

# Implementing machine learning based solutions into real-life: Everything you need to know in 29 minutes

Mike Fralick, MD, PhD, SM, FRCPC

General Internist, Mount Sinai Hospital, University of Toronto

Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Toronto

@Fralickmike 

Machine Learning Course, University of Toronto

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# Disclosures

- Conflicts of interest
  - ProofDx
  - Honouraria received from NEJM and Lancet
  - Board member for NEJM Evidence

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UNIVERSITY OF  
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Eliot Phillipson Clinician Scientist  
Training Program



**DSECT**  
Drug Safety & Effectiveness  
Cross-Disciplinary Training



CIHR IRSC



**ROYAL COLLEGE**  
OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF CANADA

**ODPRN** ONTARIO  
DRUG POLICY  
RESEARCH NETWORK

# Objectives

- Provide a foundation on study design [epidemiology]
- Provide examples of implementing ML studies into clinical care at various hospitals in Ontario

# Crash-course in epidemiology

Most important step: coming up  
with a great Research Question

- P

- I

- C

- O

# Research Question

- Population
- Intervention [for RCT] Exposure [for non-RCT]
- Comparator or Control group
- Outcome

# What type of question are you asking?

- Causal question: randomized trial
- “Causal” question: cohort or case control

# What type of question are you asking?

- Causal question: randomized trial
- Association question: cohort or case control



# What type of question are you asking?

- Causal question: randomized trial
- Association question: cohort or case control
- Prediction question: cohort + fancy stats/ML

Now let's talk about  
study design

# Study designs

- “Experimental”
  - Randomized controlled trials

# The magic of randomization

- Randomization allows for:
  - Removal of selection bias
  - Balancing of measured confounders
  - Balancing of unmeasured confounders
  - Everyone has the same time-zero

## Empagliflozin, Cardiovascular Outcomes, and Mortality in Type 2 Diabetes

Ur	Characteristic*	Placebo (N = 2333)	Empagliflozin 10 mg (N = 2345)
Bl	Age – years	63.2 ± 8.8	63.0 ± 8.6)
	Male – no. (%)	1680 (72.0)	1653 (70.5)
Pr	Race – no. (%)		
	White	1678 (71.9)	1707 (72.8)
PF	Asian	511 (21.9)	505 (21.5)
	Black/African-American	120 (5.1)	119 (5.1)
	Other/Missing	24 (1.0)	14 (0.6)
	Ethnicity – no. (%)		
	Not Hispanic or Latino	1912 (82.0)	1909 (81.4)
	Hispanic or Latino	418 (17.9)	432 (18.4)
	Missing	3 (0.1)	4 (0.2)
	Region – no. (%)		
	Europe	959 (41.1)	966 (41.2)
	North America (plus Australia and New Zealand)	462 (19.8)	466 (19.9)
	Asia	450 (19.3)	447 (19.1)
	Latin America	360 (15.4)	359 (15.3)
	Africa	102 (4.4)	107 (4.6)
	Weight – kg	86.6 ± 19.1	85.9 ± 18.8
	Body mass index – kg/m <sup>2†</sup>	30.7 ± 5.2	30.6 ± 5.2
	CV risk factor – no. (%)	2307 (98.9)	2333 (99.5)
	Coronary artery disease	1763 (75.6)	1782 (76.0)

## Empagliflozin, Cardiovascular Outcomes, and Mortality in Type 2 Diabetes

Unmeasured variable	Placebo	Empagliflozin
Blue eyes	10%	10%
Prior DKA	2%	2%
PRSS1 Gene	1%	1%

# Study types

- Experimental
  - Randomized controlled trials
- Observational
  - Ecological study
  - Cross-sectional study
  - Cohort study
  - Case-control study
  - Case-crossover

# Clinical Epidemiology: Everything you need to know in 59 Minutes

Mike Fralick, MD, PhD, MSc

@Fralickmike 





# Study types

- Experimental
  - Randomized controlled trials
- Observational
  - Ecological study
  - Cross-sectional study
  - **Cohort study**
  - Case-control study
  - Case-crossover

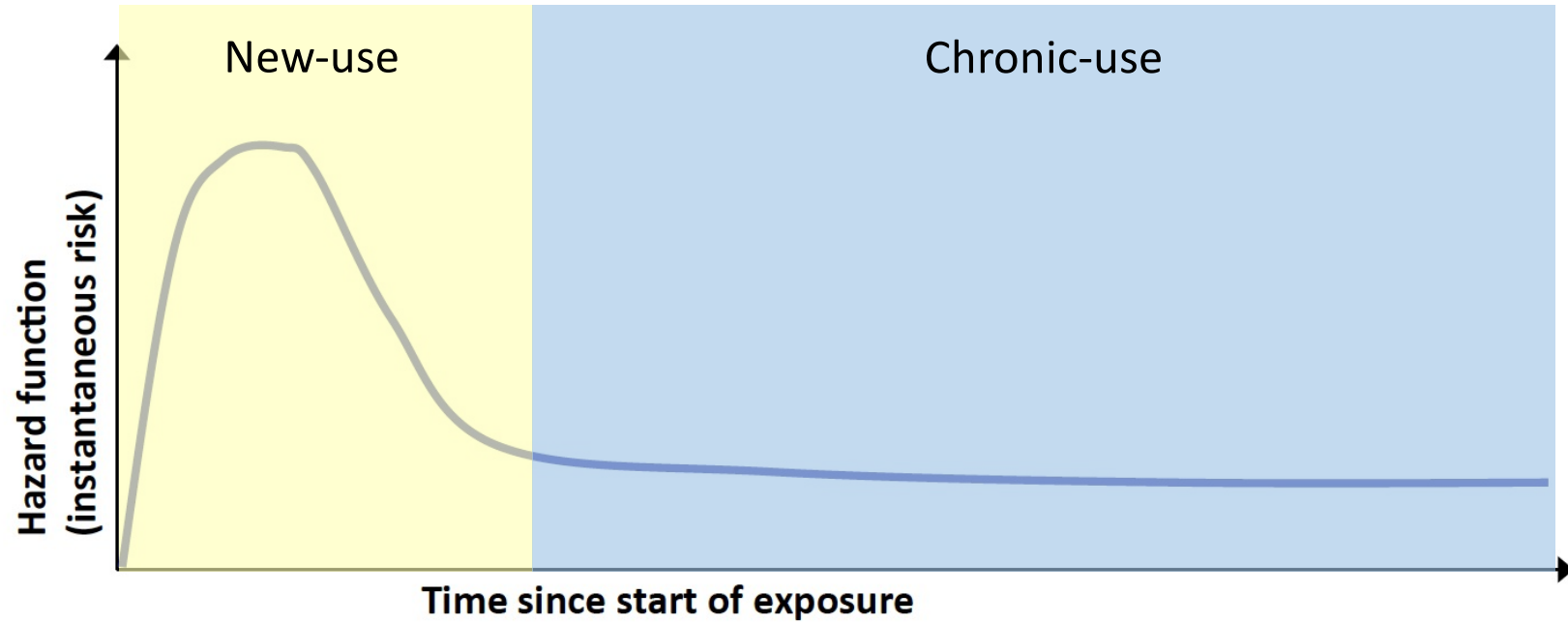
# Cohort studies

- Defined by a cohort entry event and people are followed over time
- Cohort of medical students
- Cohort of people at the talk today



time

# Time-varying hazards





**PRIOR 1 YEAR**

time



**PRIOR 1 YEAR**



time



**PRIOR 1 YEAR**



time



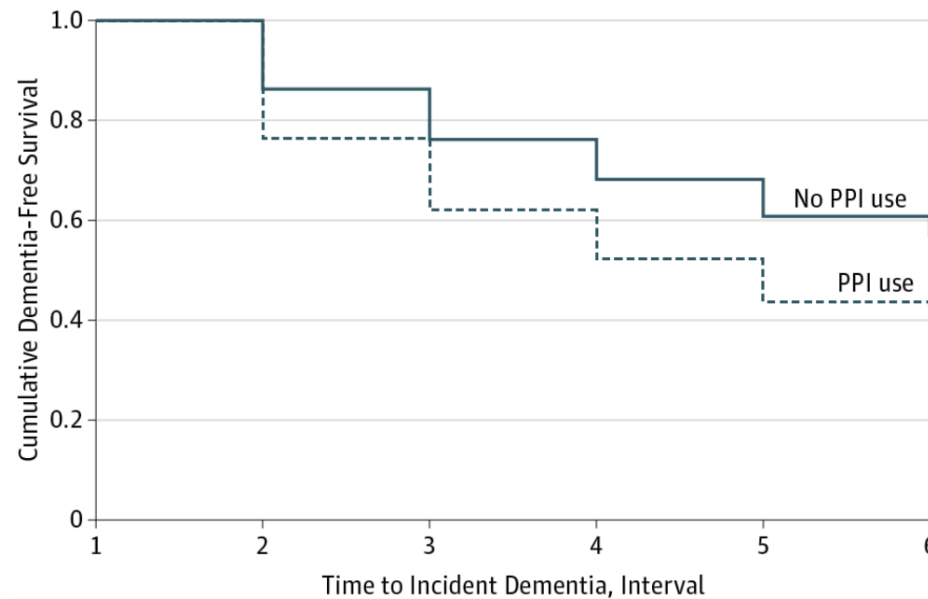
**PRIOR 1 YEAR**

time

April 2016

# Association of Proton Pump Inhibitors With Risk of Dementia

## A Pharmacoepidemiological Claims Data Analysis



Higher risk of dementia with PPI



**Inclusion:** Type 2 diabetes  
**Exclusion:** Type 1 diabetes, prior DKA,  
end-stage renal disease



Baseline characteristics



Follow-up period

**Inclusion:** Type 2 diabetes  
**Exclusion:** Type 1 diabetes, prior DKA,  
end-stage renal disease



Baseline characteristics



Follow-up period

But observational studies  
don't randomize  
participants so how can we  
prevent bias?

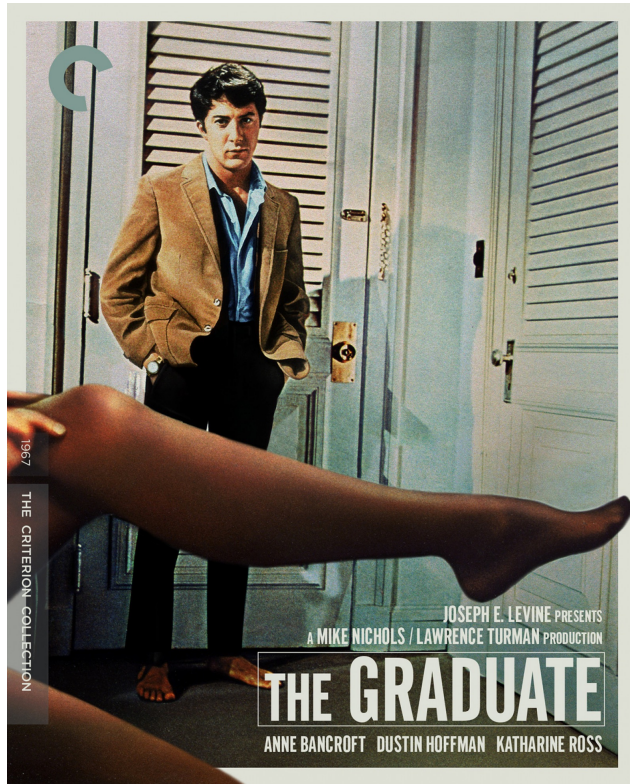
# Confounding control by design

- **New user design**
- **Active comparator**
- **Relevant confounders identified**
- **Confounders adjusted for**
- **Outcome identifiable and valid**
- **Sensitivity analyses demonstrate robustness**



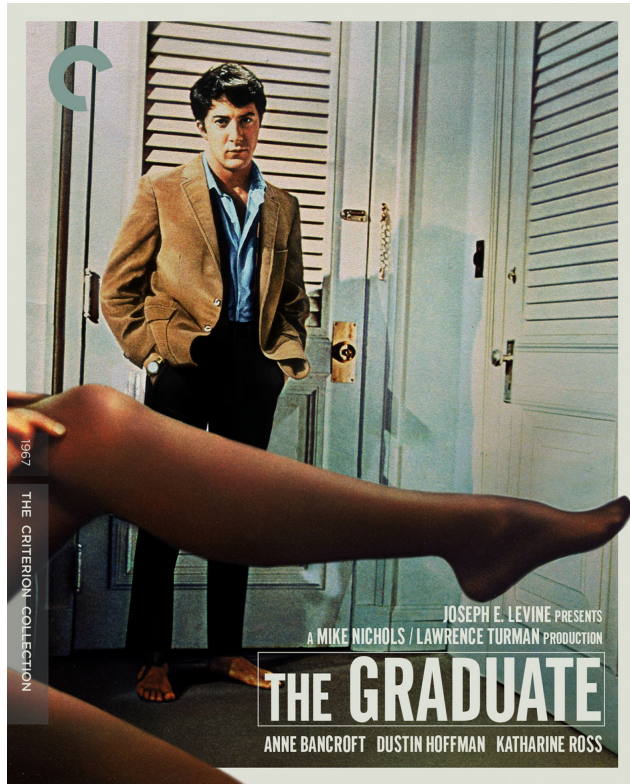
Ray WA, Am J Epidemiol, 2003  
Schneeweiss et al, JAMA 2018  
Fralick et al., JAMA IM, 2019

# Preventing bias, beyond study design



- **MRS. Robinson**
- **Matching**
- **Restriction**
- **Stratification**
  
- **Regression**

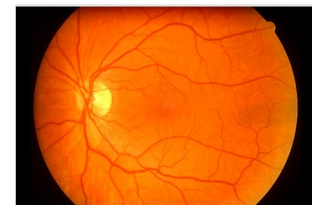
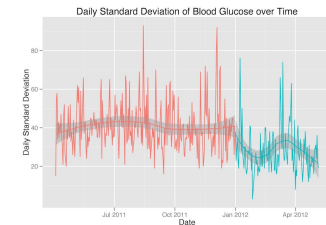
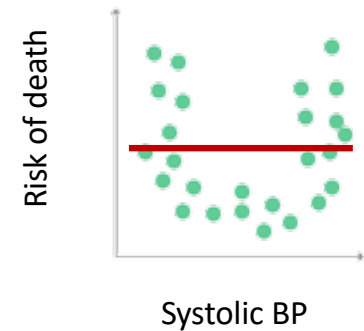
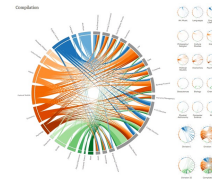
# Dear MRS. Robinson



- **Design**
- **Matching**
- **Restriction**
- **Stratification**
  
- **Regression**

# Limitations of regression

- Over-fitting with high-dimensional data
  - “10 to 1” rule
- Handling of non-linear relationships
- Handling of time-varying variables
- Inability to interpret images





# Machine Learning

James G , et al. An introduction to statistical learning



- Definition: a form of artificial intelligence which mines data for patterns. These patterns can provide a rich understanding of the data and potentially aid in clinical prediction
- Supervised Learning
- Unsupervised Learning

# Machine Learning

## Supervised Learning

Can an automated algorithm detect diabetic retinopathy from retinal photographs ?

Research

JAMA | **Original Investigation** | INNOVATIONS IN HEALTH CARE DELIVERY

### Development and Validation of a Deep Learning Algorithm for Detection of Diabetic Retinopathy in Retinal Fundus Photographs

**DESIGN AND SETTING** A specific type of neural network optimized for image classification called a deep convolutional neural network was trained using a retrospective development data set of 128 175 retinal images, which were graded 3 to 7 times for diabetic retinopathy, diabetic macular edema, and image gradability by a panel of 54 US licensed ophthalmologists and ophthalmology senior residents between May and December 2015. The resultant algorithm was validated in January and February 2016 using 2 separate data sets, both graded by at least 7 US board-certified ophthalmologists with high intragrader consistency.

**EXPOSURE** Deep learning-trained algorithm.

### Novel subgroups of adult-onset diabetes and their association with outcomes: a data-driven cluster analysis of six variables



Emma Ahlqvist, Petter Storm, Annemari Karäjämäki\*, Mats Martinell\*, Mozghan Dorkhan, Annelie Carlsson, Petter Vikman, Rashmi B Prasad, Dina Mansour Aly, Peter Almgren, Ylva Wessman, Nael Shaat, Peter Spégel, Hindrik Mulder, Eero Lindholm, Olle Melander, Ola Hansson, Ulf Malmqvist, Åke Lernmark, Kaj Lahti, Tom Forsén, Tiinamajja Tuomi, Anders H Rosengren, Leif Groop

**Methods** We did data-driven cluster analysis (k-means and hierarchical clustering) in patients with newly diagnosed diabetes (n=8980) from the Swedish All New Diabetics in Scania cohort. Clusters were based on six variables (glutamate decarboxylase antibodies, age at diagnosis, BMI, HbA<sub>1c</sub>, and homoeostatic model assessment 2 estimates of  $\beta$ -cell function and insulin resistance), and were related to prospective data from patient records on development

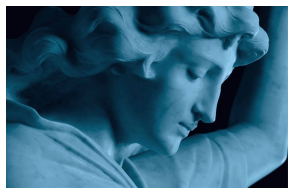


# Risk of Unintentional Severe Hypoglycemia in Hospital (RUSHH)

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# Mr. B

**ID:** 80M admitted with pneumonia.

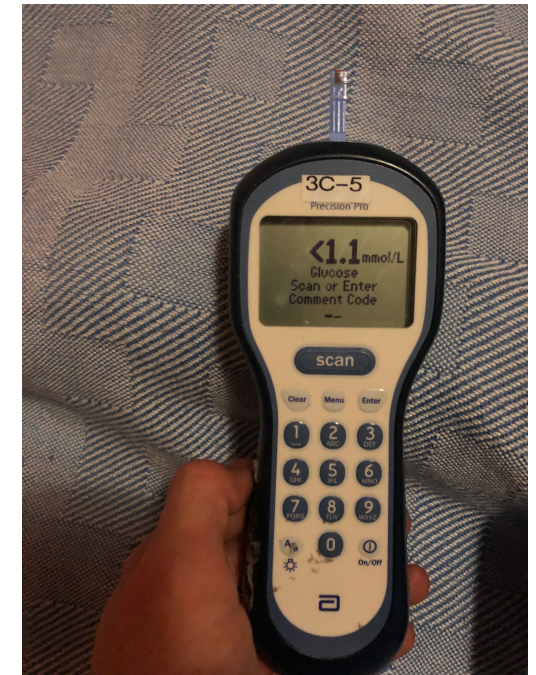
**Medical history:** diabetes, coronary artery disease, dialysis

**Medications:** insulin, aspirin, atorvastatin, metoprolol (new), moxifloxacin (new)

By day 5 he recovered from his pneumonia and was planned for discharge the following day (Friday).

Friday at 8AM we got a STAT page that he was unresponsive.

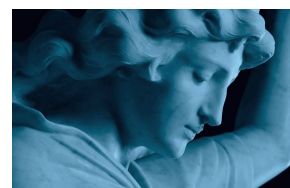
We assessed him, a bedside blood glucose was performed.



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## Hypoglycemia Risk Score

Predicts 12-month risk of hypoglycemic episodes in T2DM patients.


Pearls/Pitfalls 

Why Use 

# Intermediate risk

1-5% 12-month risk of hypoglycemia admission

Copy Results 

Next Steps 

Severe or end-stage kidney disease  
eGFR  $\leq 29$  by [CKD-EPI Creatinine](#)

No

Yes

Age

<77 years

$\geq 77$  years

Please fill out required fields.

DRUGS



Orders

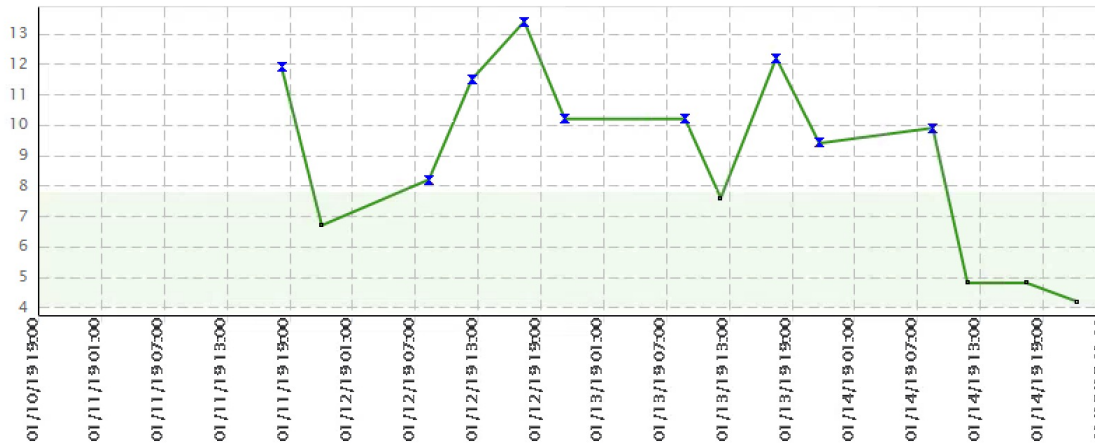
MD Notes

ASSESS PLAN  
 Senior Resident  
 Impression/Plan  
 Overall, 56YF with **ESRD on IHD**, bipolar disorder, HTN, DLD, **DM2 on insulin** presenting with confusion and decreased LOC, acute tonic clonic seizure after having missed 2 episodes of dialysis. Her investigations are notable for: elevated urea, hyperkalemia with no ECG changes, Cr elevated ( although on dialysis), and mild troponitis. It is difficult to decipher the timeline of events- either she was confused and then missed her meds/ dialysis and underwent consequential seizures, or, she seized and in her post ictal state missed dialysis which lead to further seizures. The plan moving forward is as follows:

Nursing Notes

LABS

Glucose POC (Lifescan/Abbott/Nova) mmol/L

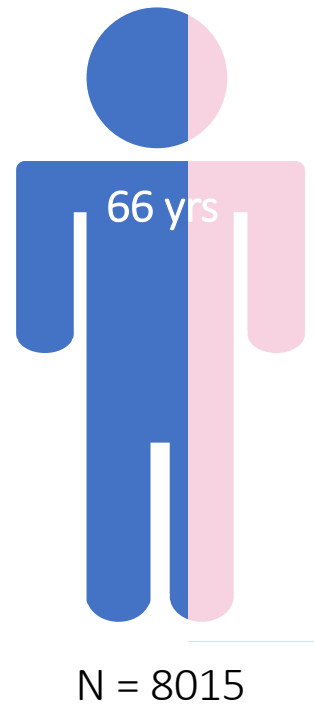








01/15/19  
 12:56  
 O1151776  
 1.7 ▲LL

# Model building

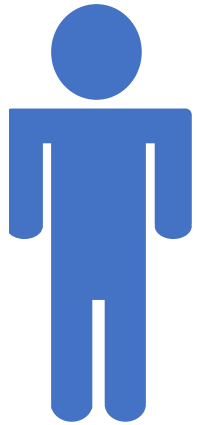
- **Training:** 2013 – 2017
- **Validating:** 2017 – 2018
- **Testing:** 2019 – 2019
- **Implementation:** 2020

# Patient characteristics

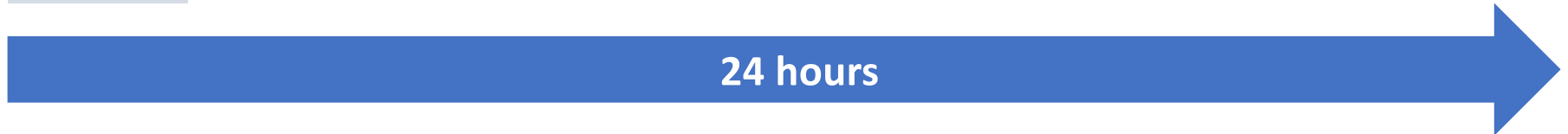


	80%
	90%
	60%
	40%
	30%
	83%
A1C	7.0%
Cr	87 $\mu\text{mol/L}$

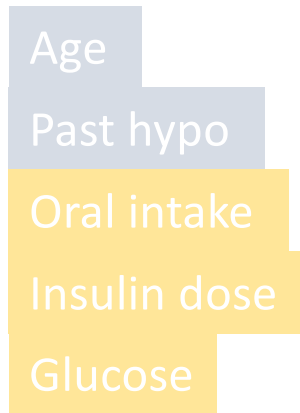
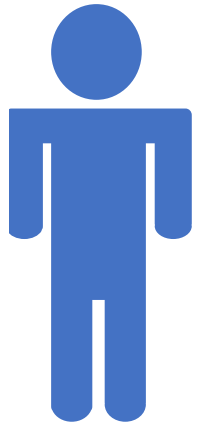
# Visualizing the problem



- Age
- Past hypo
- Oral intake
- Insulin dose
- Glucose

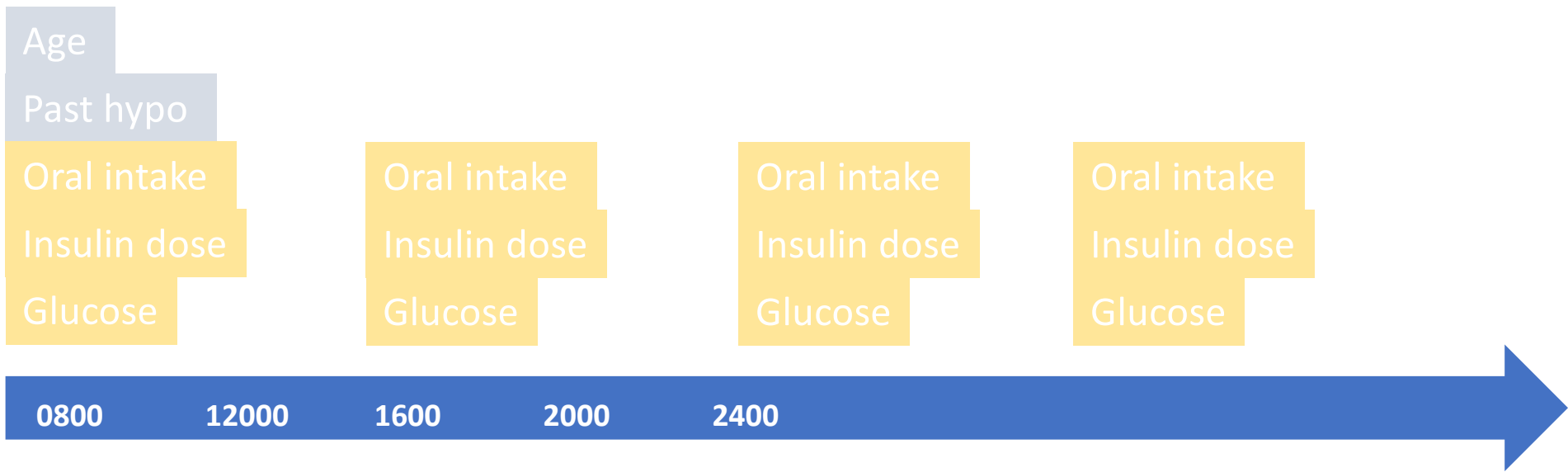
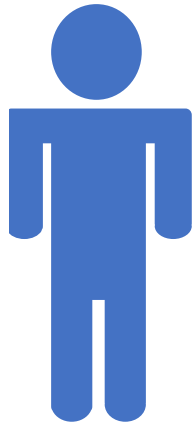


# Visualizing the problem

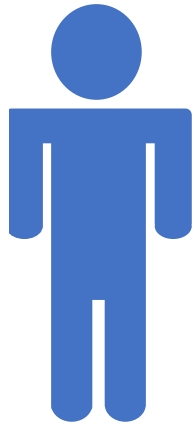




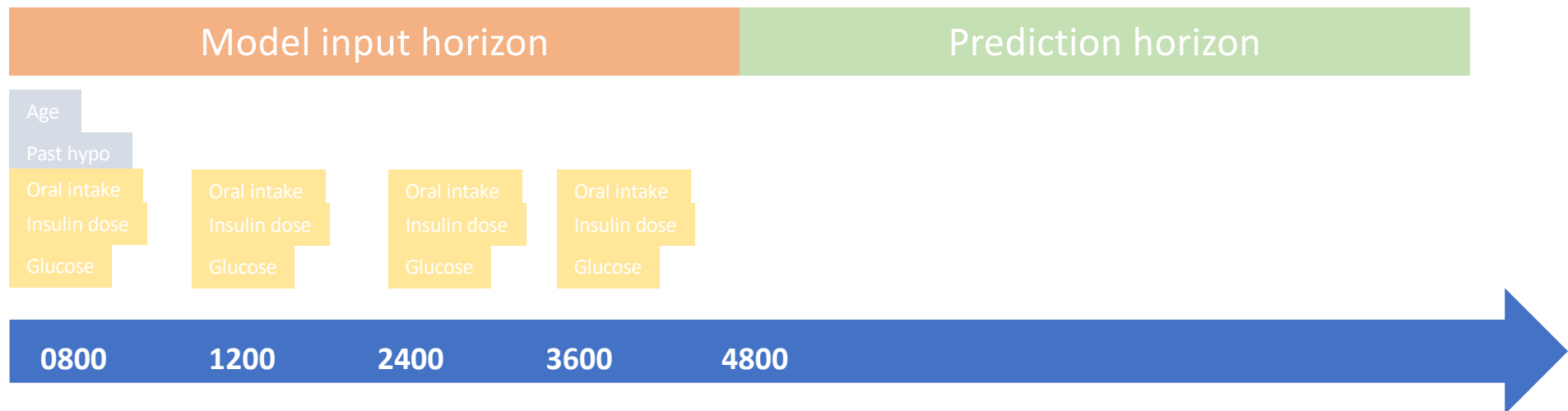
# Visualizing the problem



# Visualizing the problem



**Interpretation:** model provides a prediction for the subsequent 24 hours based on the preceding 24 hours (or more) of data



# How our Model Works

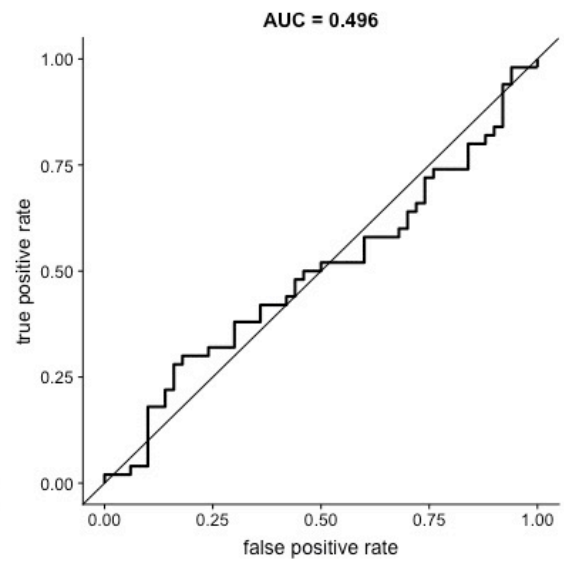
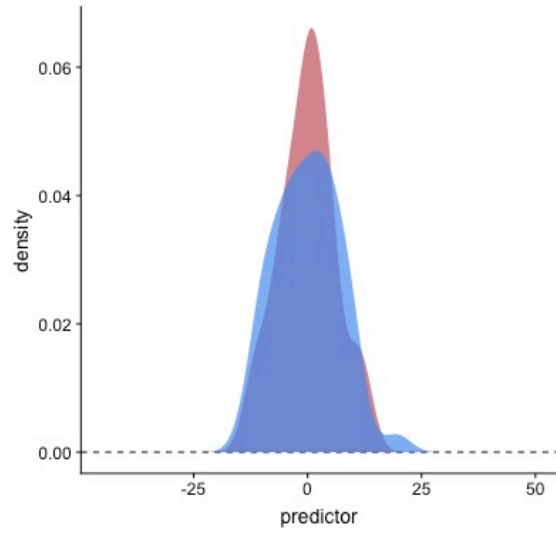
- **Prediction time: 08:00**
- **Time horizon: 24 hours**
- **Analytic approach:**
  - Penalized regression
  - Gradient boosted trees
  - Recurrent neural network
  - Ensemble

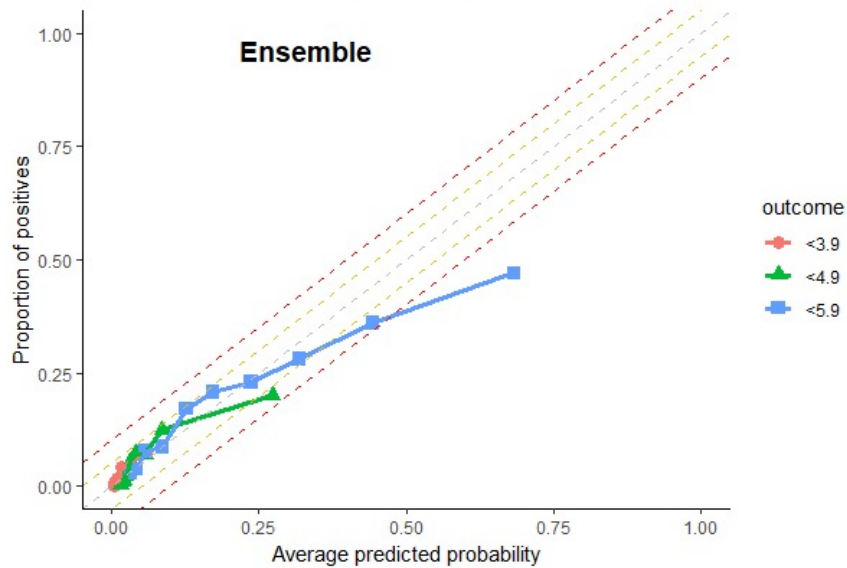
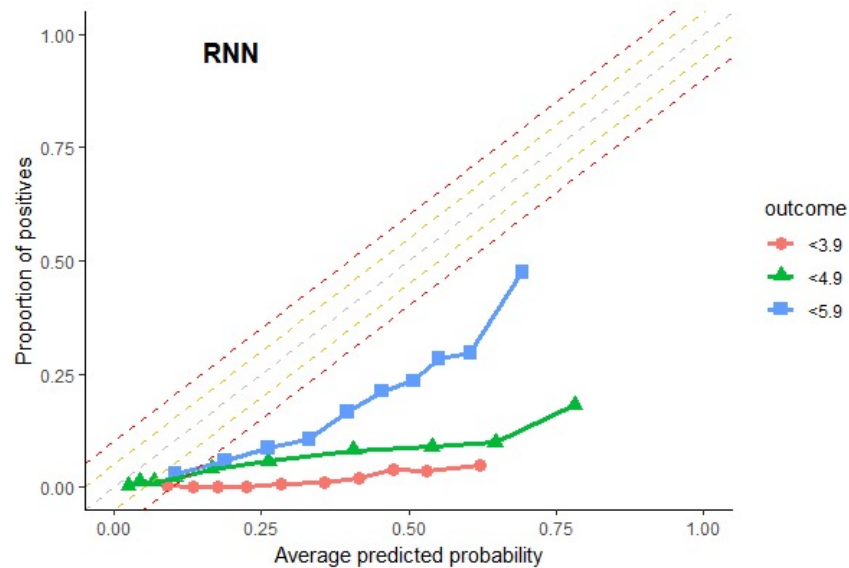
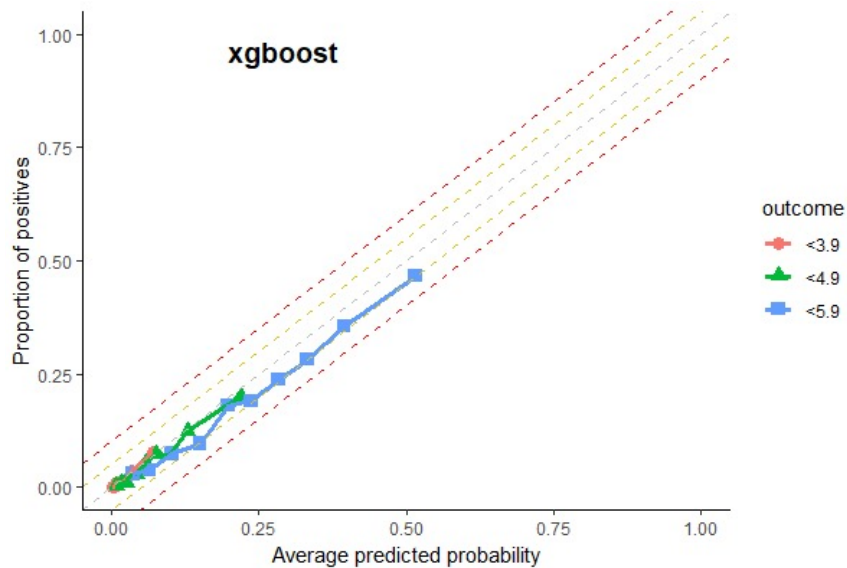
# How the Model Works

- *Time-varying features:*
  - **Glucose** (glucose\_value, glucose\_lowest, glucose\_highest)
  - **Measures** (measure\_temperature, measure\_sbp, ...)
  - **Insulin** (insulin\_short, insulin\_long, insulin\_combo)
  - **Oral intake** (oral\_intake\_pct, oral\_intake\_is\_vomit, ...)
  - **NPO** (npo\_mention\_nursing\_note, npo\_midnight\_nursing\_note, ...)
  - **Medications** (med\_hypoglycemia, med\_hypoglycemia\_high\_risk, ...)
- *Static features:*
  - **Demographics** (age, gender)
  - **Dialysis** (dialysis\_acute, dialysis\_chronic)
  - **Baseline measures** (baseline\_creatinine, baseline\_albumin, ...)
  - **Patient history** (history\_hypoglycemia, history\_diabetes, ...)

# Model AUC

<b>Model</b>	<b>Train</b>	<b>Validation</b>	<b>Test</b>
xgboost 3.9	0.93 (0.5)	0.81 (0.08)	0.83 (0.06)
RNN 3.9	0.78 (0.07)	0.74 (0.05)	0.78 (0.05)
Ensemble 3.9	0.92 (0.49)	0.8 (0.08)	0.83 (0.06)





1. Predicted probabilities grouped into **empirical deciles**
2. X-axis = the average predicted probability in each decile
3. Y-axis = the proportion of cases in each group that had hypoglycemia

# Other model metrics

TABLE 3

Glucose threshold  
(mmol/L)

2.9



medicine and cardiovascular

GIM

LASSO

XGB

0.023

0.023

0.036

0.029

0.041

0.048



XGBoost

RNN

.018

0.0252

.019

0.0289

.021

0.0306

Positive

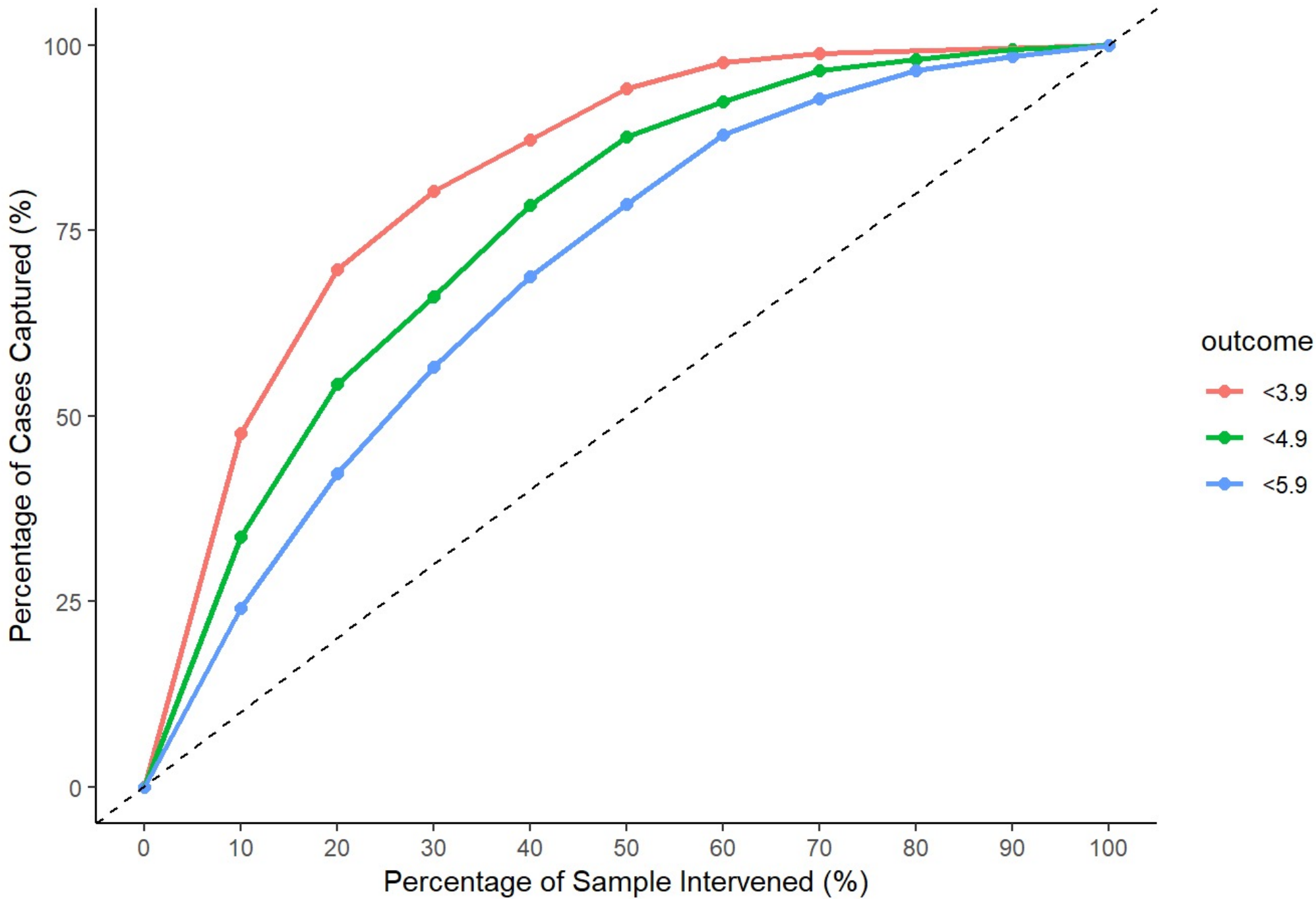


cks !!





Percentage of hypoglycemia cases captured at various intervention sample sizes



# Model implementation

- **Iterative process that requires constant communication with your end user**

# Model implementation pearls

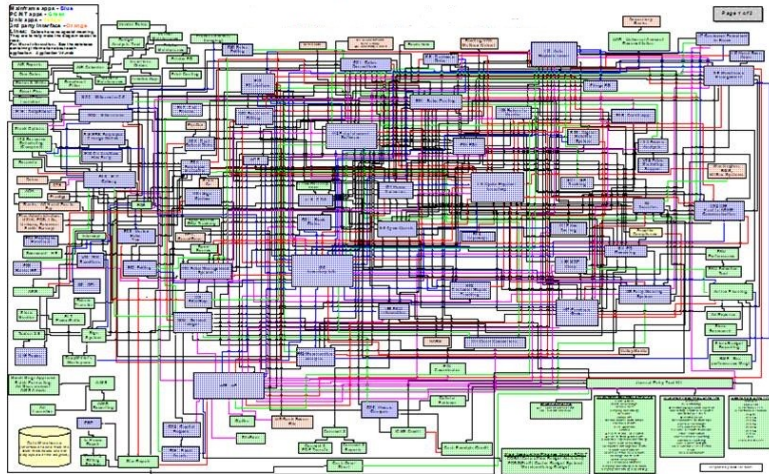
1. It is **EASY** to run a model on cleaned retrospective data.

```
1 library(gbm)
2 # train GBM model for P03
3 set.seed(123)
4 gbm.fit <- gbm(
5   formula = P03 ~ .,
6   distribution = "bernoulli",
7   data = DRAWS_GBTprepP03,
8   n.trees = 3010,
9   interaction.depth = 3,
10  shrinkage = 0.001,
11  cv.folds = 10
12 )
13 summary(gbm.fit, order=TRUE, las=1)
```

# Model implementation pearls

- 1. It is EASY to run a model on cleaned retrospective data.**
- 2. Implementing a model requires a completely different skillset**

# Implementing a model



# Model implementation pearls

- 1. It is EASY to run a model on cleaned retrospective data.**
- 2. It is HARD to implement a model and ensure your data pipelines are in place and working**
- 3. Spend time with your end-user in their native environment**

# Model implementation pearls

- 1. It is EASY to run a model on cleaned retrospective data.**
- 2. It is HARD to implement a model and ensure your data pipelines are in place and working**
- 3. Spend time with your end-user in their native environment**
- 4. Understand their daily workflow and what “pisses them off”**

# Model implementation pearls

- 1. It is EASY to run a model on cleaned retrospective data.**
- 2. It is HARD to implement a model and ensure your data pipelines are in place and working**
- 3. Spend time with your end-user in their native environment**
- 4. Understand their daily workflow and what “pisses them off”**
- 5. See what their data looks like from the “front end”, can you find it in the “back-end”?**



# RUSHH implementation

- Daily email with list of patients at highest decile of risk of severe hypoglycemia

# LKS-CHART

## Advanced Healthcare Analytics

We make sense of healthcare data so you can make better decisions, help save lives and transform patient care.



**David Dai**

Sr. Data Scientist



**Kasthuri Karunanithi**

Research Assistant I



**Sebnem Kuzulugil**

Director, Data Integration and Governance



**Muhammad Mamdani**

Vice-President



**Neil Mistry**

Sr. Data Scientist



**Joshua Murray**

Director, Advanced Analytics



**Chloé Pou Prom**

Sr. Data Scientist



**Colin Purcell**

System Administrator

# Predicting ER Volumes

- **Research question:** Can we leverage machine learning techniques to predict how many patients will show up to the ER each day?
- **Study design:** Prospective cohort study at 3 hospitals in the greater Toronto area
- **Variables of interest:** historical data, holidays, weather, major events in Toronto

# Analytic approach

- Neural network
  - Random Forest
  - ARIMA model
  - Exponential smoothing state space model
- 
- Models were trained and validated using data from 2016 to 2019 and the results provided are from 2019 – 2020 [test set]

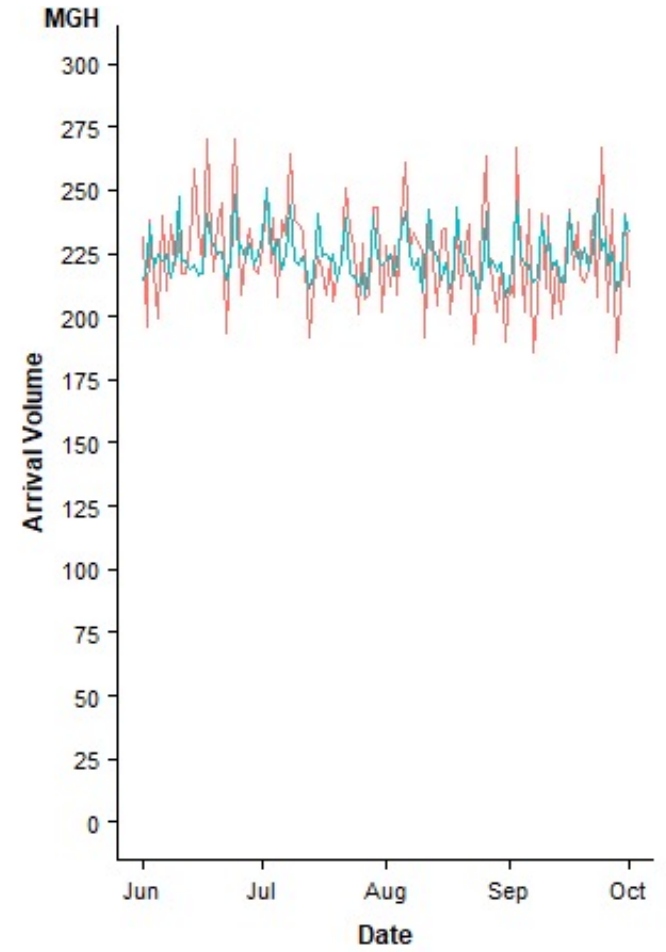
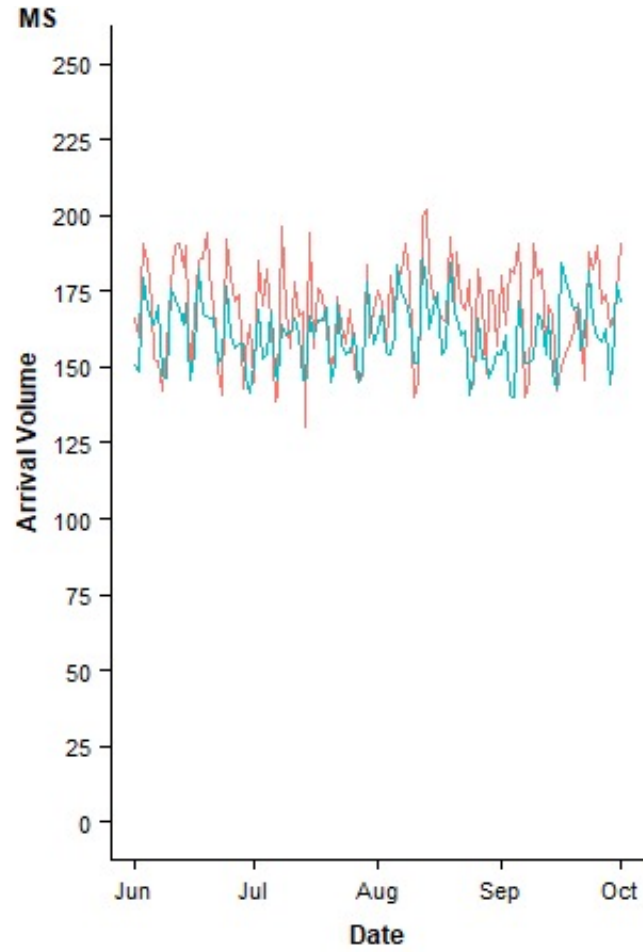
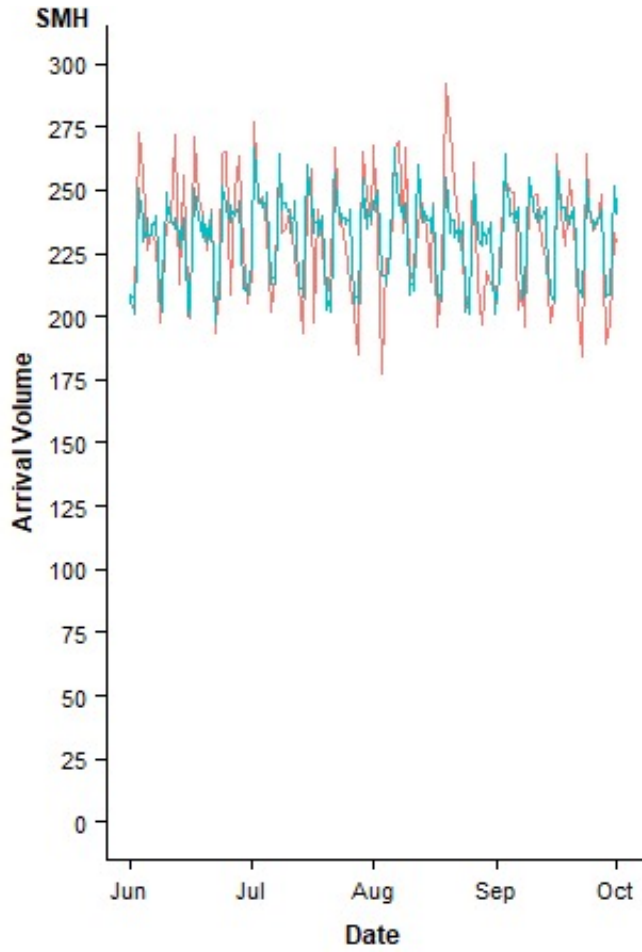
# Exponential smooth state model

$$\hat{y}_{t+h|t} = l_t + s_{t+h-m(k+1)}$$

$$l_t = \alpha (y_t - s_{t-m}) + (1 - \alpha) (l_{t-1})$$

$$s_t = \gamma (y_t - l_{t-1}) + (1 - \gamma) s_{t-m}$$

1.  $h$  is the horizon of forecast; in our model,  $h$  is 7
2.  $k$  is the integer part of  $(h-1)/m$
3.  $l_t$  is the level equation which represents a weighted average between the seasonally adjusted observation  $y_t - s_{t-m}$ . The formula is derived from the weighted average equation:  $\hat{y}_{T+1|T} = \alpha y_T + \alpha(1 - \alpha)y_{T-1} + \alpha(1 - \alpha)^2 y_{T-2} + \dots$
4.  $s_t$  is the seasonal equation which represents a weighted average between the current seasonal index,  $(y_t - l_{t-1})$ , and the seasonal index of the same season last year (i.e.,  $m$  time periods ago)



— Actual Volume — Predicted Volume

# Main findings

- About 95% accurate at predicting ER volumes
- Also able to predict
  - Level of patient acuity
  - Number of mental health related visits



# Sautle Ste Marie



# Implementation in the Sault

- End-users: nurse managers, ER doctors
- Plumbers: IT, data engineers
- Analysts: David Dai, Yang Zhu

# Input from end-users

- **Nursing manager**

- Nurses call in sick every day and we need to decide, do we replace the sick call?
- We need something that is accurate, reliable, and simple

- **Emergency medicine doctors**

- It would be great if we can predict far in advance so that we can schedule accordingly
- We also have an ER doctor on back-up each day, but we have now reliable or pre-emptive method of knowing when to call them in

## ED Arrivals

2021-10-20

138

☀️ 97  
🌙 41

2021-10-21

138

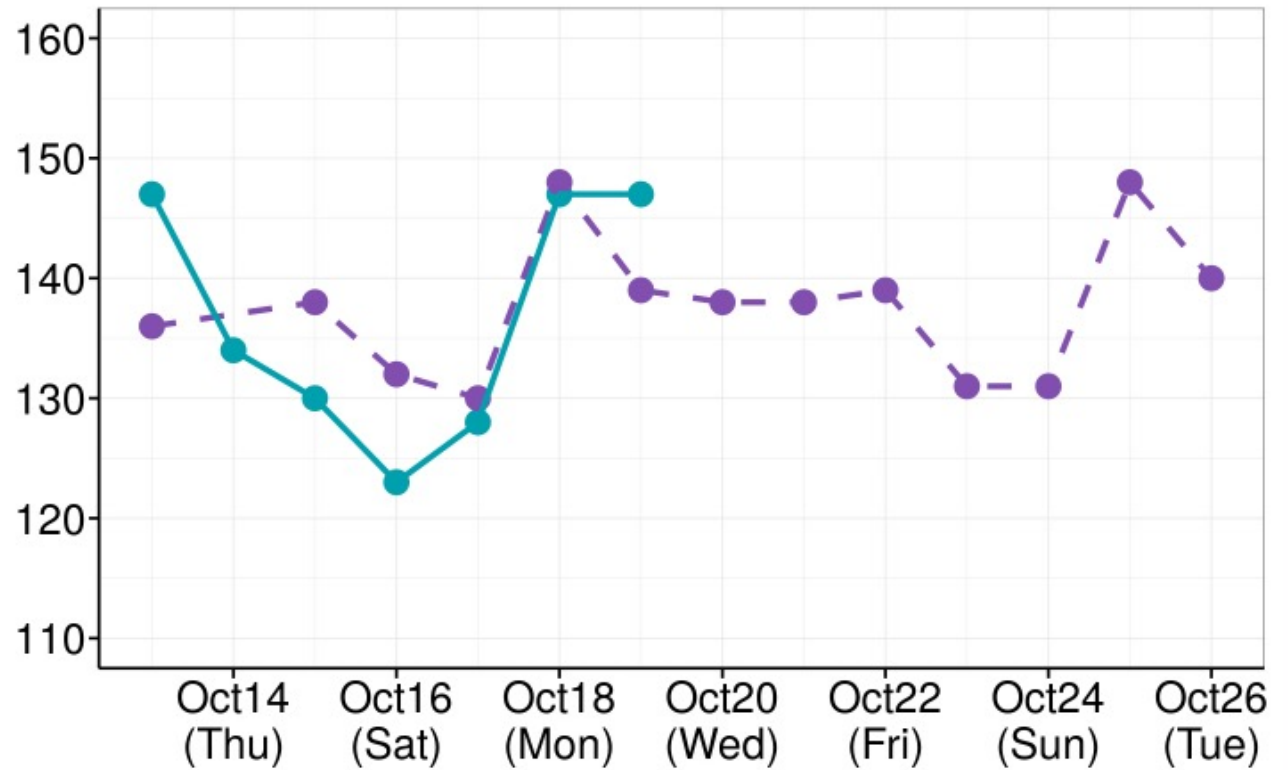
☀️ 98  
🌙 40

2021-10-22

139

☀️ 98  
🌙 41

## Daily Arrivals: Forecasted and Actual



# Daily arrivals for September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <b>144</b> (130)	2 <b>132</b> (133)	3 <b>149</b> (132)	4 <b>125</b> (129)
5 <b>118</b> (127)	6 <b>147</b> (144)	7 <b>149</b> (135)	8 <b>121</b> (134)	9 <b>118</b> (133)	10 <b>152</b> (130)	11 <b>128</b> (128)
12 <b>126</b> (128)	13 <b>131</b> (144)	14 <b>134</b> (133)	15 <b>130</b> (130)	16 <b>143</b> (130)	17 <b>144</b> (134)	18 <b>115</b> (129)
19 <b>109</b> (126)	20 <b>139</b> (140)	21 <b>143</b> (132)	22 <b>136</b> (132)	23 <b>132</b> (135)	24 <b>126</b> (135)	25 <b>125</b> (126)
26 <b>143</b> (124)	27 <b>165</b> (145)	28 <b>139</b> (141)	29 <b>131</b> (137)	30 <b>144</b> (134)		

Calendar cell values represent: **Actual arrivals** (Forecasted arrivals)  
 Calendar cell colours represent: absolute forecasted error of <5 arrivals, and >=20 arrivals

# Pearls on implementation

1. Spend a few minutes to understand the basic research question / overall objective
2. Pair the research question with the ideal design
3. Ask yourself, do we even need fancy ML ?
4. Make sure your team includes a non-data person who has content expertise
5. Spend time with your end-user to understand their day to day workflow

# Implementing machine learning based solutions into real-life: Everything you need to know in 29 minutes

Mike Fralick, MD, PhD, SM, FRCPC

General Internist, Mount Sinai Hospital, University of Toronto

Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Toronto

@Fralickmike 

Machine Learning Course, University of Toronto

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**Note:**

1.  $\alpha$  is a smoothing parameter for the level equation ( $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ ). The one-step-ahead forecast for time  $T + 1$  is a weighted average of all of the observations in the series  $y_1, \dots, y_T$ . If  $\alpha$  is small, more weight is given to observations from the more distant past. If  $\alpha$  is large, more weight is given to the more recent observations.
2.  $\gamma$  (similar to  $\alpha$ ) is a smoothing parameter for the seasonal equation ( $0 < \gamma < 1 - \alpha$ )
3. "ANA" stands for additive error, no trend, additive seasonality