

From Machine Learning to Generative AI: Advancing Statistical Model-Agnostic Interpretability with Local Explanations (SMILE)

Aslansefat, K., Hashemian, M., Walker, M., Akram, M. N., Sorokos, I., & Papadopoulos, Y. (2023). Explaining black boxes with a SMILE: Statistical Model-agnostic Interpretability with Local Explanations. *IEEE Software*, 41(1), 87-97.

Table of Content

What I am going to discuss



Highlights on eXplainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI)

Some basic information.



LIME Explainability Procedure

Discussing how LIME works on a simple example.



SMILE IDEA

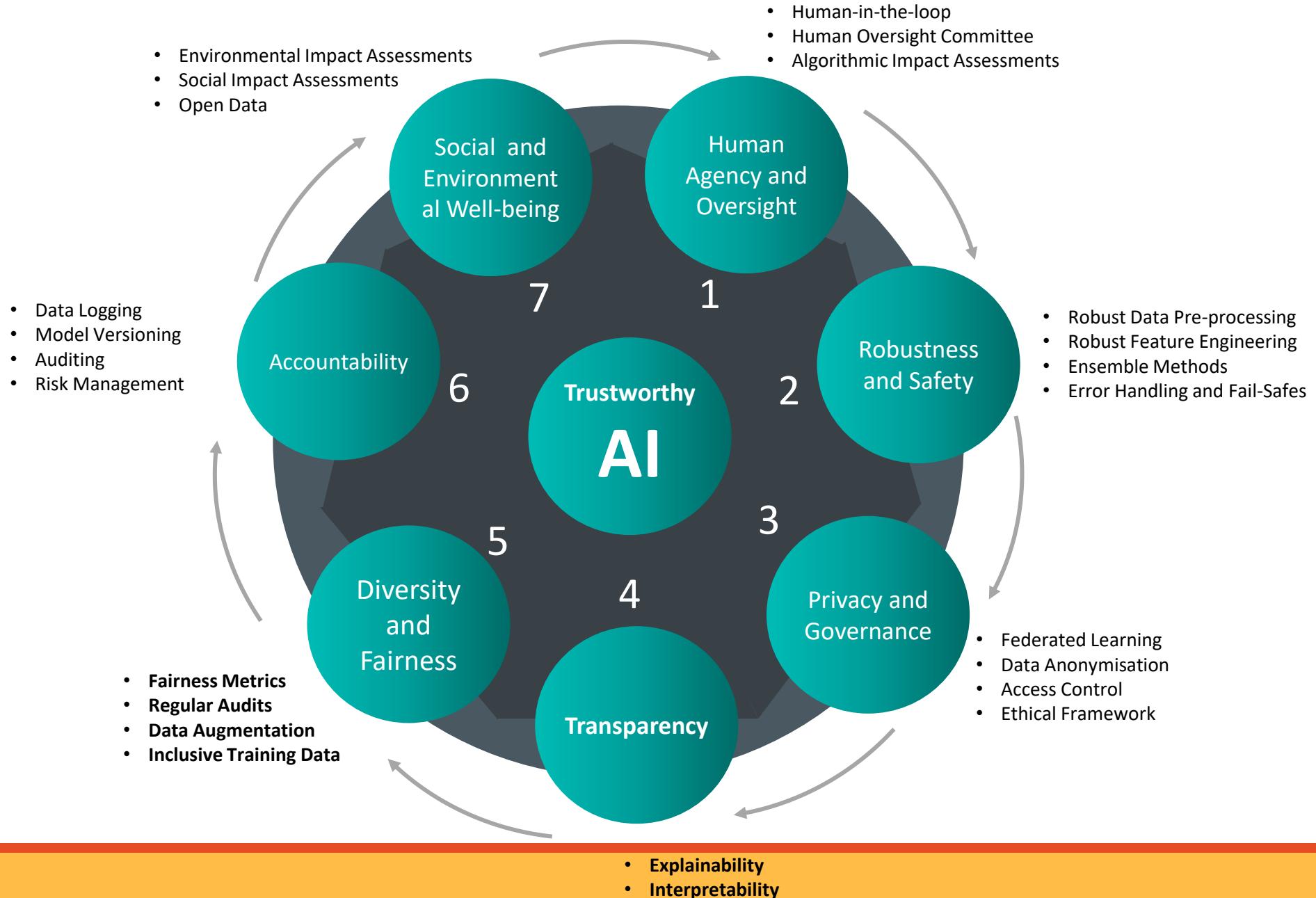
Discussing the idea and providing some experiments.



Expanding SMILE for GenAI

Discussing how SMILE has been expanded for GenAI (LLMs, MLLMs, etc).

EU AI ACT



Key Questions

What explanation methods are applied, and are they appropriate for the model and user needs?

Who are the target users of explanations, and how are their needs and understanding levels considered?

Where in the system lifecycle is explainability integrated (e.g., model design, deployment)?

Which model components are explained, and what type of explanations are provided

When is explainability assessed or updated (e.g., continuously, post-deployment)?

Key Stakeholders

Data Scientist

- Technical report
- XAI metrics



- Mitigation strategies
- Improvement recommendations

Business Owner

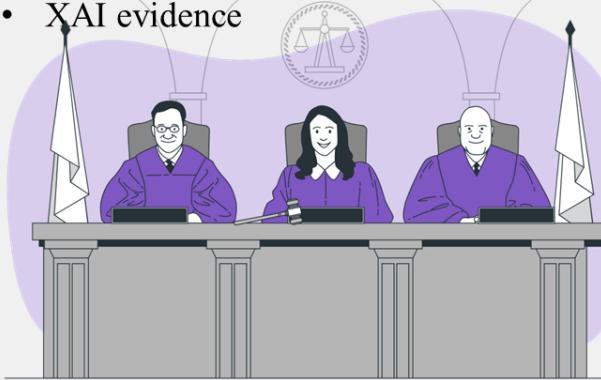
- Business implications
- Potential risks



- Opportunities
- Technical overview

Regulators

- Compliance shown
- XAI evidence



Consumer



Examples:

- User-friendly infographics.
- Online user feedback forms.
- Demographic-based testing.
- Personalized & non-biased product recommendations.

Fairness Report:

- Non-technical focus
- Model effects

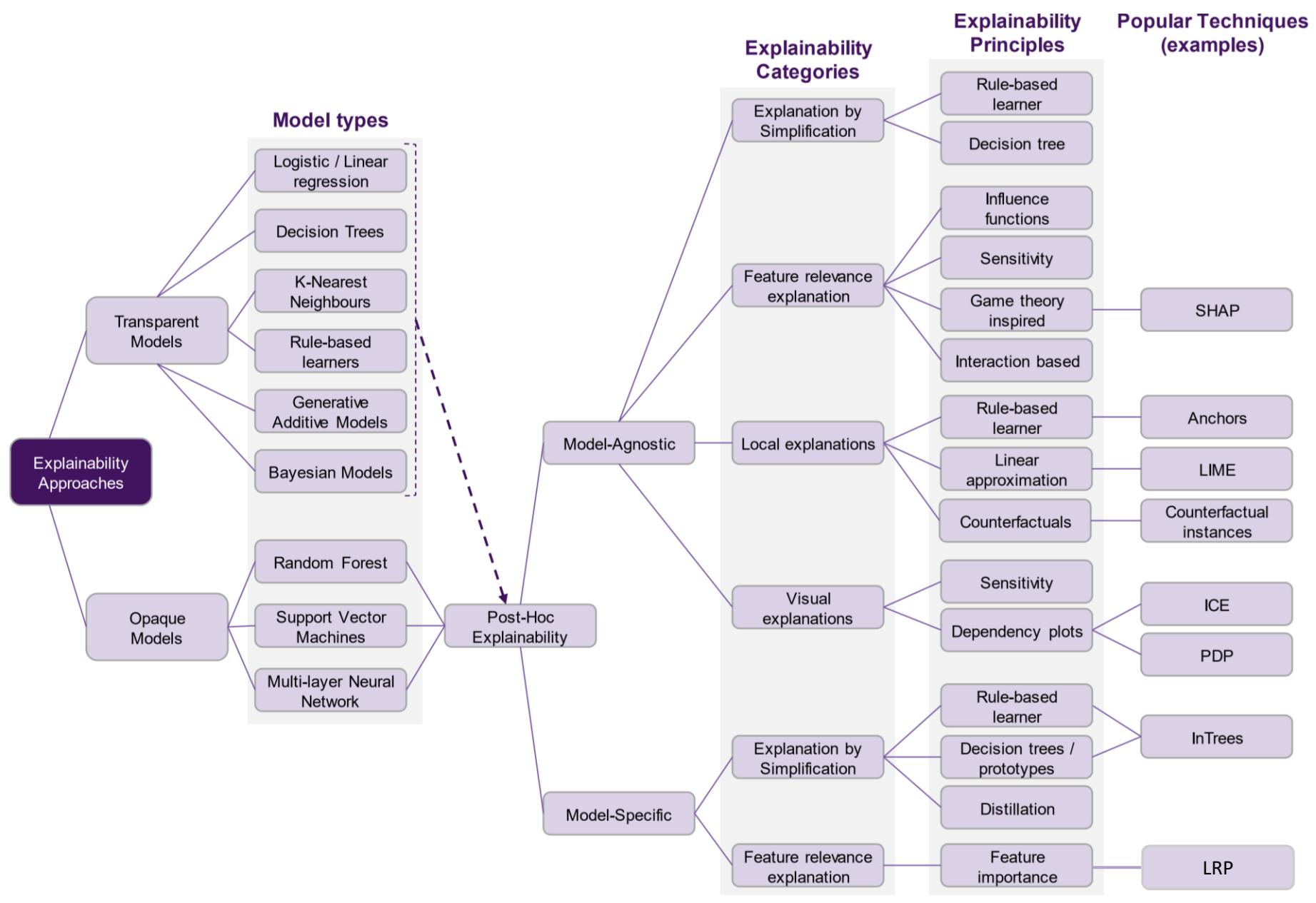
- XAI steps
- Feedback avenues

XAI Advocacy Groups

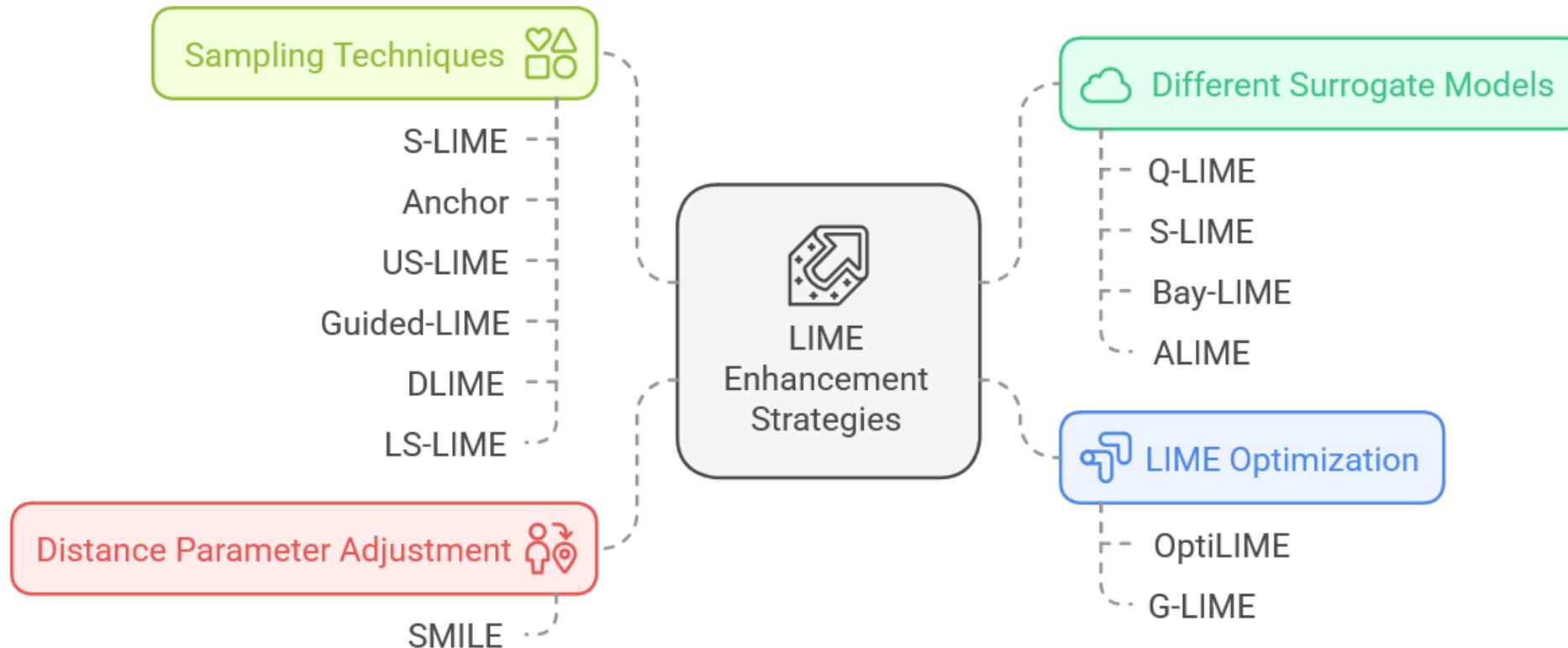
- Bias transparency
- Societal impacts



- Addressing steps
- Real-world evidence



LIME-based Approaches

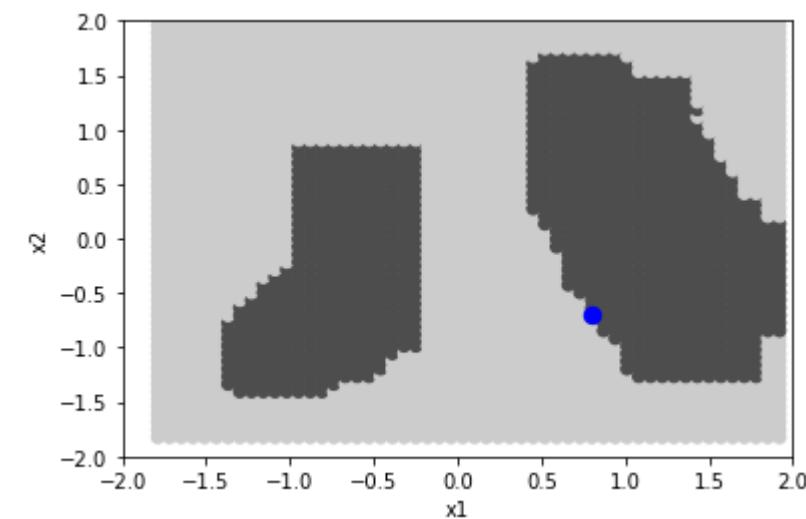
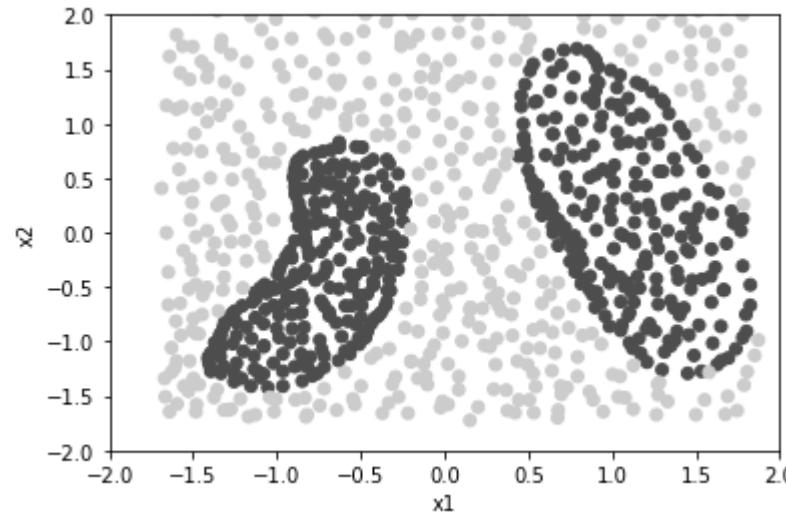


LIME

Discussing LIME Algorithm in a simple tabular example

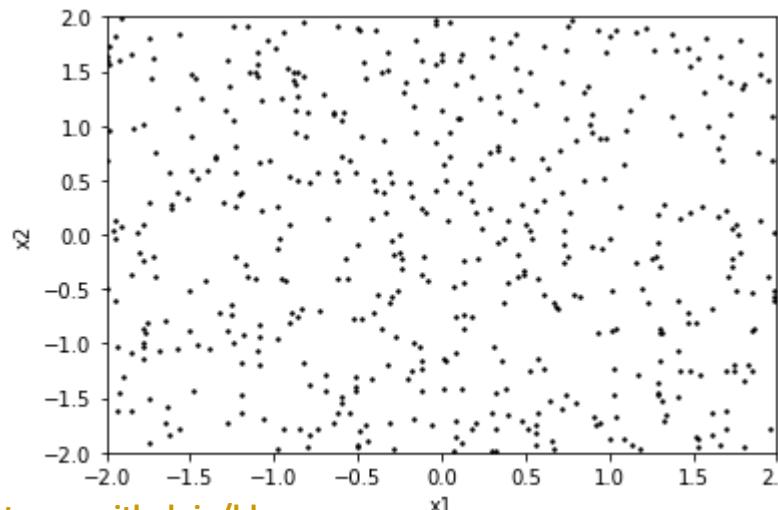
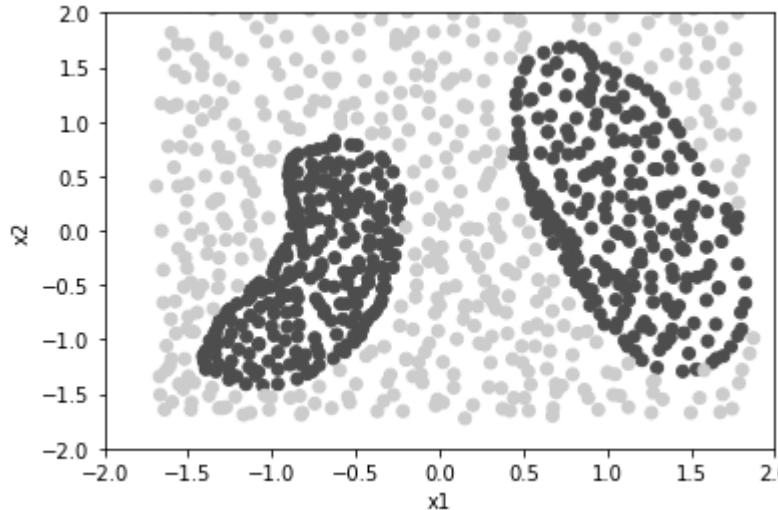
LIME: Local Interpretable Model-agnostic Explanations

Let's discuss a simple example of LIME on a tabular hypothetical dataset



LIME: Local Interpretable Model-agnostic Explanations

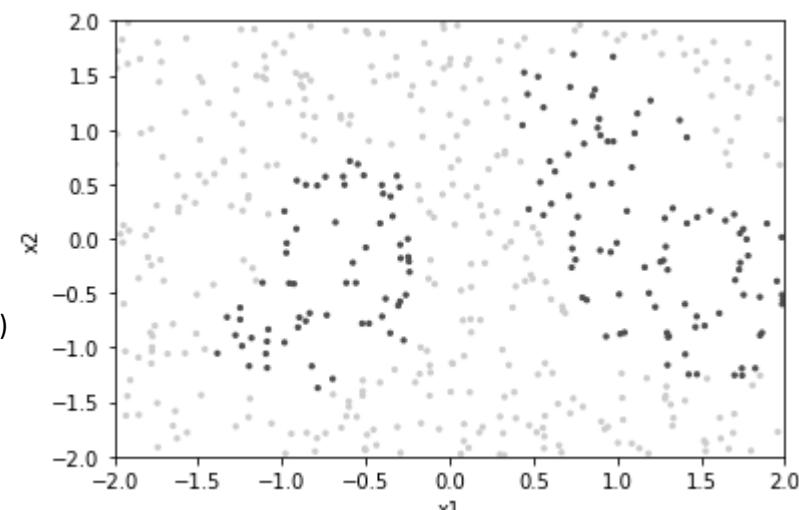
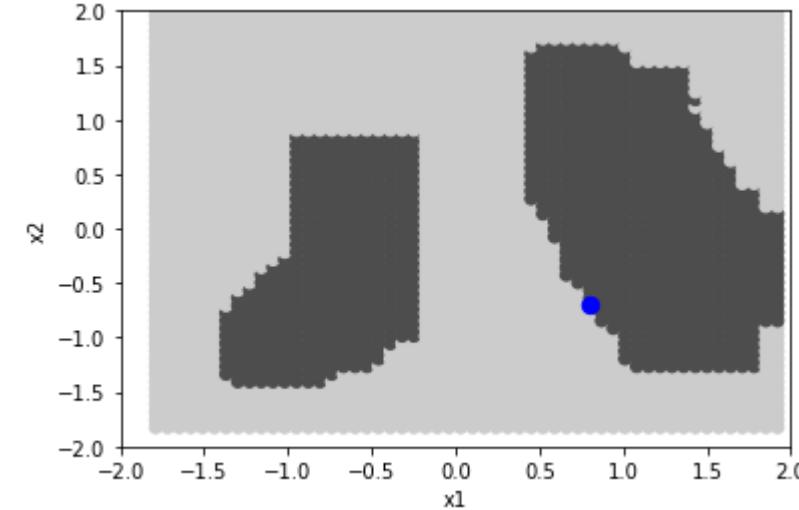
Let's discuss a simple example of LIME on a tabular hypothetical dataset



Generating uniform
random numbers



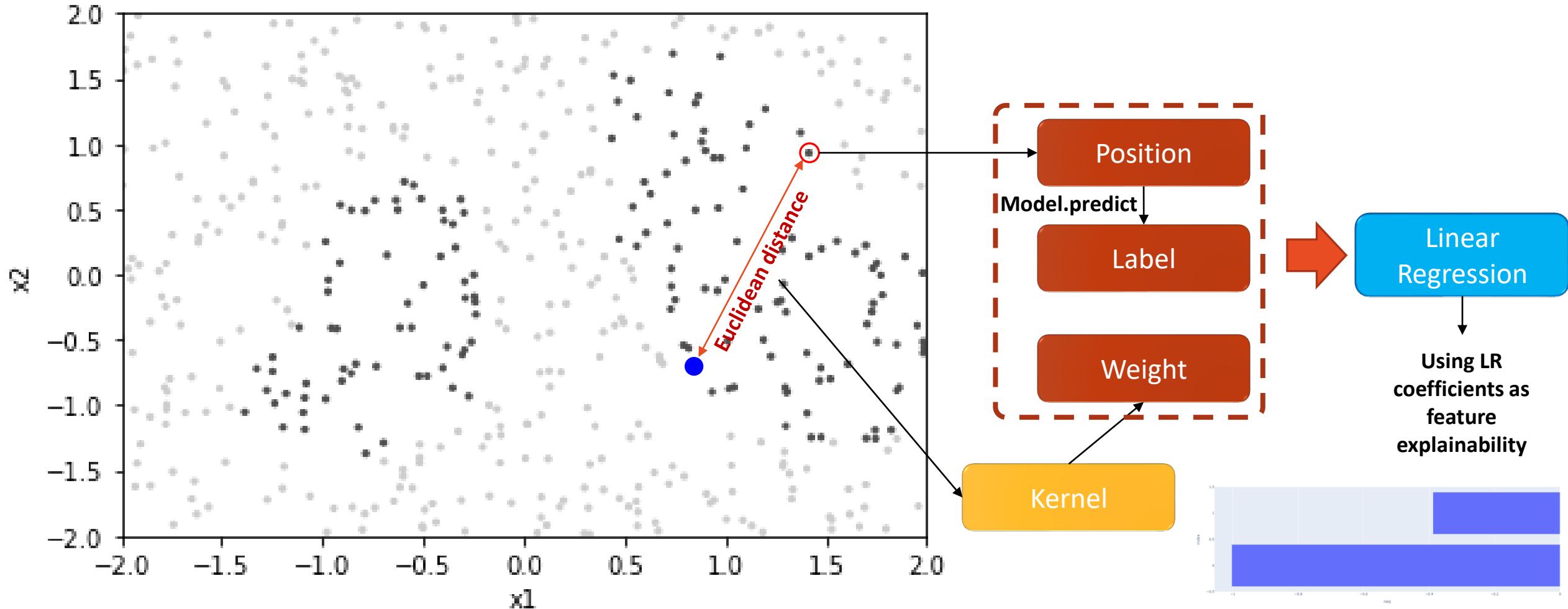
Using `model.predict(X_perturb)`



Source: <https://arteagac.github.io/blog>

LIME: Local Interpretable Model-agnostic Explanations

Let's discuss a simple example of LIME on a tabular hypothetical dataset

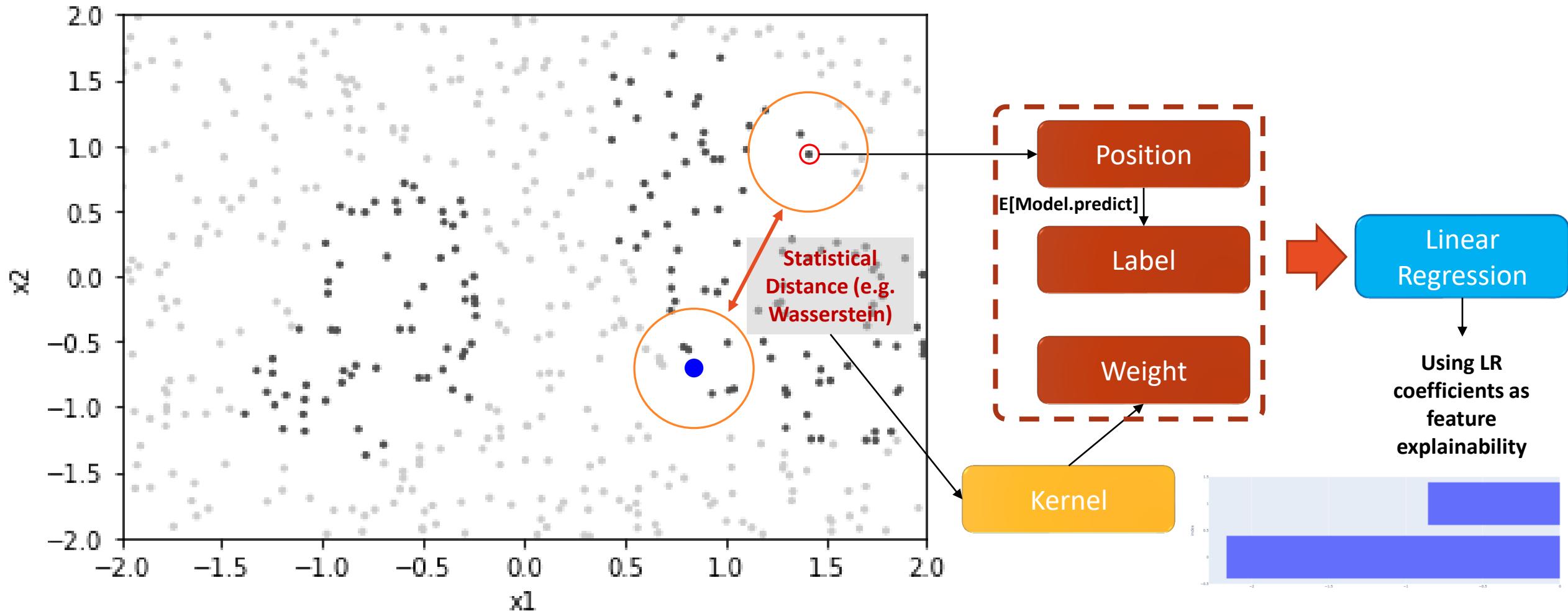


IDEA!

SMILE: Statistical Model-
agnostic Interpretability with
Local Explanations

SMILE: Statistical Model-agnostic Interpretability with Local Explanations

Let's discuss the same simple example with SMILE



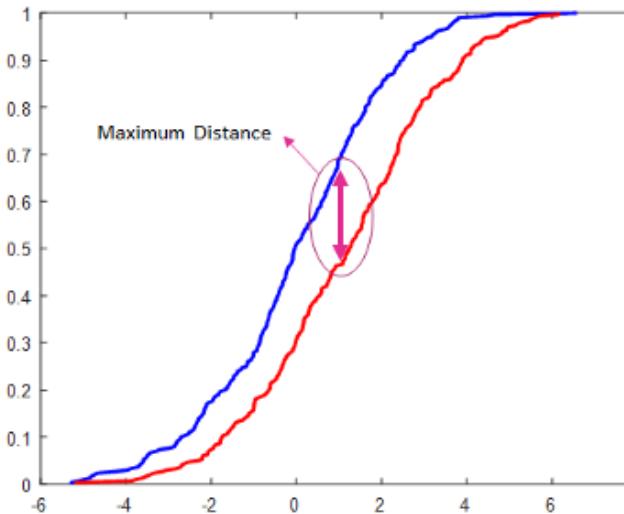
SMILE: Statistical Model-agnostic Interpretability with Local Explanations

Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF) Distance Measures

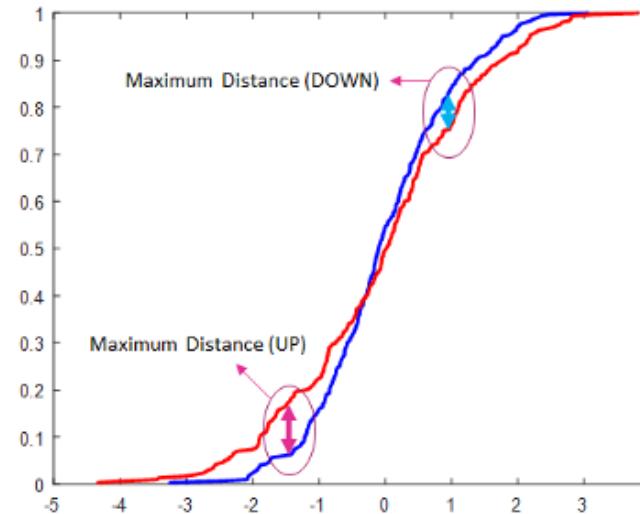


SMILE: Statistical Model-agnostic Interpretability with Local Explanations

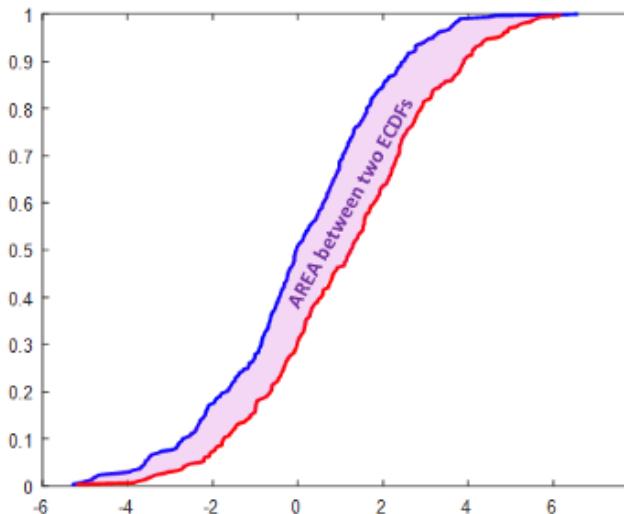
Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF) Distance Measures
Kolmogorov-Smirnov Distance



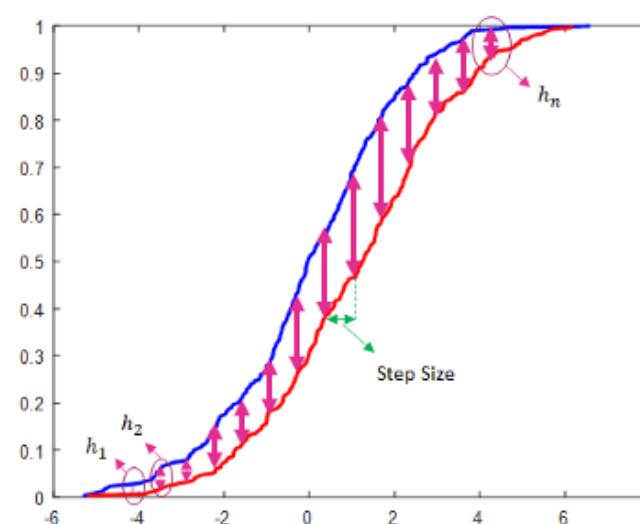
Kuiper Distance



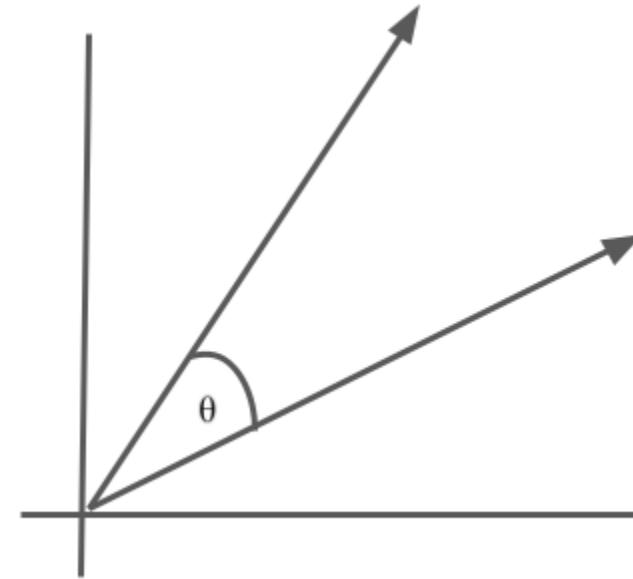
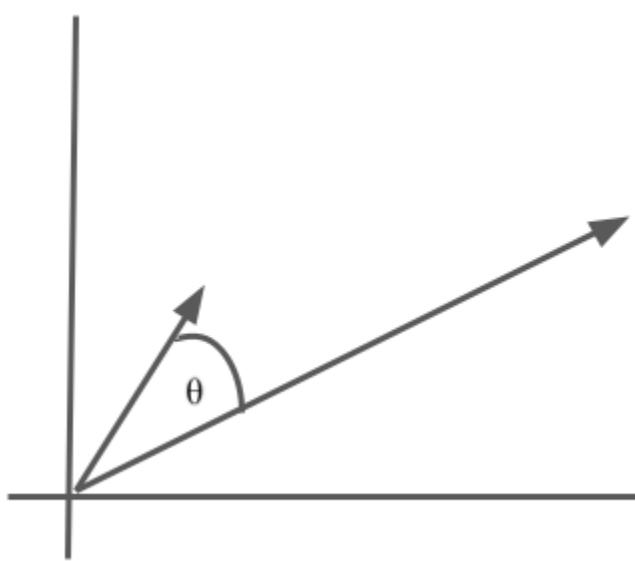
Wasserstein Distance



Cramer-Von Mises Distance



Wasserstein vs. Cosine



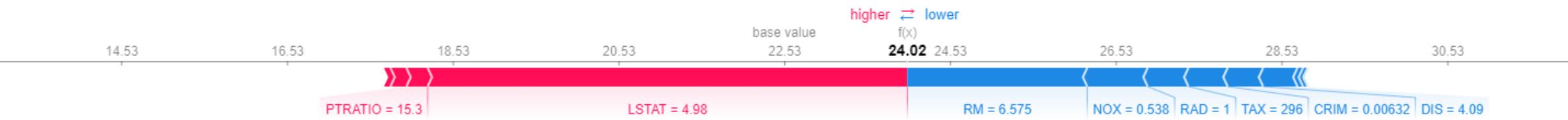
Comparing SMILE with LIME and SHAP for Boston House Pricing Prediction

Comparing SHAP, LIME and SMILE

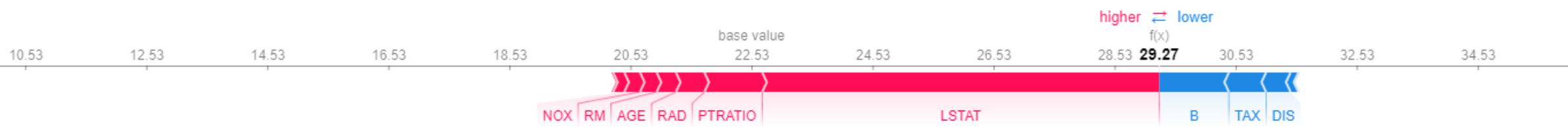


Comparing SMILE with LIME and SHAP with Force Plot

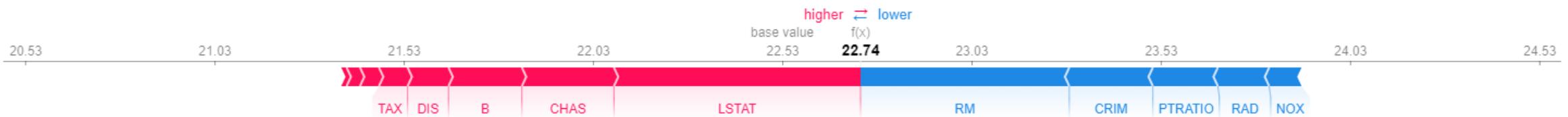
SHAP



LIME

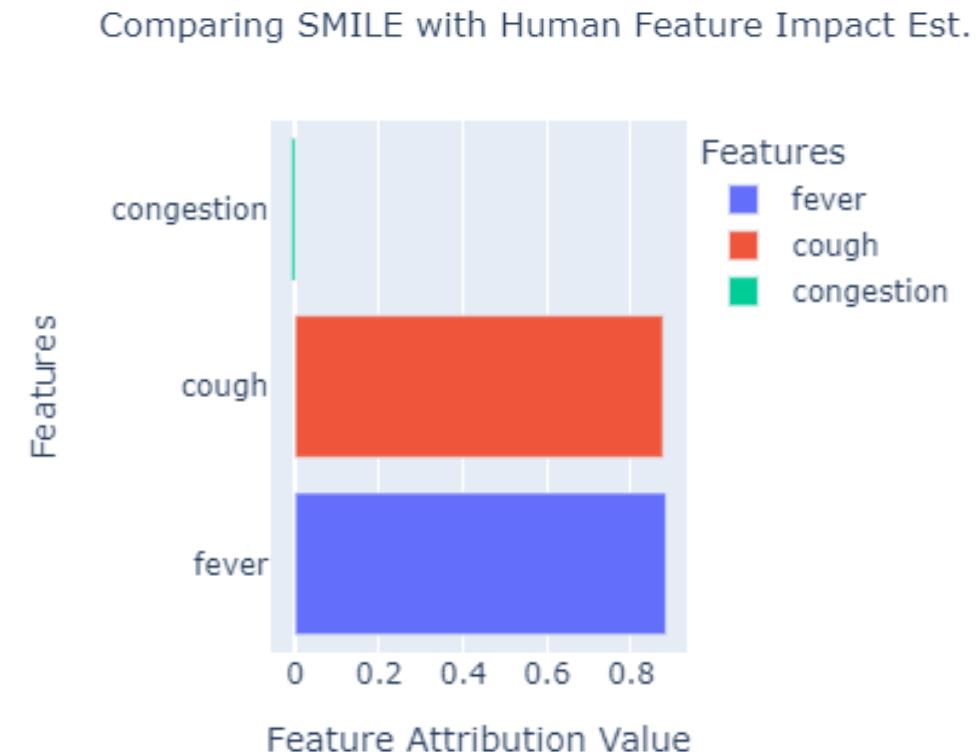
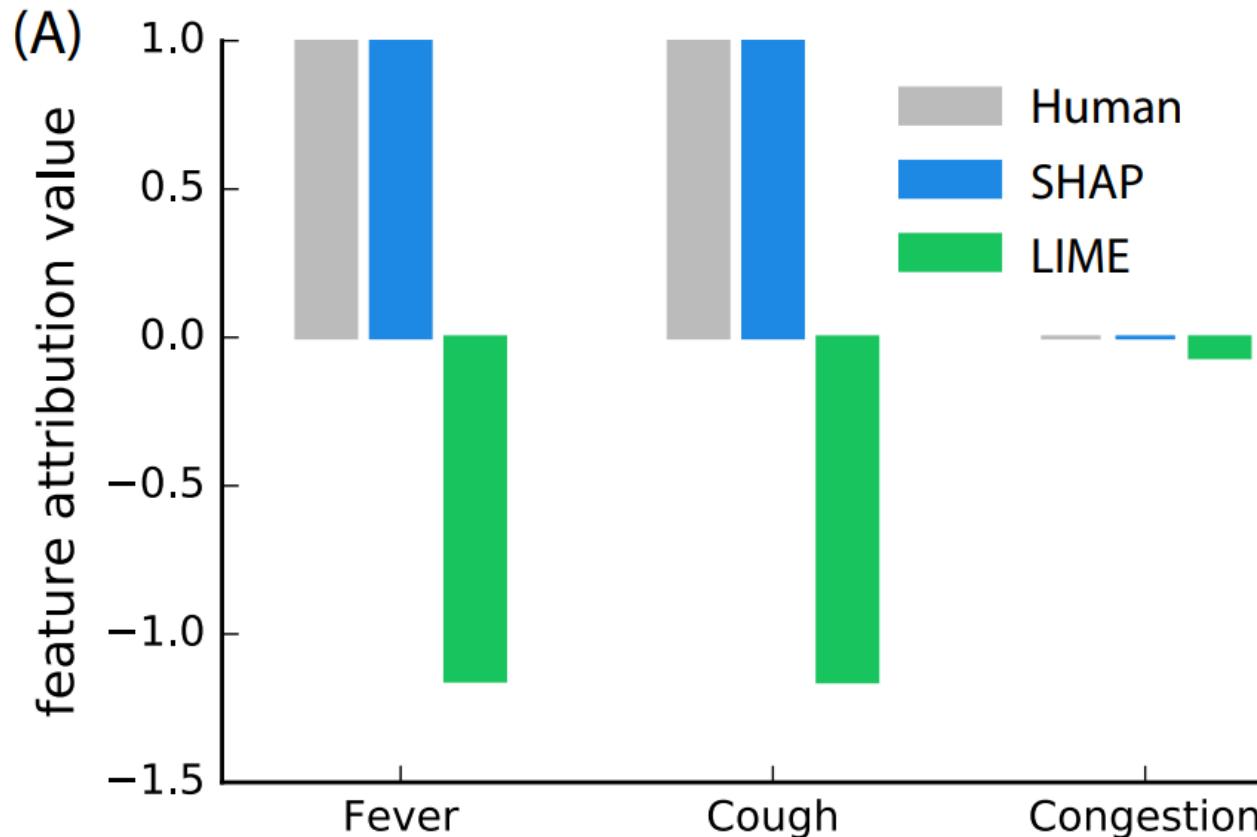


SMILE



Comparing with Human Feature Impact Estimates

Let's discuss a simple example of LIME on a tabular hypothetical dataset



Lundberg, S. M., & Lee, S. I. (2017, December). A unified approach to interpreting model predictions. In *Proceedings of the 31st international conference on neural information processing systems* (pp. 4768-4777).

Adversarial Attacks

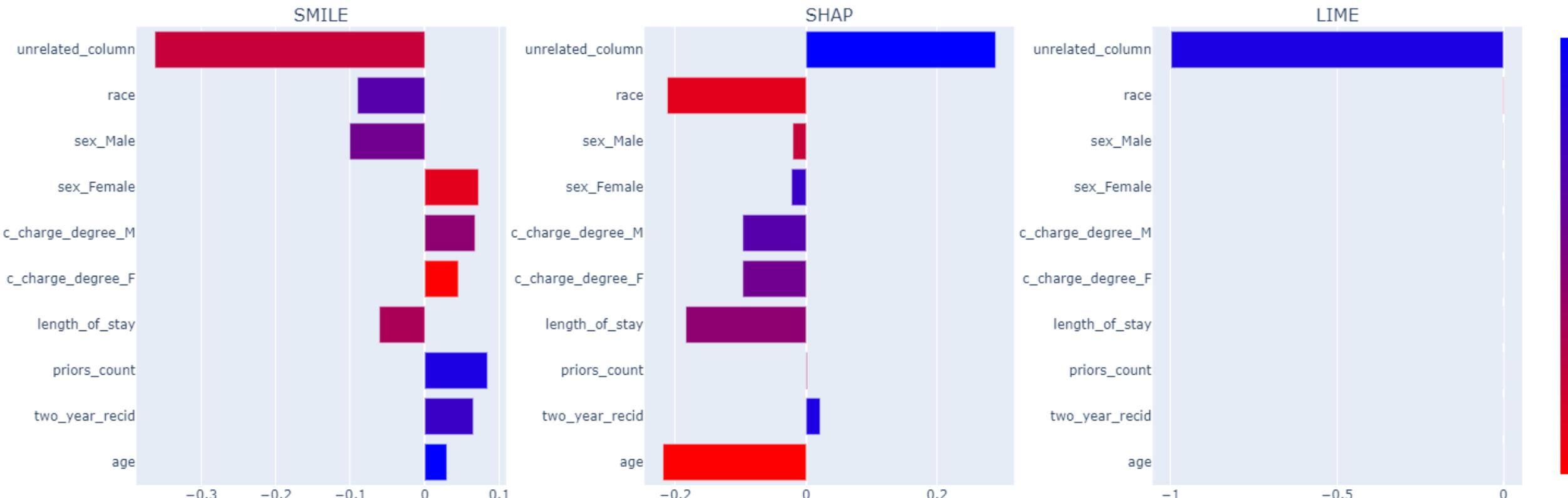
Fooling LIME and SHAP:
Adversarial Attacks on Post hoc
Explanation Methods by Dylan
Slack et al. (2020)



Adversarial Attacks

Fooling LIME and SHAP: Adversarial Attacks on Post-hoc Explanation Methods

Comparing SHAP, LIME and SMILE against Adversarial Attack - Unrealated Feature



* COMPAS dataset for recidivism risk prediction

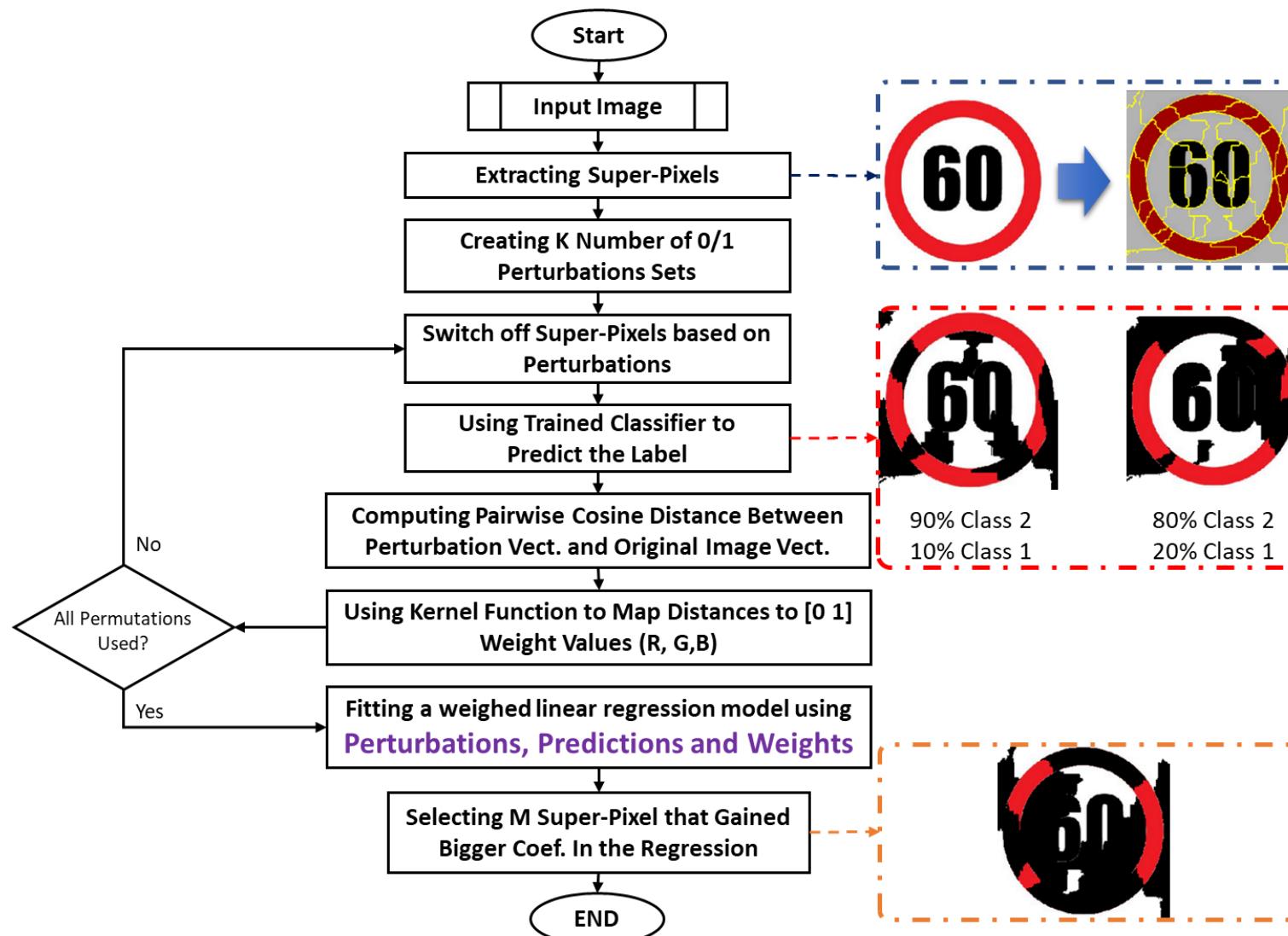
SMILE for Images

Explaining the SMILE Procedure
for local explainability in Image
classifiers.



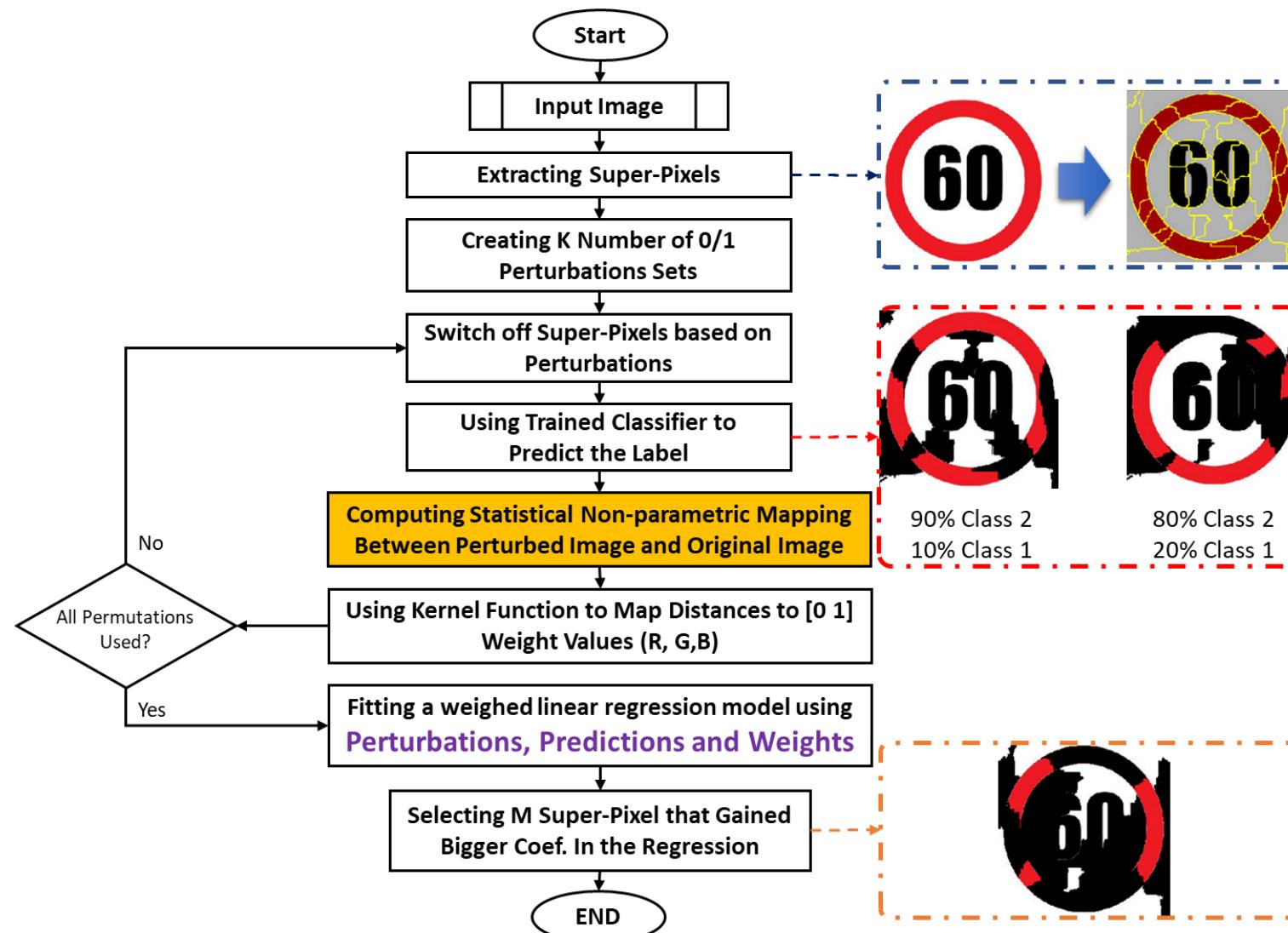
LIME for Image Classifiers

How LIME provides explainability for image classifiers?



SMILE for Image Classifiers

How SMILE provides explainability for image classifiers?

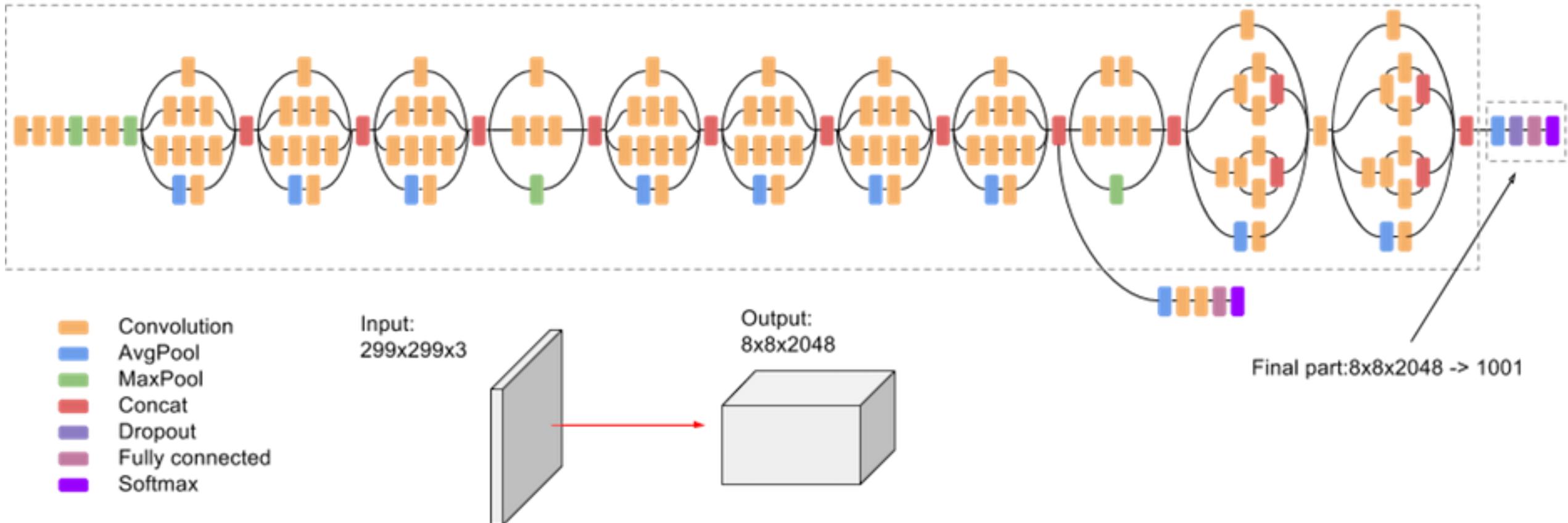


SMILE for Image Classifiers

How SMILE provides explainability for image classifiers?

InceptionV3

Input: 299x299x3, Output:8x8x2048

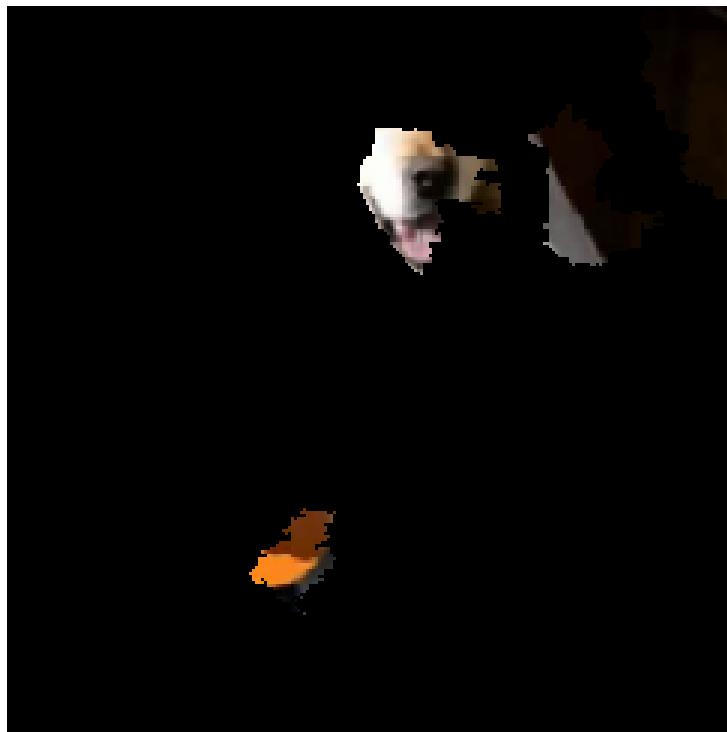


Comparison between LIME and SMILE for Image Classification

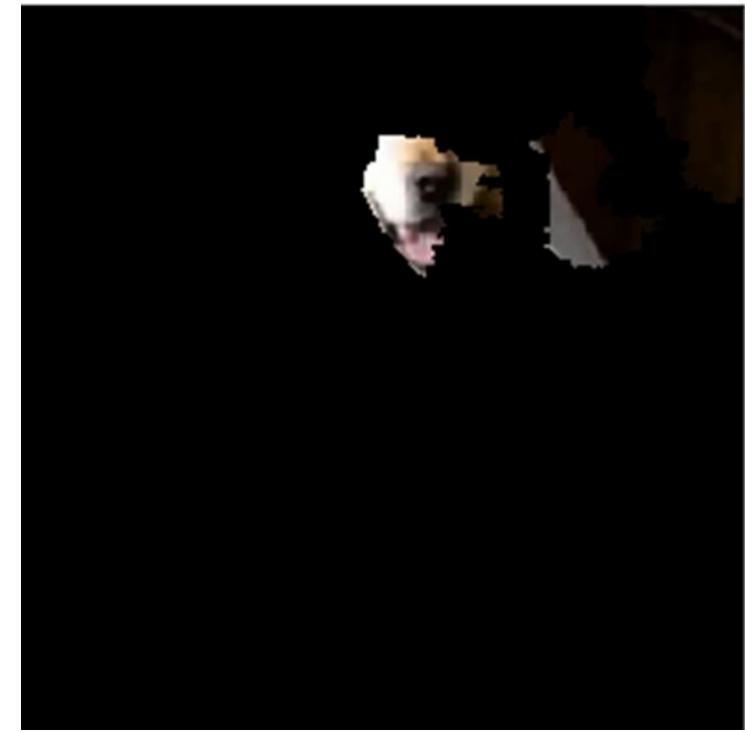
Original



LIME



SMILE

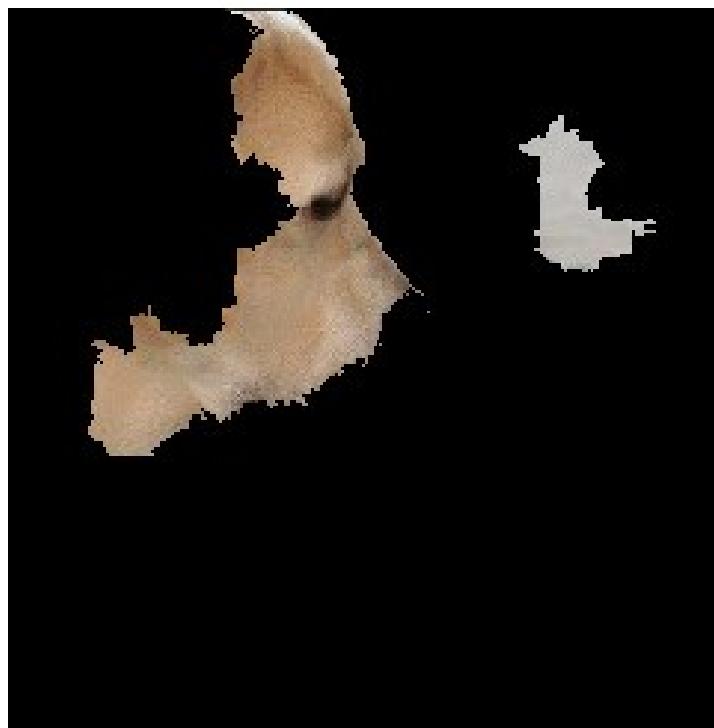


Comparison between LIME and SMILE for Image Classification

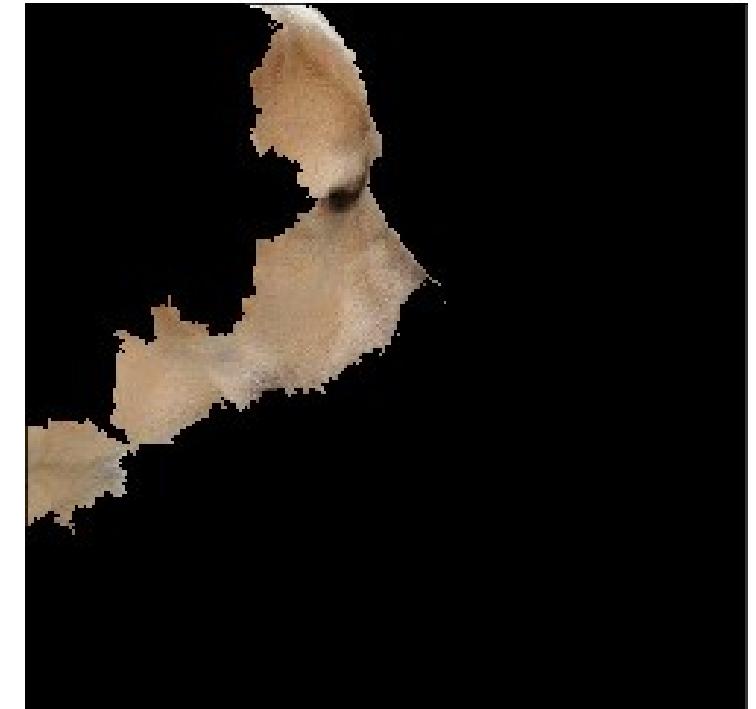
Original



LIME



SMILE



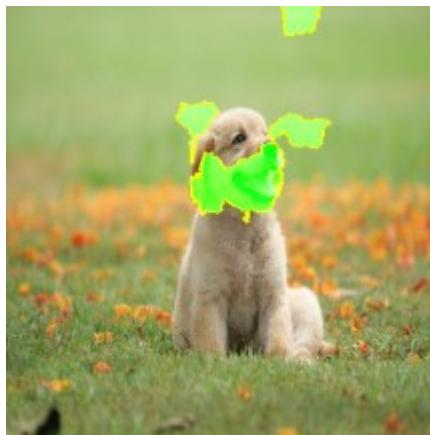
In SMILE, as we process more information (images instead of perturbation vectors), we expect more accurate results.

Comparison between BayLIME and SMILE for Image Classification

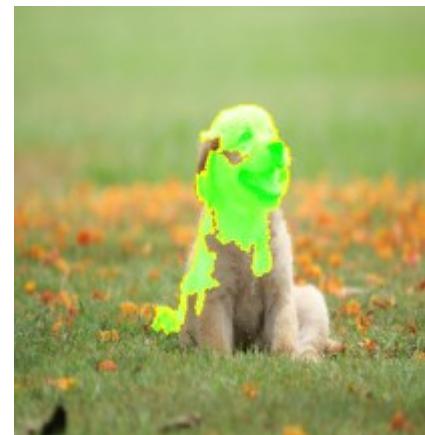
Original



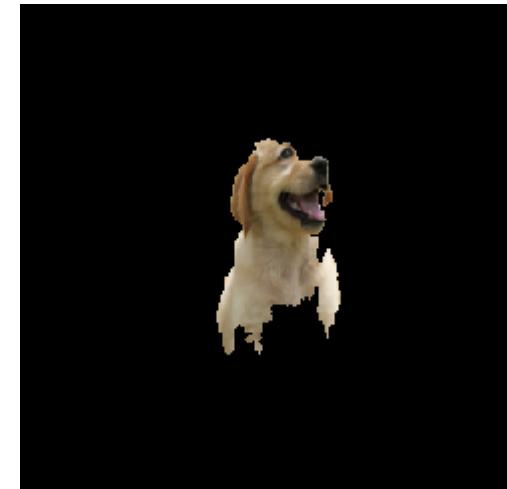
BayLIME – “non_Bay”



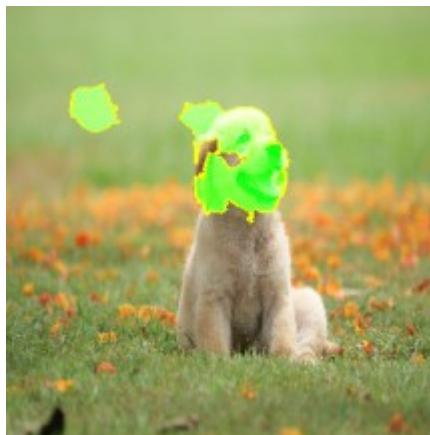
BayLIME – “Bay_non_info_prior”



SMILE



BayLIME – “Bay_info_prior”

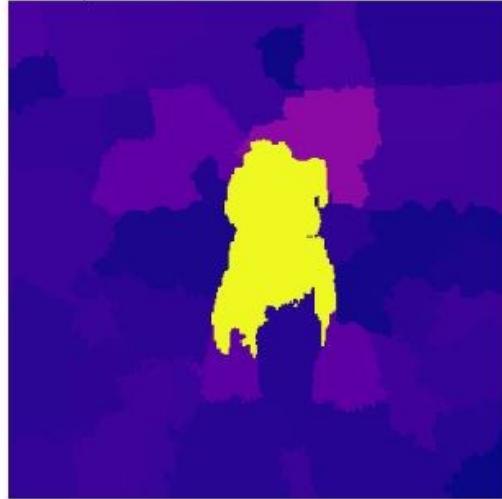


BayLIME – “BayesianRidge_inf_prior_fit_alpha”

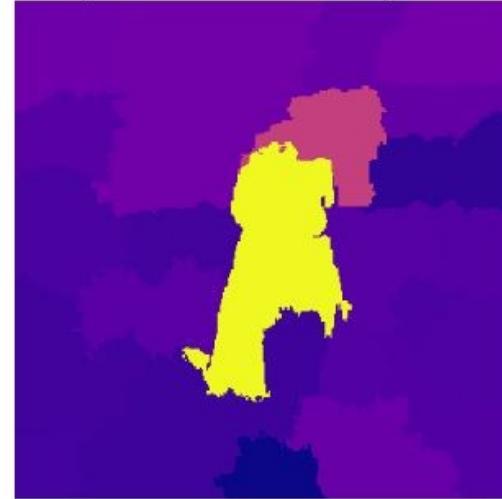


Heatmap Comparison between SMILE Distance Measure for Image Classification

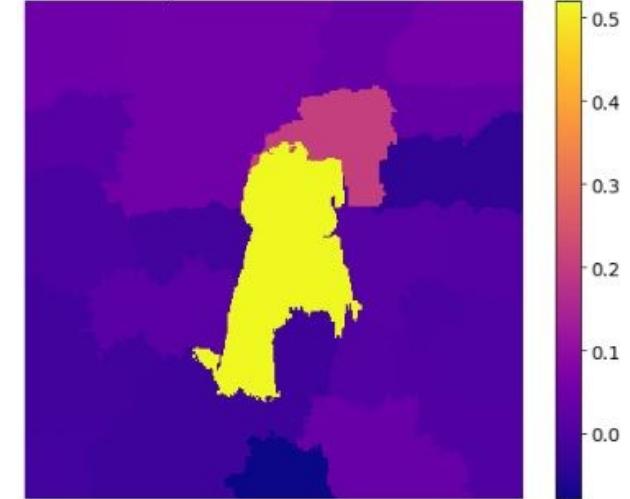
Heatmap of LIME Coeffs - Cosine Distance



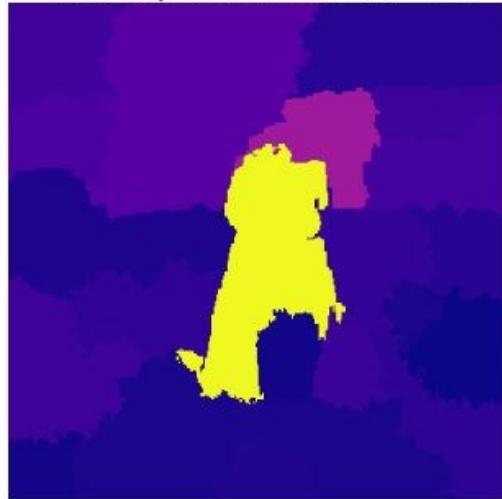
Heatmap of SMILE Coeffs - Kuiper Distance



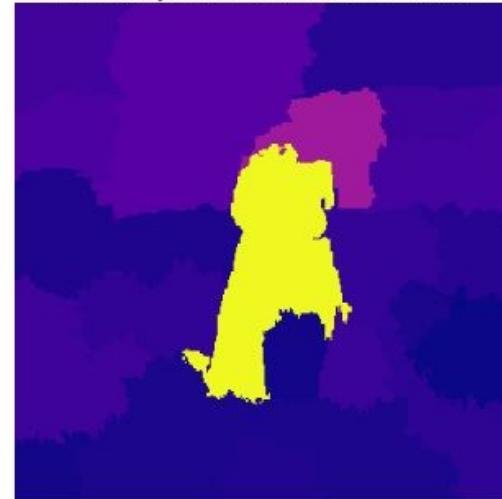
Heatmap of SMILE Coeffs - KSD



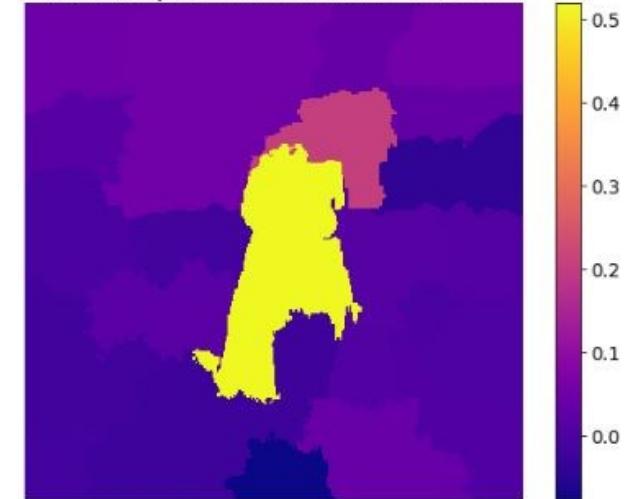
Heatmap of SMILE Coeffs - WD



Heatmap of SMILE Coeffs - ADD

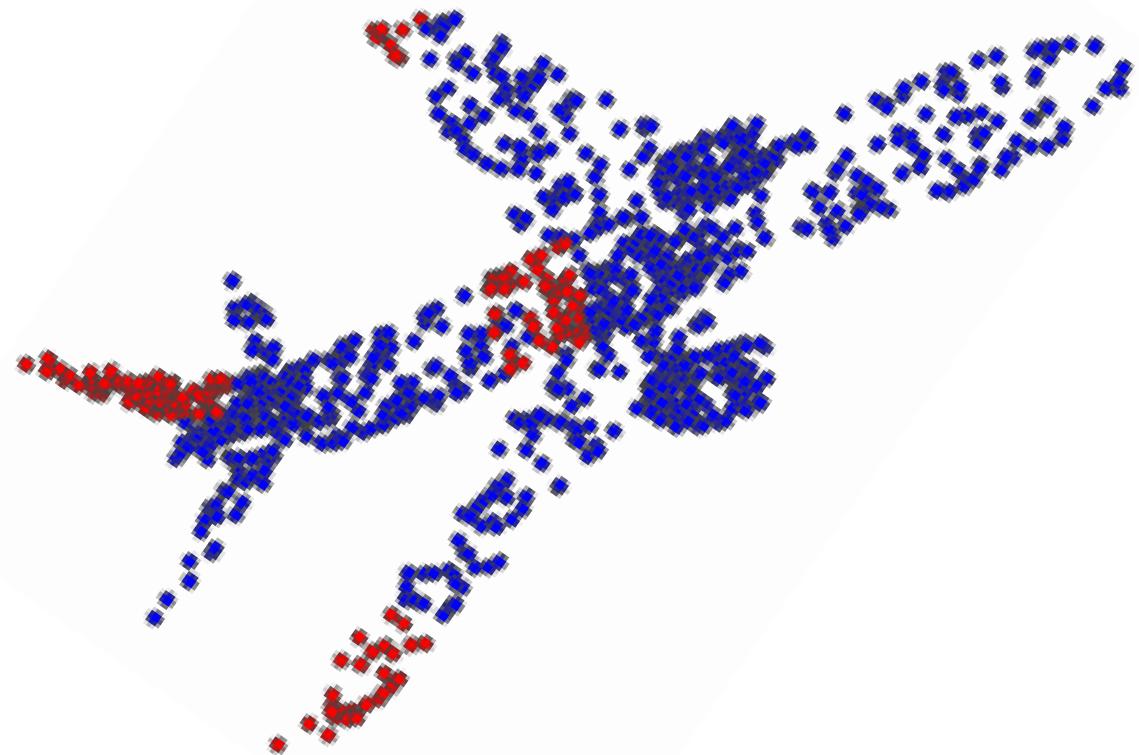


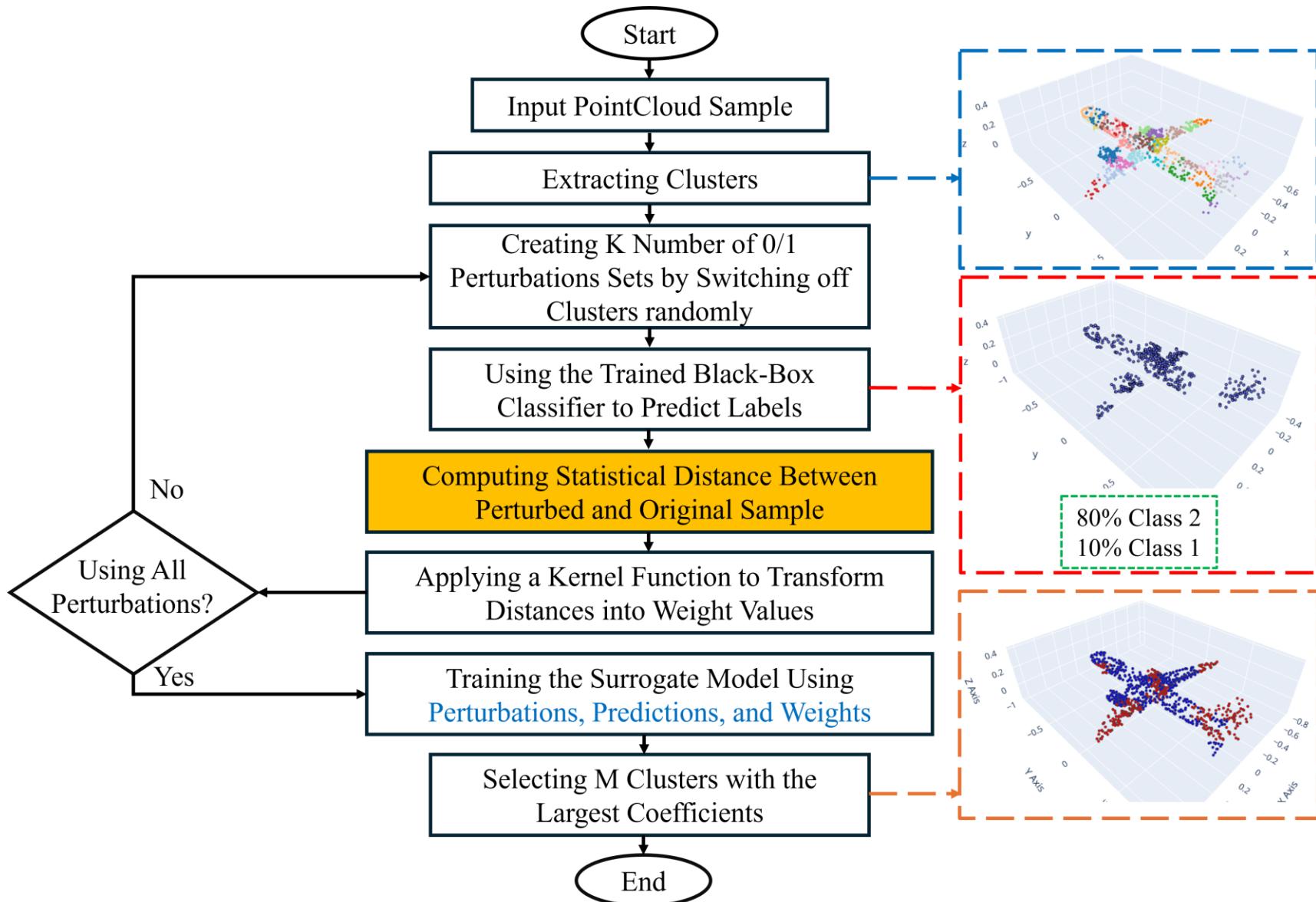
Heatmap of SMILE Coeffs - CVMD



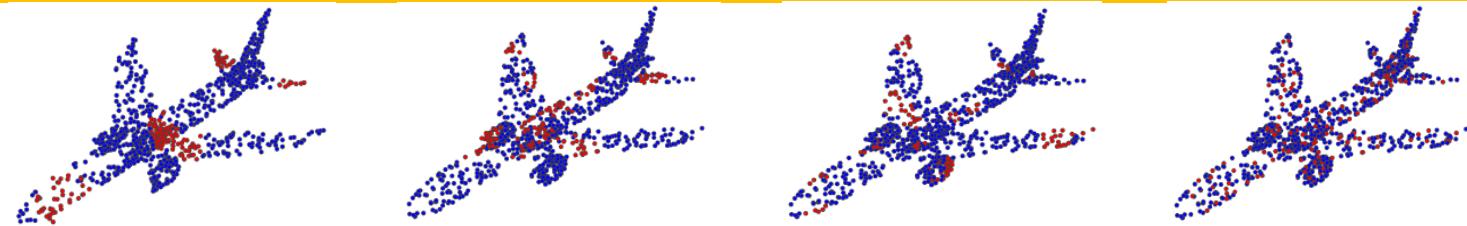
SMILE for Point Cloud

Explaining the SMILE Procedure
for local explainability in Point
Cloud classifiers.

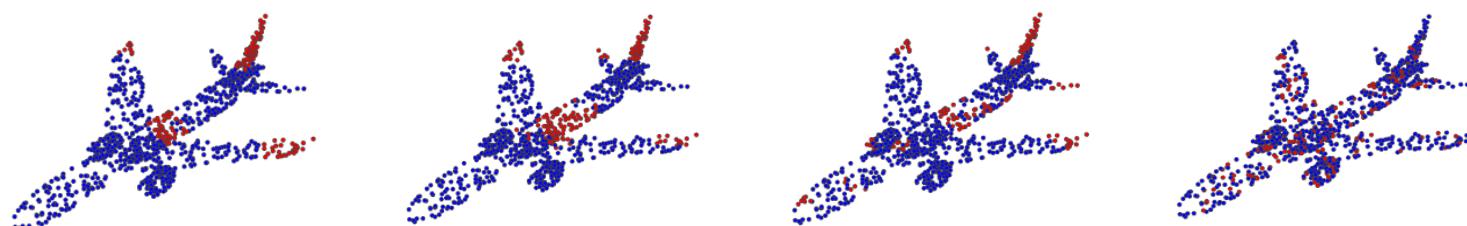




KernelSHAP*



LIME**



SMILE



C = 32

C = 64

C = 128

C = 1024

References:

* Inspired by Lundberg, S.M. and S.-I. Lee, *A unified approach to interpreting model predictions*. Advances in neural information processing systems, 2017. 30.

** Tan, H. and H. Kotthaus. *Surrogate model-based explainability methods for point cloud nns*. in *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision*. 2022.

LIME*



SMILE (all versions)



$\sigma = 0.1$

$\sigma = 0.2$

$\sigma = 0.3$

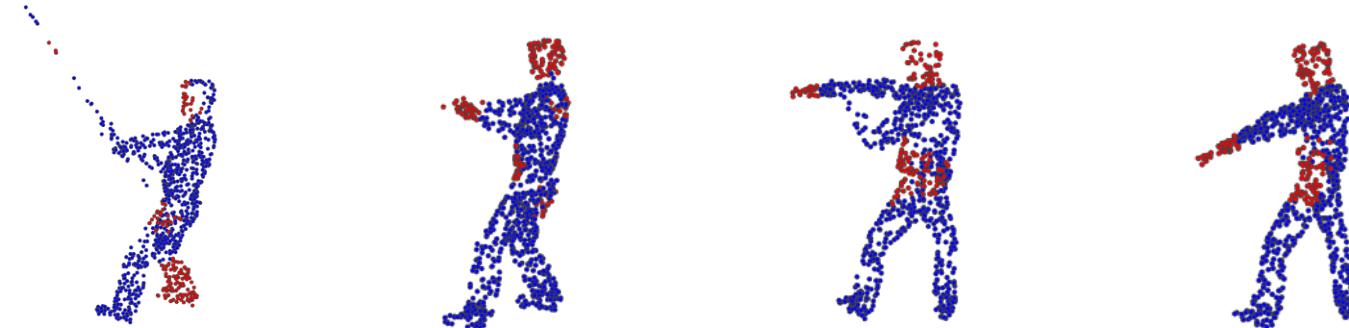
$\sigma = 0.7$

References:

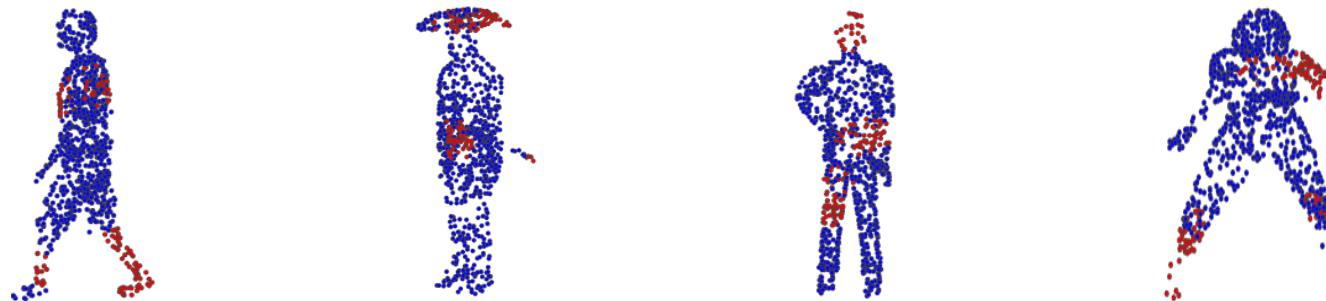
* Tan, H. and H. Kotthaus. *Surrogate model-based explainability methods for point cloud nns*. in *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision*. 2022.

ModelNet40:

Correctly Classified:



Misclassified:



Predicted as
'Lamp'

Predicted as
'Plant'

Predicted as
'Bottle'

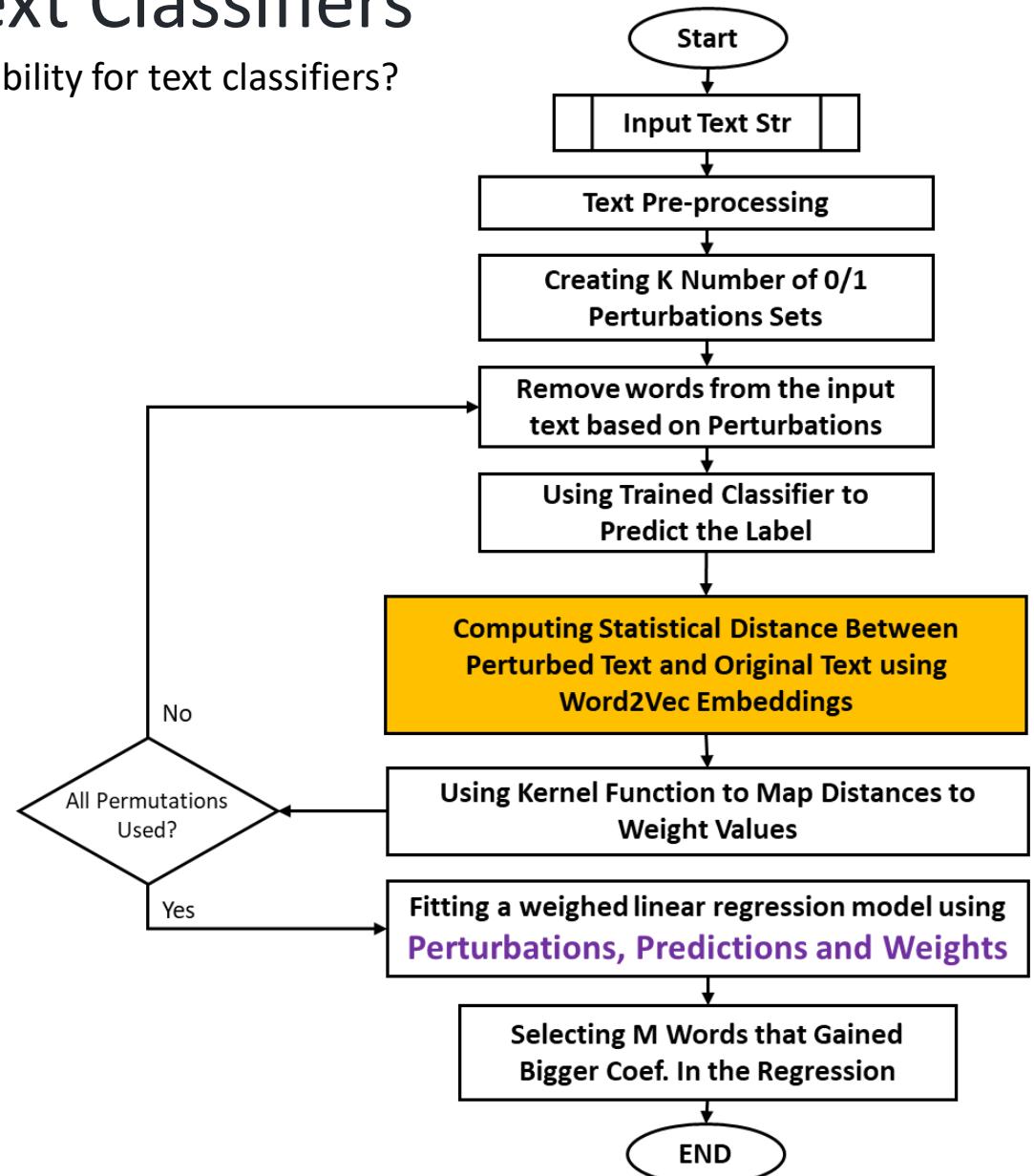
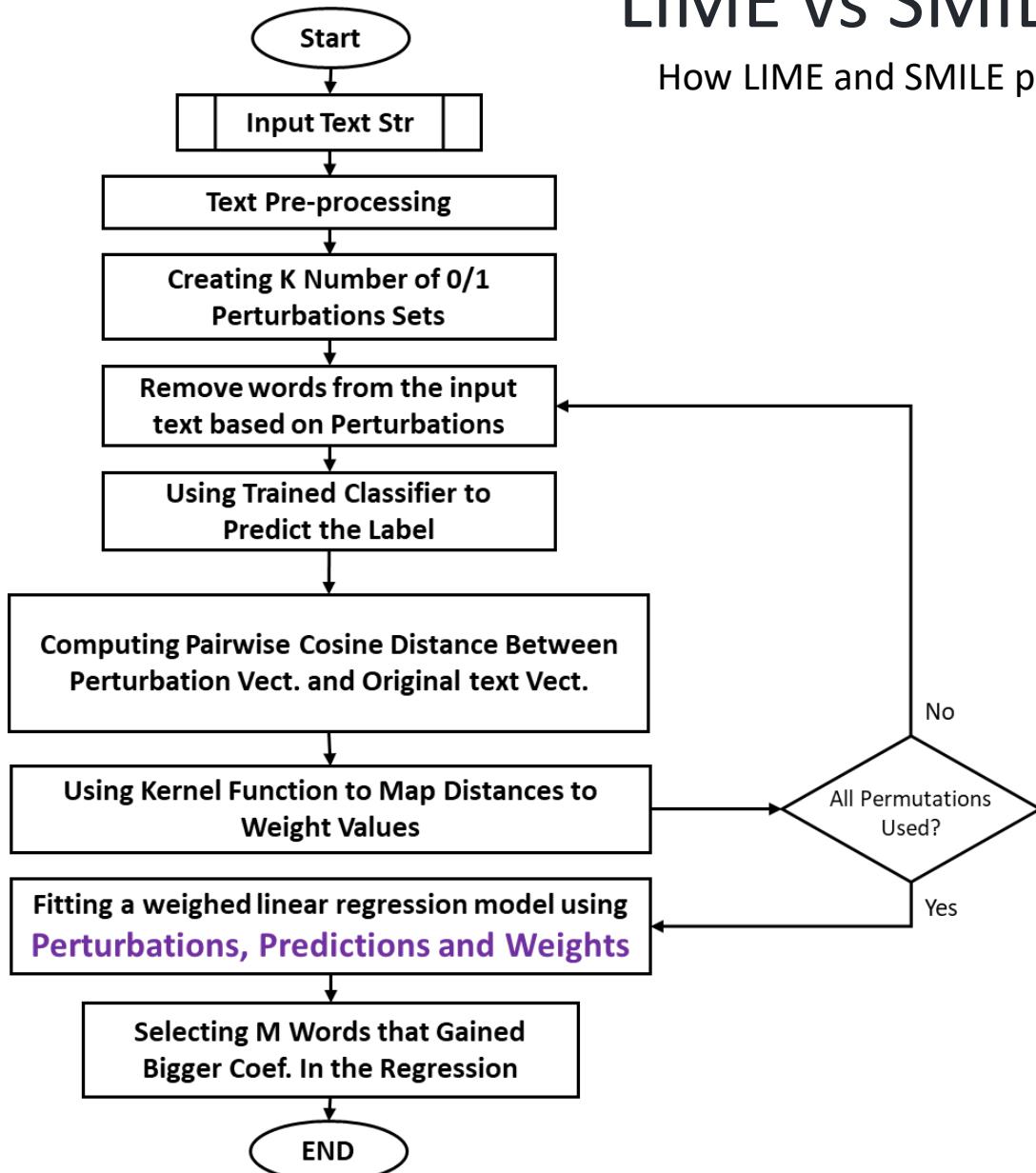
Predicted as
'Lamp'

SMILE for Texts

Explaining the SMILE Procedure
for local explainability in Text
classifiers.

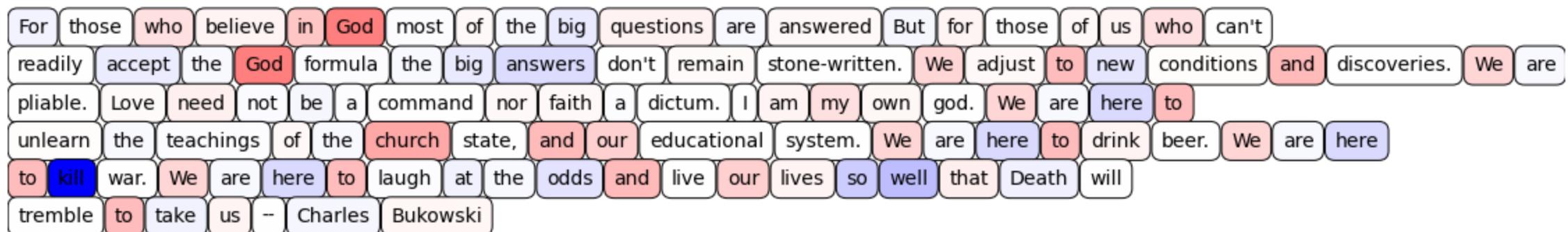
LIME vs SMILE for Text Classifiers

How LIME and SMILE provide explainability for text classifiers?



SMILE for Text Classifiers - Visualization

"For those who believe in God most of the big questions are answered But for those of us who can't readily accept the God formula the big answers don't remain stone-written. We adjust to new conditions and discoveries. We are pliable. Love need not be a command nor faith a dictum. I am my own god. We are here to unlearn the teachings of the church state, and our educational system. We are here to drink beer. We are here to kill war. We are here to laugh at the odds and live our lives so well that Death will tremble to take us - Charles Bukowski"

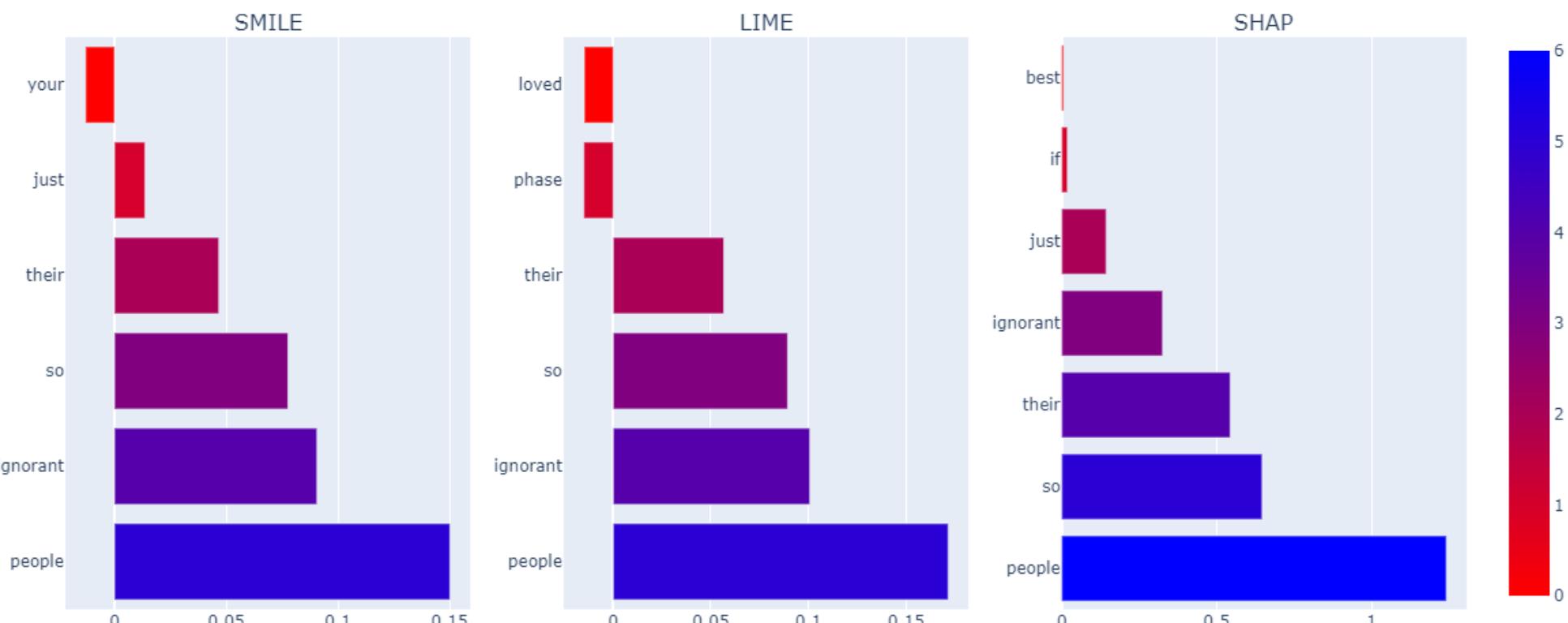


SMILE vs LIME and SHAP for Text Classifiers: Quora Insincere Questions Classification

"Is it just me or have you ever been in this phase wherein you became ignorant to the people you once loved, completely disregarding their feelings/lives so you get to have something go your way and feel temporarily at ease. How did things change?"

True Class: sincere Score=0.3597

Comparing SMILE and LIME (Negative: Sincere, Positive: Insincere)



SMILE vs ELi5 Visualisation for Text Classifiers: Quora Insincere Questions Classification

“Is it just me or have you ever been in this phase wherein you became ignorant to the people you once loved, completely disregarding their feelings/lives so you get to have something go your way and feel temporarily at ease. How did things change?”

True Class: sincere Score=0.3597

y=sincere (probability **0.548**, score **-0.192**) top features

Contribution?	Feature
+1.144	<BIAS>
-0.951	Highlighted in text (sum)

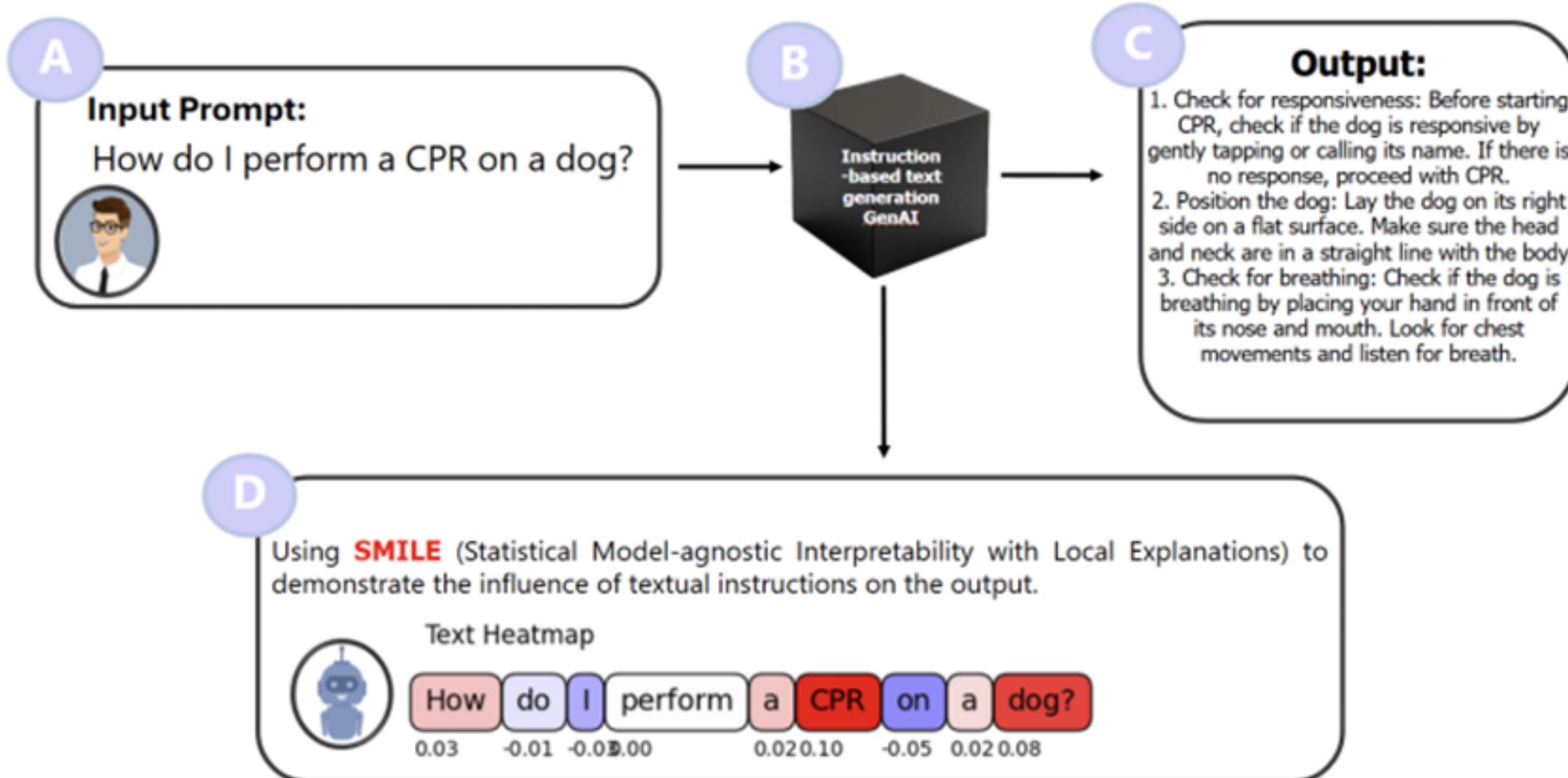
is it just me or have you ever been in this phase wherein you became ignorant to the people you once loved, completely disregarding their feelings/lives so you get to have something go your way and feel temporarily at ease. how did things change?

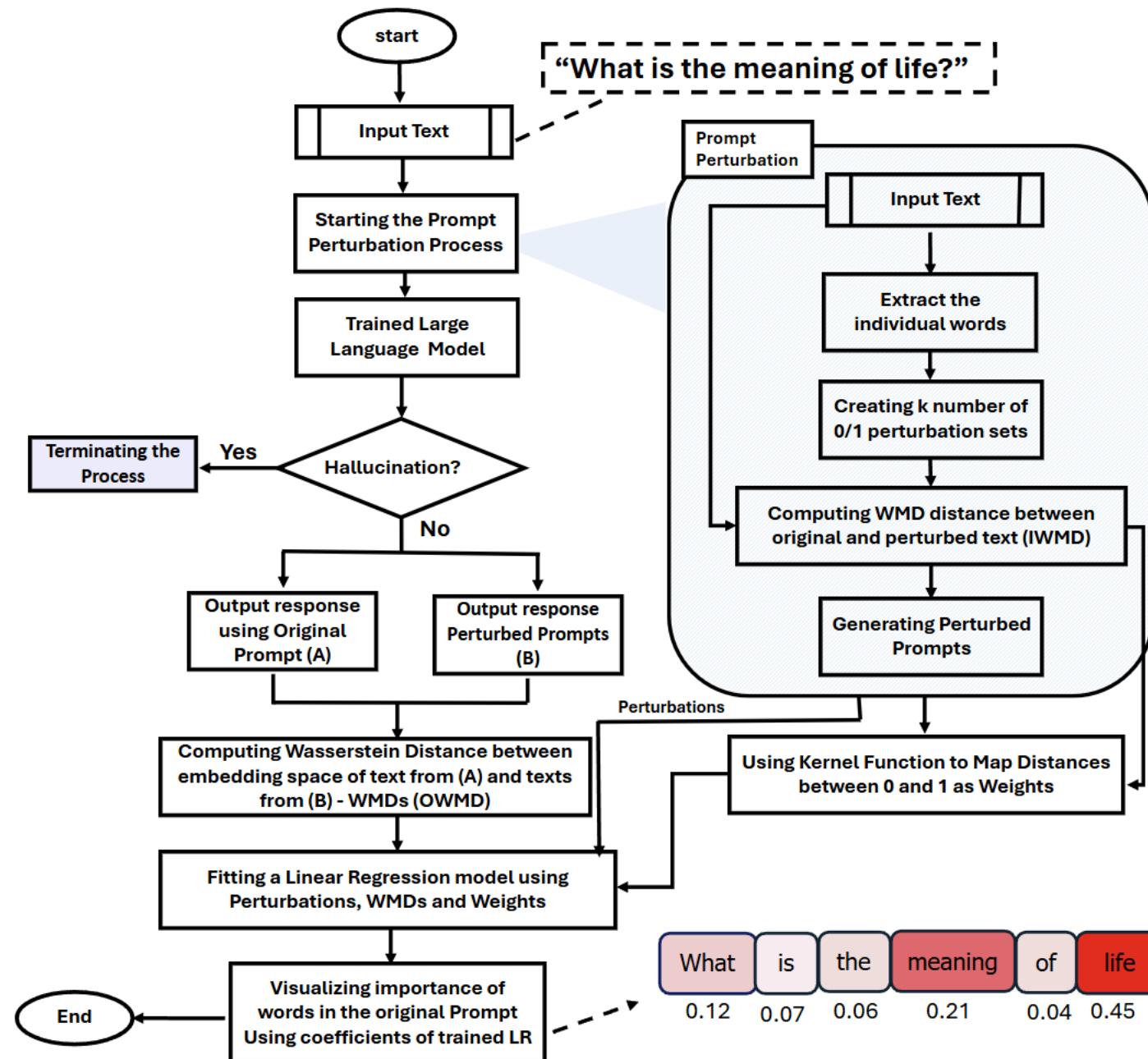
Is it just me or have you ever been in this phase wherein you became ignorant to the people you once loved, completely disregarding their feelings/lives so you get to have something go your way and feel temporarily at ease. How did things change?

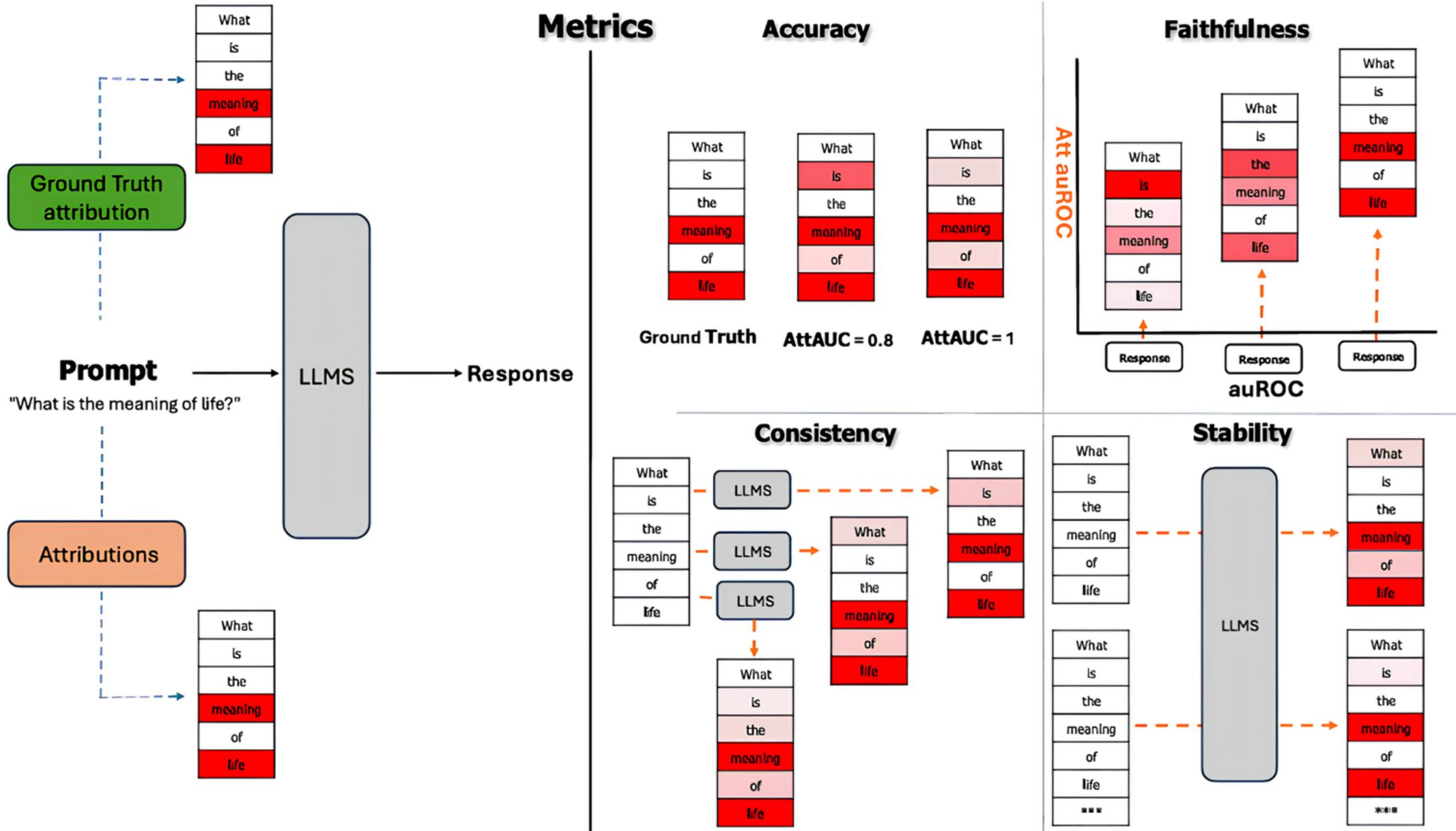
SMILE for Generative AI

Explaining the SMILE Procedure
for local explainability in Text
classifiers.

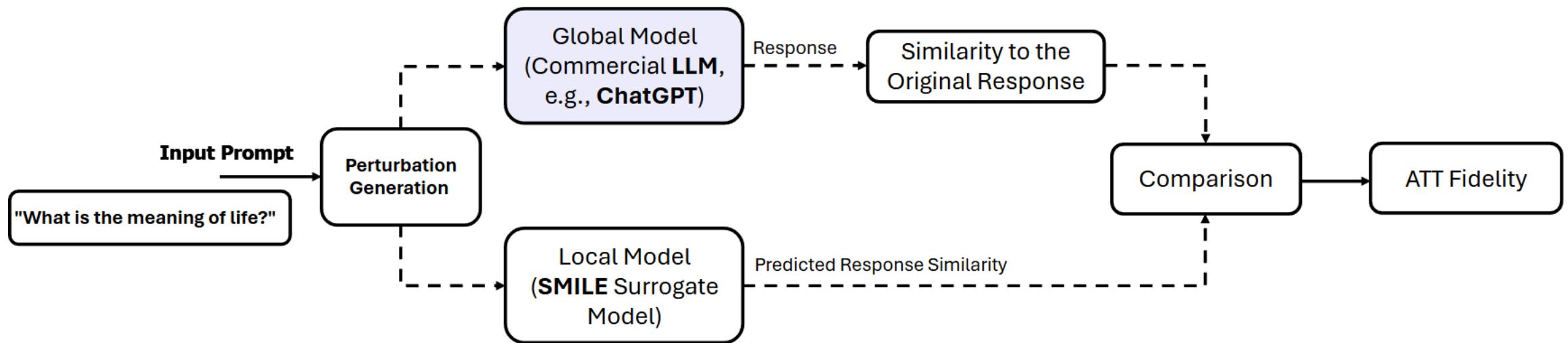
gSMILE for Generative Models (LLMs, VLMs, MLLMs)



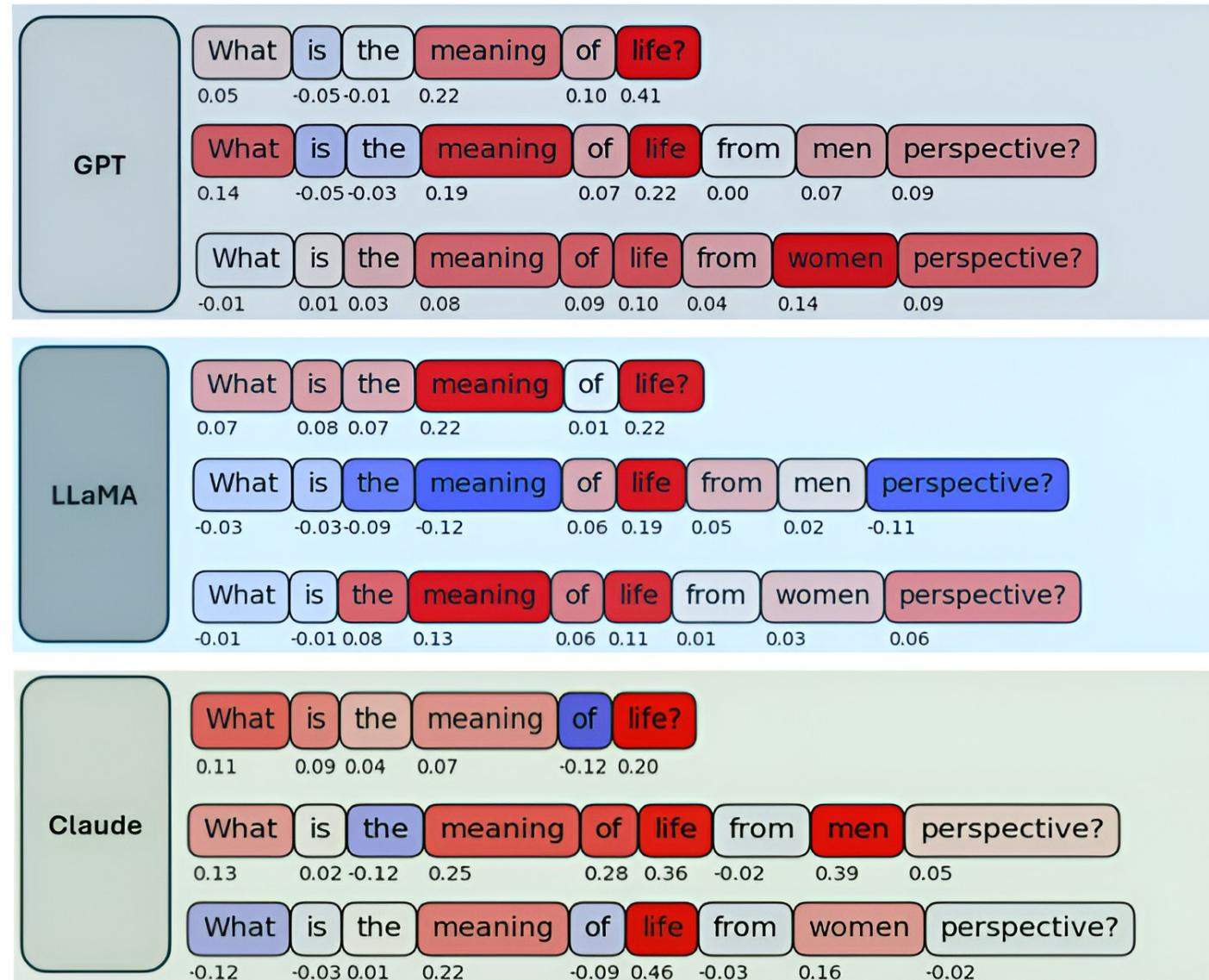




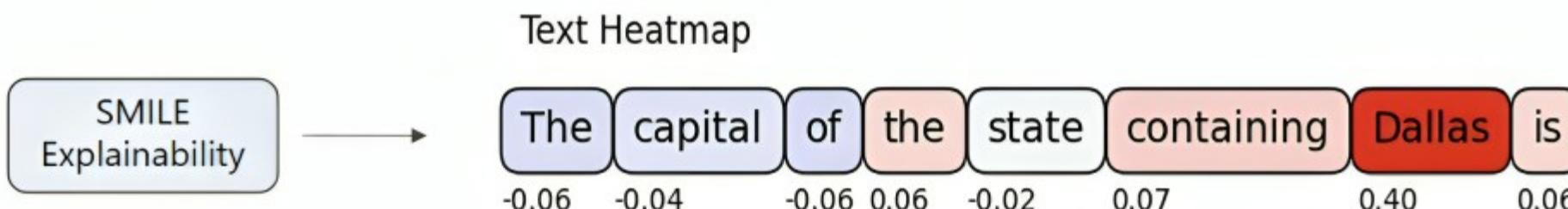
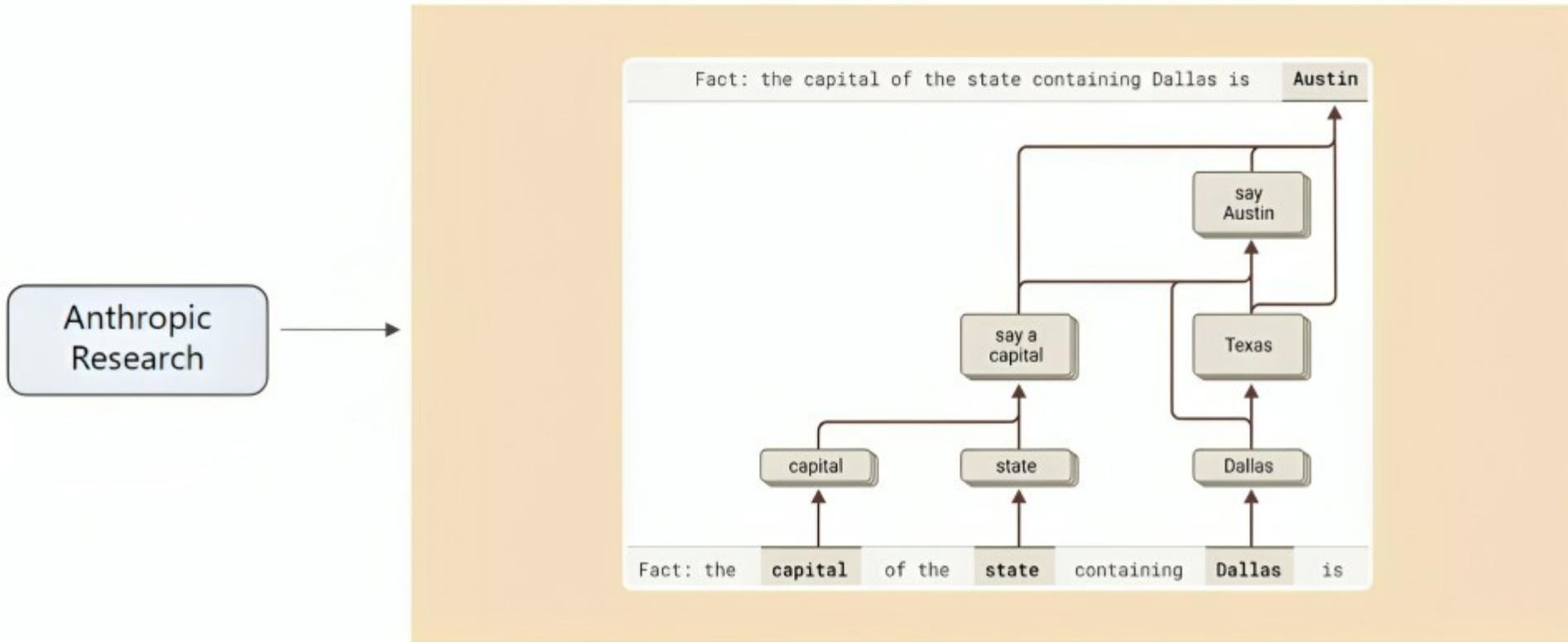
A Change in Fidelity Assessment for LLMs



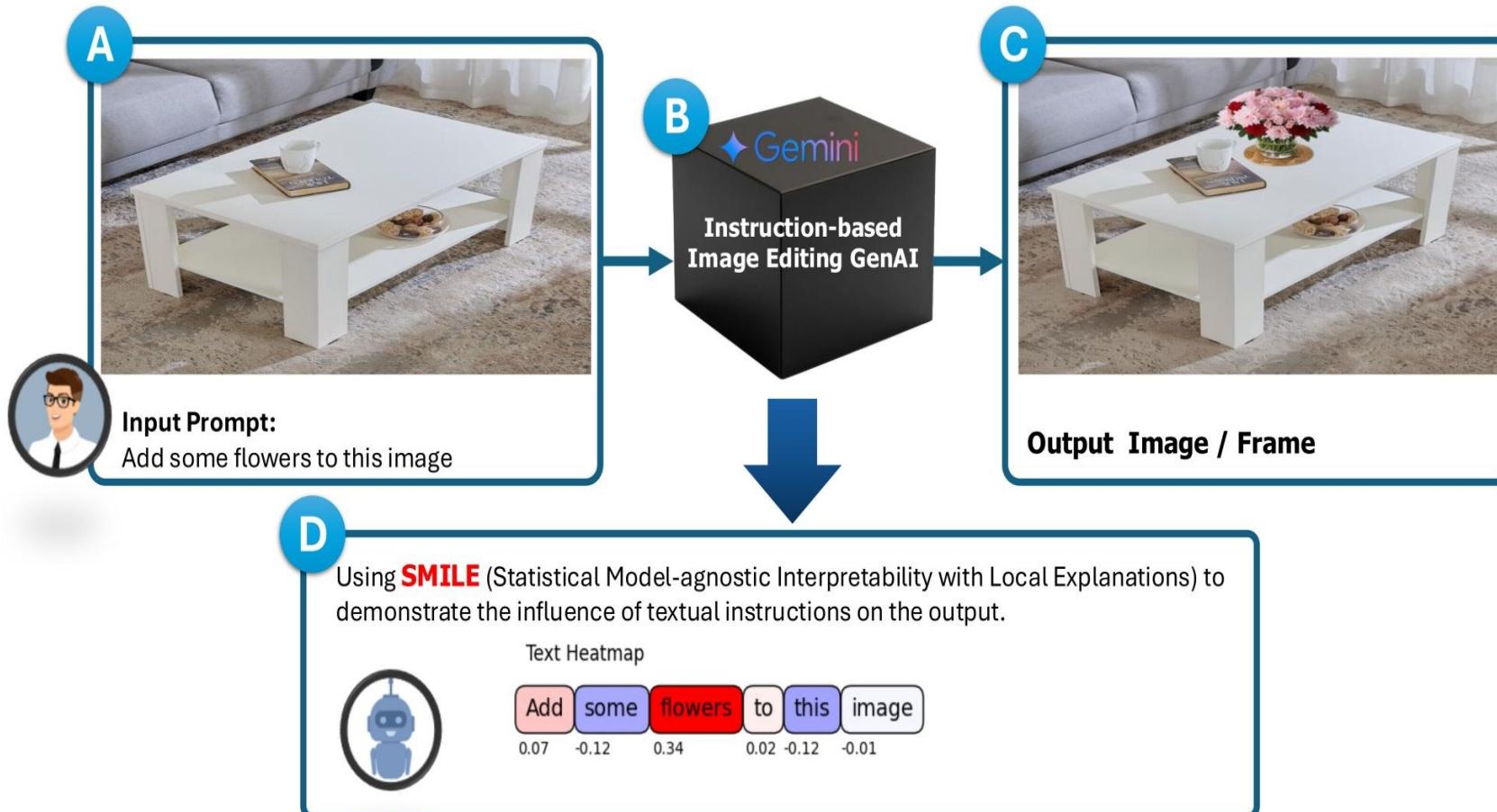
The use of gSMILE for Bias and Fairness Evaluation



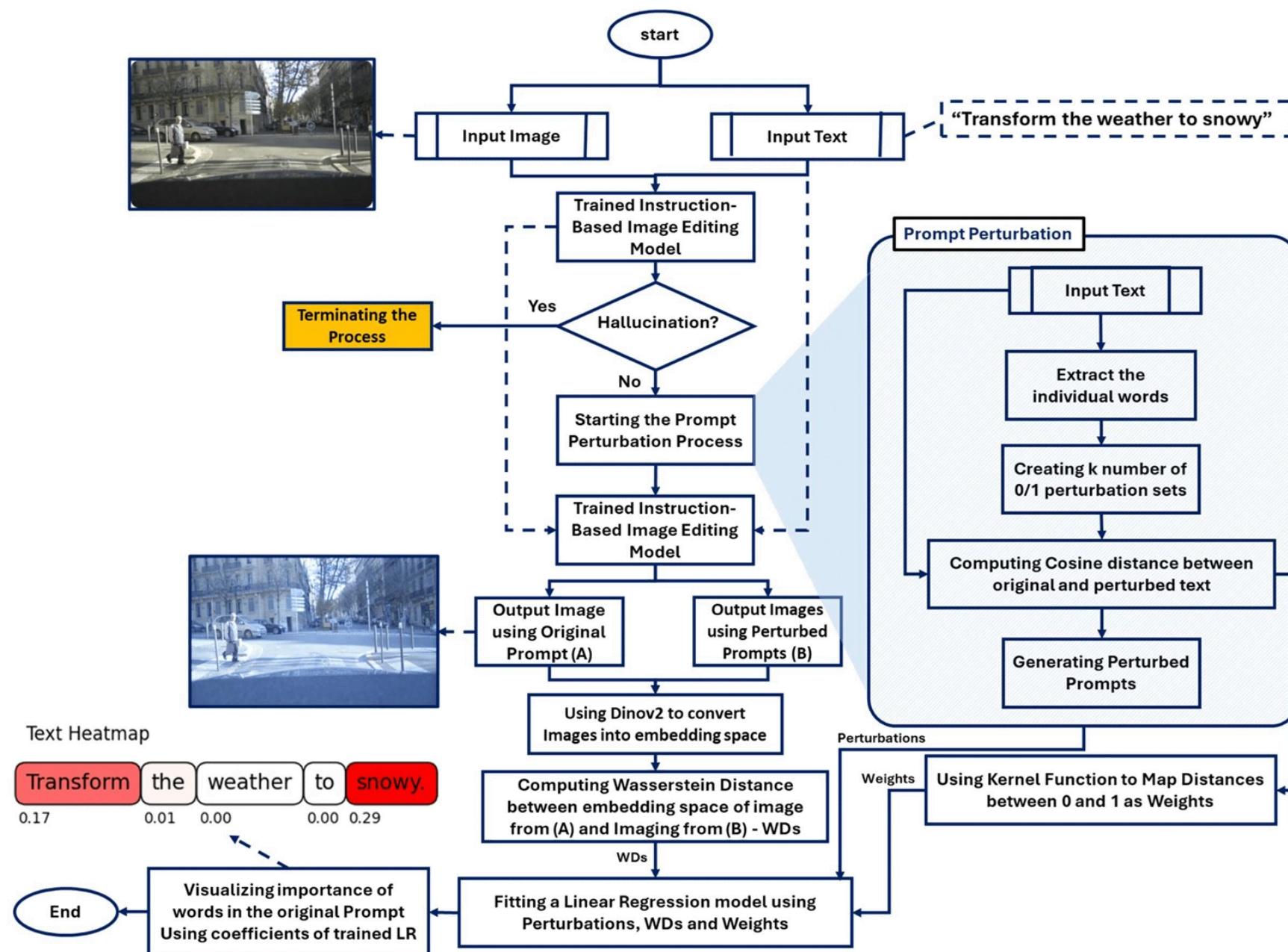
Model-agnostics vs. Model-specific



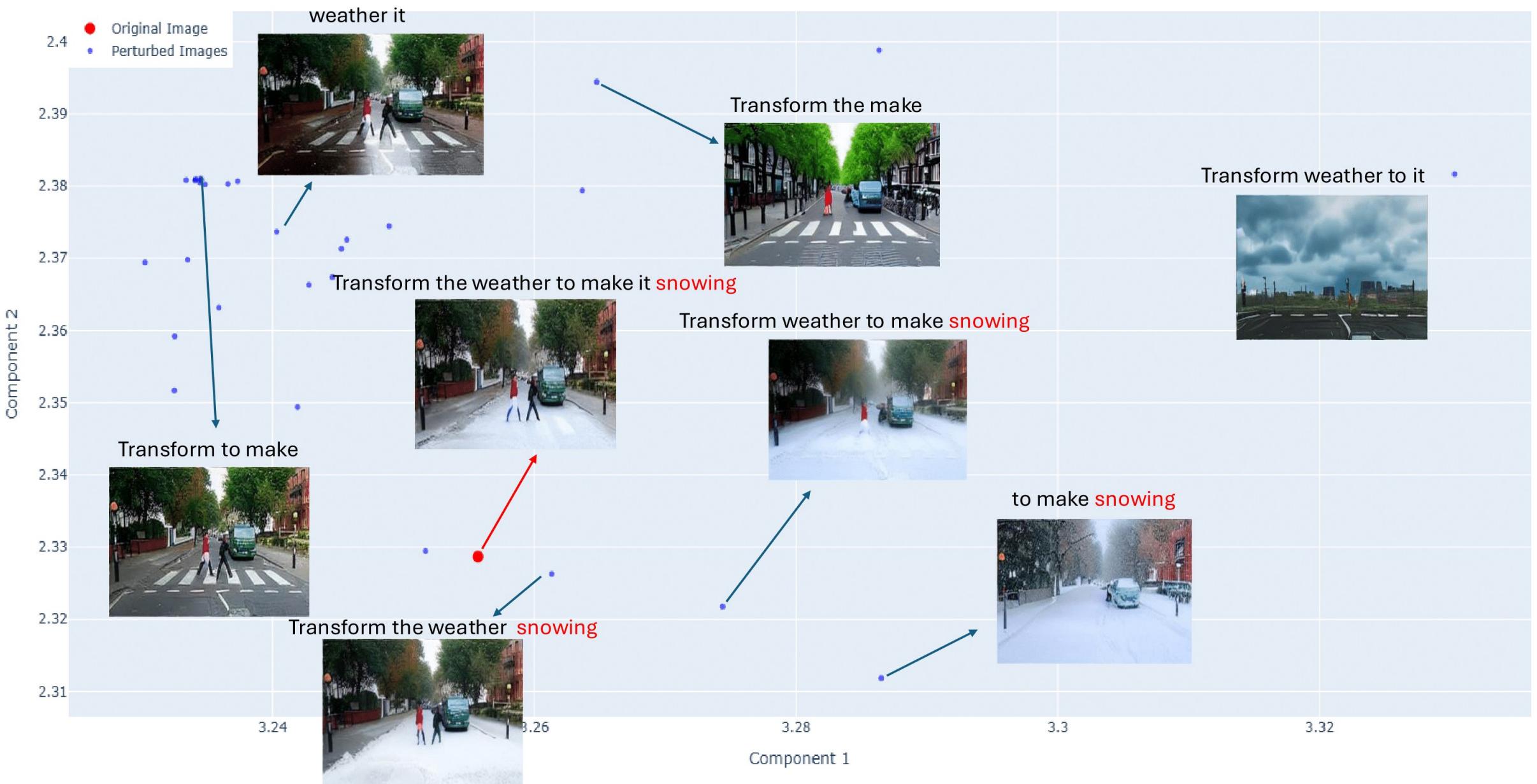
gSMILE for Multimodal Models



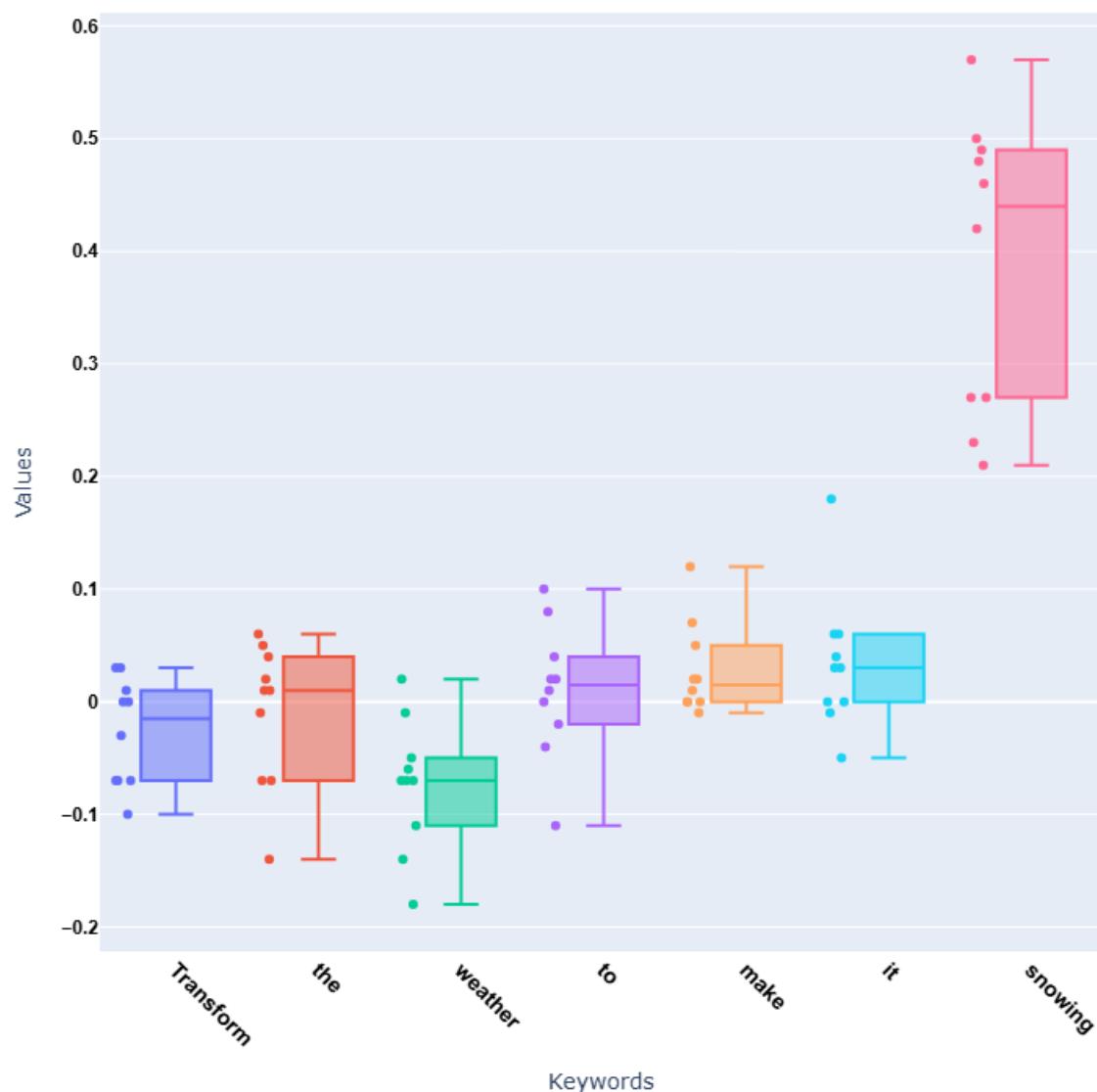
<https://www.kaggle.com/code/zeinabdehghani/explaining-gemini-image-editing-with-smile/notebook>



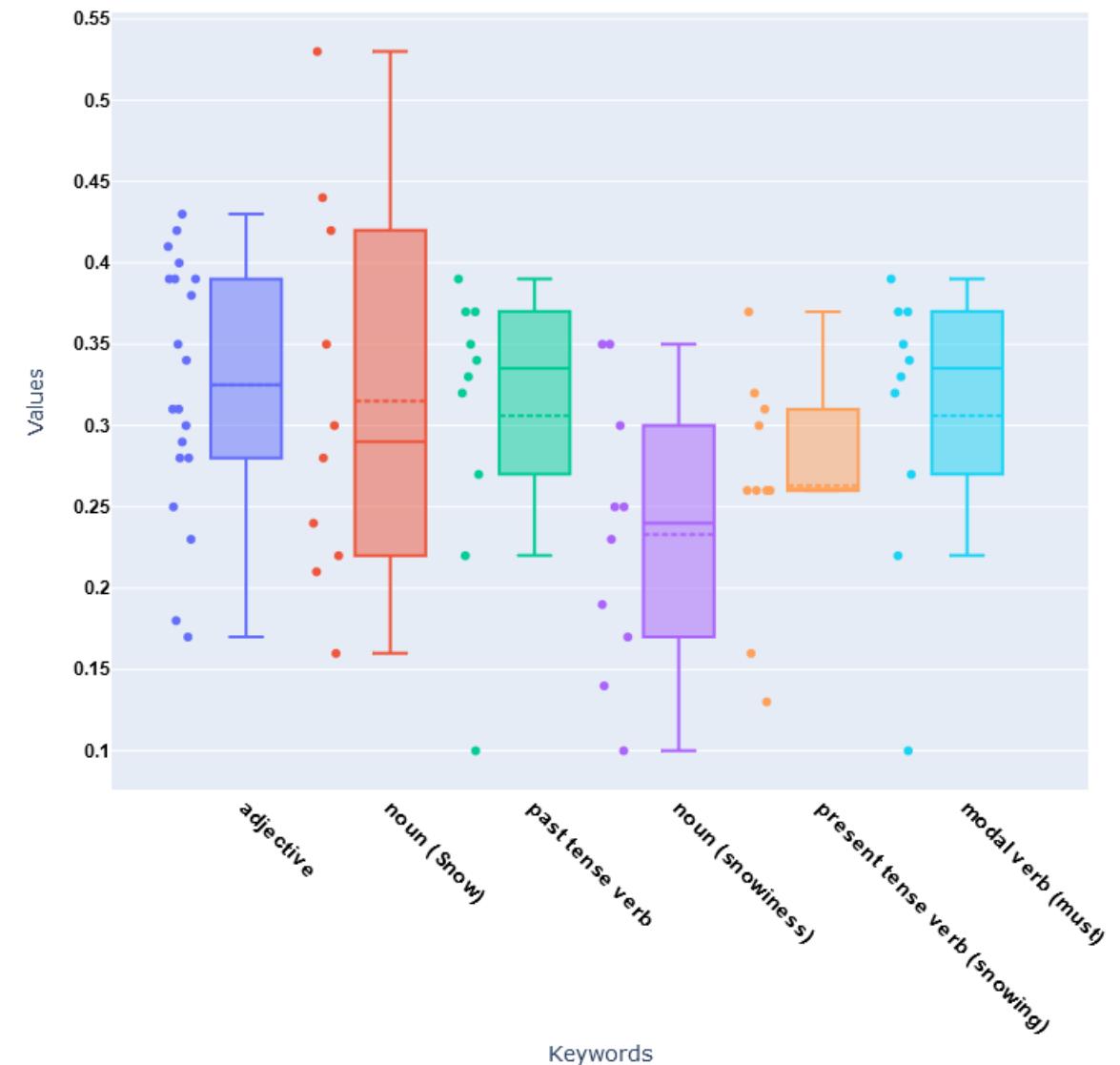
2D t-SNE Scatter Plot of Image Embeddings



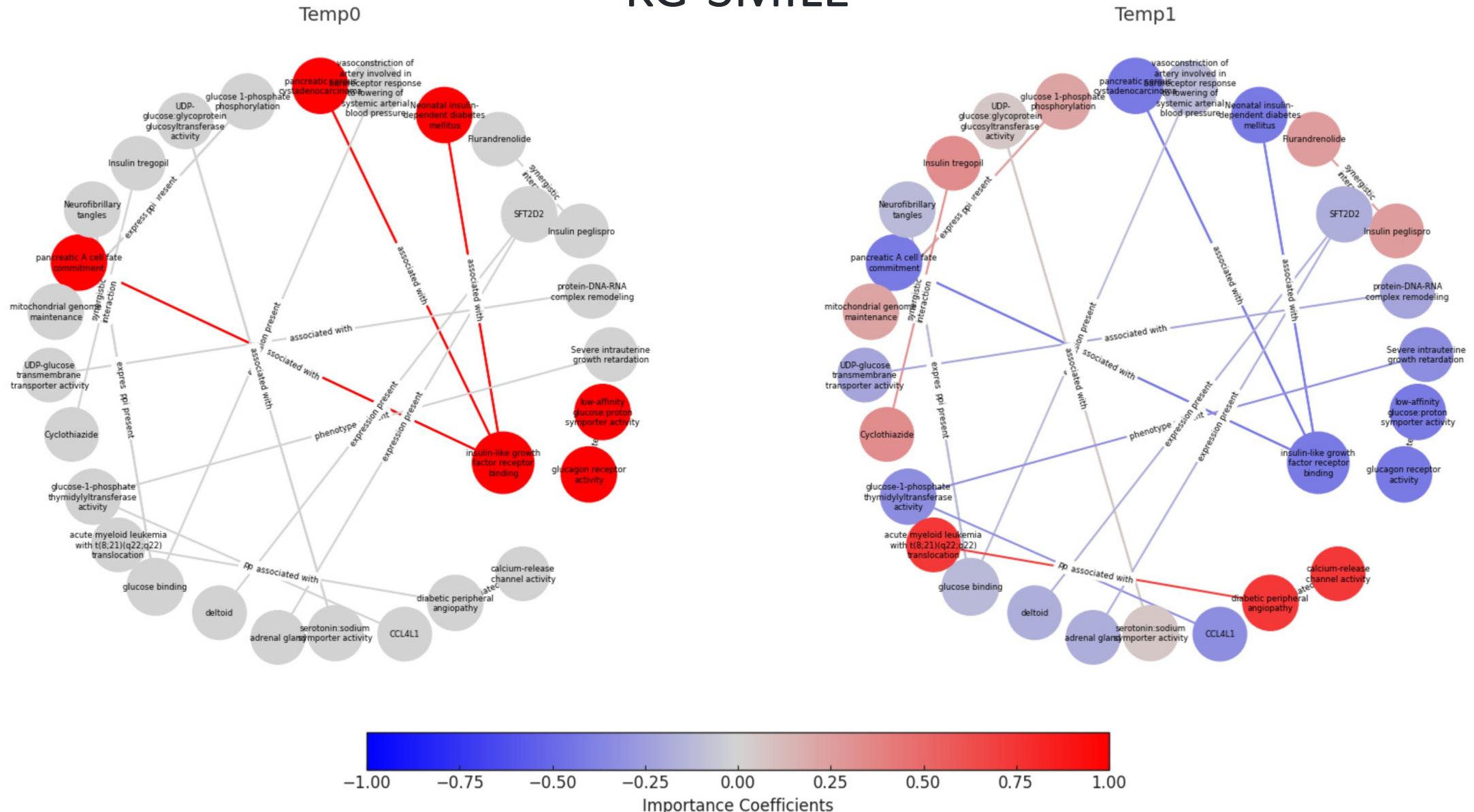
Box Plot of Keywords Related to Snow with Variations



Box Plot of Categorized Snow-Related Keywords



KG-SMILE



Conclusion

- ✓ SMILE extends LIME by integrating statistical distance measures (e.g., Wasserstein, Cramér–von Mises, Kuiper) to produce more stable and reliable local explanations.
- ✓ The method is completely model-agnostic, making it suitable for explaining classical ML, deep learning, and Generative AI (gSMILE) models.
- ✓ SMILE inherits the visual interpretability of LIME and the quantitative depth of SHAP, combining their advantages while improving robustness.
- ✓ Across images, text, and 3D point cloud modalities, SMILE consistently delivers more coherent and less noisy feature attributions.
- ✓ Experimental results demonstrate that SMILE is more resilient to adversarial manipulation than LIME and SHAP, though not entirely immune.
- ✓ The framework now supports LLMs, VLMs, and multimodal models through gSMILE, enabling explainability, fidelity analysis, and bias/fairness evaluation for generative tasks.
- ✓ Future directions include expanding SMILE for various directions, including Image Captioning, QML, and Geo-SMILE.

SMILE Reproducibility



<https://github.com/Dependable-Intelligent-Systems-Lab/xwhy>



<https://github.com/koo-ec/KG-SMILE>



<https://github.com/Sara068/Mapping-the-Mind-of-an-Instruction-based-Image-Editing-using-SMILE>



<https://github.com/Sara068/LLM-SMILE>



[https://github.com/koo-ec/Geo-SMILE \(Not Public Yet\)](https://github.com/koo-ec/Geo-SMILE (Not Public Yet))

Publications

[1] Aslansefat, K., Hashemian, M., Walker, M., Akram, M. N., Sorokos, I., & Papadopoulos, Y. (2023). Explaining black boxes with a SMILE: Statistical Model-agnostic Interpretability with Local Explanations. *IEEE Software*, 41(1), 87-97.

[2] Ahmadi, S. M., Aslansefat, K., Valcarce-Dineiro, R., & Barnfather, J. (2024). Explainability of Point Cloud Neural Networks Using SMILE: Statistical Model-Agnostic Interpretability with Local Explanations. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2410.15374 (Submitted to Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence)*.

[3] Dehghani, Z., Aslansefat, K., Khan, A., Rivera, A. R., George, F., & Khalid, M. (2024). Mapping the Mind of an Instruction-based Image Editing using SMILE. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2412.16277. (Submitted to Nature npj Artificial Intelligence)*.

[4] Dehghani, Z., Aslansefat, K., Khan, A., & Akram, M. N. (2025). Explainability of Large Language Models using SMILE: Statistical Model-agnostic Interpretability with Local Explanations. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2505.21657. (Submitted to IEEE Transactions on Artificial Intelligence)*.

[5] Moghaddam, Z. Z. S., Dehghani, Z., Rani, M., Aslansefat, K., Mishra, B. K., Kureshi, R. R., & Thakker, D. (2025). Explainable Knowledge Graph Retrieval-Augmented Generation (KG-RAG) with KG-SMILE. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2509.03626. (Submitted to Information Systems Frontiers)*.

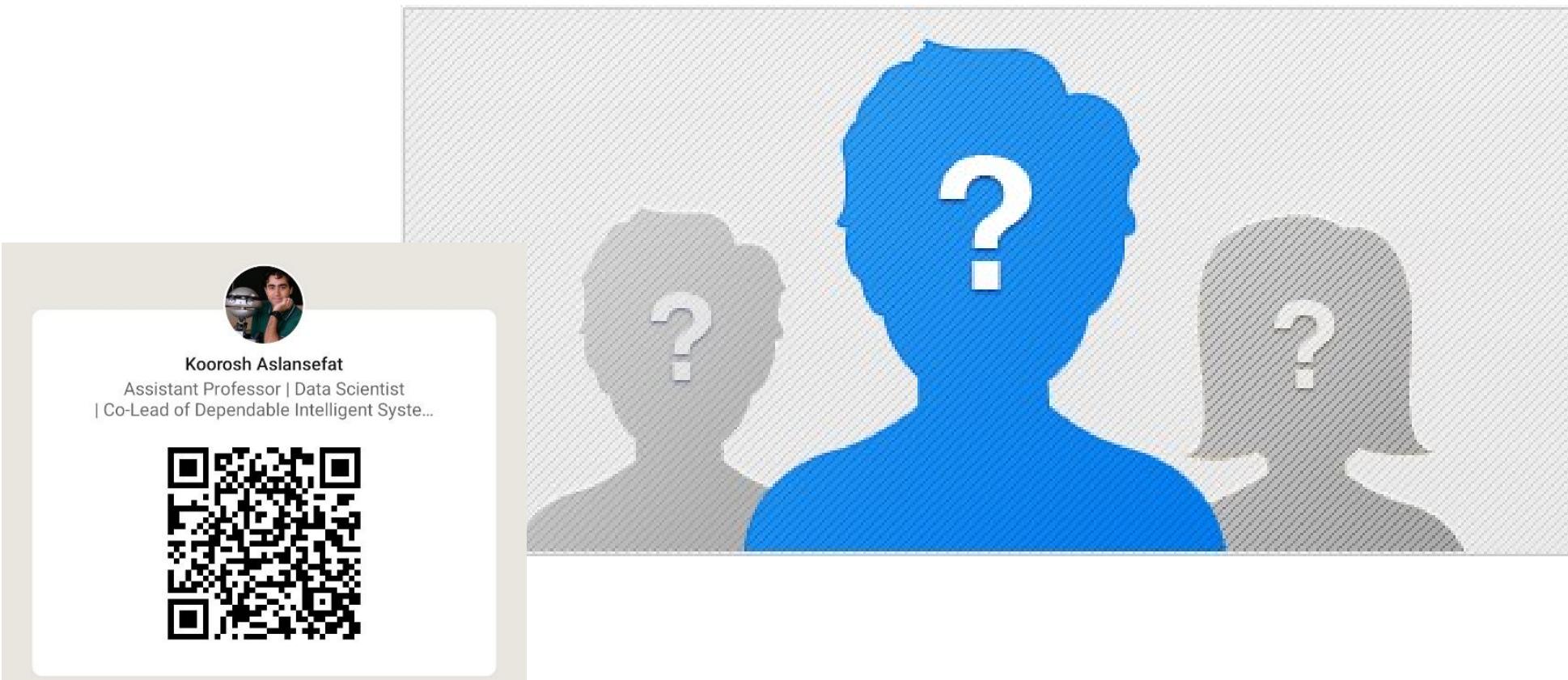
References

Here you can find the references that has been used in this presentation

- [1] Ribeiro, M. T., Singh, S., & Guestrin, C. (2016, August). " Why should i trust you?" Explaining the predictions of any classifier. In Proceedings of the 22nd ACM SIGKDD international conference on knowledge discovery and data mining (pp. 1135-1144).
- [2] Lundberg, S. M., & Lee, S. I. (2017, December). A unified approach to interpreting model predictions. In Proceedings of the 31st international conference on neural information processing systems (pp. 4768-4777).
- [3] Slack, D., Hilgard, S., Jia, E., Singh, S., & Lakkaraju, H. (2020, February). Fooling lime and shap: Adversarial attacks on post hoc explanation methods. In Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (pp. 180-186).
- [4] Ghorbani, A., Abid, A., & Zou, J. (2019, July). Interpretation of neural networks is fragile. In Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (Vol. 33, No. 01, pp. 3681-3688).
- [5] Belle, V., & Papantonis, I. (2021). Principles and practice of explainable machine learning. *Frontiers in big Data*, 39.
- [6] Arrieta, A. B., Díaz-Rodríguez, N., Del Ser, J., Bennetot, A., Tabik, S., Barbado, A., ... & Herrera, F. (2020). Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI): Concepts, taxonomies, opportunities and challenges toward responsible AI. *Information Fusion*, 58, 82-115.

Thank You

If you have any question, please feel free to ask



Koorosh Aslansefat
Assistant Professor | Data Scientist
| Co-Lead of Dependable Intelligent Syste...



k.aslansefat@hull.ac.uk