

Algorithmic Resignation

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The
Alan Turing
Institute

CFI

When Should Algorithms Resign?

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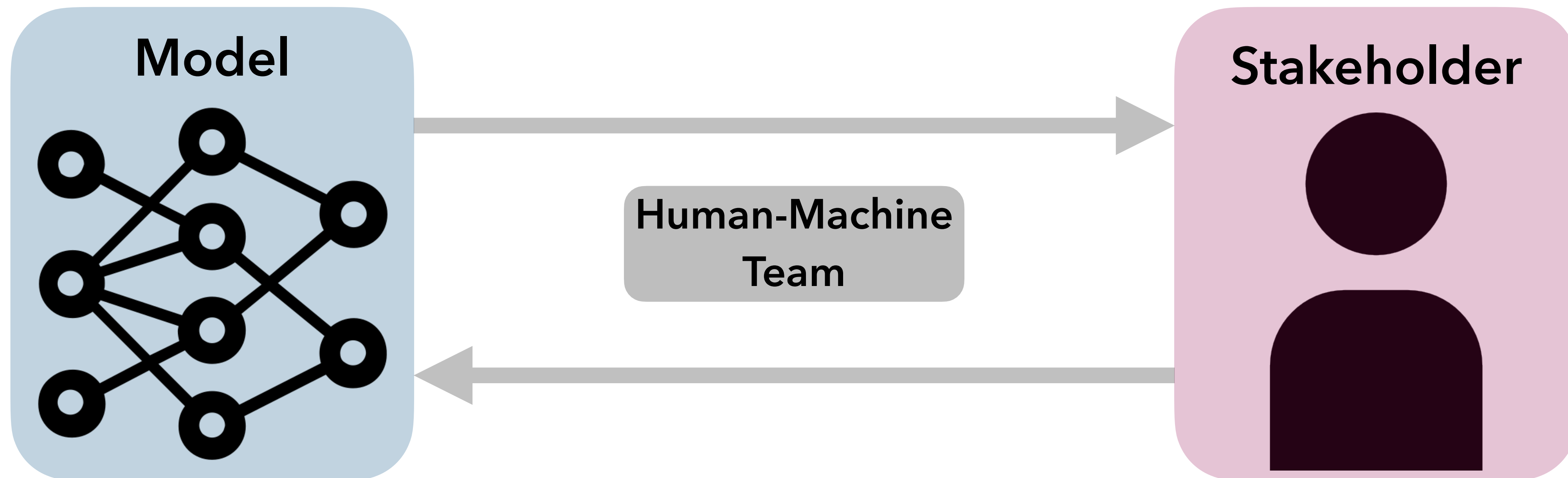
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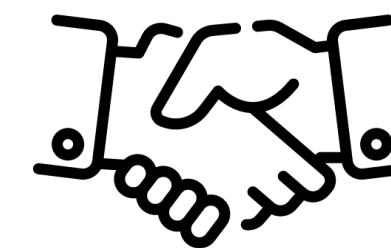
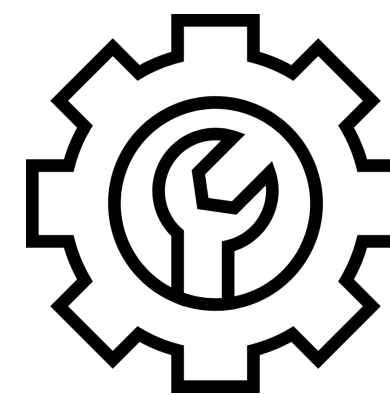
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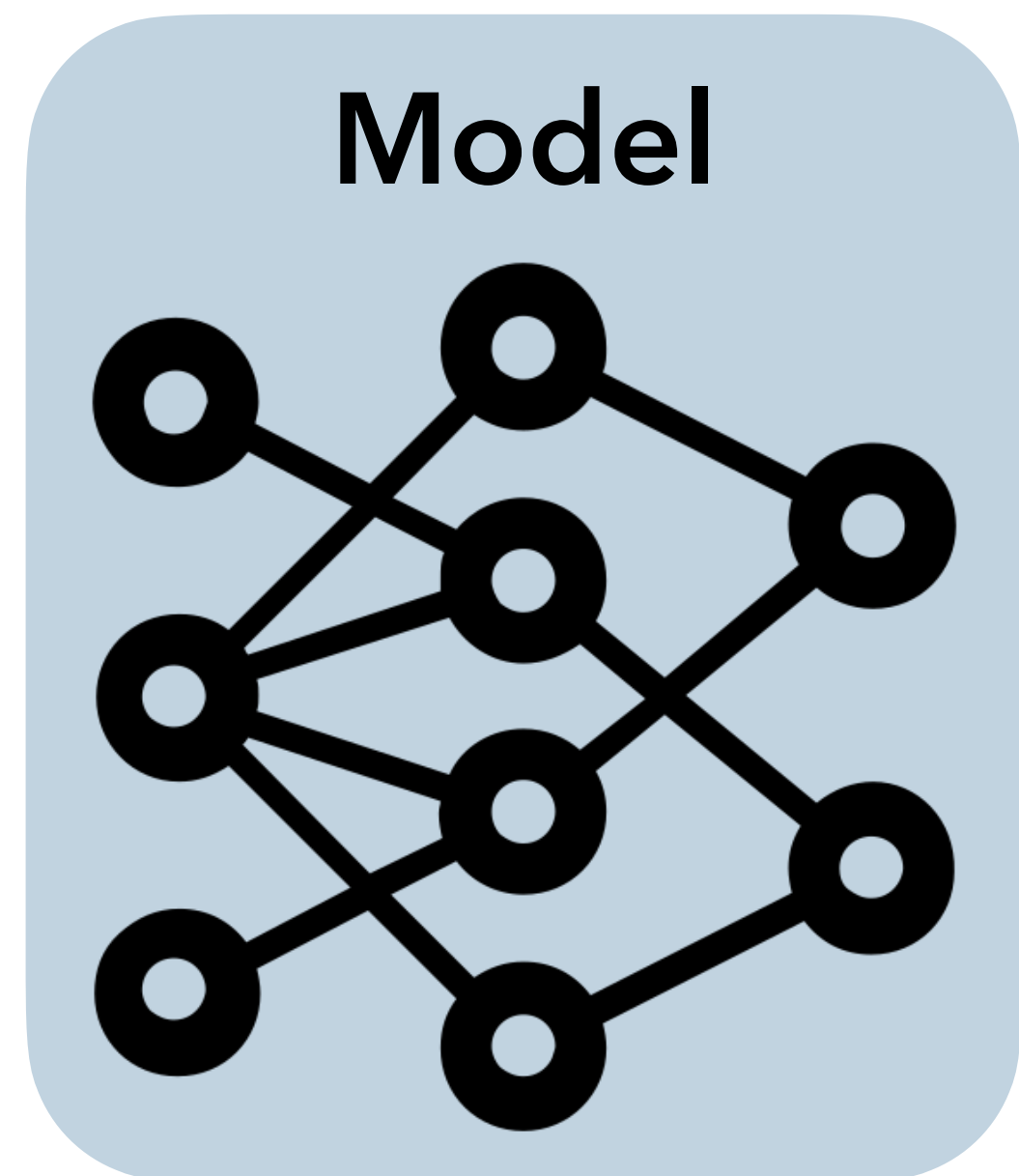




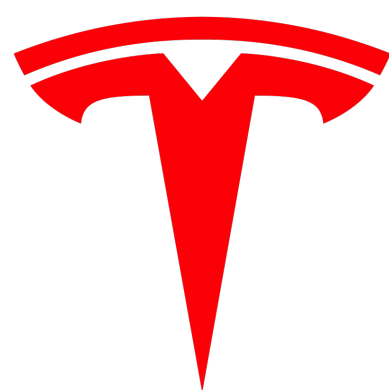
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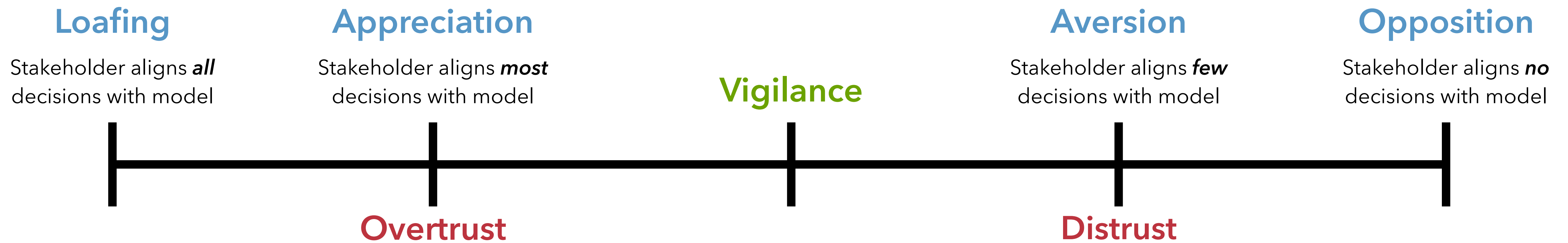
You



**Human-Machine
Team**



Me



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.

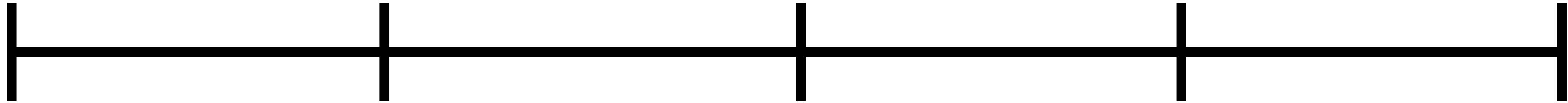
Loafing

Appreciation

Vigilance

Aversion

Opposition



POLITICS

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

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Not-so smart tech, or officers, it seems

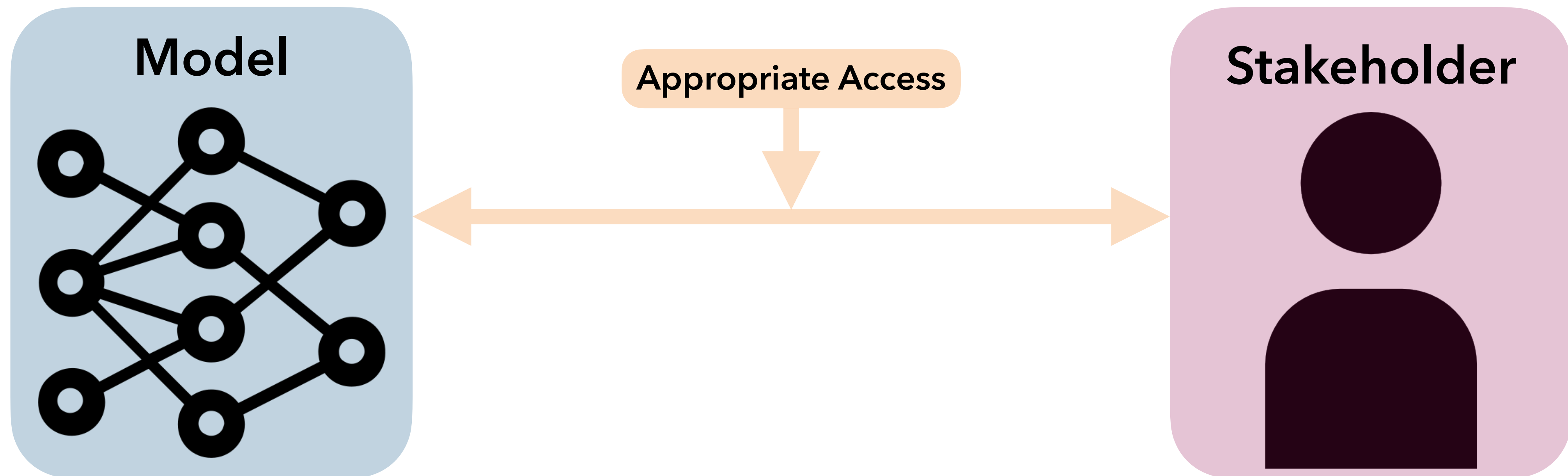
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Tue 8 Aug 2023 // 00:24 UTC

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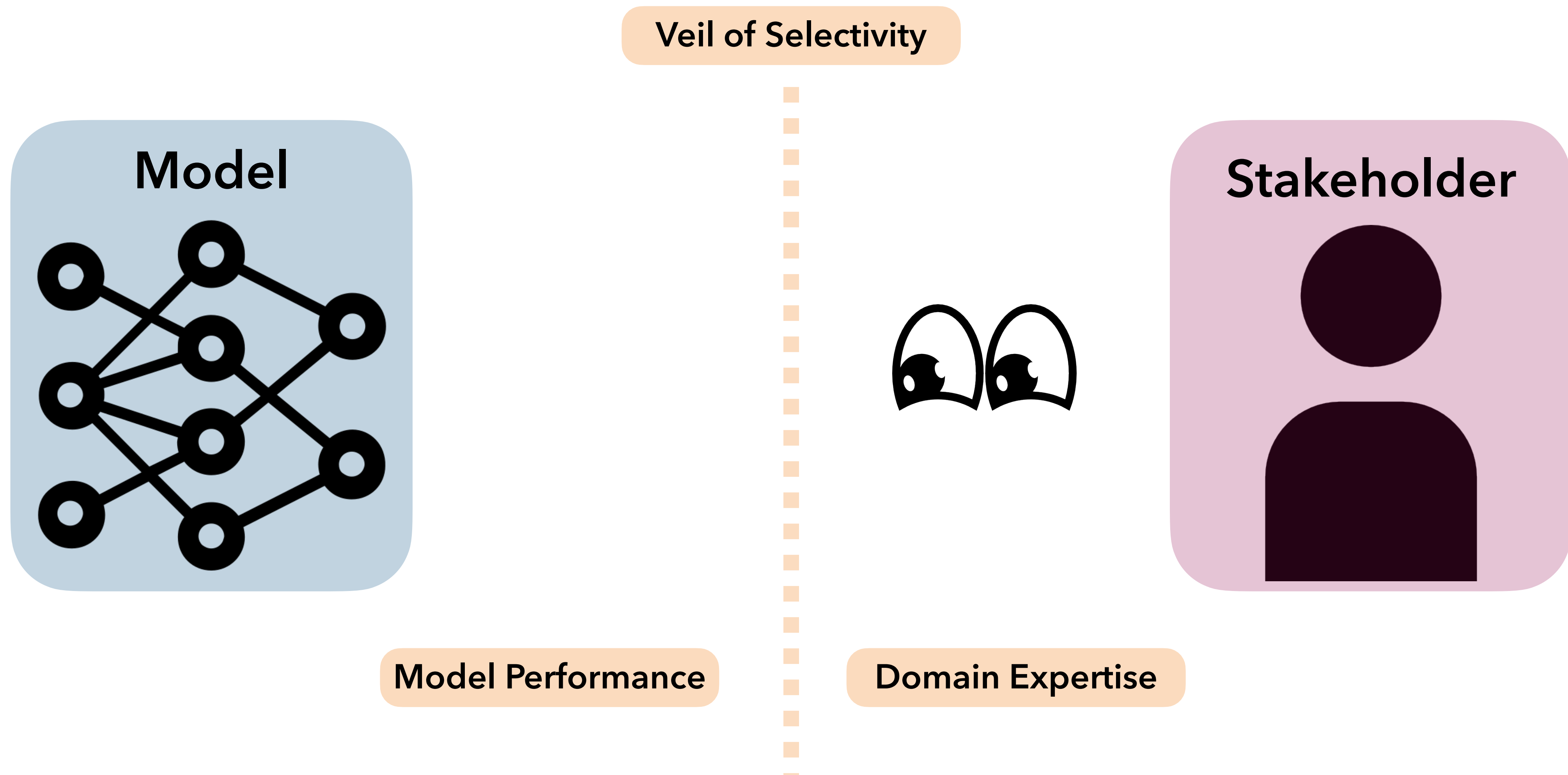
By [Katie Johnston](#) Globe Staff, Updated May 21, 2023, 4:56 p.m.

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

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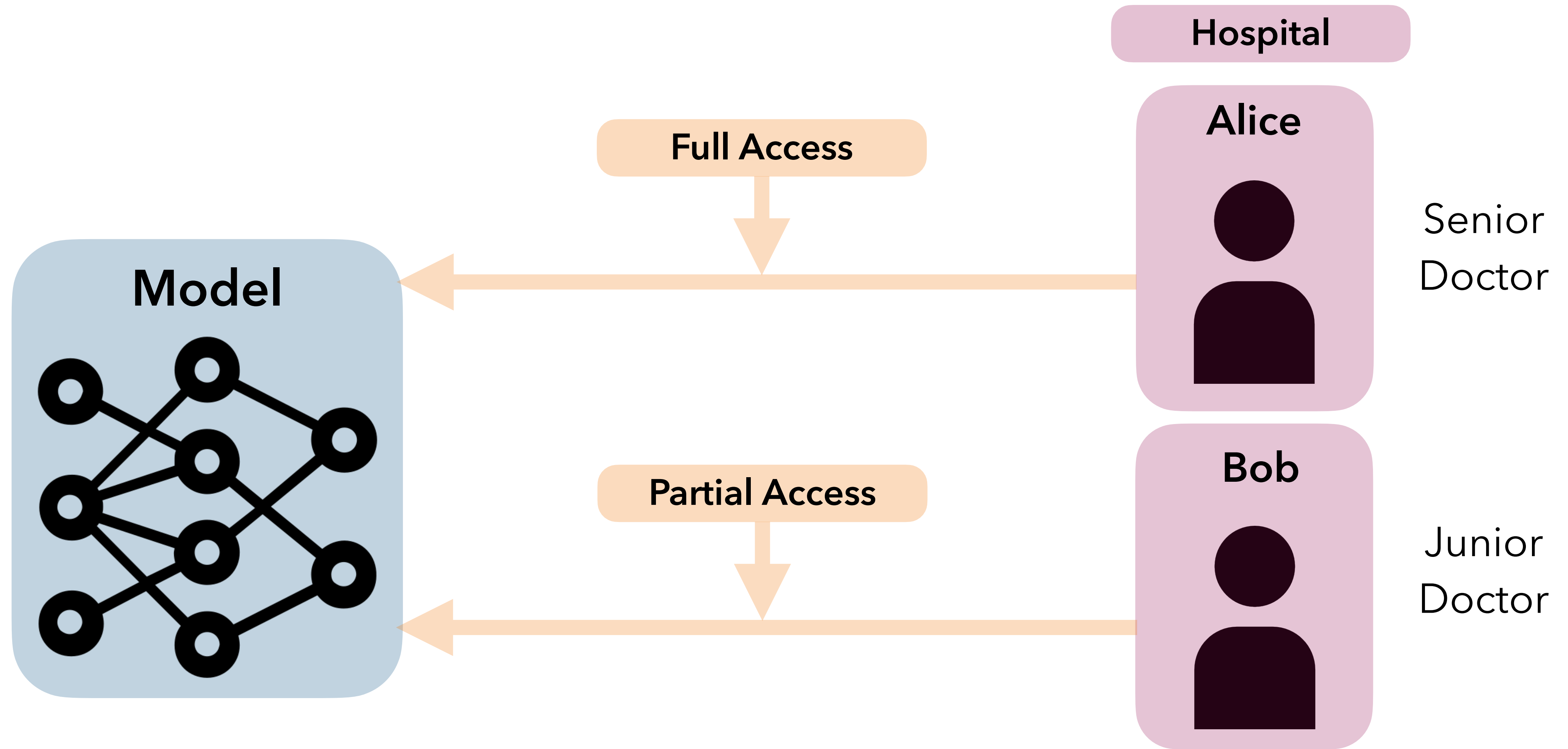
Outline

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

Outline

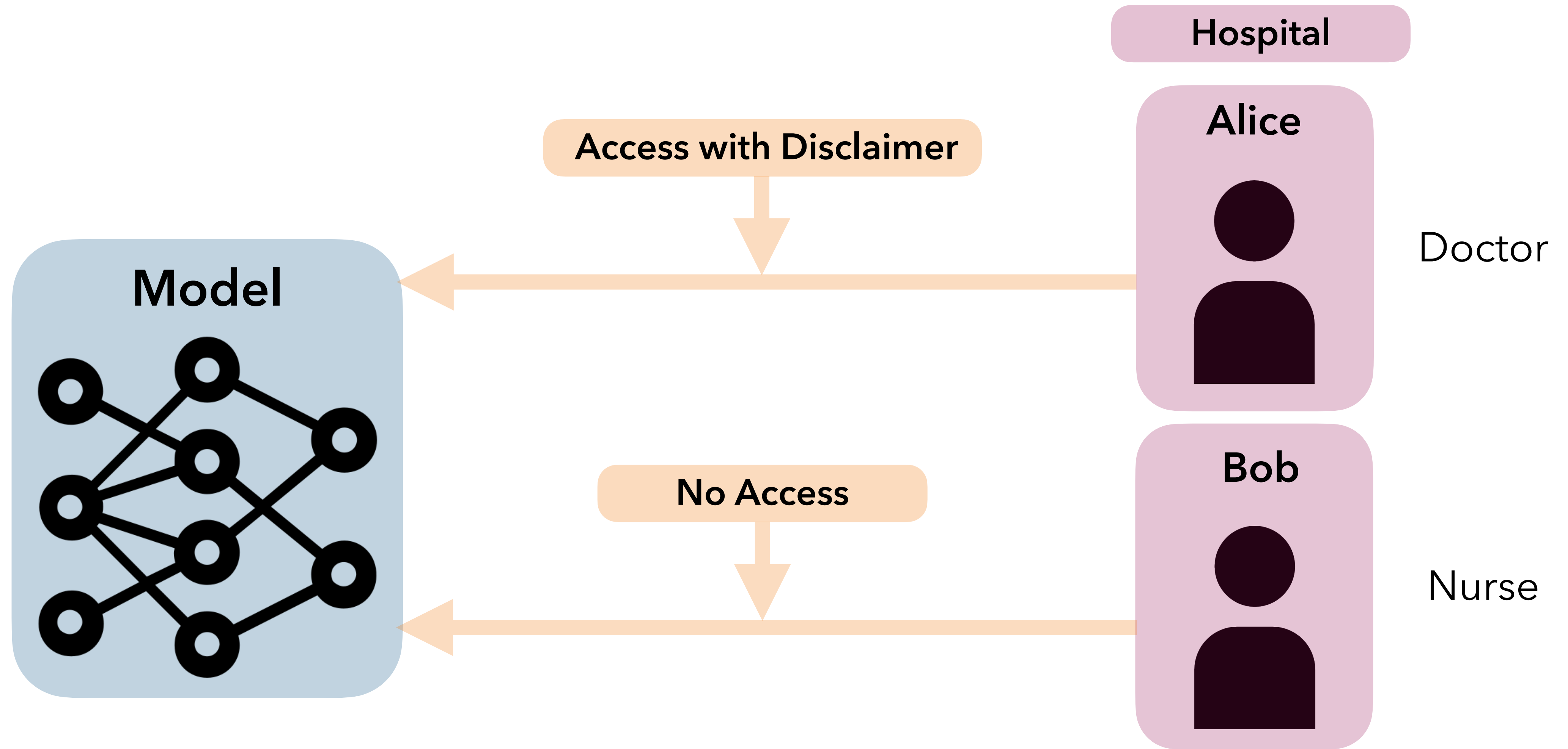
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Algorithmic resignation is the *deliberate* and *informed* disengagement from AI assistance in certain scenarios.



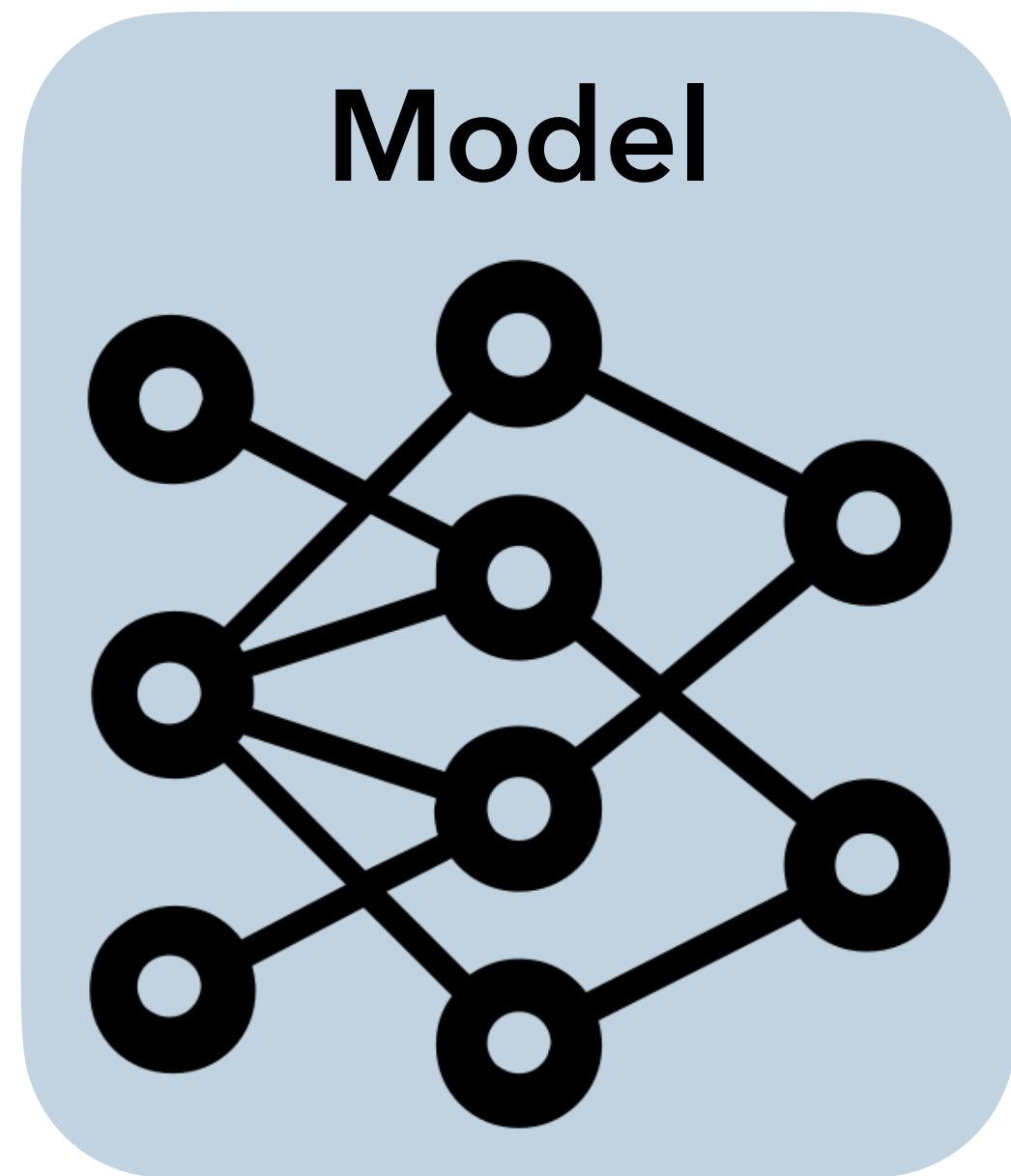
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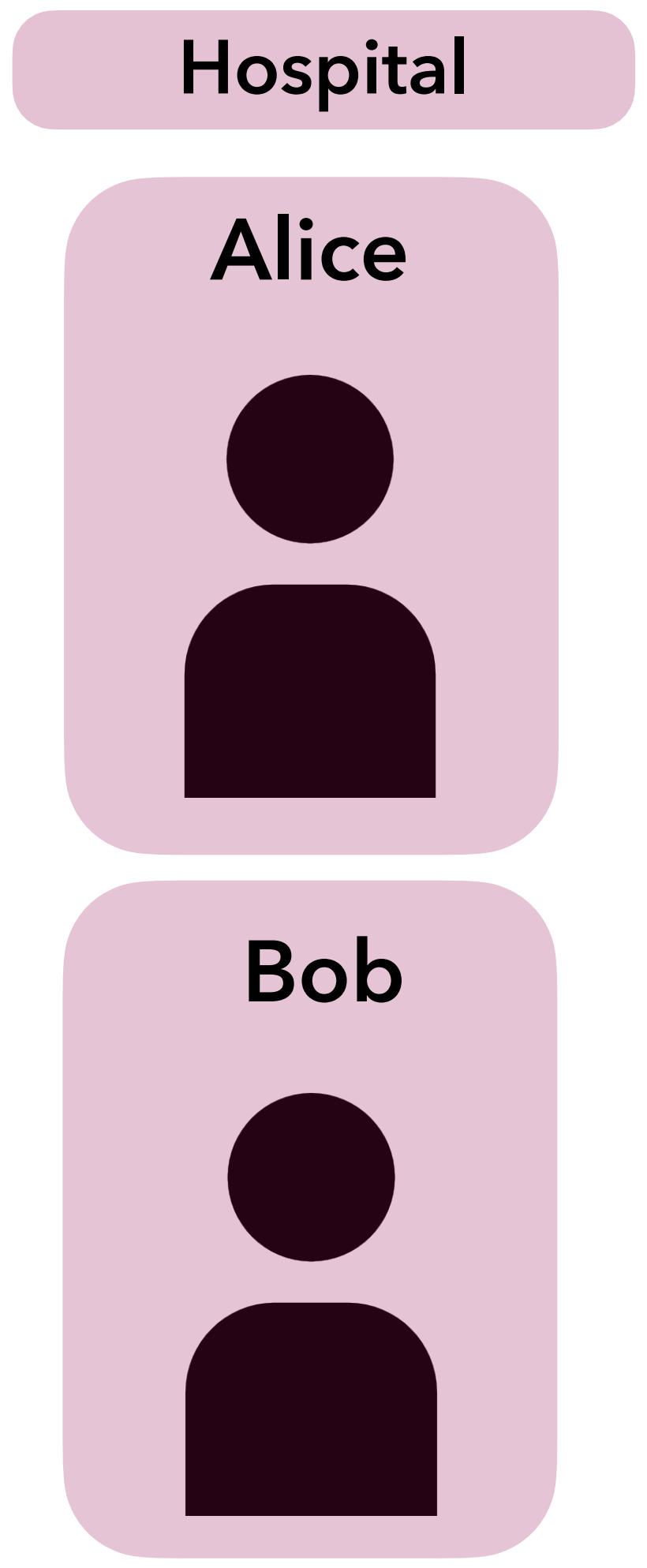


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- Appropriate Access
- Cost
- Expertise
- Internal Policy
- External Regulation



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

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.

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Benefits of Algorithmic Resignation



Economic Efficiency



Reputational Gain



Legal Compliance

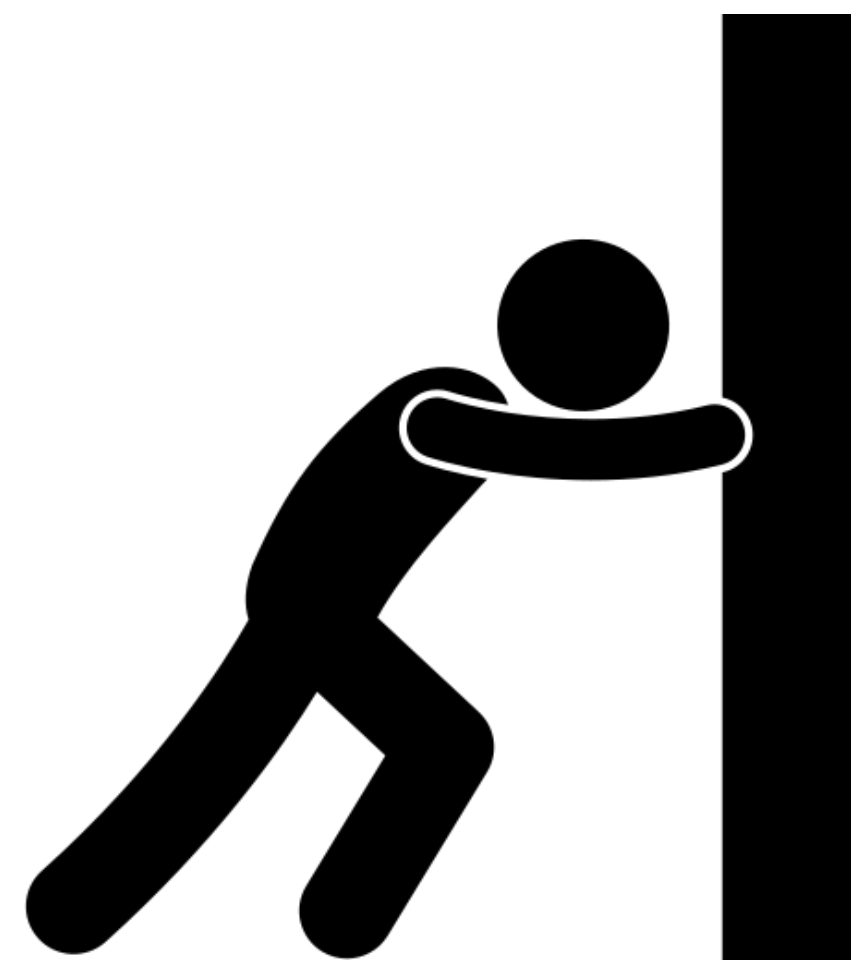
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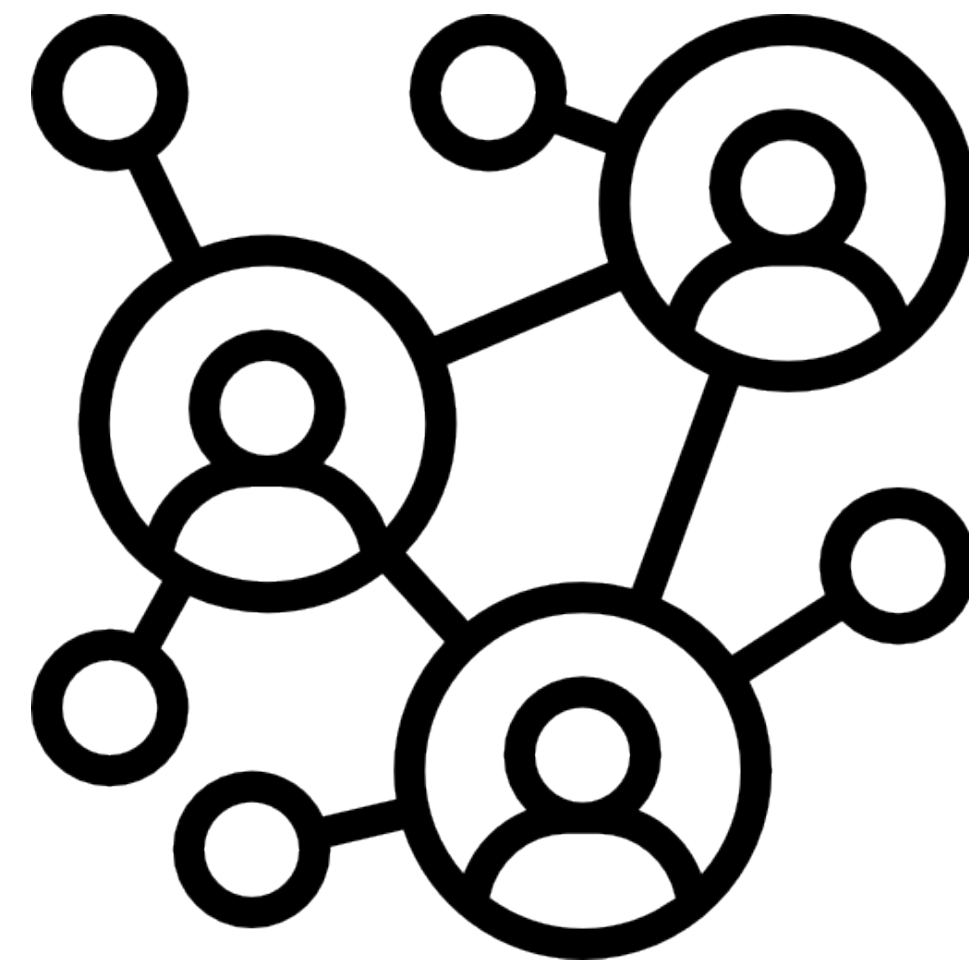
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Considerations for Algorithmic Resignation



Directionality of
Selectivity



Stakeholder
Incentives



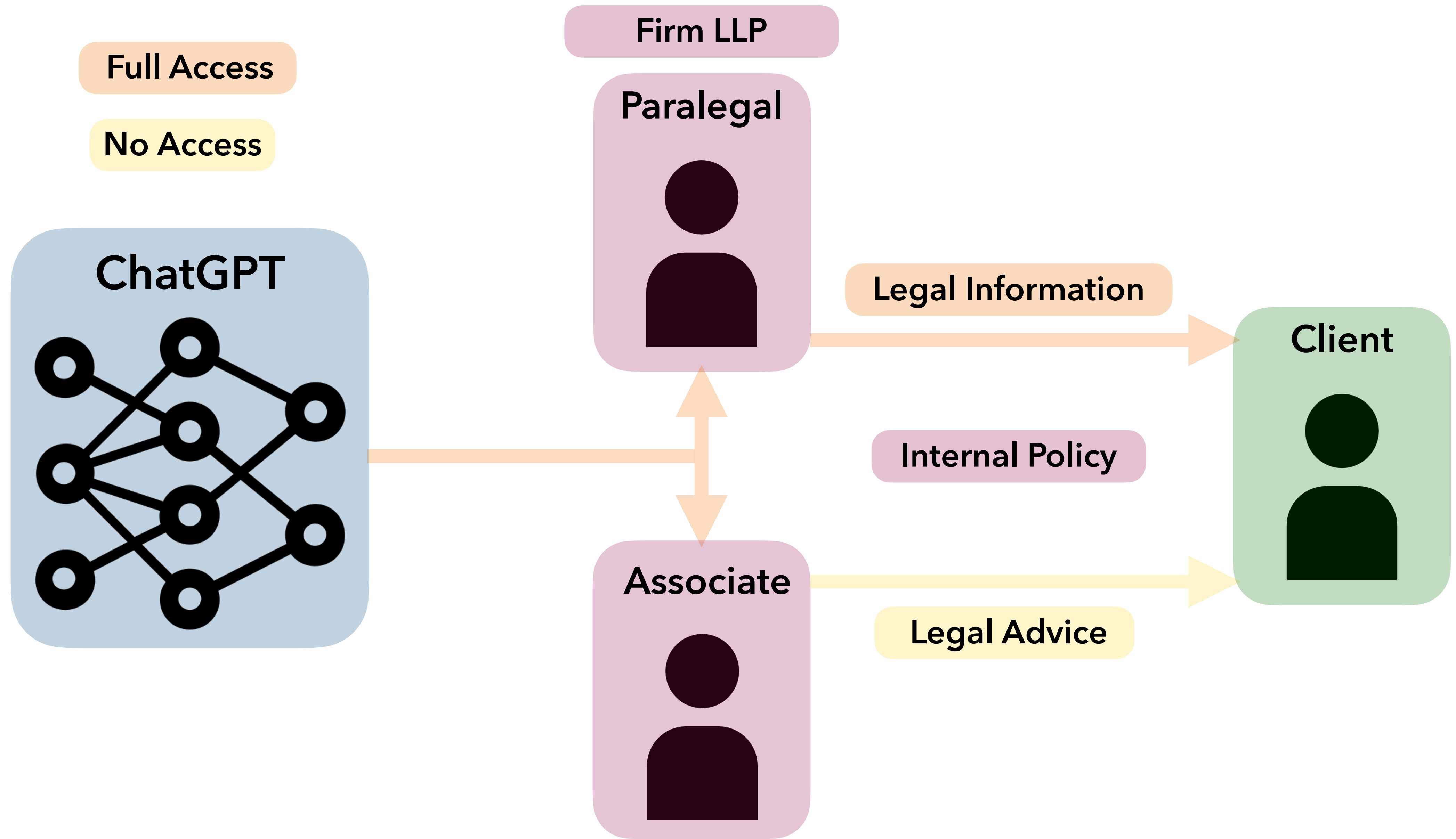
Level of Engagement

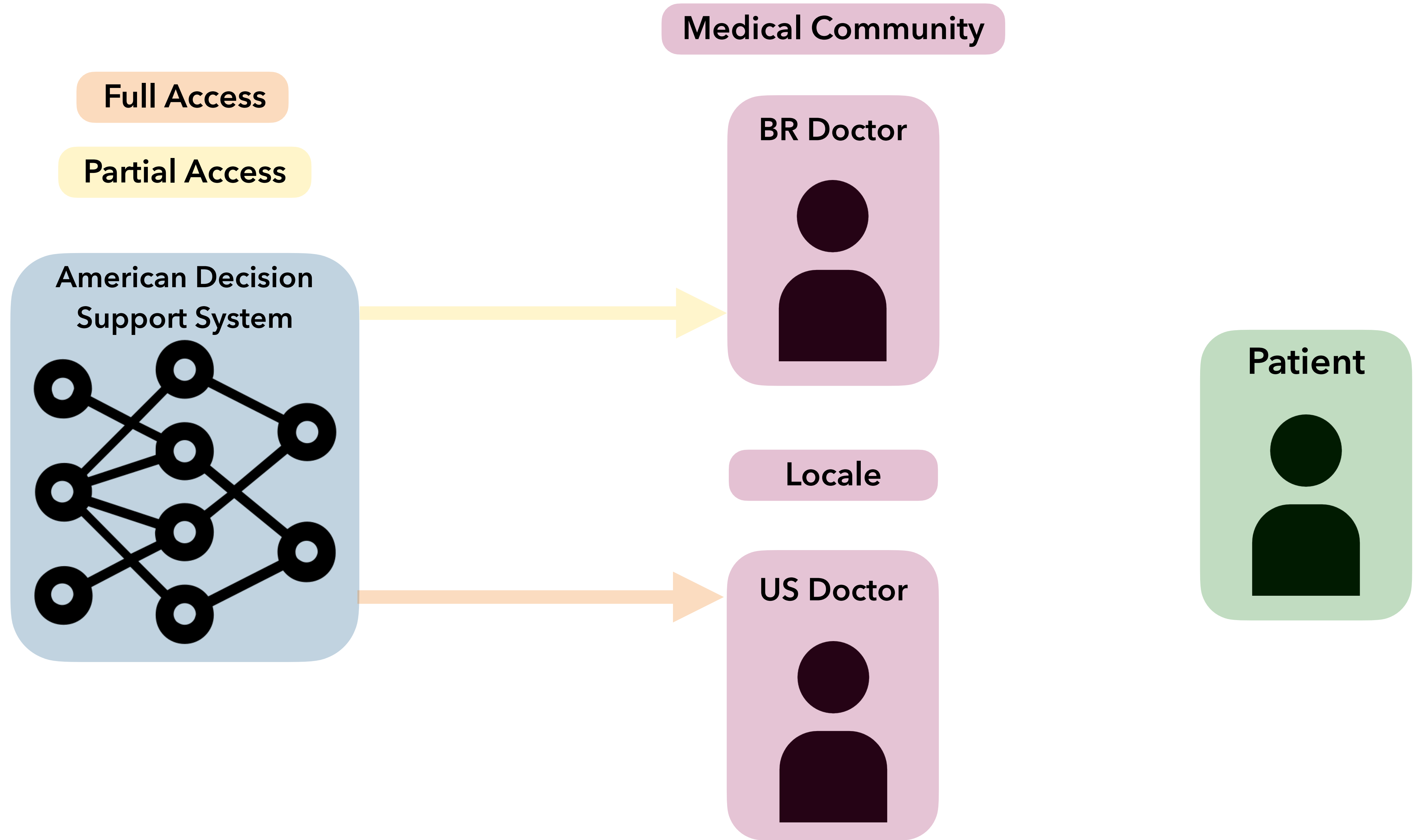
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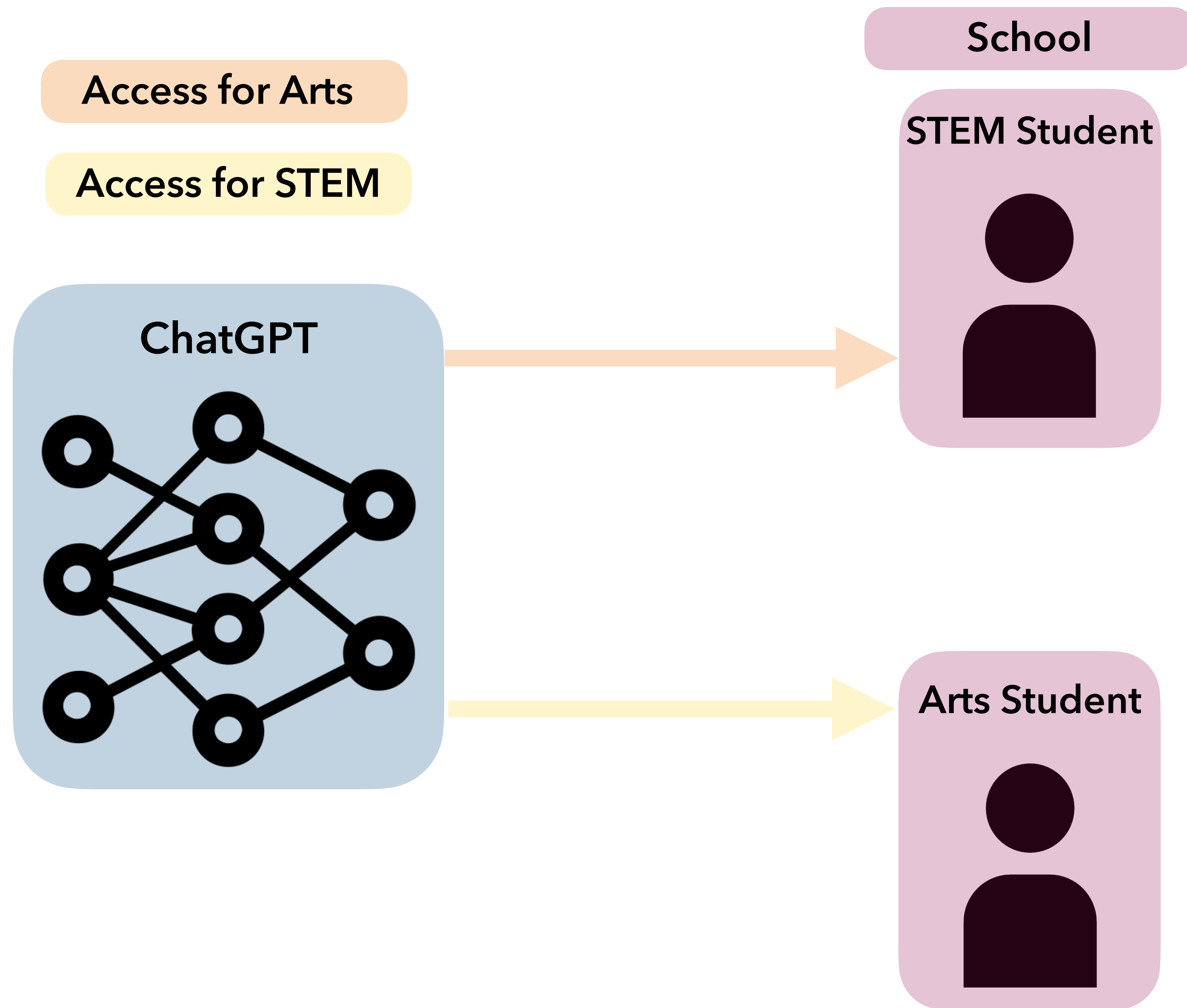
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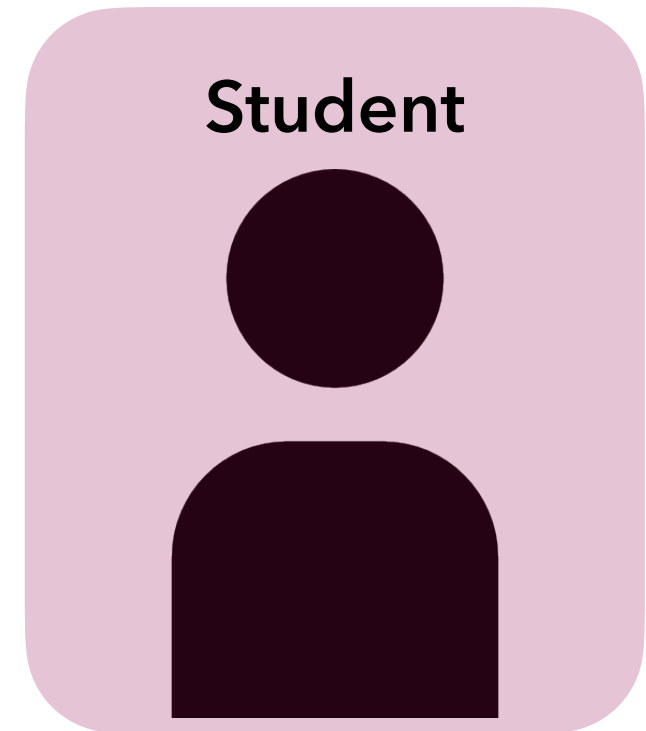
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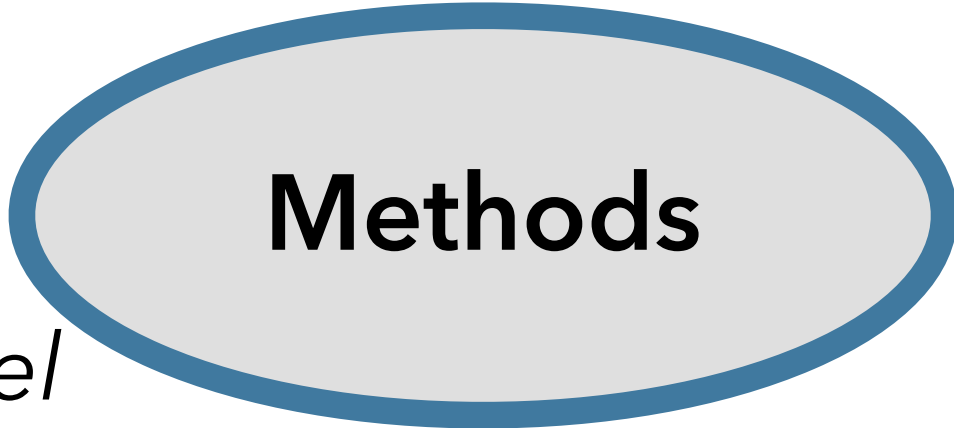


1. Different students will need **different** levels of support
2. Access to support can be **learned** over a series of interactions
3. Access may be **complementary** to expertise

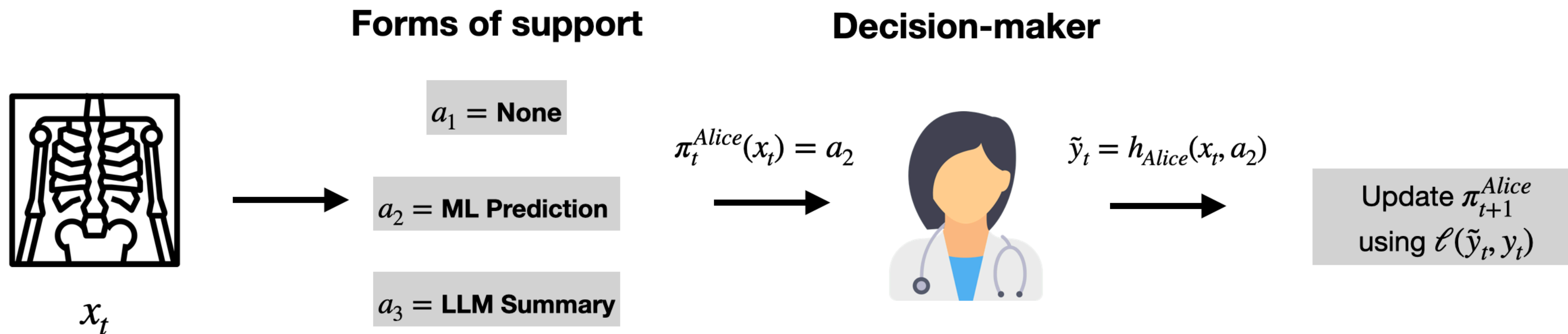


Personalize
Access

Learning Personalized Decision Support Policies



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 $\pi_t : X \rightarrow \Delta(A)$

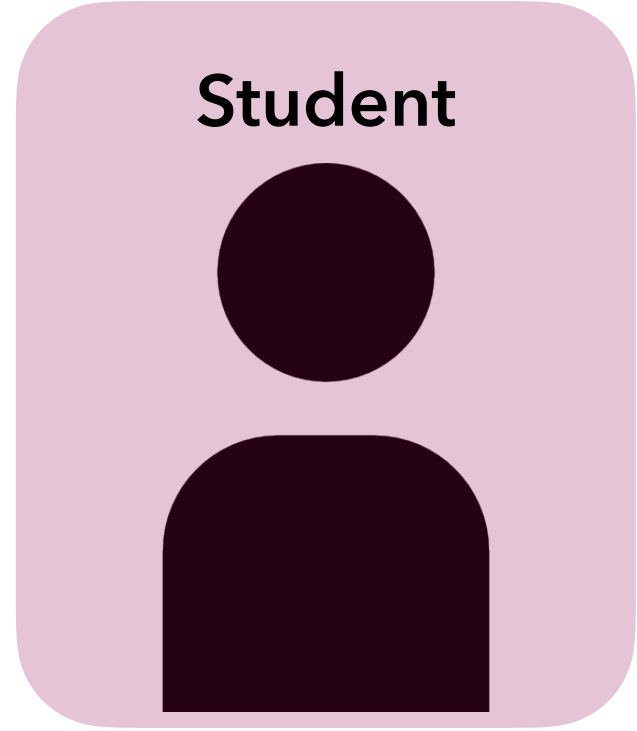
The decision-maker makes the final prediction: $\tilde{y}_t = h(x_t, a_t)$

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

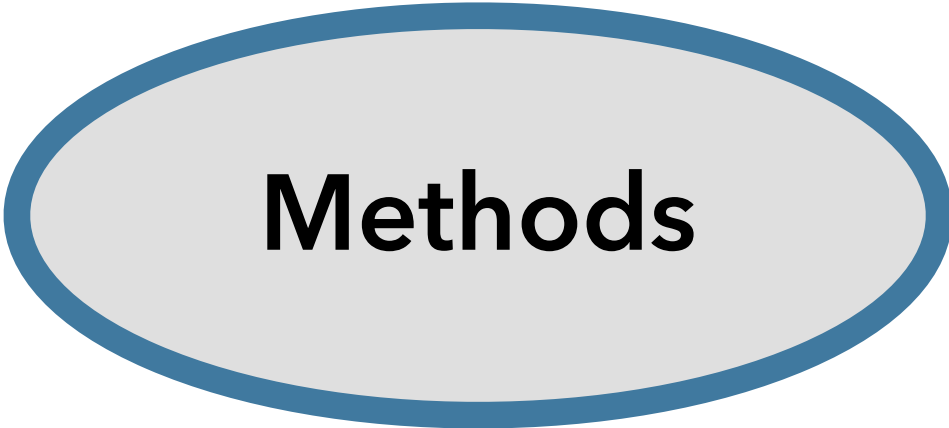
Learn policy π_t using an existing contextual bandits techniques

Include cost of a_t in the objective



Personalize
Access

Learning Personalized Decision Support Policies



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 $r_{A_2}(X_k; h) \leq r_{A_1}(X_k; h)$

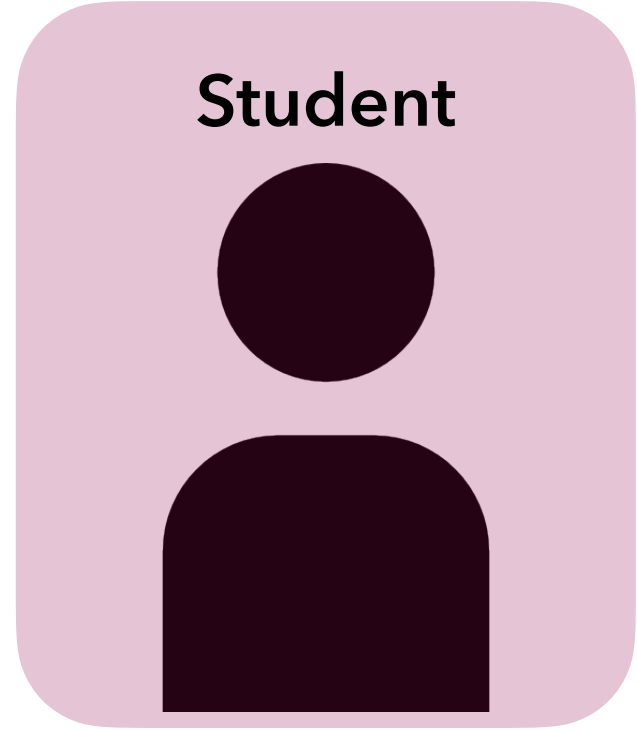
Strictly Better: $r_{A_1}(X_j; h) \leq r_{A_2}(X_j; h), \forall j \in [N]$

Excess loss over optimal loss

MMLU

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

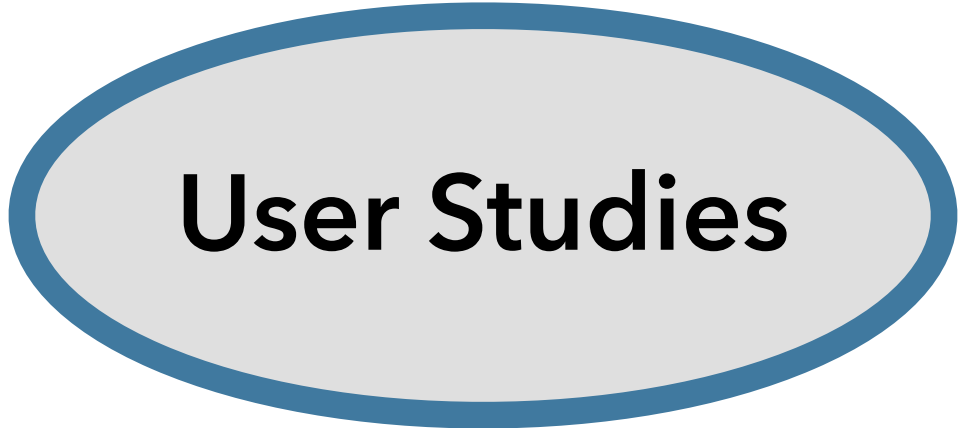
If a decision-maker benefits from having support some of the time, we can learn their policy **online**



Student

Personalize
Access

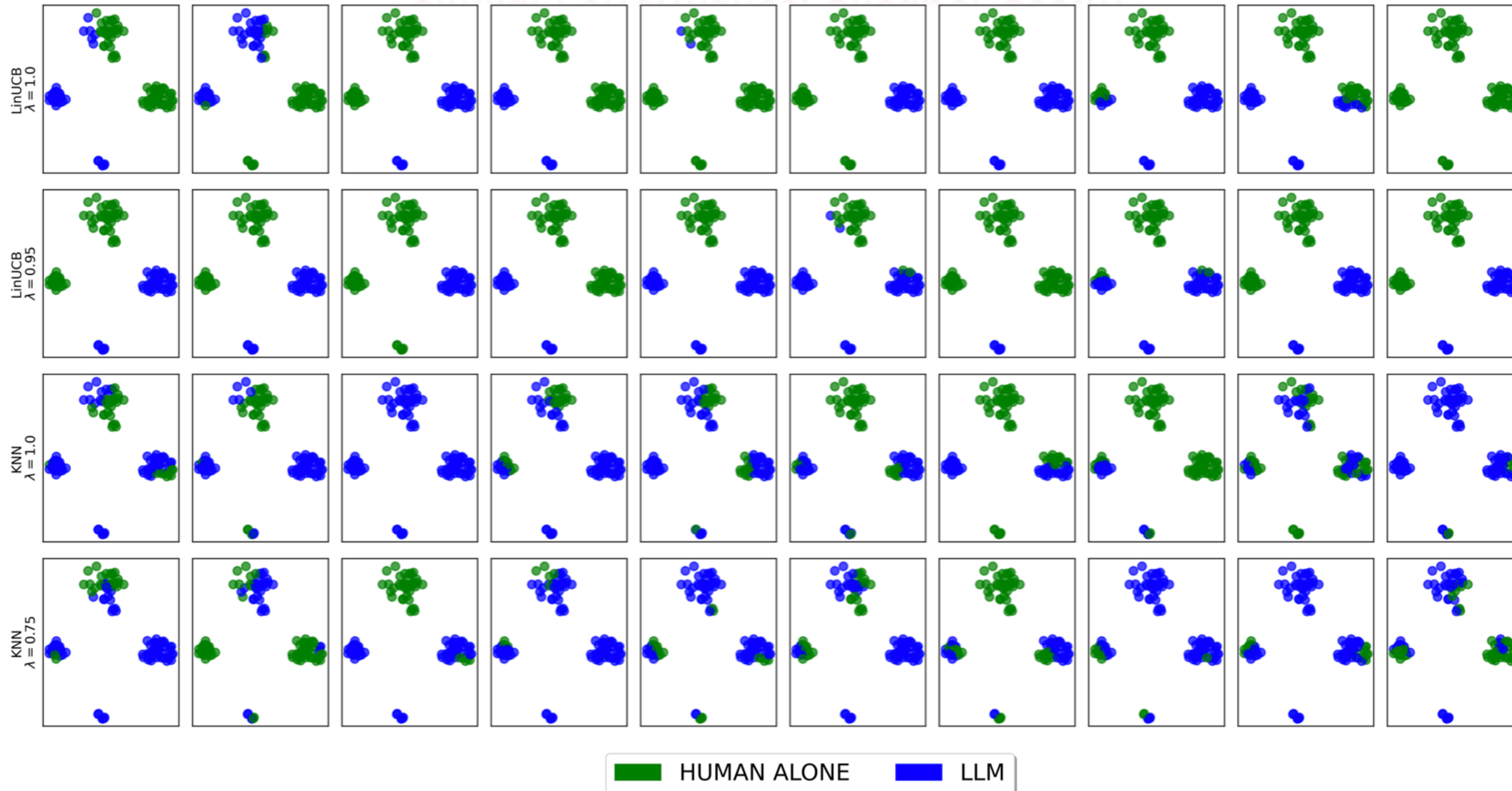
Learning Personalized Decision Support Policies



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

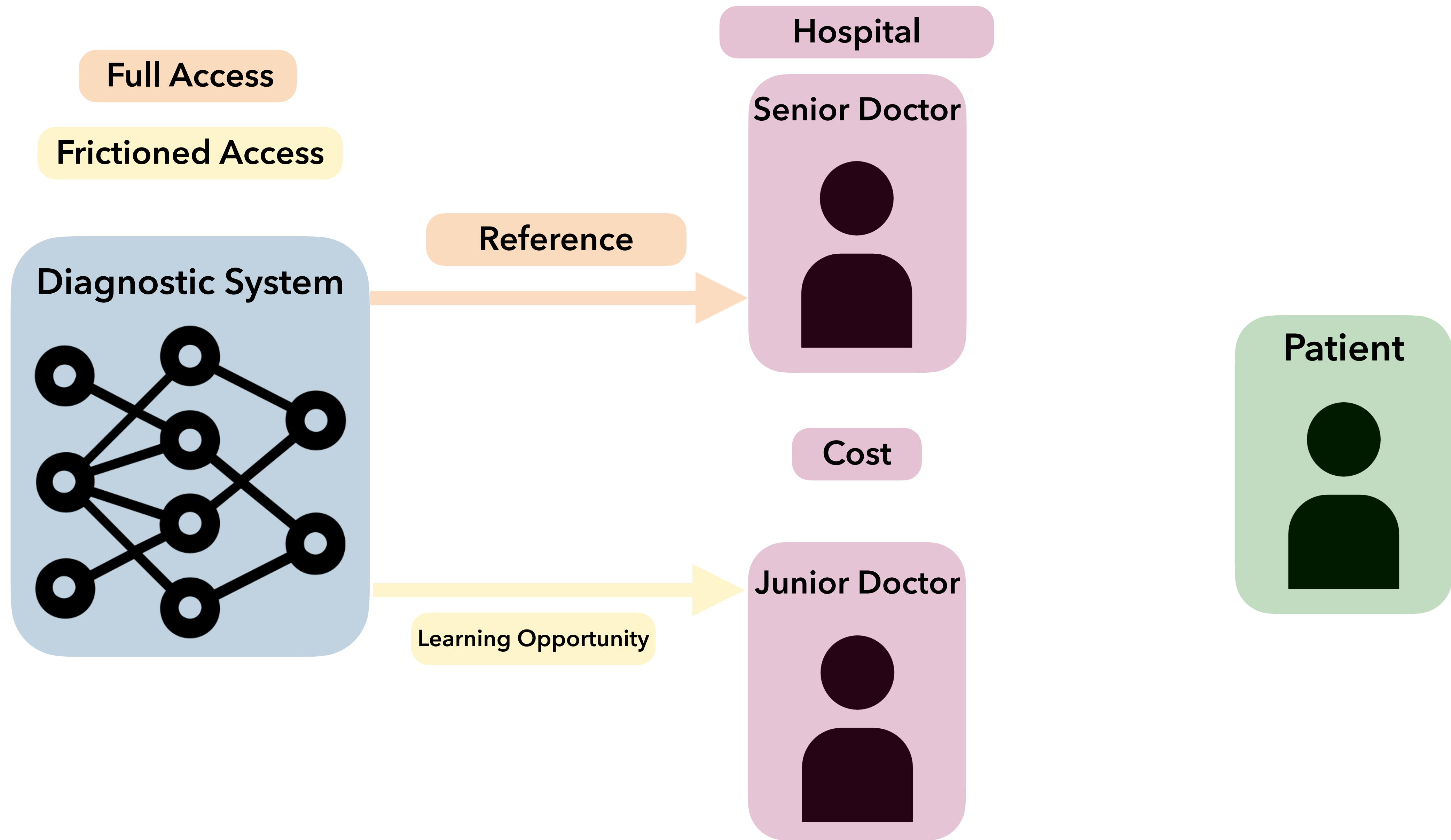


Ameet Talwalkar
CMU

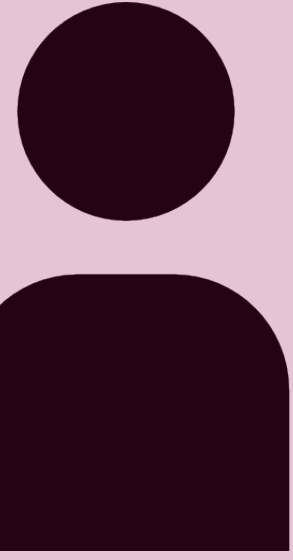
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Appendix



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

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

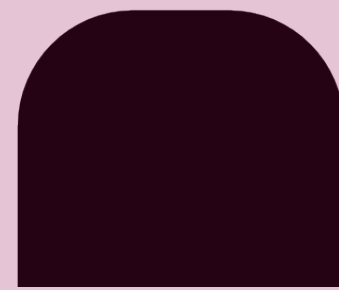
Algorithm	Invariant	Strictly Better	Varying
H-ONLY	0.00 ± 0.01	0.09 ± 0.08	0.50 ± 0.06
H-MODEL	0.00 ± 0.01	0.22 ± 0.19	0.35 ± 0.05
H-CONSENSUS	0.00 ± 0.01	0.23 ± 0.13	0.27 ± 0.08
Population	0.00 ± 0.02	0.18 ± 0.08	0.15 ± 0.03
THREAD-LinUCB	0.00 ± 0.01	0.17 ± 0.05	0.19 ± 0.05
THREAD-KNN	0.00 ± 0.01	0.06 ± 0.01	0.08 ± 0.02

MMLU

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

If a decision-maker benefits from having support some of the time, we can learn their policy **online**

Decision Maker



Personalize Access

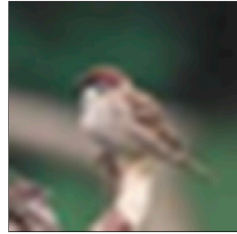
Learning Personalized Decision Support Policies

User Studies

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

What is Depicted in This Image?

Please decide which category is shown in the image below.



Your Score: 3 out of 10 correct 30%

YOUR ANSWER

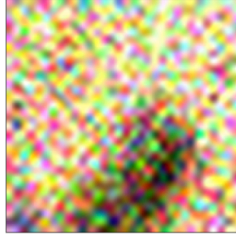
Please select a category

Bird

SUBMIT

What is Depicted in This Image?

Please decide which category is shown in the image below.



AI Model Prediction

- Horse -

Your Score: 15 out of 27 correct 56%

YOUR ANSWER

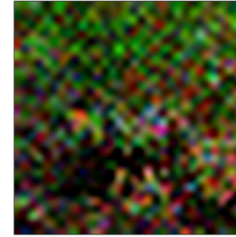
Please select a category

Bird

SUBMIT

What is Depicted in This Image?

Please decide which category is shown in the image below.



Your Score: 9 out of 17 correct 53%

YOUR ANSWER

Please select a category

Frog

SUBMIT

EXPERTS' OPINIONS

