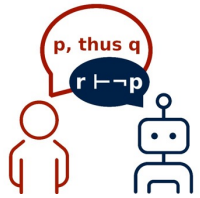


# Interactive Explanations for Contestable AI



*Computational Logic and  
Argumentation Group*

**Francesca Toni**

**IMPERIAL**

**Department of Computing**

*Centre for  
Explainable AI*



**CILC2024**

27 June 2024

Plan for this talk

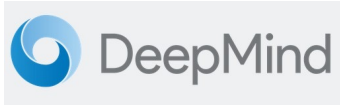
**Why Contestable AI?**

**What is Contestable AI?**

**(Argumentation-based)  
Interactive Explanations!**

# What can AI do today?

Play (and win) games



Answer queries



Debate



Project Debater



Translate across languages



ciao

Hi



Recognise speech



Hey Siri, call Mum

Recognise faces

facebook



Vacuum clean



dyson

Drive vehicles



Provide legal assistance



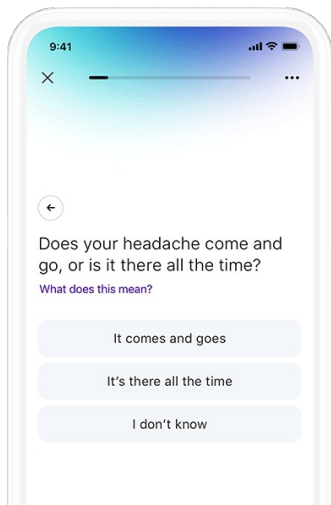
Thomson Reuters

Westlaw Edge UK

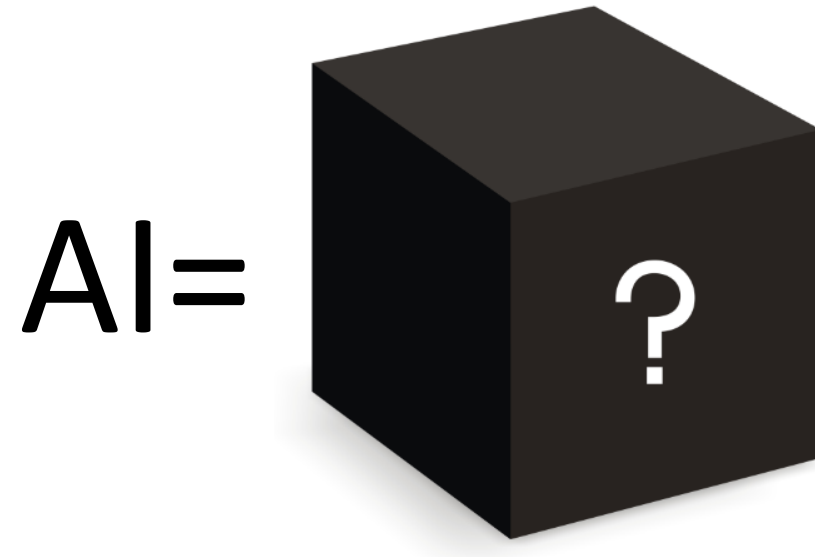
Detect & Diagnose Diseases



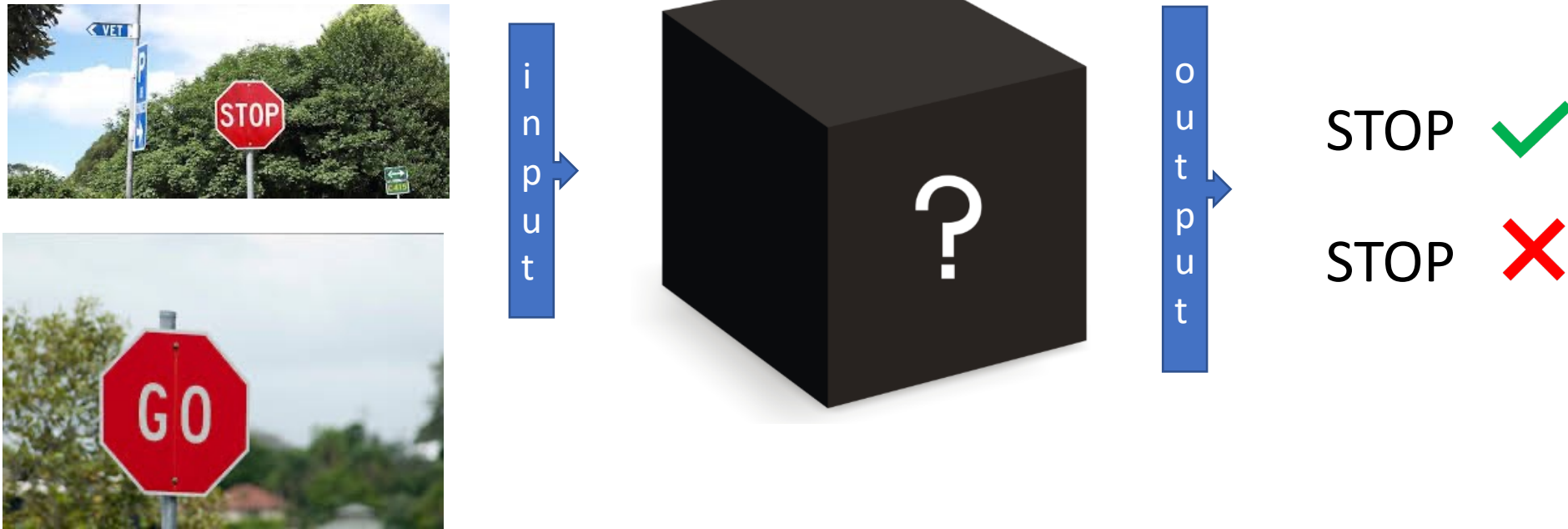
babylon



# Can we trust AI?



# Black-box AI systems

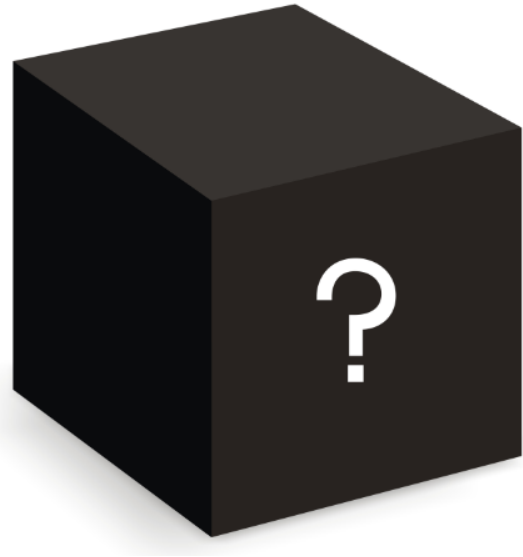


may learn (unwanted) **artifacts**

# Black-box AI systems



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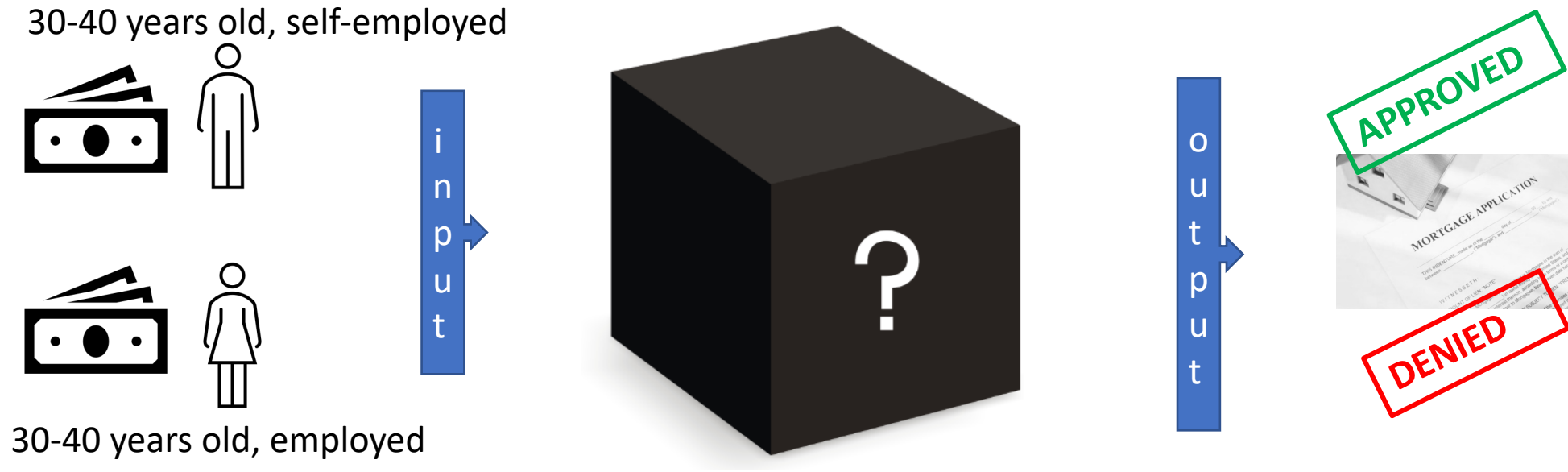


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speed limit 45 **X**

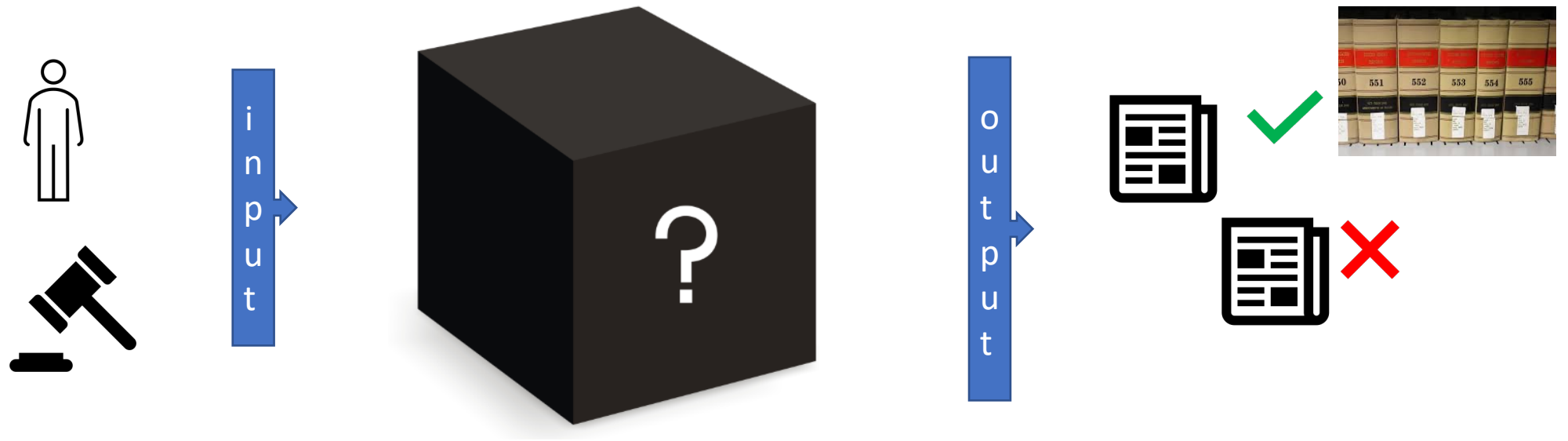
may be (maliciously) **manipulated**

# Black-box AI systems



may be **biased**

# Black-box AI systems



may hallucinate

Two US lawyers fined for submitting fake court citations from ChatGPT





# We need contestable AI

The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is the most important change in data privacy regulation in 20 years - we're here to make sure you're prepared.



The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development



[Home](#) > [Business and industry](#) > [Science and innovation](#) > [Artificial intelligence](#)  
> [AI regulation: a pro-innovation approach – policy proposals](#)



[Department for  
Science, Innovation  
& Technology](#)



# GDPR Article 22 (2018)



1. The data subject shall have the right not to be subject to *a decision based solely on automated processing*, including profiling, which produces legal effects concerning him or her or similarly significantly affects him or her.

2. Paragraph 1 shall not apply if the decision:

(a) is necessary for entering into, or performance of, a contract between the data subject and a data controller;

(b) is authorised by Union or Member State law to which the controller is subject and which also lays down suitable measures to safeguard the data subject's rights and freedoms and legitimate interests; or

(c) is based on the data subject's explicit consent.

3. In the cases referred to in points (a) and (c) of paragraph 2, the data controller shall implement suitable measures to safeguard the data subject's rights and freedoms and legitimate interests, at least the right *to obtain human intervention on the part of the controller, to express his or her point of view and to contest the decision*.

4. Decisions referred to in paragraph 2 shall not be based on special categories of personal data referred to in Article 9(1), unless point (a) or (g) of Article 9(2) applies and suitable measures to safeguard the data subject's rights and freedoms and legitimate interests are in place.



## **Transparency and explainability (Principle 1.3)**

This principle is about *transparency and responsible disclosure* around AI systems to ensure that people understand when they are engaging with them and **can challenge outcomes**



# UK pro-innovation framework

Our framework is underpinned by 5 principles to guide and inform the responsible development and use of AI in all sectors of the economy:

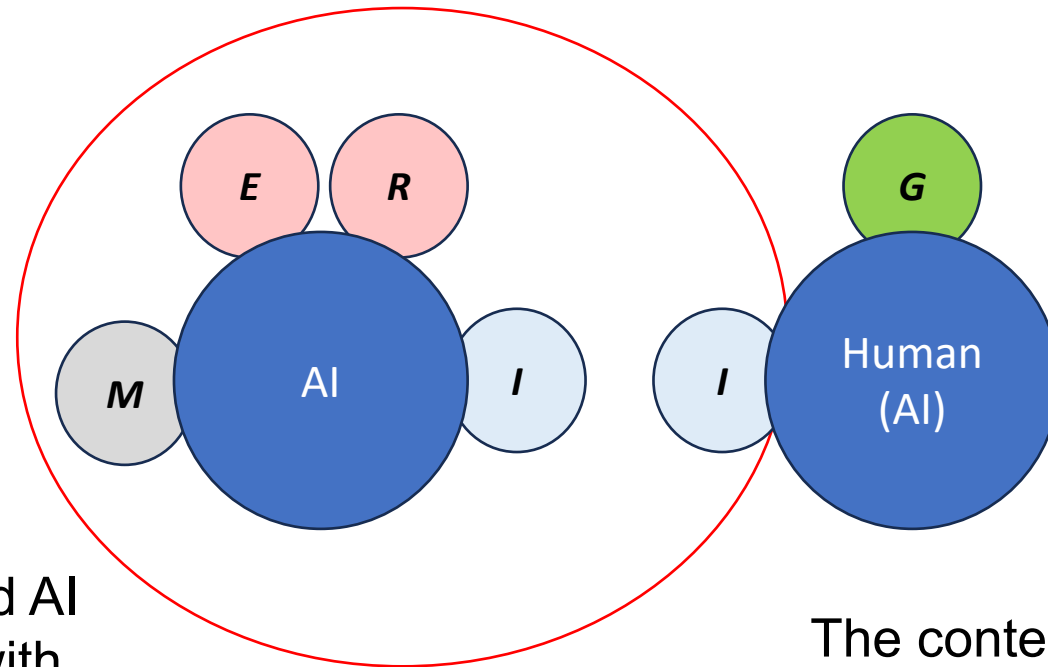
- Safety, security and robustness
- Appropriate **transparency and explainability**
- Fairness
- Accountability and governance
- **Contestability and redress**

# What is Contestable AI?

A human may contest

1. The use of AI and/or the use of (private) data by AI
  - i. with a human (regulatory challenge)
2. The outputs of AI
  - i. with a human (regulatory challenge)
  - ii. **directly with the AI** (regulatory and/or **computational challenge**)

# What is Contestable AI - Computationally?



The contested AI is equipped with

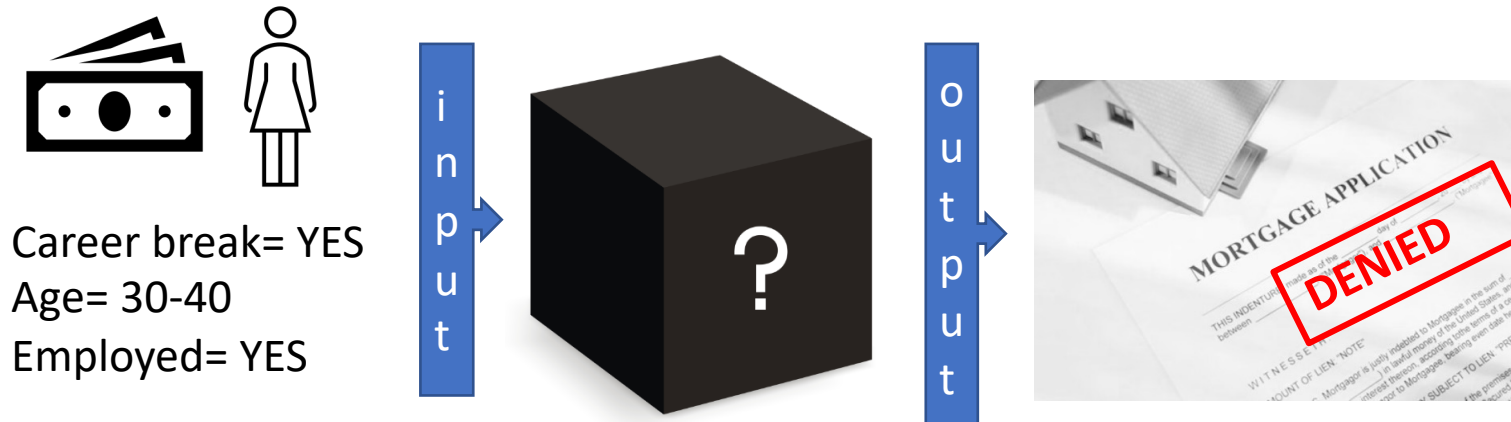
- a model (**M**)
- an explanation method (**E**)
- a redress method (**R**)

The contestator (human or even AI) is equipped with

- a ground generator for contestations (**G**)

Both contested AI and contestator are able to interact (**I**)

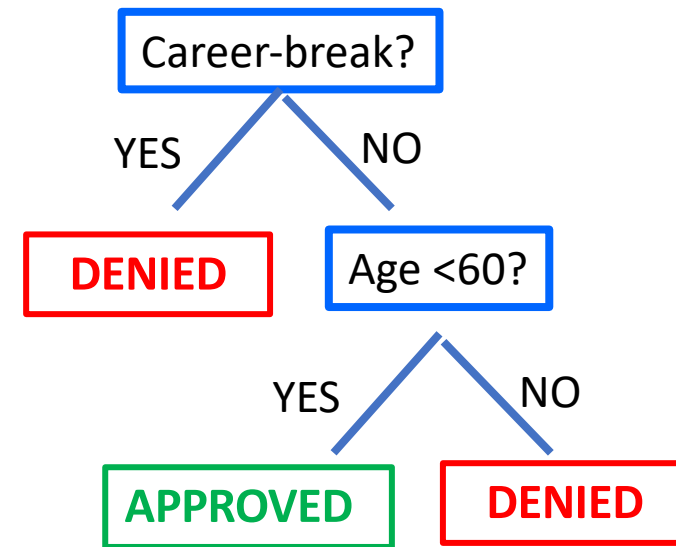
# (some) XAI solutions for E



## rule-based explanation

Career break= YES → DENIED

## Transparent surrogate model



# (some) XAI solutions for E



**attribution-based explanation**



# (some) XAI solutions for E

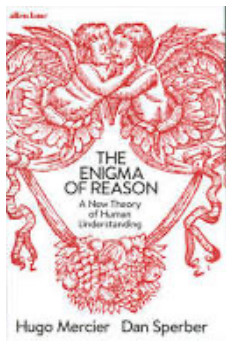
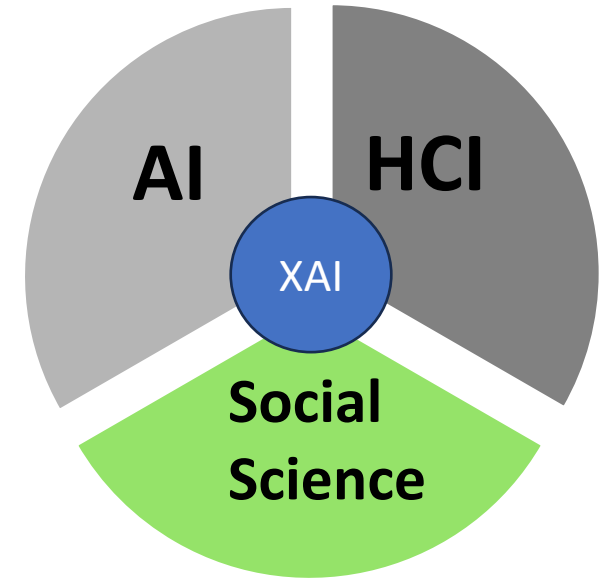


**algorithmic recourse = counterfactual explanation  
(a form of contestability)**

# Explanations need to be human-oriented

“Looking at how humans explain to each other can serve as a useful starting point for explanation in AI”

*Explanation in artificial intelligence: Insights from the **social sciences**. Miller; AJ Journal 2019*



***Interactionist*** view of reasoning  
(for explanation)

# Interactive explanations?

Why was my mortgage application denied?

Had you taken **no career break** the mortgage would have been granted



Career break= YES  
Age= 30-40  
Employed= YES

input



output



Career break= No  
Age= 30-40  
Employed= YES

APPROVED

**counterfactual explanation**

(One-shot) info-seeking!

# Interactive explanations?

Why was my mortgage application denied?

Had you taken **no career break** the mortgage would have been granted

But my career breaks were due to maternity leaves, are you not gender biased?



Career break= YES  
Age= 30-40  
Employed= YES

input



output

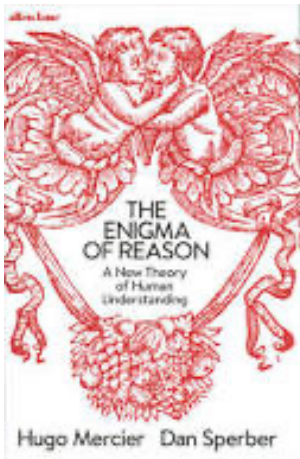


## Contestability!

# Explanations need to be human-oriented

“Looking at how humans explain to each other can serve as a useful starting point for explanation in AI”

*Explanation in artificial intelligence: Insights from the social sciences.* Miller; AJ Journal 2019

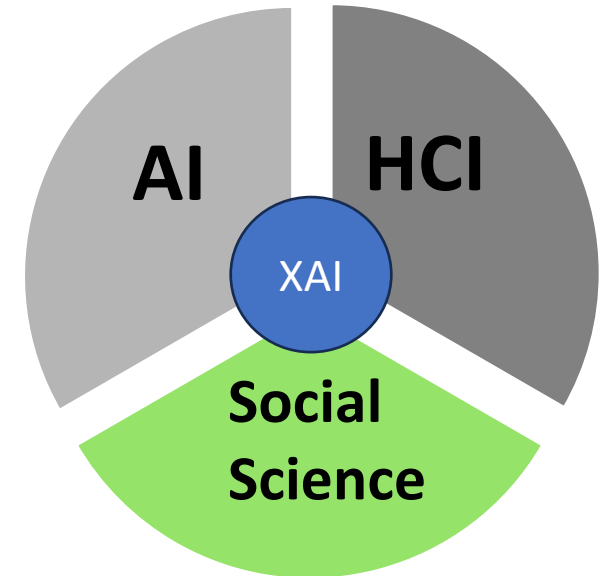


*Interactionist* view of reasoning (for explanation)

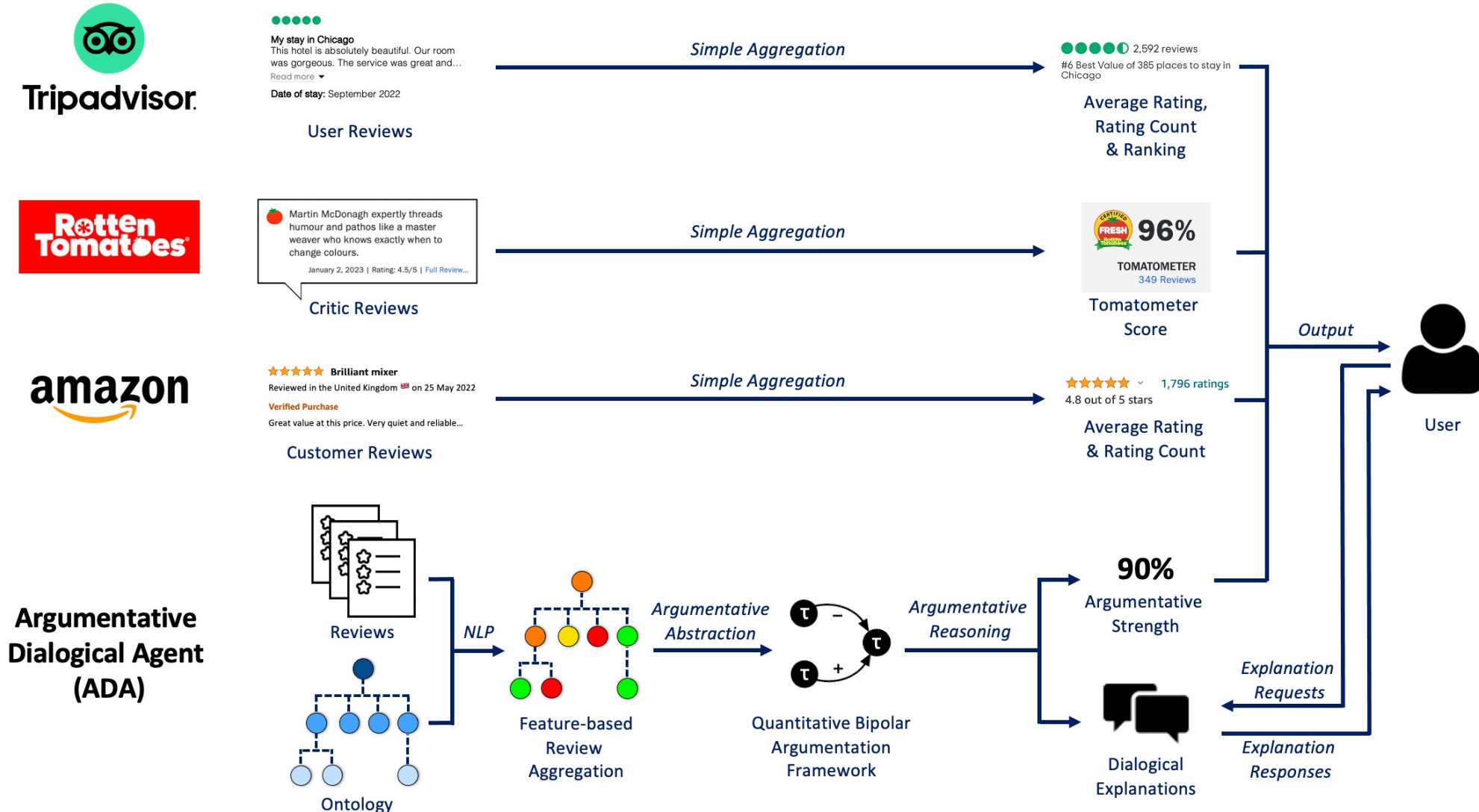
**Argumentation-based  
Interactive Explanations**

“the majority of what might look like causal attributions turn out to look like *argumentative* claim-backings”

*Explaining in conversation: Towards an argument model.* Antaki&Leudar. Journal of Social Psychology 1992



# Interactive explanations as computational argumentation

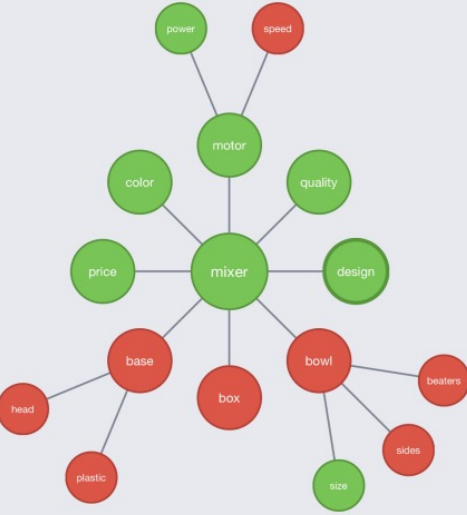



# Interactive explanations as computational argumentation

19.37

KitchenAid Professional 5 Plus Series Stand Mixers - Onyx Black

★★★★★




**design**

"...The design was finished like 50 years ago because it was perfect and nothing about it has needed to change since then...."

0.10

KitchenAid Professional 5 Plus Series Stand Mixers - Onyx Black

★★★★★



What would you like to know about this **mixer**?

Why was the mixer highly rated?

The **mixer** was highly rated because the **motor** was good, although the **bowl** was poor.

ASK ABOUT | mixer | motor | bowl


Why was the bowl considered to be poor?

What did users say about the bowl being poor?

0.10

KitchenAid Professional 5 Plus Series Stand Mixers - Onyx Black

★★★★★



What would you like to know about this **mixer**?

Why was the mixer highly rated?

The **mixer** was highly rated because the **motor** was good, although the **bowl** was poor.

Why was the bowl considered to be poor?

The **bowl** was considered to be poor because the **beaters** were poor, although the **size** was good.

What did users say about the beaters being poor?

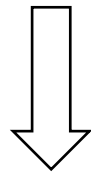
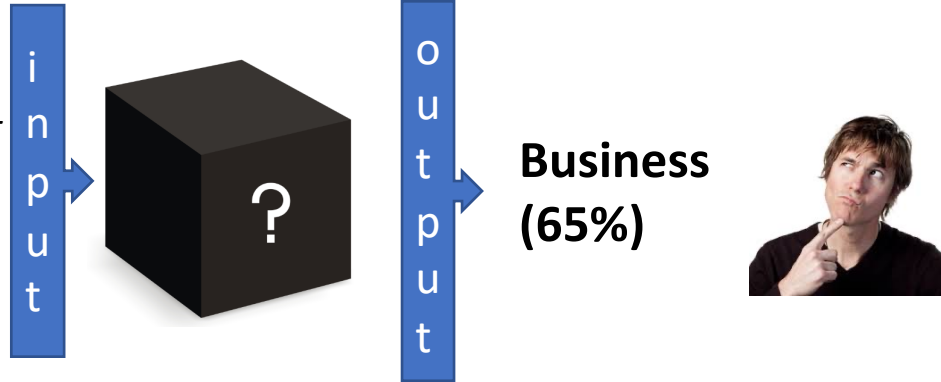
"...The **beater** misses the edge of the bowl by at least a 1/4 of an inch and you have to continually scrape the side of the bowl to have what you are making thoroughly blend together..."



# Interactive explanations as computational argumentation

DAX 2020 (arxiv)  
SpArX 2023 (ECAI)

*northrop grumman corp on Monday said it received a 10 year \$ 408 million army contract to provide simulated battle command training support to army corps commanders the latest award in...*

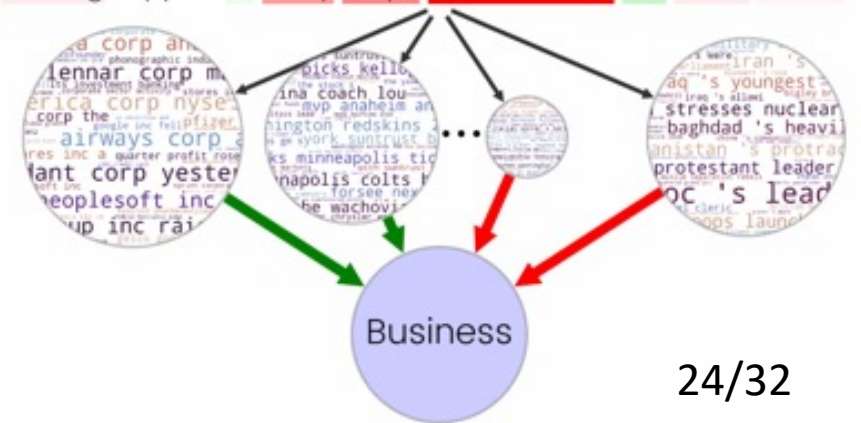


Human-readable  
"debate"



Abstraction  
= argumentation  
framework

northrop grumman corp on monday said it received a 10 year \$ 408 million army contract to provide simulated battle command training support to army corps commanders the latest award in



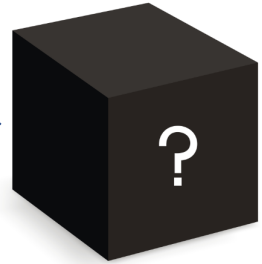
green = support  
red = attack



# Interactive explanations as computational argumentation

northrop grumman corp on Monday said it received a 10 year \$ 408 million army contract to provide simulated battle command training support to army corps commanders the latest award in...

input



output

Business (65%)



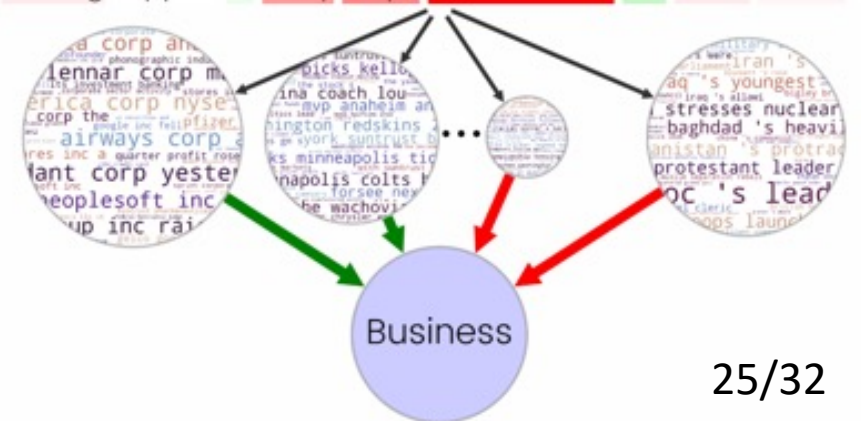
northrop grumman corp on monday said it received a 10 year \$ 408 million army contract to provide simulated battle command training support to army corps commanders the latest award in



Interactive (visual) Explanation

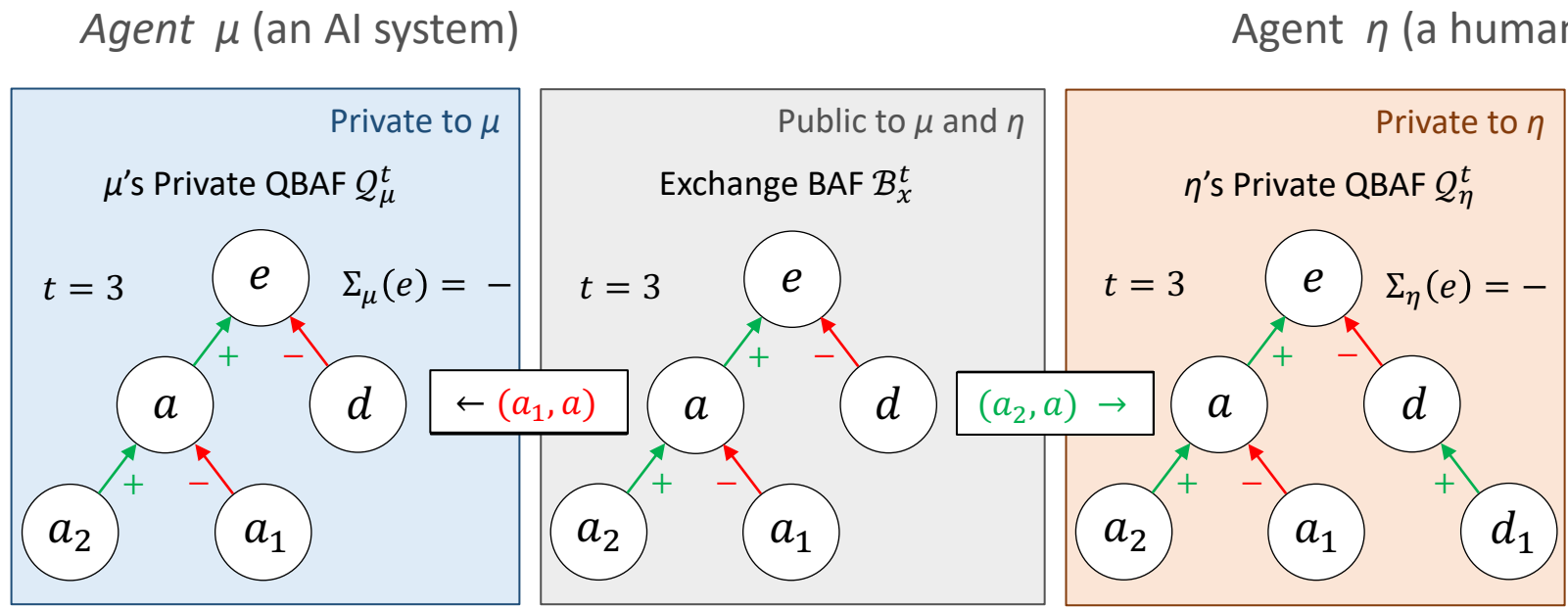


northrop grumman corp on monday said it received a 10 year \$ 408 million army contract to provide simulated battle command training support to army corps commanders the latest award in

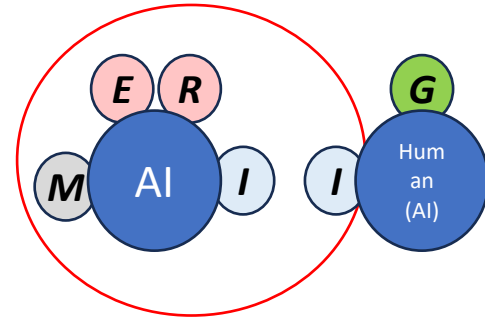


# Interaction via Argumentative Exchanges

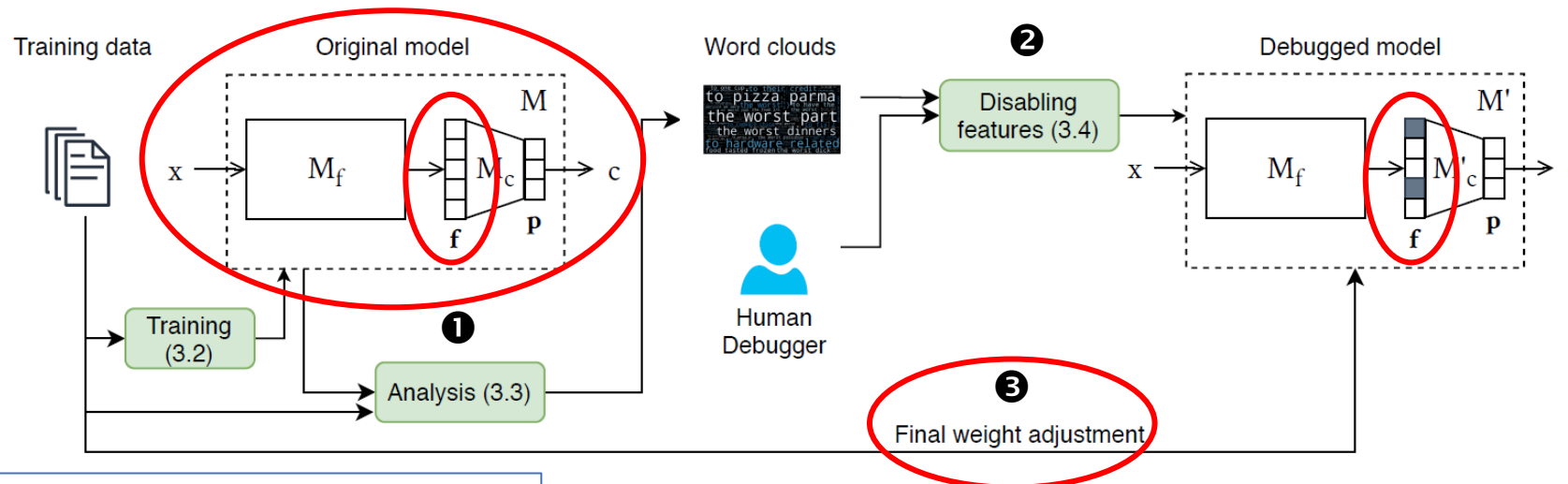
- Formal frameworks to capture various forms of *argumentation-based interactive explanations*
- An (abstract) example:



# Forms of Redress (R) – (partial) access to model



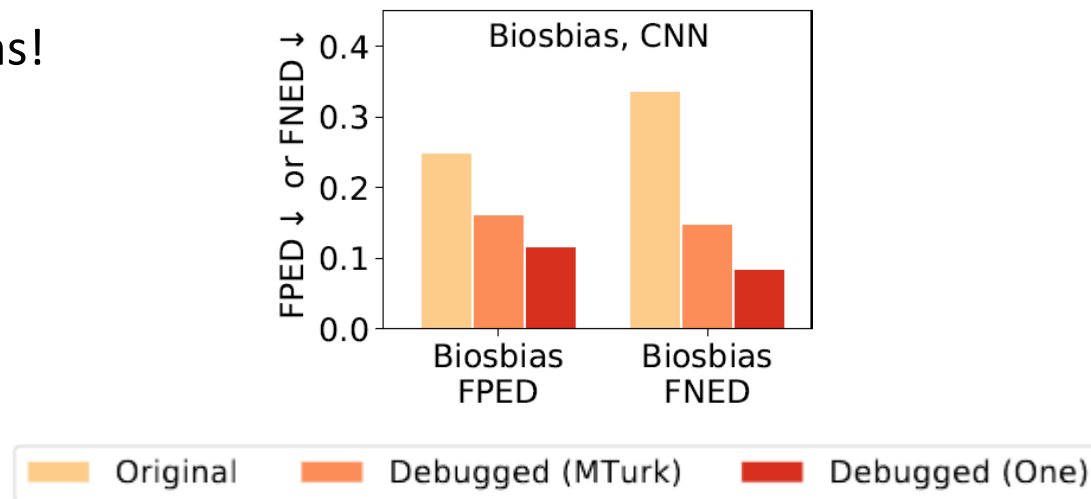
- Data augmentation, retraining with updated data/loss function
  - Costly, may not always be possible with legacy/inaccessible code (e.g. LLM)
- Fine tuning (systemic, post-hoc)



Lertvittayakumjorn, Specia, Toni,  
EMNLP2020

# Contesting Biases with FIND

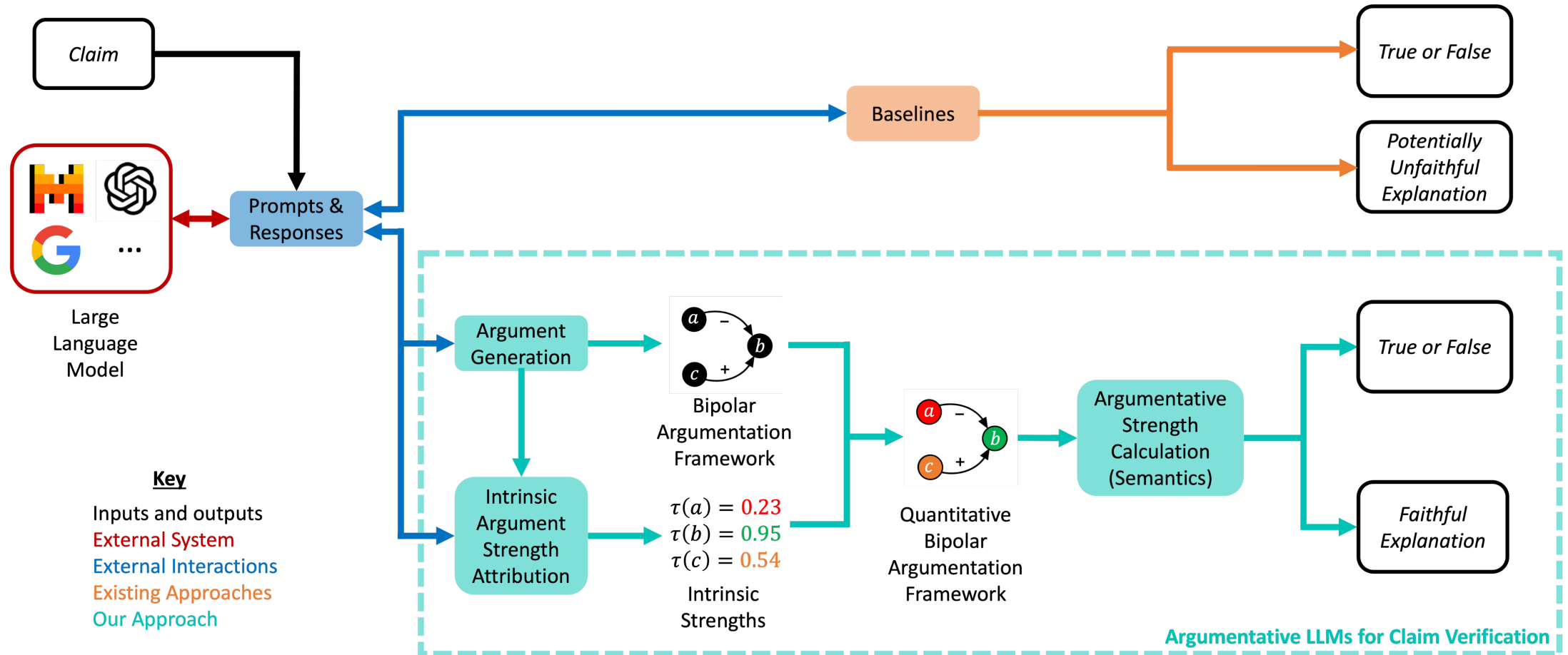
- **Dataset:** Biosbias (Surgeon VS Nurse)
  - Gender imbalance, bias against female surgeons and male nurses
- **Human feedback:** We asked MTurkers to select the class (amongst Surgeon, Nurse, either) of *word clouds*
- **Result:** lower bias!



# Forms of Redress (R) – no access to inners of model

- aLLMs (argumentative LLMs)

Freedman et al, arxiv 2024





Claim

'Birds are important to badminton'

Support

Attack

While it might seem unlikely that birds would have any significance to the sport of badminton, there is still a connection to be made. One important aspect of badminton is the shuttlecock, the cone-shaped projectile used to hit the net. Interestingly, the shape of the shuttlecock was inspired by the feathered design of bird's wings, specifically that of a bird called the Chinese goose. The structure of the feathers on the shuttlecock is meant to mimic the aerodynamics of a bird's wing in flight, allowing the shuttlecock to travel smoothly and swiftly.

While birds are fascinating creatures and can sometimes be found near badminton courts, the claim that birds are important to badminton is tenuous at best. The sport of badminton, which involves hitting a shuttlecock over a net, does not require the presence of birds. In fact, the shuttlecock used in badminton is not bird-related at all; **it is called a "shuttlecock" because the shuttle-shaped projectile is historically made with feathers, but these are goose or duck feathers, not those of birds typically associated with badminton such as sparrows.**

0.7

True

0.9 → 0.5



# Claim 'Birds are important to badminton'

New Support

While some shuttlecocks are now made with artificial feathers, many are still made with the duck or geese feathers, including those used by professionals. This means that birds can be considered important to badminton.

0.7

Support

Old Argument

0.8

Attack

While birds are fascinating creatures and can sometimes be found near badminton courts, the claim that birds are important to badminton is tenuous at best. The sport of badminton, which involves hitting a shuttlecock over a net, does not require the presence of birds. In fact, the shuttlecock used in badminton is not bird-related at all; it is called a "shuttlecock" because the shuttle-shaped projectile is historically made with feathers, but these are goose or duck feathers, not those of birds typically associated with badminton such as sparrows.

0.9

True

# Take-away messages

1. Contestability is crucial towards trustworthy AI
2. Computational argumentation can empower (various forms of) *interactive* contestability

THANKS TO



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission



J.P.Morgan



Thanks for your attention.  
Questions?