

# Prioritizing Attention in Fast Data

## Principles and Promise

Peter Bailis  
Edward Gan  
Kexin Rong  
Sahaana Suri

*CIDR 2017*



Edward



Kexin



Sahaana



Edward



Kexin



Sahaana



Firas



Deepak



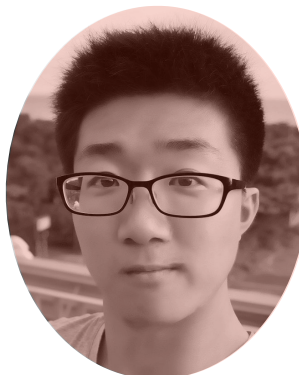
John



Matei



Tony



Edward



Kexin



Sahaana



Firas



Deepak



John



Matei



Ihab



Xu



Sam



Lei



Tony



# abundant data, scarce attention



# abundant data, scarce attention



data is increasingly too big for manual inspection

# abundant data, scarce attention



data is increasingly too big for manual inspection

Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Google: log 12M+ events/s  
projected 40% year-over-year growth (e.g., via IoT)

# abundant data, scarce attention



data is increasingly too big for manual inspection

Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Google: log 12M+ events/s  
projected 40% year-over-year growth (e.g., via IoT)

today's operators say:

< 6% of this data is ever accessed after ingest

# abundant data, scarce attention



data is increasingly too big for manual inspection

Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Google: log 12M+ events/s  
projected 40% year-over-year growth (e.g., via IoT)

today's operators say:

< 6% of this data is ever accessed after ingest

*call this trend “fast data”*

60%

# abundant data, scarce attention

e.g., telemetry and metrics from 100k-MM devices  
is the application behaving as expected?



idea: use a classifier to filter data



classifier

# idea: use a classifier to filter data



too much data?

filter the stream for “interesting”/useful data

# basic classifier: static rules



A diagram illustrating a basic classifier. On the left, a horizontal row of five yellow rectangles represents input data. These rectangles are partially overlapped by a larger, light purple rectangle labeled 'classifier'. The word 'classifier' is written in black text inside the purple rectangle.

classifier



# basic classifier: static rules



# basic classifier: static rules



example: power drain > 2W?

# basic classifier: static rules



example: power drain  $> 2W$ ?

pros: scalable, simple

cons: highly brittle, may miss events

# better classifier: use ML & statistics

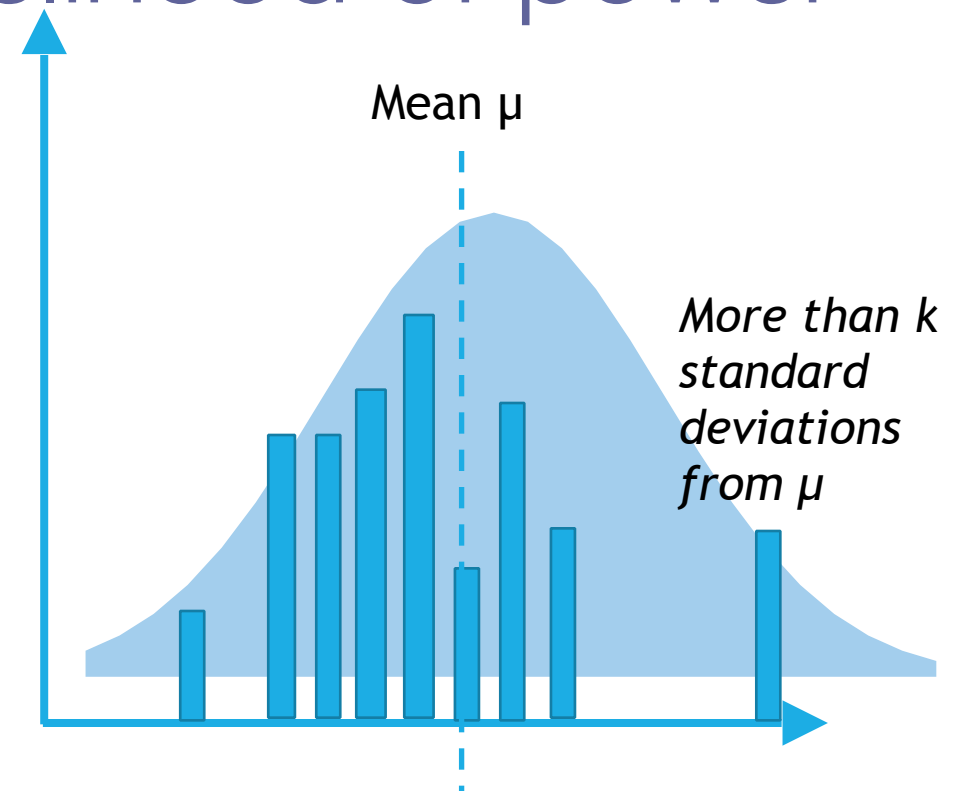


example: compute statistical likelihood of power activity given user population

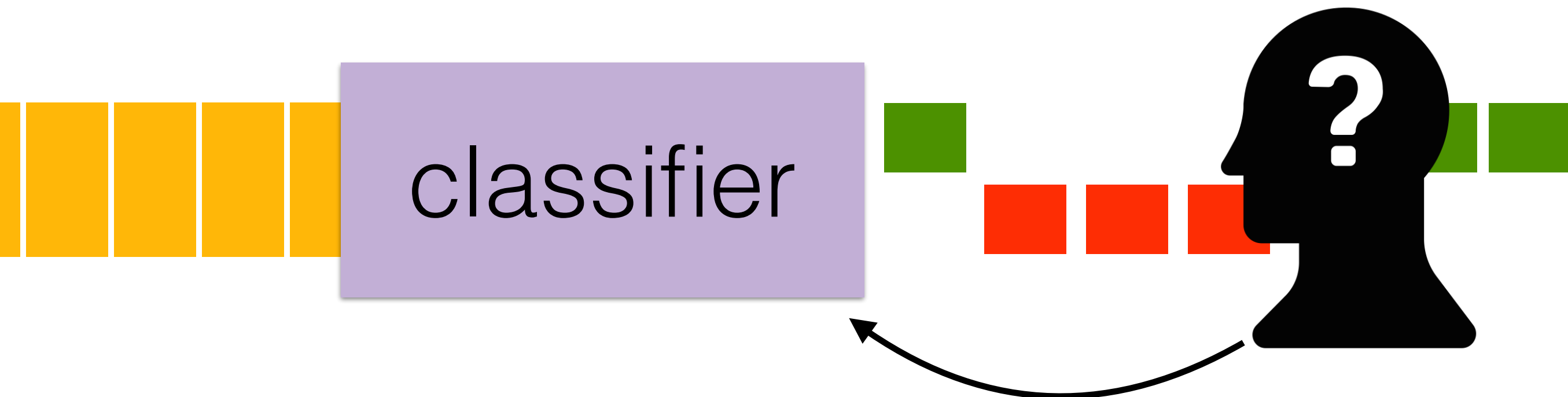
# better classifier: use ML & statistics



example: compute statistical likelihood of power activity given user population



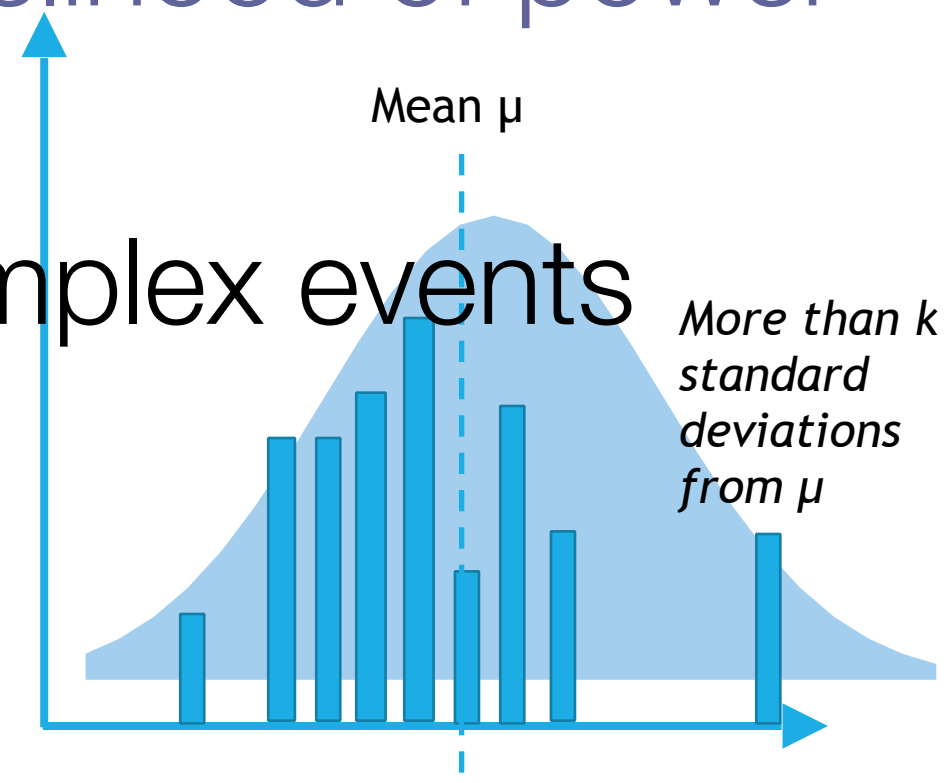
# better classifier: use ML & statistics



example: compute statistical likelihood of power activity given user population

pros: can model dynamic & complex events

cons: often slow!



models are expensive to run

*e.g., state-of-art CNN: 30fps requires \$1200 GPU*

models are expensive to run

*e.g., state-of-art CNN: 30fps requires \$1200 GPU*

anecdote: speed vs. quality

engineers at major online service monitoring per-device QoS:

off-the-shelf stats packages too slow, not scalable

solution: manually tune thresholds per-user, per-device!

models are expensive to run

*e.g., state-of-art CNN: 30fps requires \$1200 GPU*

anecdote: speed vs. quality

engineers at major online service monitoring per-device QoS:

off-the-shelf stats packages too slow, not scalable

solution: manually tune thresholds per-user, per-device!

result: brittle, reactive, false negatives

wanted: accurate, scalable classifiers

# raw data is still too much



even filtered data is problematic at scale

high volume still overwhelms human attention

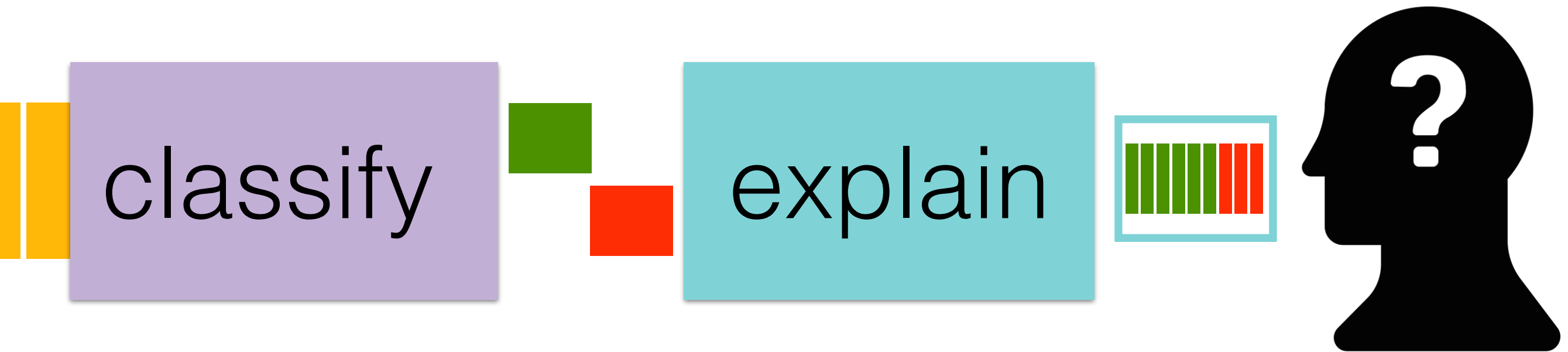
high-dimensional attributes can obscure trends

| reading_id | device_id | model | firmware_version | temperature | power_drain |
|------------|-----------|-------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 123912     | 4914      | M404  | 0.4              | 72.437732   | 0.350747    |
| 123913     | 4914      | M205  | 0.3.1            | 72.008312   | 0.317166    |
| 123914     | 4234      | M606  | 0.3.1            | 77.035467   | 0.210455    |
| 123915     | 2144      | M104  | 0.3.1            | 74.724524   | 0.215144    |
| 123916     | 7594      | M205  | 0.4              | 77.459194   | 0.278835    |
| 123917     | 1958      | M404  | 0.3.1            | 74.661423   | 0.336197    |
| 123918     | 3882      | M204  | 0.3.1            | 70.565394   | 0.276593    |
| 123919     | 1685      | M205  | 0.3.2            | 71.564029   | 0.305529    |
| 123920     | 1810      | M205  | 0.2.4            | 74.533990   | 0.396767    |
| 123921     | 2816      | M101  | 0.3.1            | 79.252845   | 0.337921    |
| 123922     | 3273      | M104  | 0.3.1            | 79.040148   | 0.294952    |
| 123923     | 2526      | M205  | 0.4              | 72.481287   | 0.308807    |
| 123924     | 707       | M606  | 0.3.1            | 75.249177   | 0.335019    |
| 123925     | 8465      | M606  | 0.2.4            | 70.153331   | 0.390715    |
| 123926     | 2816      | M104  | 0.3.1            | 70.951893   | 0.222472    |
| 123927     | 663       | M606  | 0.3.2            | 79.165254   | 0.316542    |
| 123928     | 3409      | M404  | 0.3.1            | 75.823737   | 0.335797    |

# android device types by popularity

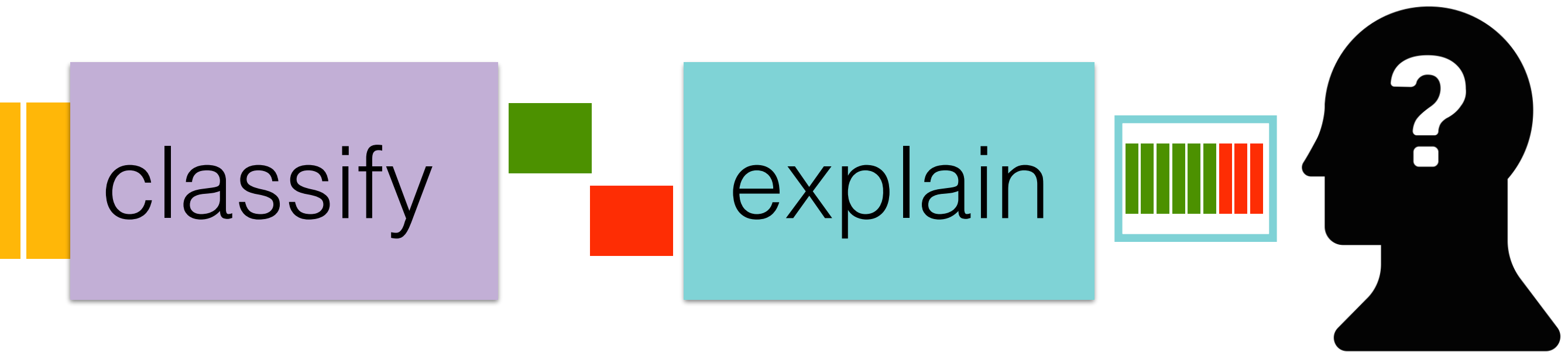


# explanations aggregate results



highlight commonalities and trends

# explanations aggregate results

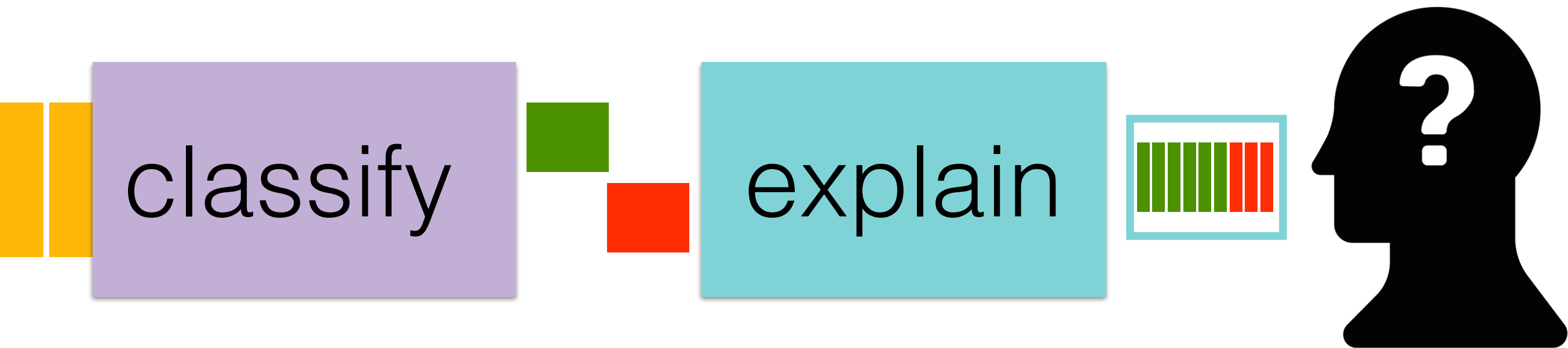


highlight commonalities and trends

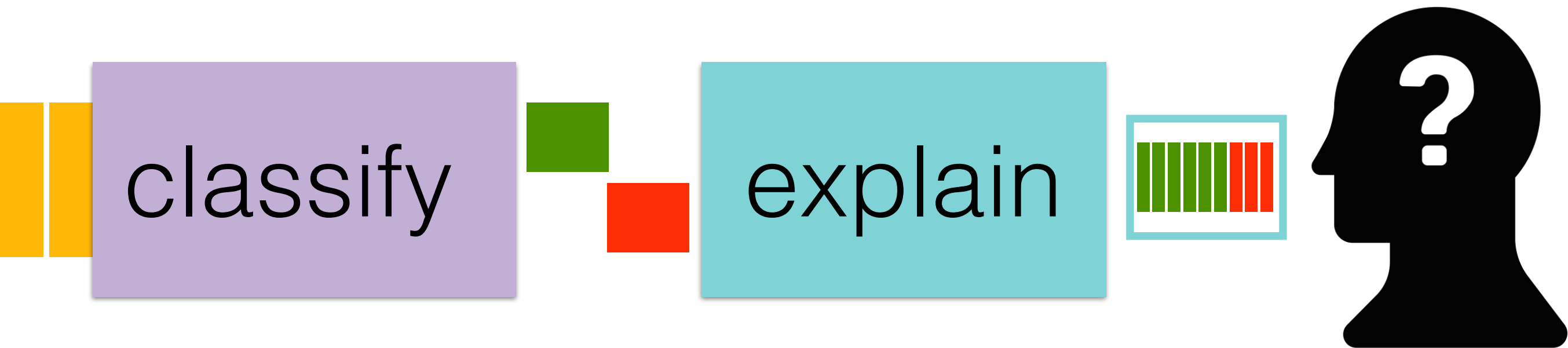
*e.g., Android Galaxy S7 devices running app version 2.4.4 are 51x more likely than usual to have extreme power drain*

return aggregates and representative events instead of returning raw data

the key to fast data  
combine: classify and explain



the key to fast data  
combine: classify and explain



how should we do it?



dataflow (alone) is not enough

dataflow: a substrate, not a complete solution

dataflow (alone) is not enough

dataflow: a substrate, not a complete solution



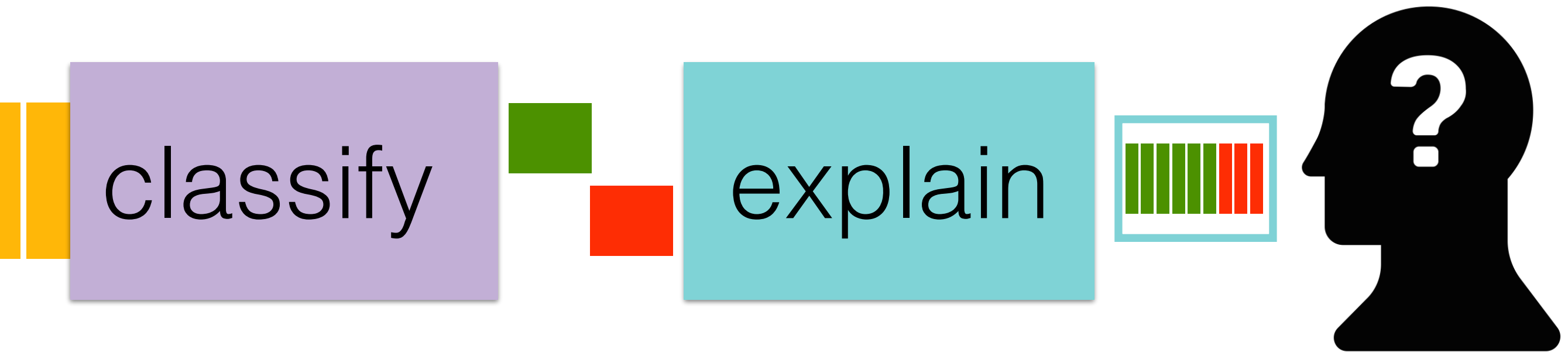
# dataflow (alone) is not enough

dataflow: a substrate, not a complete solution



missing:  
scalable, modular operators  
for prioritizing attention via  
classification and explanation

# macrobase: a fast data system



a system providing  
fast, reusable, modular operators  
for classification and explanation  
prioritizing attention in fast data

# MacroBase default workflow

input: data **attributes**, key performance **metrics**

output: **attributes** that explain deviations in **metrics**

Database URL:

submit

Base query:

submit

Connected to localhost database!

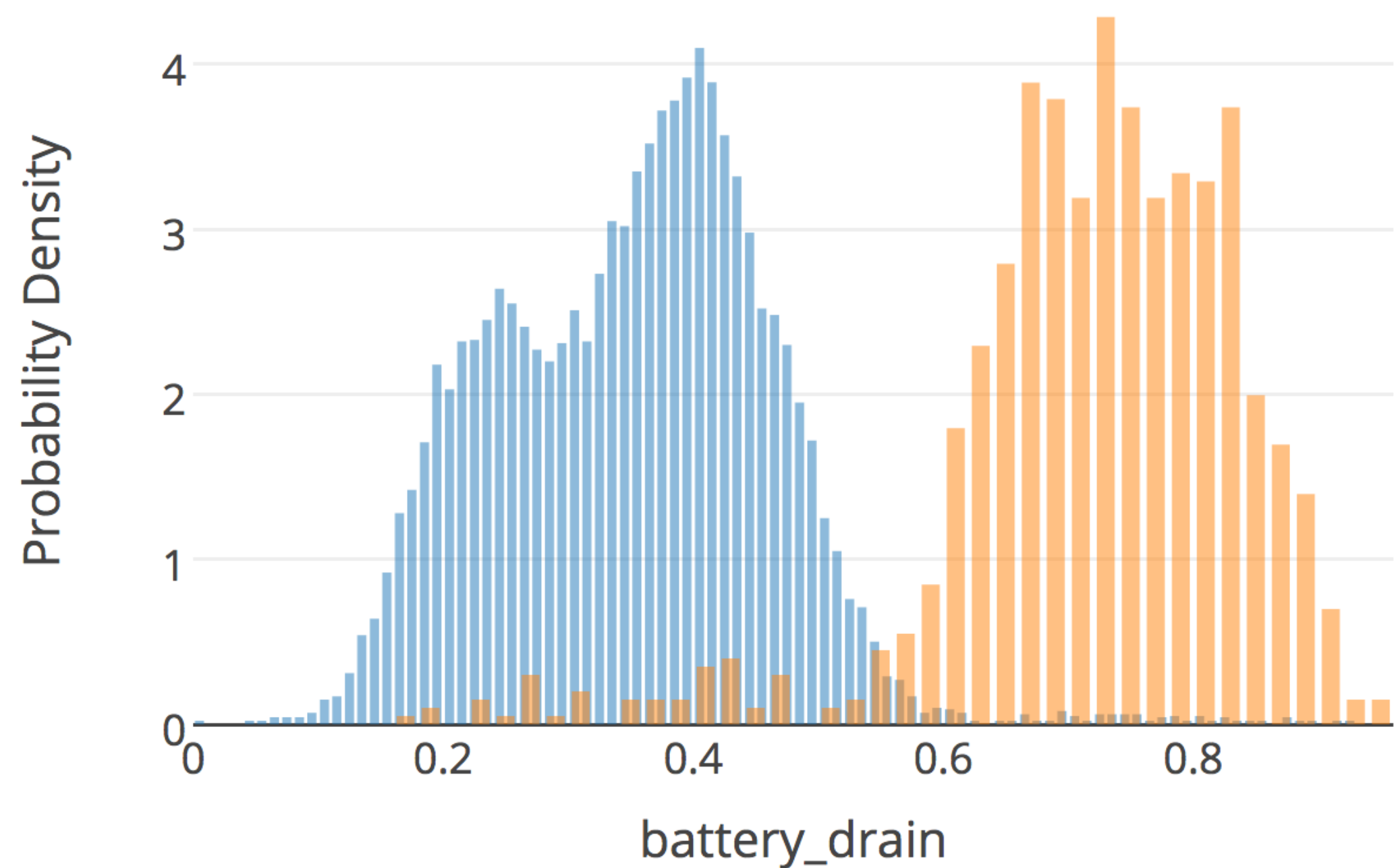
Schema Information and Selection

sampleresetclear

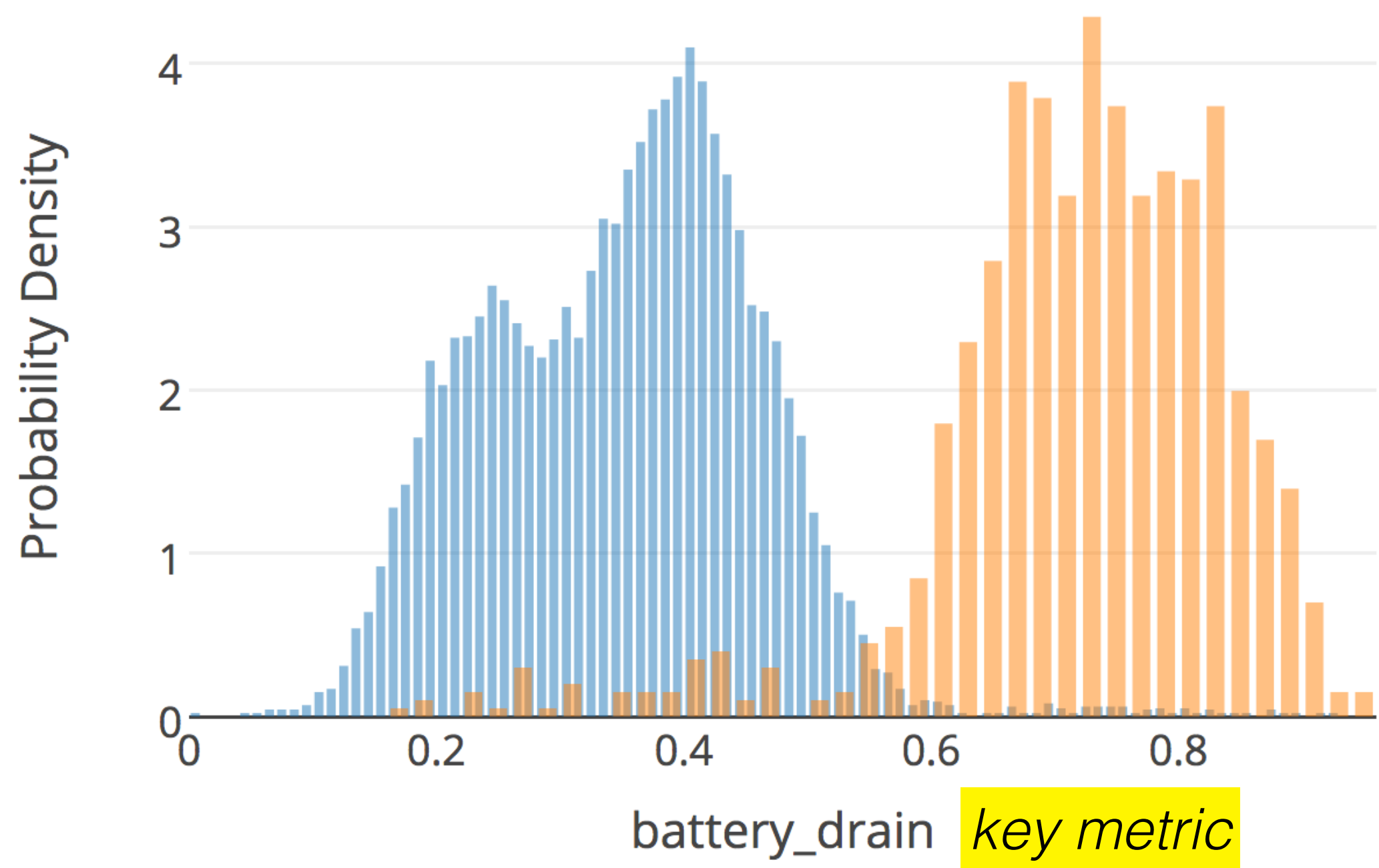
| Explanatory Attribute? | Target Metric? Lo/Hi      | Name             | Type    |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------|
| <div>+</div>           | <div>↓</div> <div>↑</div> | app_version      | varchar |
| <div>+</div>           | <div>↓</div> <div>↑</div> | avg_temp         | numeric |
| <div>+</div>           | <div>↓</div> <div>↑</div> | battery_drain    | numeric |
| <div>+</div>           | <div>↓</div> <div>↑</div> | firmware_version | varchar |
| <div>+</div>           | <div>↓</div> <div>↑</div> | hw_make          | varchar |
| <div>+</div>           | <div>↓</div> <div>↑</div> | hw_model         | varchar |

| record_id | user_id                  | state | hw_make       | hw_model             | firmware_version | app_version | avg_temp  | battery_drain | trip_time |
|-----------|--------------------------|-------|---------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| 131920    | 49e36c5b031141dd8cf240f7 | CO    | Lenovo        | Lenovo_K910L         | 4.4.2            | v21         | 79.252124 | 0.205834      | 40.910145 |
| 131921    | a670eab2bc6d4e5991ea4269 | WV    | TCT (Alcatel) | 4009A                | 7.1.1            | v36         | 72.136380 | 0.184874      | 47.253076 |
| 131922    | 247c64e48a8743829c5f7199 | UT    | TCT (Alcatel) | 4009A                | 7.1.1            | v31         | 77.300103 | 0.230015      | 25.342140 |
| 131924    | 6bd9af7242ca480a96d75d0d | OH    | HTC           | HTC_M10u             | 6.0.1            | v38         | 70.937014 | 0.454293      | 38.661611 |
| 131926    | d449b12dcb6346d7af1021de | HI    | HTC           | HTC_Wildfire_S_A510b | 6.0              | v46         | 75.436764 | 0.151338      | 17.785555 |
| 131927    | fff8907aa14e4a50ab76bd46 | HI    | bq            | Aquaris_E4.5         | 4.4.1            | v38         | 70.208187 | 0.286005      | 60.443799 |
| 131929    | 8226cd65bb1f4d61a6fcf455 | MI    | TCT (Alcatel) | ALCATEL_one_touch_97 | 6.0.1            | v35         | 73.113370 | 0.249834      | 16.881133 |
| 131930    | 30e726fad6744b2ace2d76b  | LA    | TCT (Alcatel) | ALCATEL_ONE_TOUCH_60 | 5.0              | v40         | 77.918077 | 0.405417      | 51.163642 |
| 131931    | 569f35993da246f4afc83c2e | FL    | Lava          | S1                   | 6.0.1            | v44         | 76.558080 | 0.416760      | 42.252460 |
| 131932    | 9d2db241316c43378b8ec14c | AL    | LGE           | LG-D724              | 7.0              | v29         | 76.760340 | 0.334446      | 37.922632 |
| 131933    | 484a1ced0a6a46468874861c | LA    | Hisense       | LED42K680X3DU        | 4.4.4            | v49         | 77.138769 | 0.409485      | 23.345804 |
| 131934    | d375d5a0e10d46cf9b91e343 | MI    | Techno        | TECNO_P5S            | 6.0              | v31         | 70.115019 | 0.179464      | 45.051123 |
| 131936    | e4835a64d96e4e89997ce027 | WI    | ZTE           | Z828                 | 6.0.1            | v35         | 71.615570 | 0.396389      | 47.662474 |
| 131937    | cf00ae2105bb4e3cb43b64b2 | FL    | Spice         | Spice_Mi-498H        | 5.0              | v42         | 72.045184 | 0.327405      | 45.099422 |
| 131939    | c94d264a846149f08f51c28e | RI    | Infocus       | InFocus_M320u        | 4.4.1            | v49         | 73.543359 | 0.224504      | 19.069803 |
| 131940    | c3c82947ab5a4d09b52afe21 | MI    | Hisense       | Bouygues_Telecom_Bs_ | 4.4.2            | v41         | 75.949490 | 0.409603      | 38.287879 |
| 131943    | 4e4566143b144be1809ad4d9 | RI    | Turk Telekom  | E4                   | 7.0              | v22         | 76.831963 | 0.486268      | 28.306756 |
| 131944    | 0ee8ff83606b496392bedd49 | NE    | Sony Ericsson | MT11i                | 4.4.4            | v31         | 78.661817 | 0.346537      | 26.749918 |
| 131946    | 0ee8ff83606b496392bedd49 | OK    | LGE           | LS670                | 4.0.4            | v30         | 78.186519 | 0.381604      | 27.601968 |
| 131947    | 7a4bc4c56aa54d20b1119d42 | NV    | Oppo          | F1f                  | 4.3.1            | v38         | 77.434095 | 0.436364      | 40.869723 |
| 131948    | c3c82947ab5a4d09b52afe21 | GA    | Huawei        | HUAWEI_Y320-U151     | 4.4.3            | v42         | 77.715329 | 0.281726      | 23.077248 |
| 131949    | 2b0acf33a91f49b6aa70cbe5 | MO    | ZTE           | KPN_Smart_300        | 4.4.4            | v39         | 75.368614 | 0.371224      | 44.295975 |
| 131950    | 5aab0148ea794d2eacfc9a27 | NV    | Ketabket      | TR10CS1              | 5.0              | v49         | 79.459844 | 0.491424      | 37.653744 |

| Column      | Value    | <i>correlated attributes</i>                               |        |  |
|-------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--|
| app_version | v50      | <b>Support:</b><br><b>Ratio Out/In:</b><br><b>Records:</b> | 0.8226 |  |
| hw_model    | em_i8180 |                                                            | 472.92 |  |
| hw_make     | Emdoor   |                                                            | 849    |  |



| Column      | Value    | <i>correlated attributes</i>                               |        |
|-------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| app_version | v50      | <b>Support:</b><br><b>Ratio Out/In:</b><br><b>Records:</b> | 0.8226 |
| hw_model    | em_i8180 |                                                            | 472.92 |
| hw_make     | Emdoor   |                                                            | 849    |

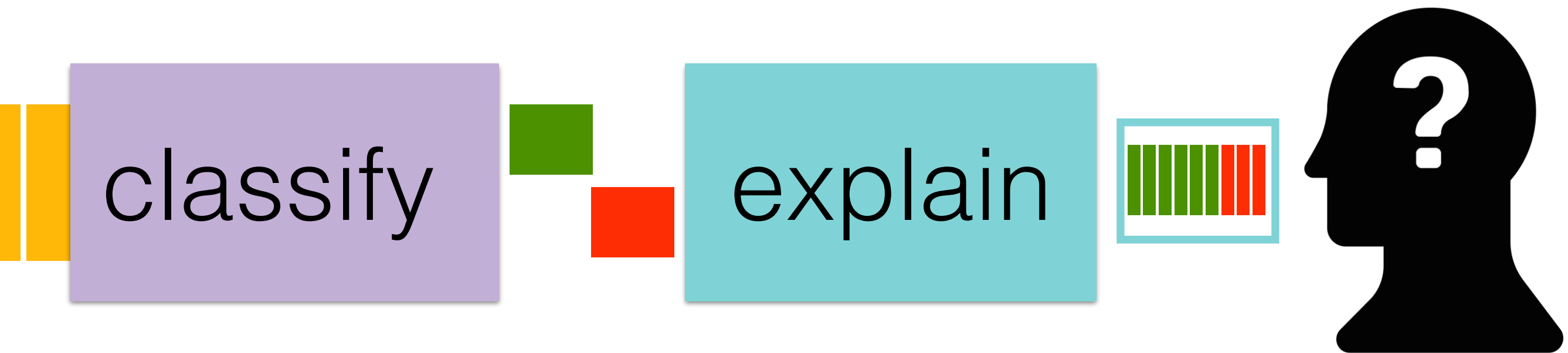




**CAMBRIDGE**  
**MOBILE TELEMATICS**

*“MacroBase discovered a rare issue with the CMT application and a device-specific battery problem. Consultation and investigation with the CMT team confirmed these issues as previously unknown...”*





key: make  
this combo  
fast

example: end-to-end optimization

# example: end-to-end optimization

| A | B |
|---|---|
| B | C |
| A | D |
| A | A |
| A | B |
|   | D |
|   | C |
|   | B |
|   | B |
|   | E |
|   | B |
|   | B |

streaming explanation

# example: end-to-end optimization

|   |   |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| B | C |
| A | D |
| A | A |
| A | B |
|   | D |
|   | C |
|   | B |
|   | B |
|   | E |
|   | B |
|   | B |

streaming explanation

standard solution:

find correlations w/in each class

# example: end-to-end optimization

|   |   |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| B | C |
| A | D |
| A | A |
| A | B |
|   | D |
|   | C |
|   | B |
|   | B |
|   | E |
|   | B |
|   | B |

streaming explanation

standard solution:

find correlations w/in each class

A: 80%

B: 20%

# example: end-to-end optimization

|   |   |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| B | C |
| A | D |
| A | A |
| A | B |
|   | D |
|   | C |
|   | B |
|   | B |
|   | E |
|   | B |
|   | B |

streaming explanation

standard solution:

find correlations w/in each class

|        |         |          |
|--------|---------|----------|
| A: 80% | A: 0.1% | C: 31.9% |
| B: 20% | B: 46%  | D: 22%   |

# example: end-to-end optimization

A B  
B C  
A D  
A A  
A B  
D  
C  
B  
B  
B  
E  
B  
B

streaming explanation

standard solution:

find correlations w/in each class

A: 80%    A: 0.1%    C: 31.9%

B: 20%    B: 46%    D: 22%

better idea:

exploit *cardinality imbalance*

correlate “outliers”, probe “inliers”

# example: end-to-end optimization

A B  
B C  
A D  
A A  
A B  
D  
C  
B  
B  
E  
B  
B

streaming explanation

standard solution:

find correlations w/in each class

A: 80%    A: 0.1%    C: 31.9%

B: 20%    B: 46%    D: 22%

better idea:

exploit *cardinality imbalance*

correlate “outliers”, probe “inliers”

A: 80%

# example: end-to-end optimization

A B

B C

A D

A A

A B

D

C

B

B

E

B

B

streaming explanation

standard solution:

find correlations w/in each class

A: 80%    A: 0.1%    C: 31.9%

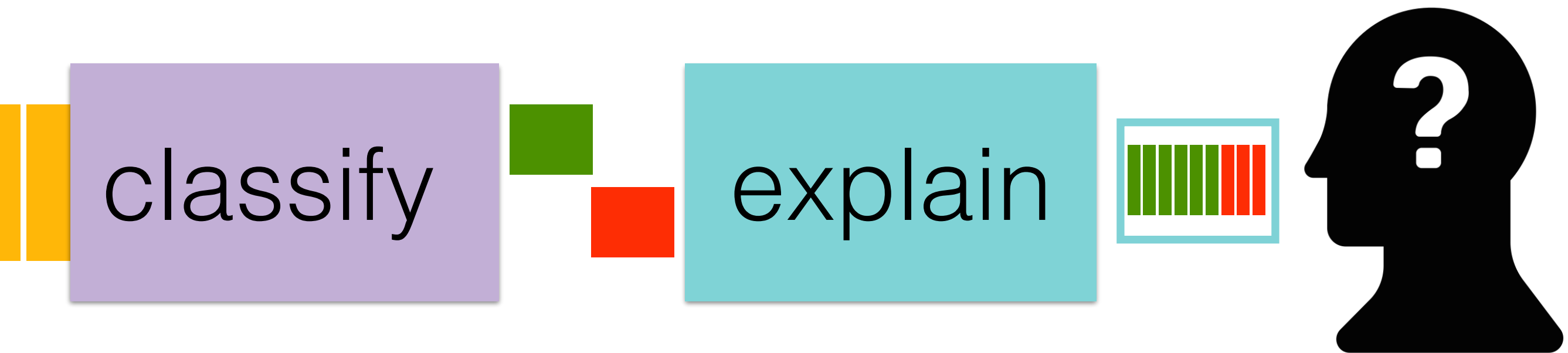
B: 20%    B: 46%    D: 22%

better idea:

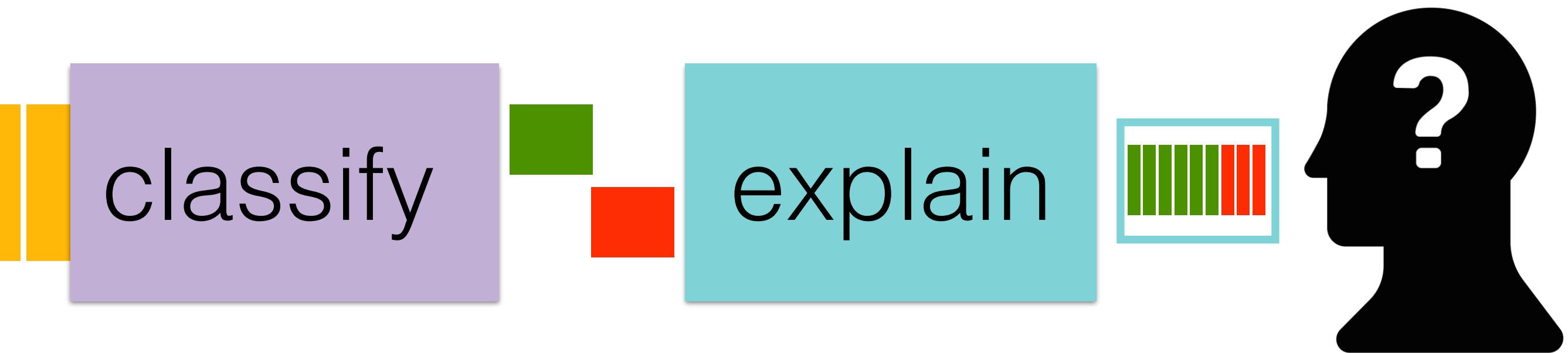
exploit *cardinality imbalance*

correlate “outliers”, probe “inliers”

A: 80%    A: 0.1%



key: make this combo fast



key: make this combo fast

surprise:  
this combo enables new  
optimizations

# one weird trick for 2017 systems research

- 1.) read a textbook on statistics/ML
- 2.) implement the thing that should work
- 3.) observe it's really slow
- 4.) make it fast using systems techniques

*needed: classic systems techniques*

indexing, caching, predicate pushdown, sketching

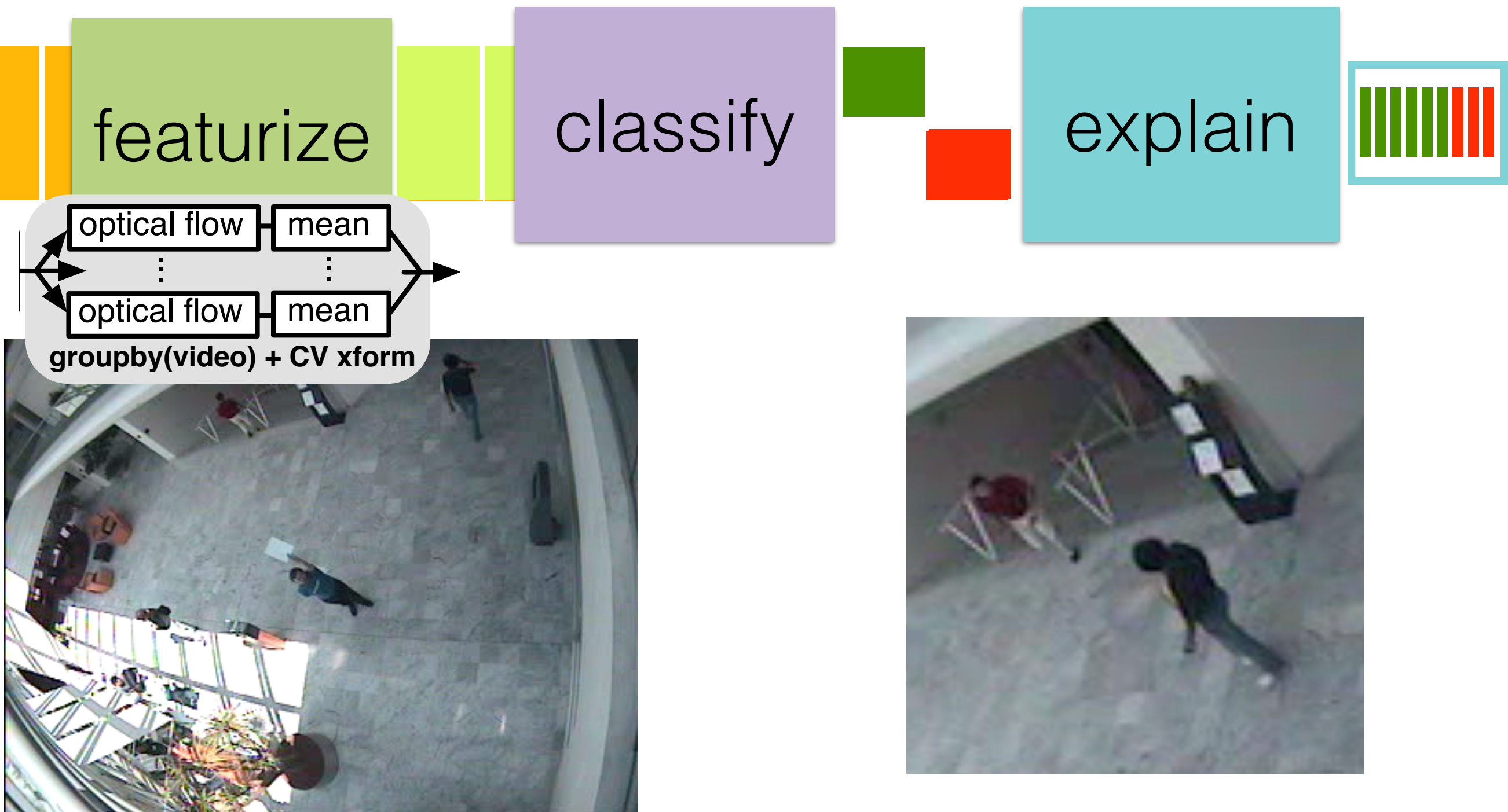
*is this system just a bunch of one-off hacks?*



*is this system just a bunch of one-off hacks?*  
no! only need a small # of core operators,  
coupled with domain-specific features



*is this system just a bunch of one-off hacks?*  
no! only need a small # of core operators,  
coupled with domain-specific features



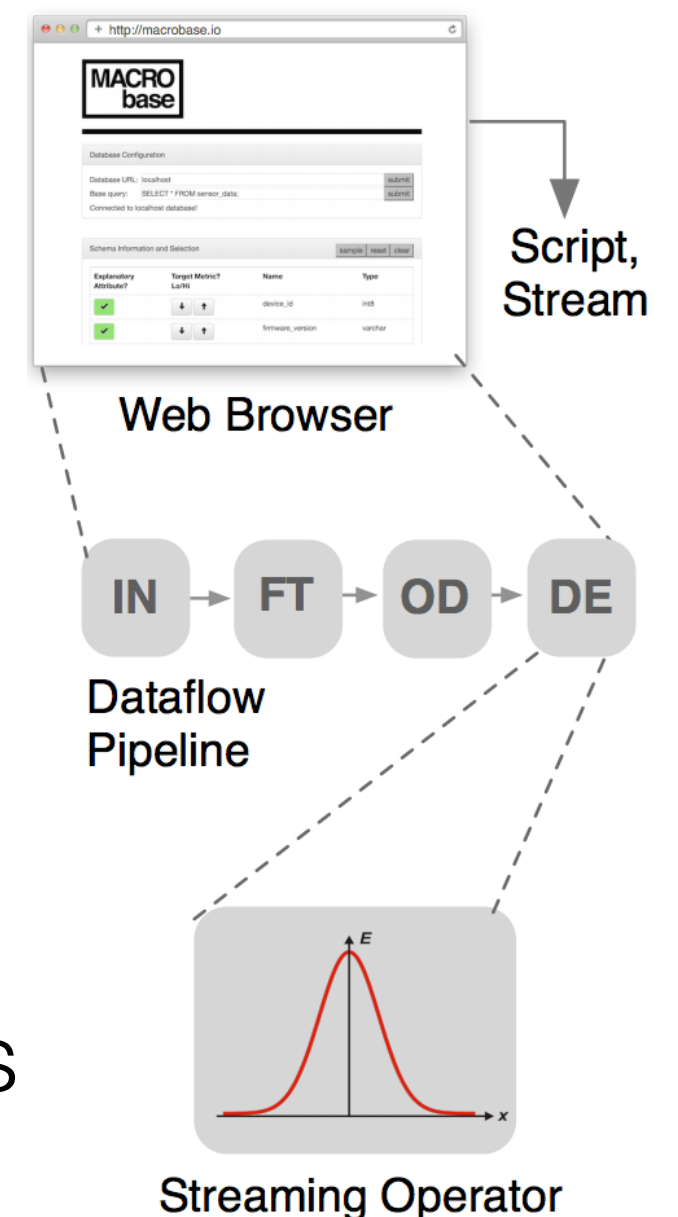


a range of interfaces empowers a range of users:

*domain experts:* point and click UI

*scripters:* custom dataflow pipelines

*ML and systems ninjas:* custom operators



# users inform design

automotive

*monitoring fleet QoS*

online services & datacenters (DevOps / monitoring)

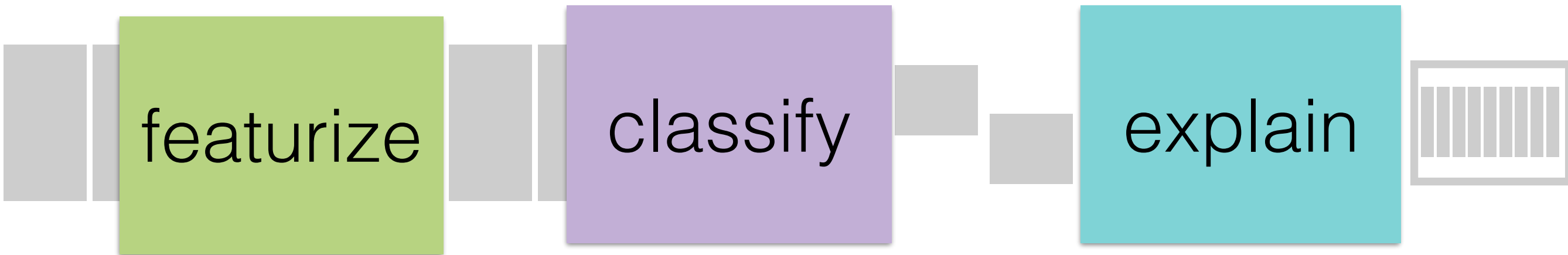
*identifying slow containers, exception telemetry*

industrial manufacturing

*key sources of process variance in product*

geophysics

*Lunar water ice detection, seismic activity detection*



## fast data

- overabundant data, scarce human attention
- a major opportunity for systems, w/ real use cases

## macrobase

- an open source search engine for fast data
- modular, efficient classification and explanation