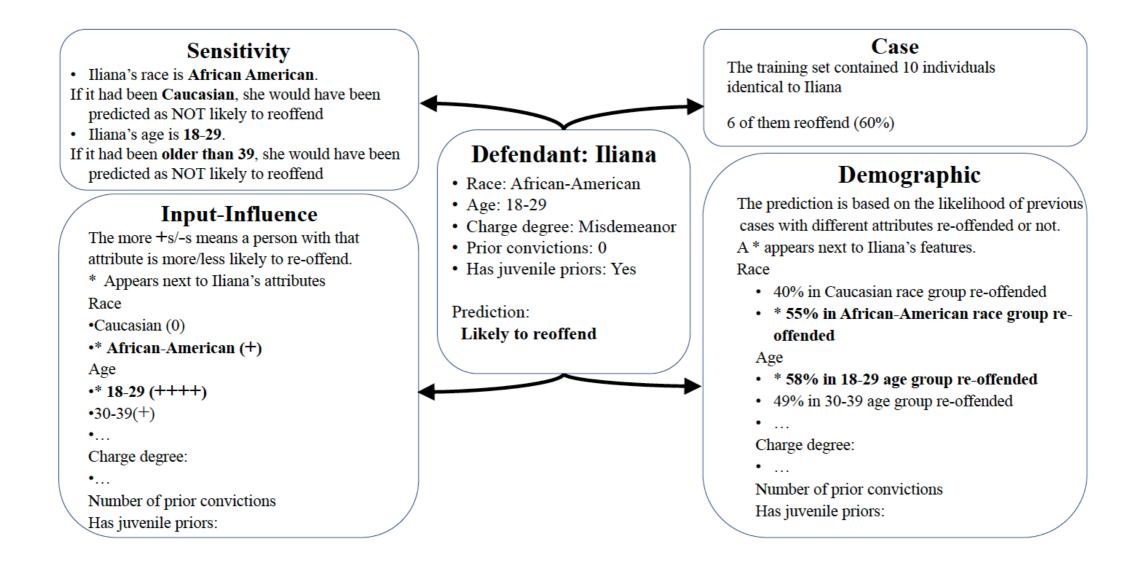




How does each model make predictions? Why are these instances predicted differently by these models? Why is this model making a wrong prediction?

Narkar et al. Model LineUpper: Supporting Interactive Model1Comparison at Multiple Levels for AutoML. IUI 2021

# XAI for fairness assessment





Is the way the model makes risk predictions fair? Why is this person predicted of high risk? Is he/she treated fairly?

Dodge et al. Explaining Models: An Empirical Study of How Explanations Impact Fairness Judgment. IUI 2019

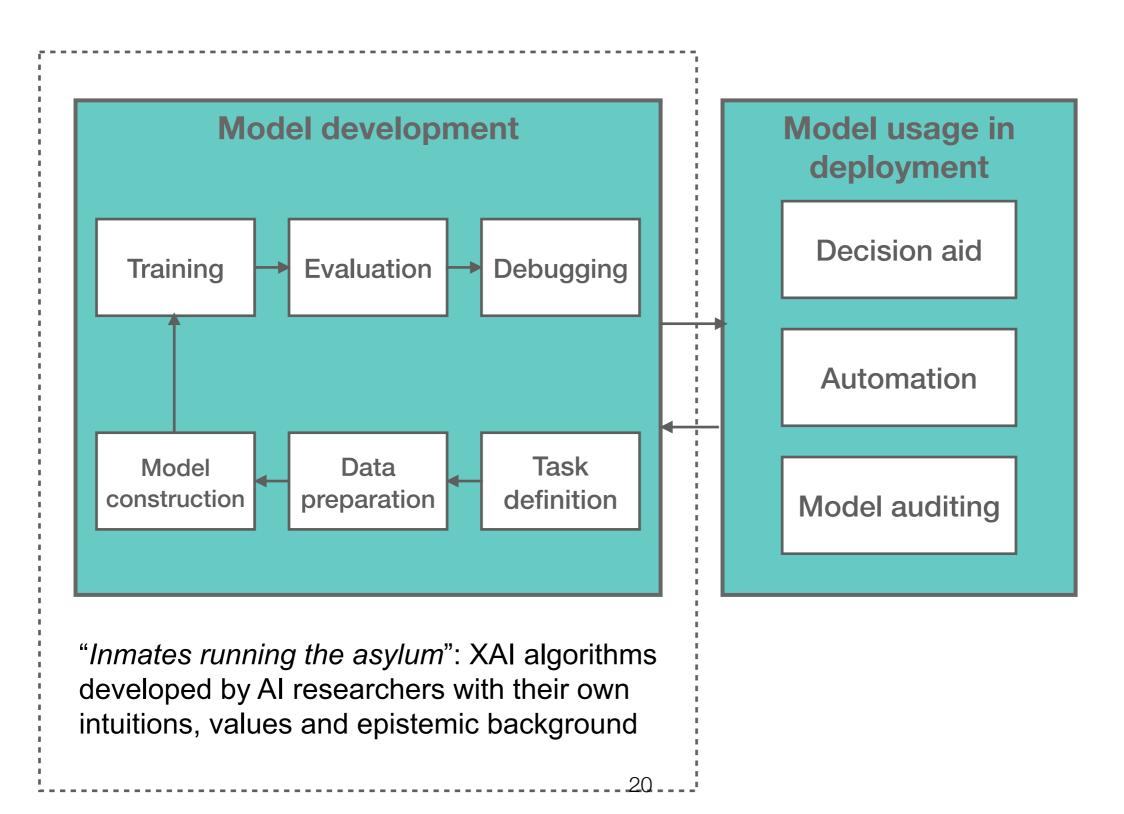
# Lessons learned: From XAI algorithms to XAI UX

- No one-fits-all solutions
- XAI UX often needs multiple types of explanations
  - Anticipate *when* and *where* users want *what* explanations
- Beware of the potential harm of XAI
  - Unwarranted trust and confidence
  - Distraction and cognitive workload
  - Can unequalized or marginalize certain groups
- Under-developed "translation" design space
  - Algorithmic output needs communication, elaboration, constraints, integration, etc.
  - Drive adapting or developing new XAI algorithms
- Breakdowns more often, translation design more necessary, on the model usage side

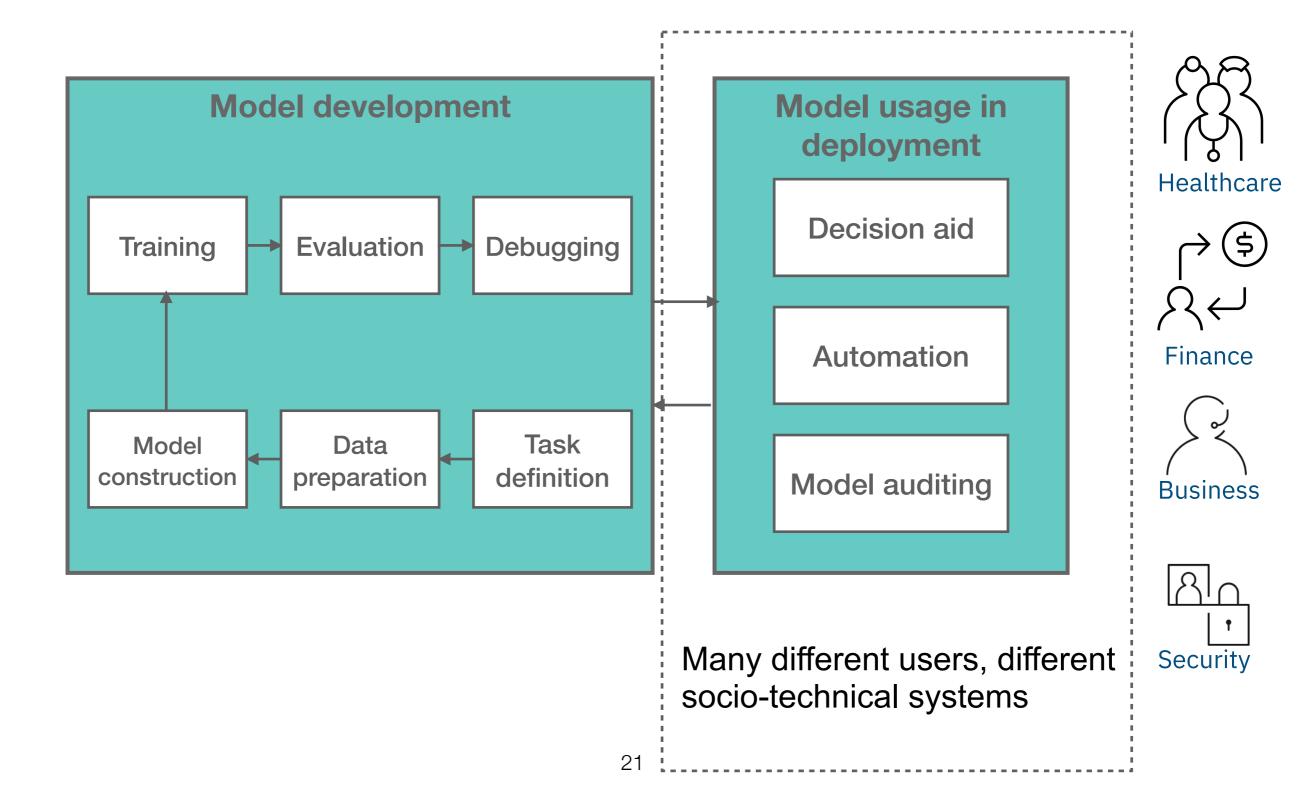
# **XAI in Practice**



# Why break-downs in model usage?



# Why break-downs in model usage?



# From XAI algorithms to XAI UX

With a toolbox: How to select? How to translate? How to expand?

Our paths:

- Develop context-specific design guidelines: HCI research with XAI use cases
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- Socially situated explainability by making visible the AI contexts

## **XAI in Practice**

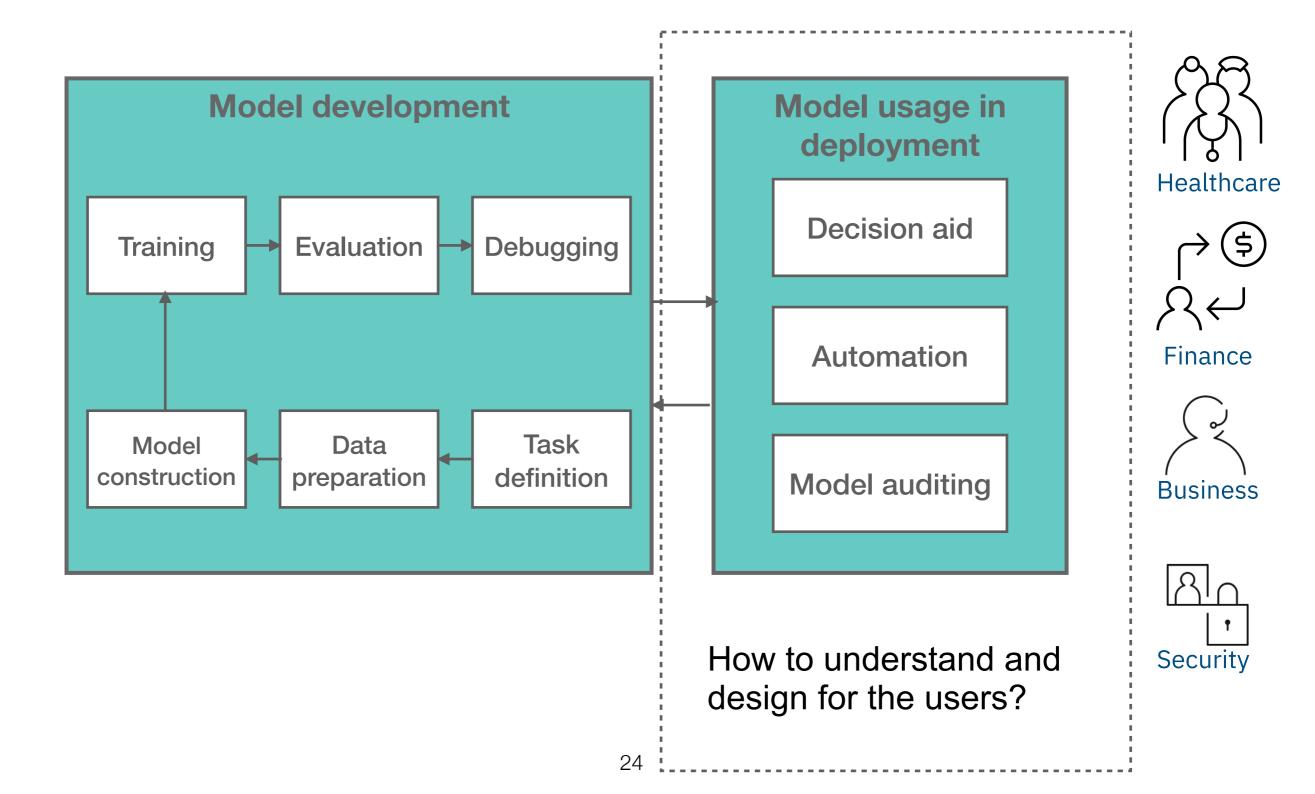


# Towards "social transparency" in AI systems

Reco Justi		\$100 per account per m m considered the follow		<b>Product ID (PID</b> ) mers pay	: 43523X [•] Cost: \$55 /account/month
			m received pricing recomm ended price. Click to see m	1	sales.
	(	Nadia M. ■ Sales Assoc. (AB34)	Action: Reject Recommendation Comment: Long-term profitation selling at cost price to maintation Cot 2, 2019	ole customer; main r	Outcome: No Sale evenue from a different vertical ; 3
	(	Eric C. Sales Manager (XZ89)	Action: Accept Recommendate Comment: Recommended pre was fair Coc 14, 2019		<b>Outcome:</b> Sale it margins; customer felt the price 4
4W	What • Who • Why • When •	Jess W. ■ Sales Director (RE43)	<ul> <li>Action: Reject Recommendation</li> <li>Comment: Covid-19 pandemic</li> <li>offered 10% below cost price</li> <li>May 6, 2020</li> </ul>	c mode; cannot lose	<b>Outcome:</b> Sale long-term profitable customer; 5

Ehsan et al. Expanding Explainability: Towards Sociab Transparency in Al systems. To appear in CHI 2021 8

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# From XAI algorithms to XAI UX

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- Develop context-specific design guidelines: HCI research with XAI use cases
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## **XAI in Practice**



# Where we started: Research into XAI Design Practices

# Why AI design practitioners?

 Bridging roles connecting user needs and XAI techniques

## **Research questions:**

- What is the design space of XAI UX?
- What are the design challenges?





#### Machine Learning Interpretability: A Survey on **Methods and Metrics**

Diogo V. Carvalho <sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Eduardo M. Pereira <sup>1</sup> and

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# A technical space people are not quite in there yet... how to talk about it?

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#### A Survey of Methods for Explaining

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Explanation Methods in Deep Learning: Users, Values, Concerns and Challenges<sup>\*</sup>

Gabriëlle Ras, Marcel van Gerven, Pim Haselager

Radboud University, Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour, Nijmegen, the Netherlands {g.ras, m.vangerven, w.haselager}@donders.ru.nl

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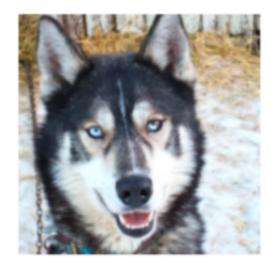
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# Study probe: algorithm informed XAI Questions

Category of Methods	Explanation Method	Definition	Algorithm Examples	Question Type
Explain the model	Global feature importance	Describe the weights of features used by the model (includ- ing visualization that shows the weights of features)	[41, 60, 69, 90]	How
(Global)	Decision tree approximation	Approximate the model to an interpretable decision-tree	[11, 47, 52]	How, Why, Why not, What if
	Rule extraction	Approximate the model to a set of rules, e.g., if-then rules	[26, 93, 102]	How, Why, Why not, What if
Explain a prediction	Local feature importance and saliency method	Show how features of the instance contribute to the model's prediction (including causes in parts of an image or text)	[61, 74, 83, 85, 101]	Why
(Local)	Local rules or trees	Describe the rules or a decision-tree path that the instance fits to guarantee the prediction	[39, 75, 99]	Why, How to still be this
Inspect coun- terfactual	Feature influence or relevance method	Show how the prediction changes corresponding to changes of a feature (often in a visualization format)	[8, 33, 36, 51]	What if, How to be that, How to still be this
	Contrastive or counterfactual features	Describe the feature(s) that will change the prediction if perturbed, absent or present	[27, 91, 100]	Why, Why not, How to be that
Example based	Prototypical or representative examples	Provide example(s) similar to the instance and with the same record as the prediction	[13, 48, 50]	Why, How to still be this
	Counterfactual example	Provide example(s) with small differences from the instance but with a different record from the prediction	[37, 55, 66]	Why, Why not, How to be that

- User needs for XAI are represented as prototypical questions
- A question can be answered by one or multiple XAI methods
- An XAI method can be implemented by one or multiple XAI algorithms

An explanation is an answer to a question (Wellman, 2011; Miller 2018) The effectiveness of an explanation depends on the question asked (Bromberger, 1992)



**Question: Why** is this husky classified as wolf?



XAI method: local feature (pixels) contribution

# XAI algorithms:

- LIME (Ribeiro et al. 2016)
- SHAP (Lundberg and Lee 2017)
- ...

# Study probe: algorithm informed XAI Questions

Category of Methods	Explanation Method	Definition	Algorithm Examples	Question Type
Explain the model	Global feature importance	Describe the weights of features used by the model (includ- ing visualization that shows the weights of features)	[41, 60, 69, 90]	How
(Global)	Decision tree approximation	Approximate the model to an interpretable decision-tree	[11, 47, 52]	How, Why, Why not, What if
	Rule extraction	Approximate the model to a set of rules, e.g., if-then rules	[26, 93, 102]	How, Why, Why not, What if
Explain a prediction	Local feature importance and saliency method	Show how features of the instance contribute to the model's prediction (including causes in parts of an image or text)	[61, 74, 83, 85, 101]	Why
(Local)	Local rules or trees	Describe the rules or a decision-tree path that the instance fits to guarantee the prediction	[39, 75, 99]	Why, How to still be this
Inspect coun- terfactual	Feature influence or relevance method	Show how the prediction changes corresponding to changes of a feature (often in a visualization format)	[8, 33, 36, 51]	What if, How to be that, How to still be this
	Contrastive or counterfactual features	Describe the feature(s) that will change the prediction if perturbed, absent or present	[27, 91, 100]	Why, Why not, How to be that
Example based	Prototypical or representative examples	Provide example(s) similar to the instance and with the same record as the prediction	[13, 48, 50]	Why, How to still be this
	Counterfactual example	Provide example(s) with small differences from the instance but with a different record from the prediction	[37, 55, 66]	Why, Why not, How to be that

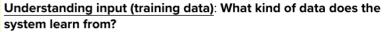
# Model facts: data, output, performance

(Lim et al., 2009)

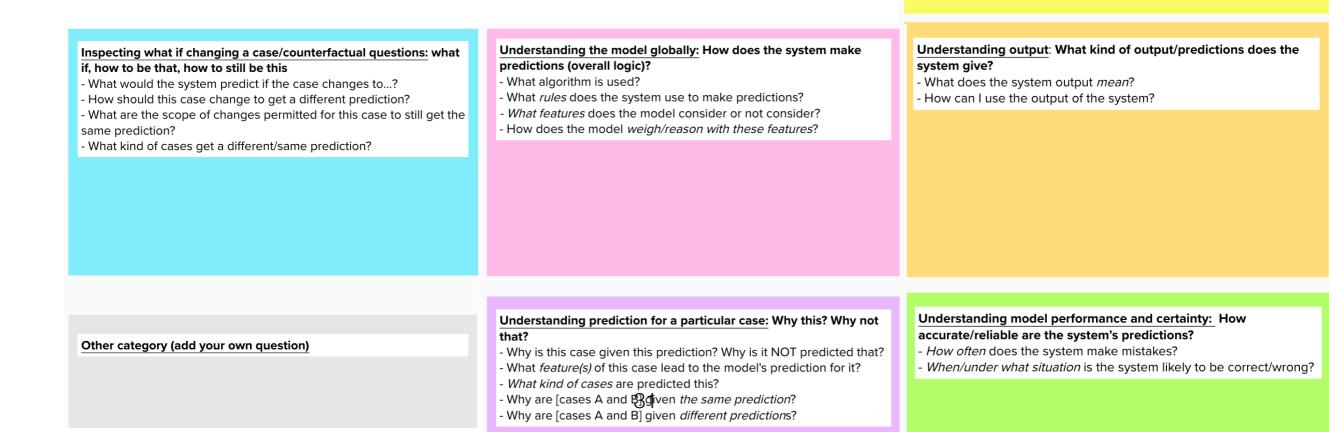
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# Methodology

- Interviewed 20 participants
- 16 Al products in IBM
- 1. Walk through the AI system
- 2. Common questions users might ask
- 3. Discuss each question card
- 4. General challenges to create XAI products

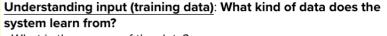


- What is the *source* of the data?
- How are the *labels/ground-truth* produced?

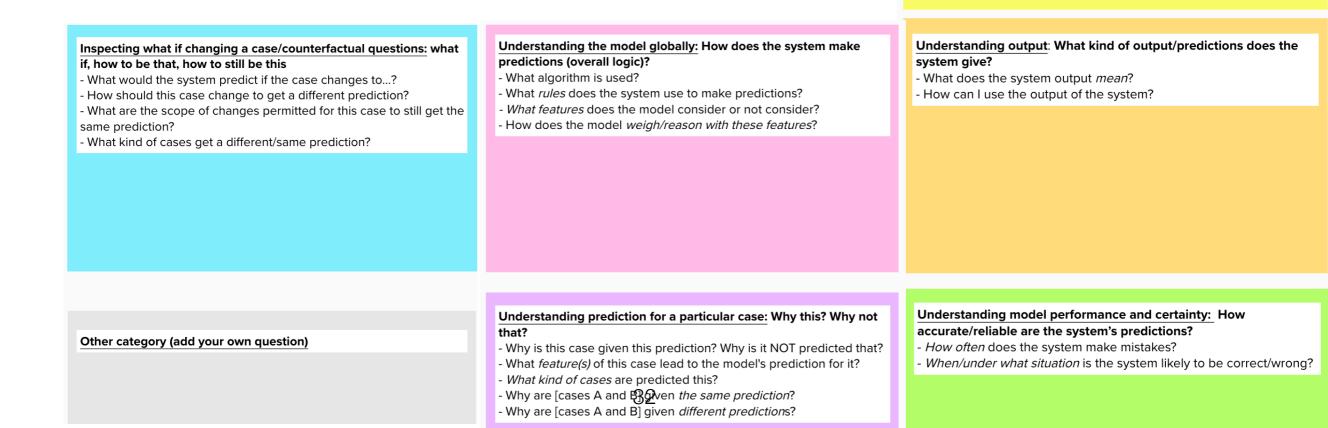


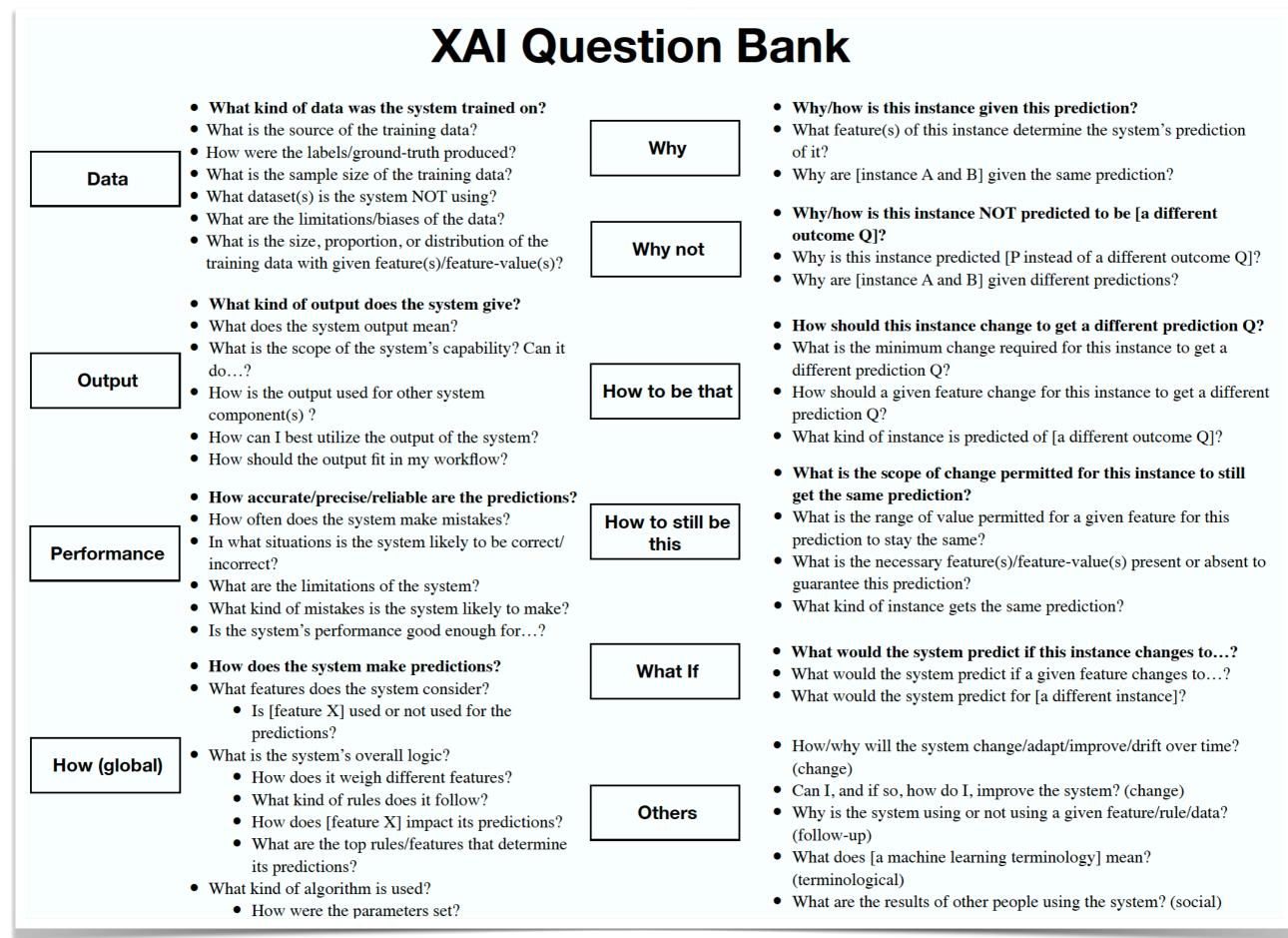
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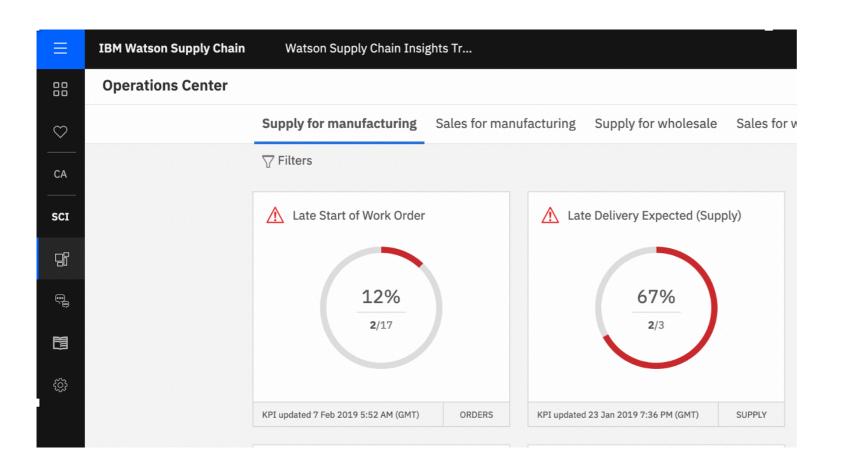
# XAI design challenge 1: Variability of XAI needs

# **Diverse objectives of explainability**

- To gain further insights for the decision
- To appropriately evaluate AI's capability
- To adapt usage or control
- To learn about a domain
- Legal or ethical requirement

Also varying XAI needs: User group, usage point, algorithm and data type, decision context

# To gain further insights for the decision



# Why How to be that

#### 66

Users need to know why the system is saying this will be late because the reason is going to determine what their next action is...If it's because of a weather event, so no matter what you do you're not going to improve this number, versus something small, if you just make a quick call, you can get that number down (I-5)

# To appropriately evaluate Al's capability



# Performance How

There is a calibration of trust, whether people will use it over time. But also saying hey, we know this fails in this way (I-6)

# XAI design challenge 1: Variability of XAI needs

## **Diverse end goals for explainability**

- To gain further insights for the decision
- To appropriately evaluate AI's capability
- To adapt usage or control
- To improve AI performance
- Ethical responsibilities of AI products

Also varying XAI needs: User group, usage point, algorithm and data type, decision context

XAI design challenge 2: Gaps between algorithmic output and human-desired explanations

Human explanations are

- Selective
- Contrastive
- Interactive
- Tailored for recipients

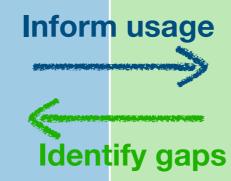


"Translation" design attempt to mimic how people, especially domain experts, explain

# XAI design challenge 3: "in the dark" design process

- Challenge navigating the technical capabilities
- finding the right pairing to put the ideas of what's right for the user together with what's doable given the tools or the algorithms
- **Communication barriers** between designers, data scientists and other stakeholders
- Cost of time and resource impeding buy-in
- It remains in this weird limbo where people know it's important. People see it happen. They don't know how to make it happen. And everybody's feeling their way in the dark with no lights.

#### **XAI in Academia**



#### **XAI in Practice**

#### **Opportunities for technical XAI work**

- Explain data limitations and generalizability
- Explain output of multiple models
- Explain system changes
- Multi-level global explanations
- Interactive counterfactual explanations
- Social explanations
- Personalized and adaptive explanations

#### Guidelines to address XAI user needs

**Input**: Provide comprehensive transparency of training data, especially the limitations

**Output**: Contextualize the system's output in downstream tasks and the users' overall workflow

**Performance**: Help users understand the limitations of the AI and make it actionable

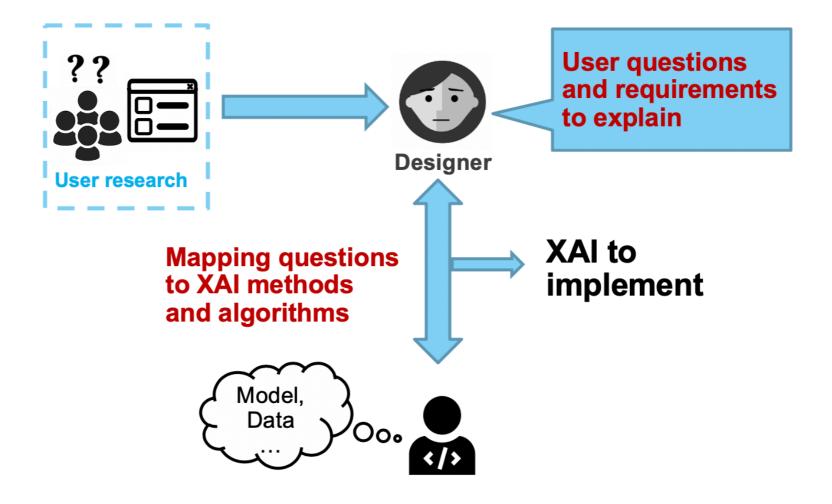
**Global model**: Choose appropriate level of details to explain the model

Local decision: Provide resources for "why not"

**Counterfactual**: Consider opportunities as utility features for analytics or exploration

Liao et al. Questioning the AI: Informing Design Practices for Explainable AI User Experiences. CHI 2020

## Supporting the process: Question-driven XAI design



Design pain points to address:

- Identify application, user and interaction specific XAI needs
- Enable a "designedly" understanding of XAI by reframing the technical space
- Support designer-AI-engineer communication and collaboration

# Question-Driven XAI Design

#### Step 1

Identify user Au questions qu

#### Step 2 Analyze questions

#### Step 3 Map questions to modeling solutions

#### Step 4

Iteratively design and evaluate

Elicit user needs for XAI as questions

Also gather user intentions and expectations for asking the questions Cluster questions into categories and prioritize categories for the XAI UX to focus on

Summarize user intentions and expectations to identify key user requirements Map prioritized question categories to candidate XAI techniques as a set of functional elements that the design should cover

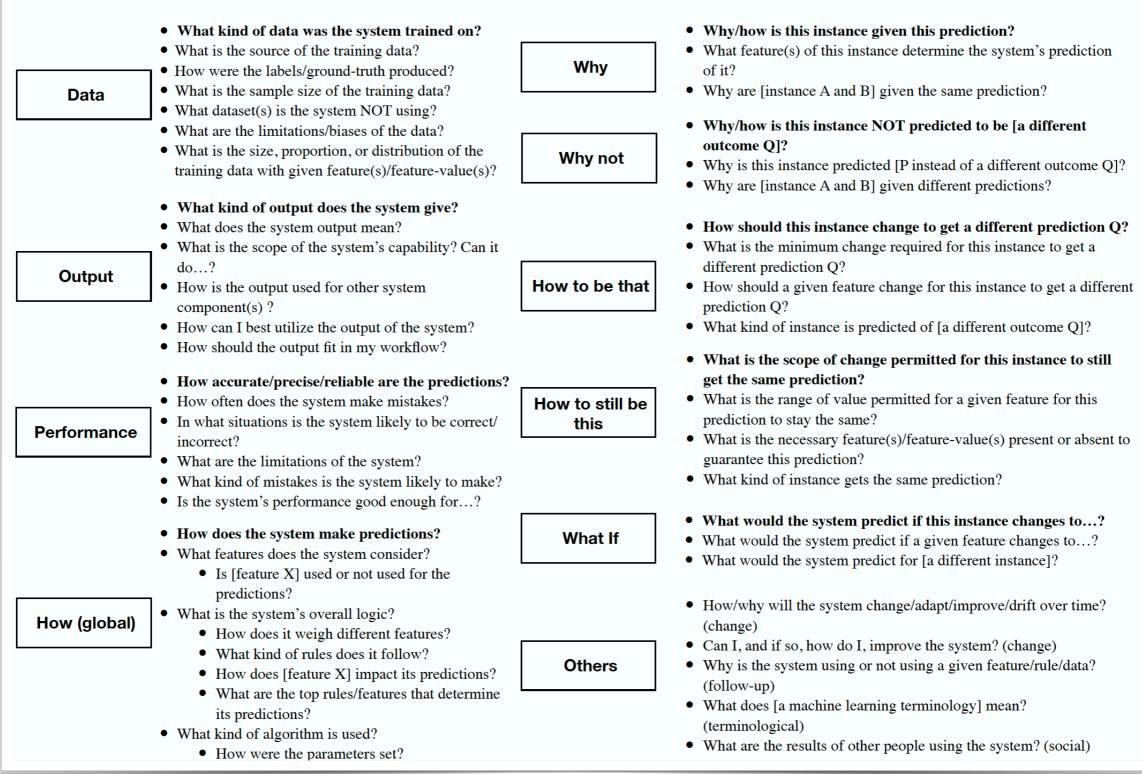
A mapping guide for supervised ML is provided for reference Create a design including the candidate elements identified in step 3

Iteratively valuate the design with the user requirements identified in step 2 and fill the gaps

Designers, users Designers, product team Designers, data scientists

Designers, data scientists, users 42

### **XAI Question Bank**



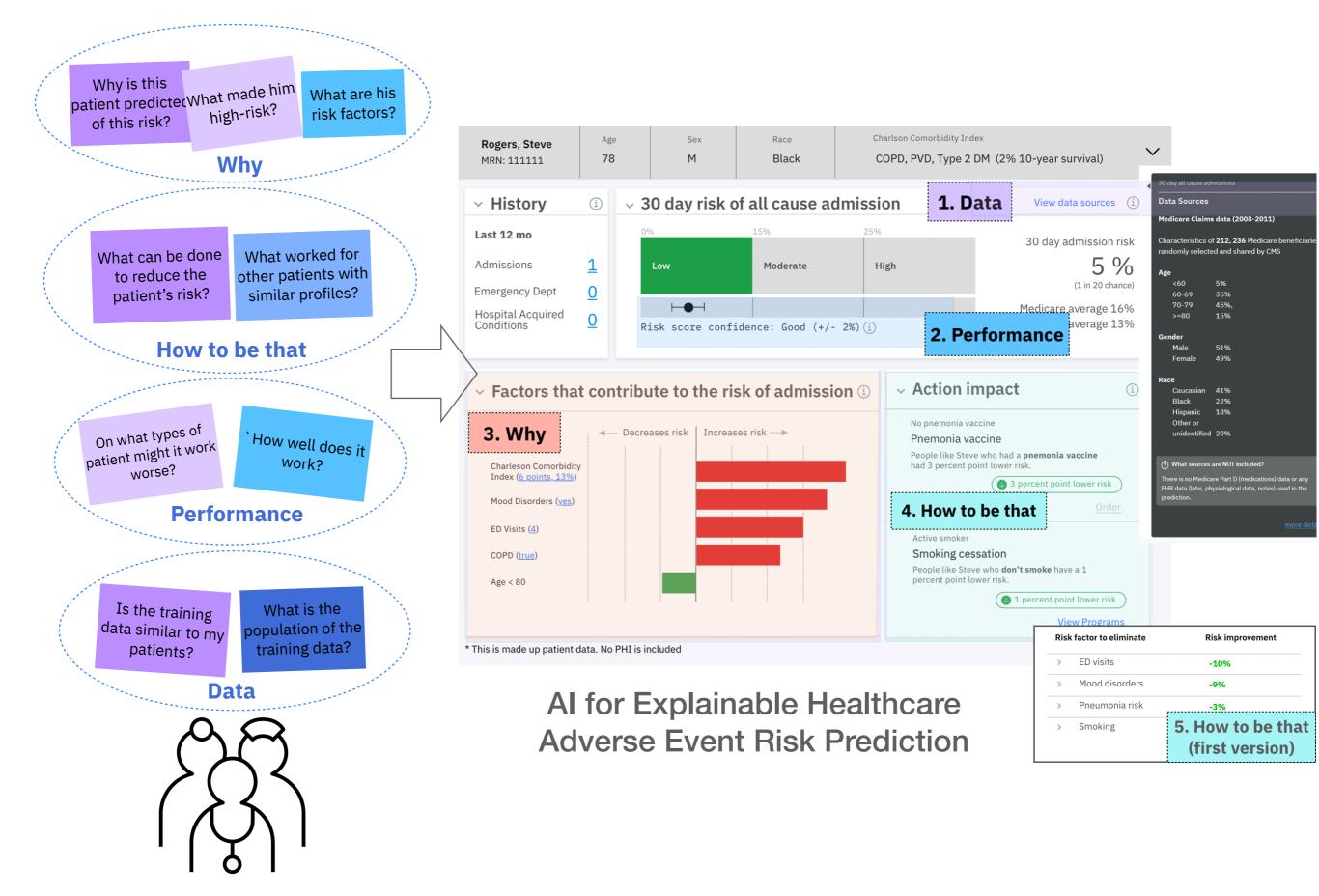
#### How to select: identify user needs for XAI as questions

Liao et al. Questioning the AI: Informing Design Practices for Explainable AI User Experiences. CHI 2020 🞖

Question	Explanations	Example XAI techniques		
Global how		ProfWeight*, Feature Importance*, PDP*, BRCG+ , GLRM+ , Rule List+ , DT Surrogate•		
Why		<u>LIME</u> *, <u>SHAP</u> *, <u>LOCO</u> *, <u>Anchors</u> +, <u>ProtoDash</u> •		
Why not	<ul> <li>Describe what changes are required for the instance to get the alternative prediction and/or what features of the instance guarantee the current prediction*</li> <li>Show prototypical examples* that had the alternative outcome</li> </ul>	<u>CEM</u> * , <u>Prototype counterfactual</u> * , <u>ProtoDash</u> * (on alternative class)		
How to be that	<ul> <li>Highlight features that if changed (increased, decreased, absent, or present) could alter the prediction*</li> <li>Show examples with small differences but had a different outcome than the prediction*</li> </ul>	<u>CEM</u> *, <u>Counterfactuals</u> *, <u>DiCE</u> +		
What if	<ul> <li>Show how the prediction changes corresponding to the inquired change</li> </ul>	PDP, ALE, What-if Tool		
How to still be this	<ul> <li>Describe feature ranges* or rules* that could guarantee the same prediction</li> <li>Show examples that are different from the particular instance but still had the same outcome</li> </ul>	<u>CEM</u> *, <u>Anchors</u> +		
Performance	Show confidence information for each prediction	Precision, Recall, Accuracy, F1, AUC Confidence <u>FactSheets, Model Cards</u>		
Data	<ul> <li>Document comprehensive information about the training data, including the source, provenance, type, size, coverage of population, potential biases, etc.</li> </ul>	<u>FactSheets, DataSheets</u>		
Output	<ul> <li>Describe the scope of output or system functions</li> <li>Suggest how the output should be used for downstream tasks or user workflow</li> </ul>	FactSheets, Model Cards		

How to translate: support collaborative problem-solving between data scientists and designers with "*boundary objects*"

Liao et al. Question-Driven Design Process f 44 Explainable Al User Experiences. (Under review)



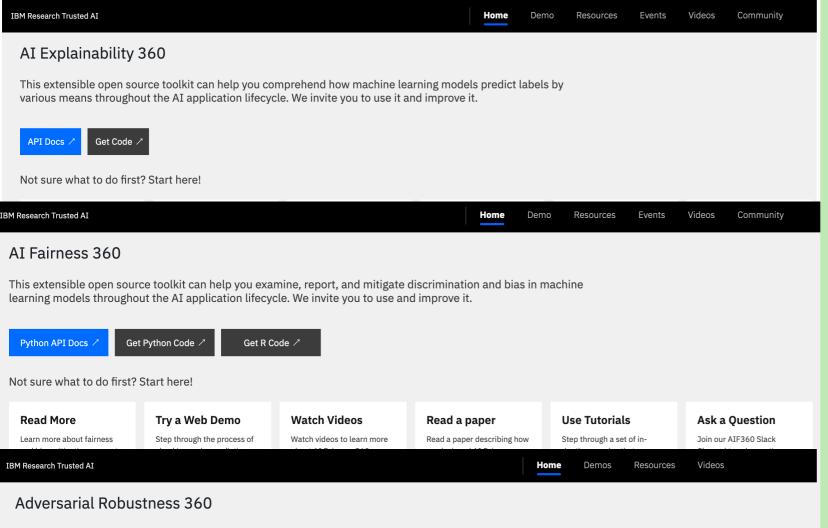
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# Conclusions: Bridging work

- Human-centered re-framing of technical spaces
  - Contextualize the tools by the human needs, values, and conditions they serve
  - Thinking "outside the toolbox"
- Responsible understanding and and use of the toolbox
  - Examine breakdowns, limitations and potential harm
  - User-centered design vision drives technical development
- Actionable frameworks, design assets and methods that practitioners can readily use

From a toolbox of **AI algorithms** to a toolbox of **design materials** 





The open source Adversarial Robustness Toolbox provides tools that enable developers and researchers to evaluate and defend machine learning models and applications against the adversarial threats of evasion, poisoning, extraction, and inference.



Not sure what to do first? Start here!

IBM Research AI FactSheets 360

- Introduction
- Methodology
- Governance
- Examples
- Overview
- Audio Classifier
- **Object Detector Image Caption Generator**
- **Text Sentiment Classifier**
- Weather Forecaster
- Mortgage Evaluator Governance Mortgage Evaluator Privacy

Resources

#### AI FactSheets 360

This site provides an overview of the FactSheet project, a research effort to foster trust in AI by increasing transparency and enabling governance.

Website Overview	Ø	AI Governance Overview	Ø		
Learn More					47
Introduction t	0	A Method	ologv	A	47 I Lifecycle

## From a toolbox of **AI** algorithms to a toolbox of design materials



# Thank YOU!

# ...and thanks to

Rachel Bellamy, Amit Dhurandhar, Jonathan Dodge, Casey Dugan, Upol Ehsan, Bhavya Ghai, Werner Geyer, Daniel Gruen, Jaesik Han, Michael Hind, Stephanie Houde, David Millen, David Piorkowski, Aleksandra Mojsilović, Sarah Miller, Klaus Mueller, Michael Muller, Shweta Narkar, Milena Pribić, John Richards, Mark Riedl, Daby Sow, Chenhao Tan, Richard Tomsett, Kush Varshney, Dakuo Wang, Justin Weisz, Yunfeng Zhang

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