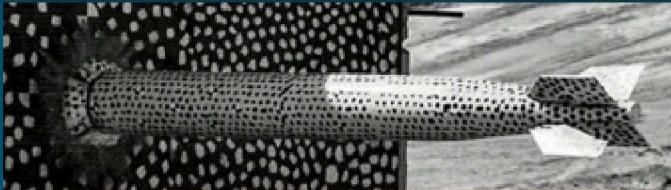




# Assessing Global Sensitivity Analysis for Credibility in Machine Learning Explainability



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SAMSI Presentation  
Numerical Analysis for Data Sciences Program  
Global Sensitivity Analysis Working Group  
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*PRESENTED BY*

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## The Need for Credible Explainability

ML is being used in an increasingly number of high-consequence applications.  
ML explainability has emerged as field that seeks to build trust.



# The Need for Credible Explainability

ML is being used in an increasingly number of high-consequence applications.  
ML explainability has emerged as field that seeks to build trust.



## Can we trust the explanation?

- Computational shortcuts
- Assumes some understanding of machine learning
- Lack verifiable foundations





## Current ML Explainability Methods

Sensitivity Analysis Guided Explainability

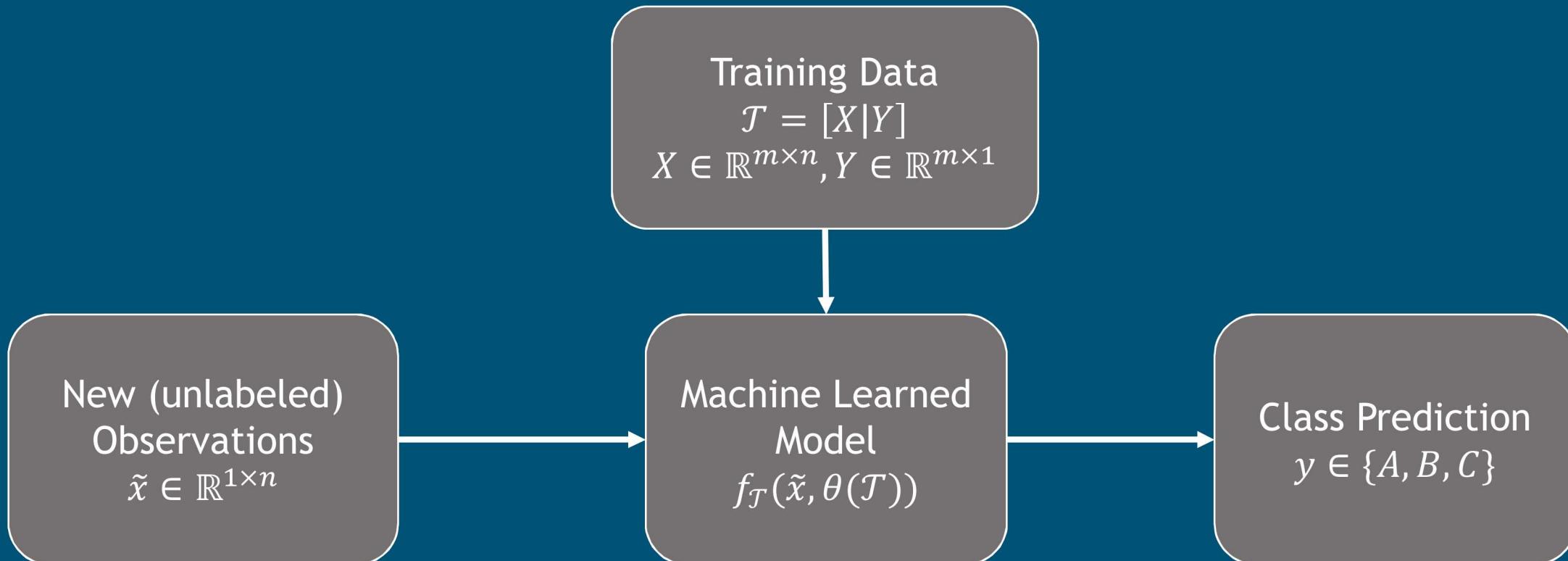
Correlated Feature

Training Data Statistics Preserving Sampling

Gaps and Limitations

# Machine Learning (Supervised) Classification Model Diagram

5



# ML Explainability

Attempt to describe the decision process that a machine learned model uses to make a prediction

## Interpretable models

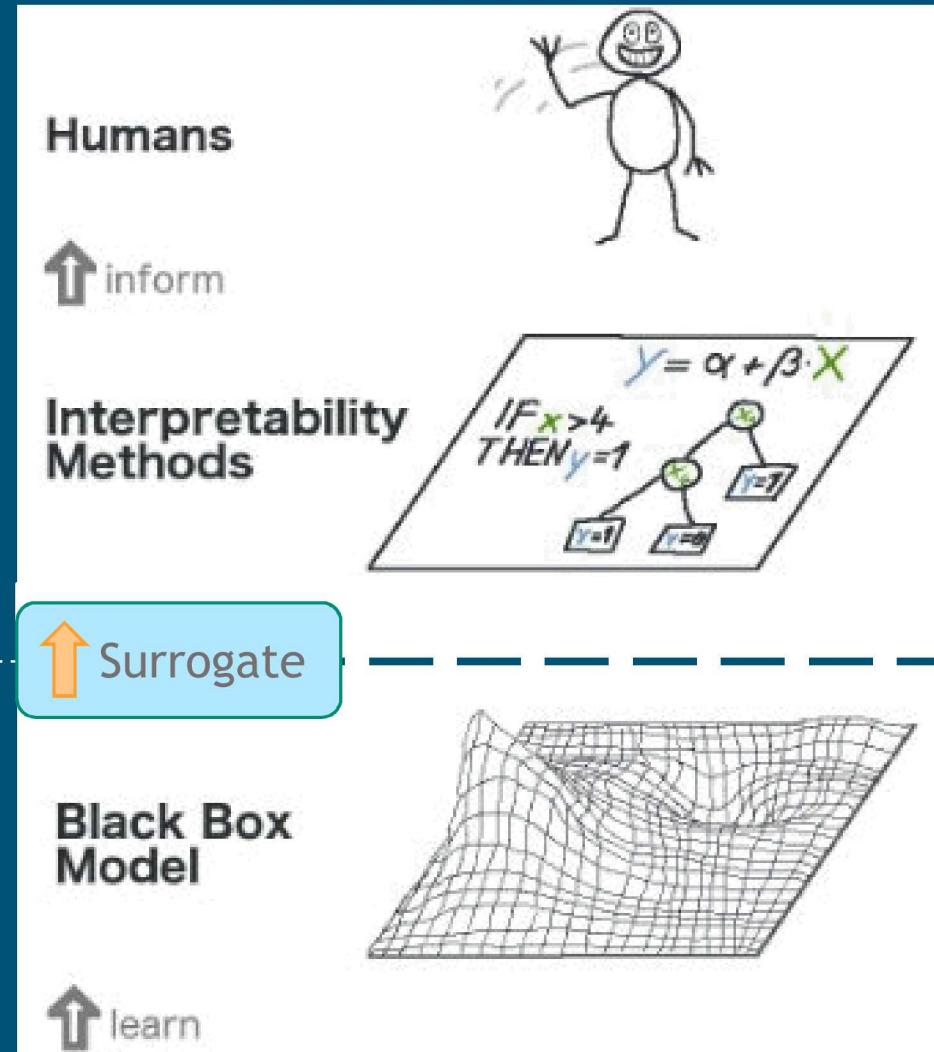
- Can inspect the model
- Models that are relatively easy to interpret (linear regression models, shallow decision trees)

## White-box/Integrated

- Can inspect the model, but the model is sufficiently complex
- Gini-importance for decision trees
- Gradient-based methods for deep learning models (Saliency maps)

## Black-box/Post-hoc

- Do not inspect the model, instead evaluates feature importance
- Create a surrogate model that is interpretable
- Often perturb the data and observe how the output changes



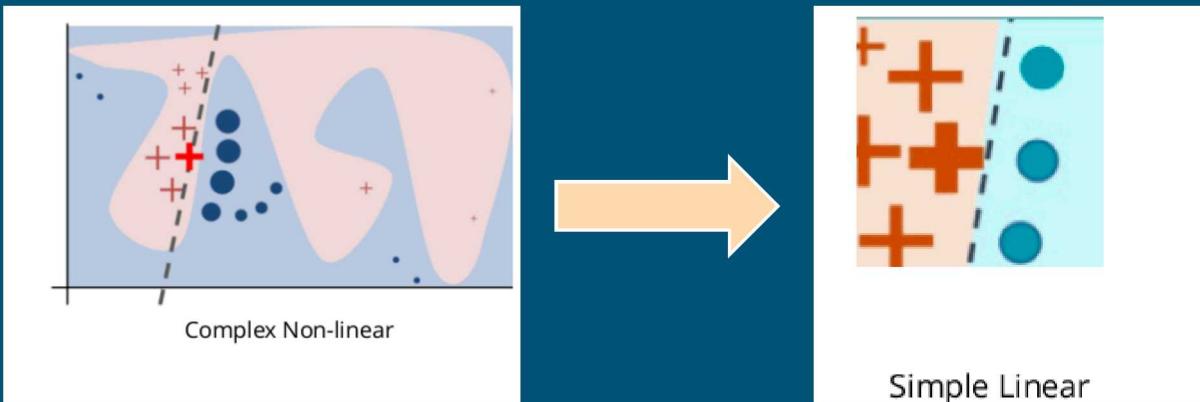
# LIME: Local Interpretable Model-agnostic Explanation [1]

## Perturbation Based Method

For  $\tilde{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times n}$  (a new realization)

1. Sample  $\tilde{m}$  observation in a neighborhood of  $\tilde{x}$ , assuming that each feature of  $\tilde{x}$  is independent and normally distributed. Resulting in:  $\{\tilde{z}^i\}$  for  $i = 1 \dots \tilde{m}$
2. For each of the samples, get the original ML model prediction  $f_{\mathcal{T}}(\tilde{z}^i) = \tilde{y}^i$
3. With the derived sample dataset  $\tilde{\mathcal{T}} = \{\tilde{z}^i | \tilde{y}^i\}$ , learn a linear regression model,

$$g_{\tilde{\mathcal{T}}}(\tilde{x}, \theta(\tilde{\mathcal{T}})) = \sum_{j \in \{1, \dots, \tilde{m}\}} \alpha_j \tilde{x}_j$$



LIME feature importance index =  
 $\phi_j = \alpha_j * \tilde{x}_j$

# SHAP: SHapley Additive exPlanations [2]

Based on Cooperative Game Theory

$N$  : the set of features

$$j \in N$$

$$S \subseteq N$$

$v(S)$  : the total value of the  $S$  features

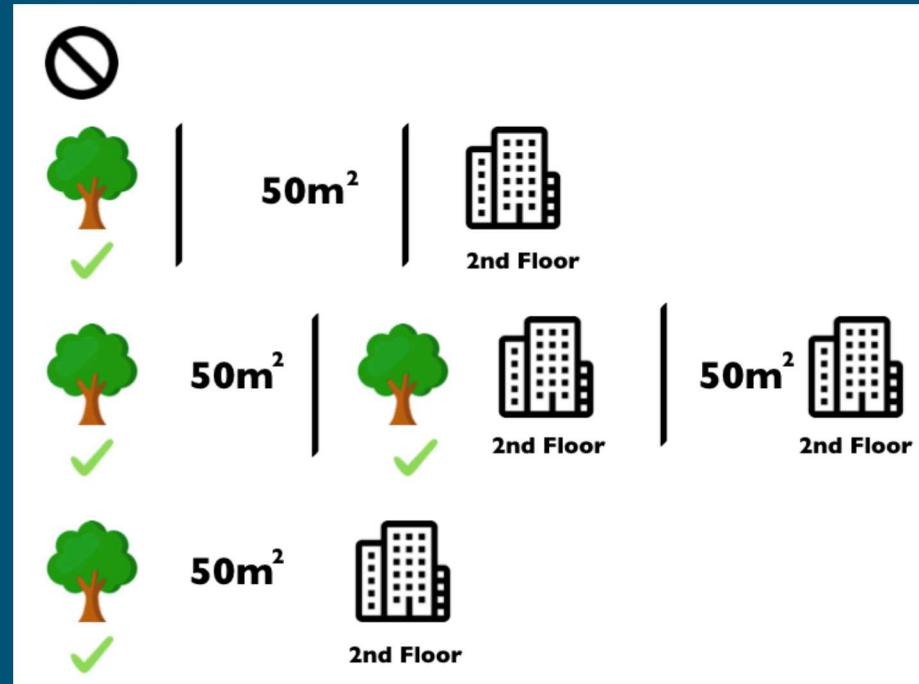
$(v(S \cup \{j\}) - v(S))$  for  $S \subseteq N \setminus \{j\}$  :  
marginal contribution of feature  $j$  to set  $S$

**SHAP feature importance index:**

$$\phi_j = \sum_{S \subseteq N \setminus \{j\}} \frac{|S|! (N - |S| - 1)!}{N!} (v(S \cup \{j\}) - v(S))$$

One Computational Approximation:

- To approximate  $(v(S \cup \{j\}) - v(S))$  without retraining the model, “noise” is used as a surrogate for feature removal.
- “noise” is replicated as independent bootstrap samples from the training data



# Summary of Black-Box Explanation Methods

## Dependencies and Assumptions

- Dependent on a process for sampling the data
- Require distance on output—how much it changes
- Assumes independence and linearity

## Observed Deficiencies [3]

- Descriptive Accuracy: Match when features are removed
- Instability: Produces different explanations on the same input
- Completeness: Generate explanations for all possible input vectors
- Efficiency: Can be slow to calculate especially as the dimensionality increases

No agreed upon definition of explainability or what constitutes an explanation

# Can We Trust the ML Explanation??

**Goal of explainability:** provide credibility evidence by describing the decision process that a model considers for a prediction.

BUT....

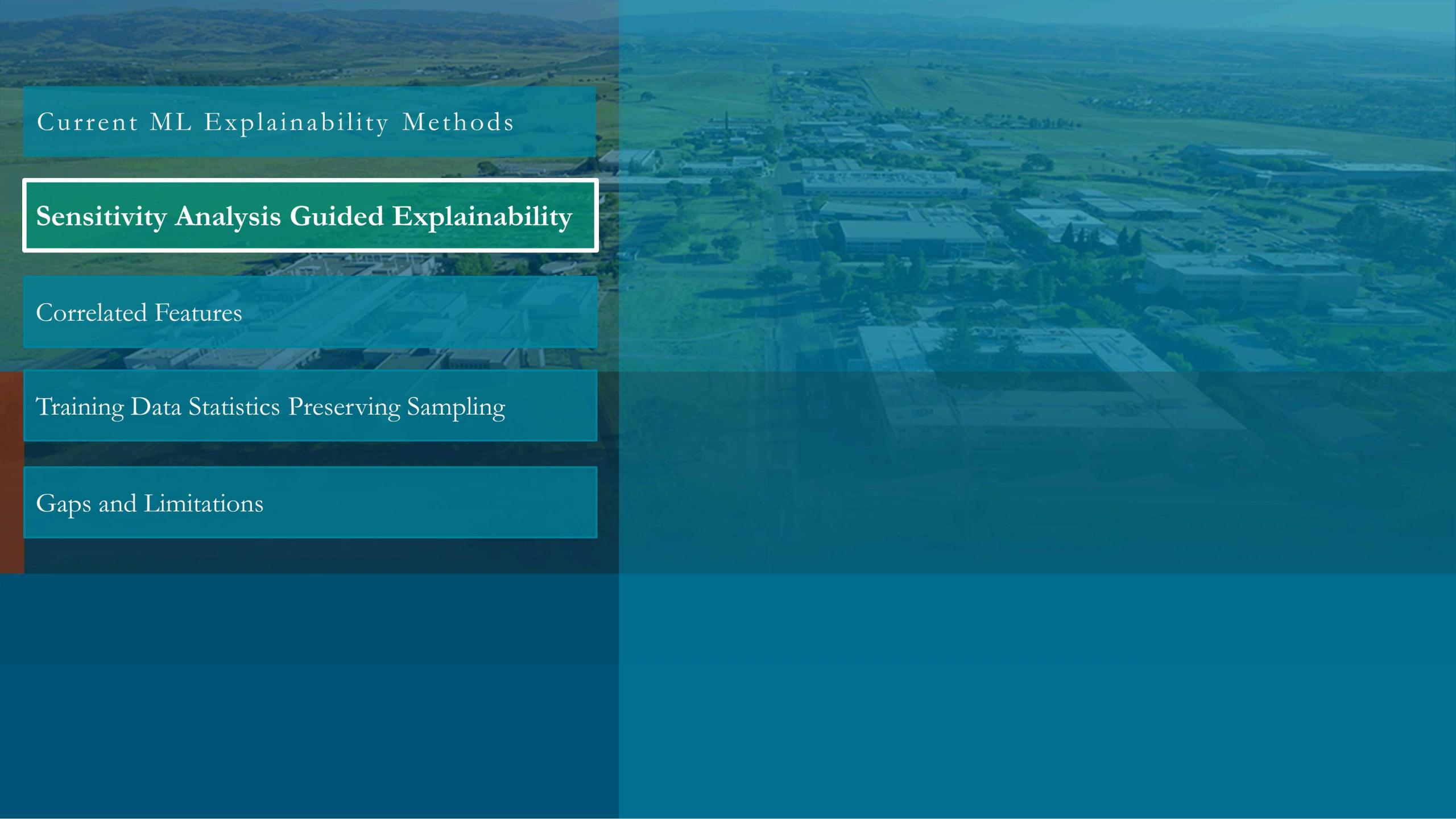
LIME

- Introduces a surrogate model without assessing the fidelity of that surrogate in relation to the black-box model.
- Implements perturbation of the input uncertainty assuming independence and normally distributed random variates...which is uncharacteristic of the true statistics from the training dataset.

SHAP

- Has the most theoretical guarantees available to us today, but computational heuristics for the approximations break those theoretical guarantees.
- Bootstrapping from the training dataset to replicate "noise"...but is "noise" an appropriate replicate for removing a feature??

Can we use Sensitivity Analysis Guided Explainability to mitigate these challenges??



Current ML Explainability Methods

## Sensitivity Analysis Guided Explainability

Correlated Features

Training Data Statistics Preserving Sampling

Gaps and Limitations

# Global Sensitivity Analysis: Notational Example

The apportionment for the contributions of input uncertainties on output uncertainty. [4]

## Modeling Flow Diagram

Nominal Parameter Values  
 $\theta = \{\alpha, \beta, \gamma\}$

Model of the Real World  
 $f(x, \theta)$

Deterministic Outcome  
 $y \in \mathbb{R}^v$

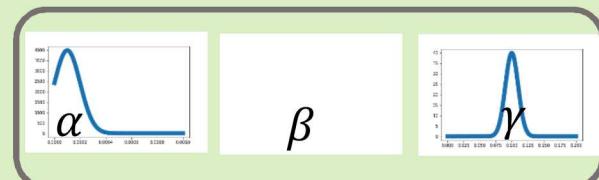
## Example: Infectious Disease Modeling

$\alpha$  = seroprevalence  
 $\beta$  = infection rate  
 $\gamma$  = [infectious duration] $^{-1}$

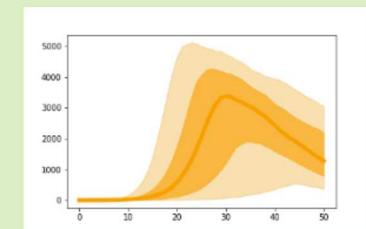
$$x = \begin{bmatrix} S \\ I \\ R \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{dx}{dt} &= f(x, \theta), \\ x_0 &= g(\theta) \end{aligned}$$

$$y = F(x)$$

## Uncertainty Quantification of Model Forecast for the Infection Rate Curve

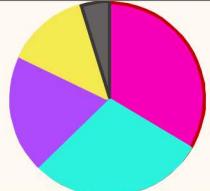


$$\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} [\alpha_1, \beta_1, \gamma_1] \\ [\alpha_2, \beta_2, \gamma_2] \\ \dots \\ [\alpha_s, \beta_s, \gamma_s] \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow f(x, \theta) \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \dots \\ y_s \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow$$



## Sensitivity of the Infection Rate Curve with respect to the Parameters of the Model

Total Variance of  $y$

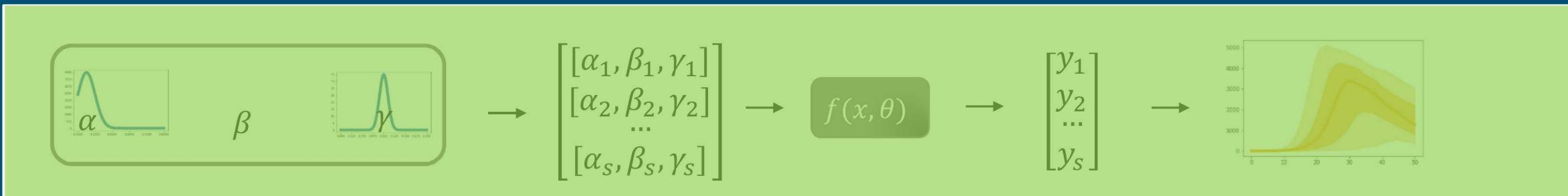


$S_{\beta\gamma}$   
 $S_\beta$   
 $S_{\beta\alpha}$   
 $S_\alpha$

Sum of ALL other combined contributions

# Experimental Design for Sensitivity Analysis

Experimental Design is a scientific approach for identifying the inputs to a *process* that are most influential to the outcome of that process; following particular design decisions.



**Inputs:**  
Uncertainty in Parameters

### Design Decision I

#### Sampling

Sampling sufficient discrete realizations that preserve the statistics and introduces only marginal standard error.

**Process:**  
Mathematical Model

### Design Decision II

#### Controlled/Uncontrolled Random Behavior

Controlled: Sources of Variance  
Uncontrolled: Random behaviors inherent to the model

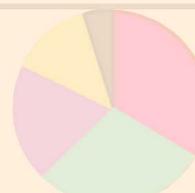
**Outcome:**  
Uncertainty in Model Output

### Design Decision III

#### Quantity of Interest (QoI)

For the intended use case, what output from the model maps to quantitative metric for that intended purpose.

Total Variance of  $y$

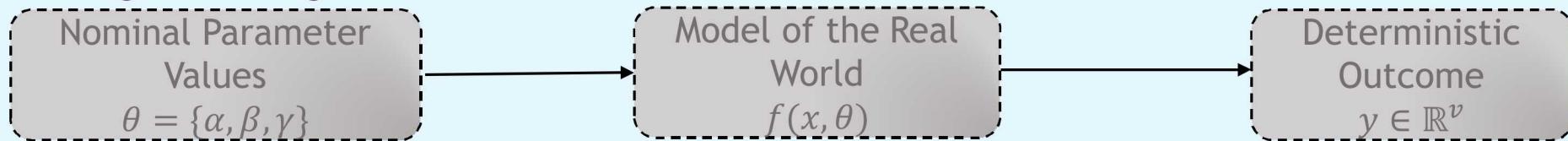


$S_{\beta\gamma}$   
 $S_{\beta}$   
 $S_{\beta\alpha}$   
 $S_{\alpha}$

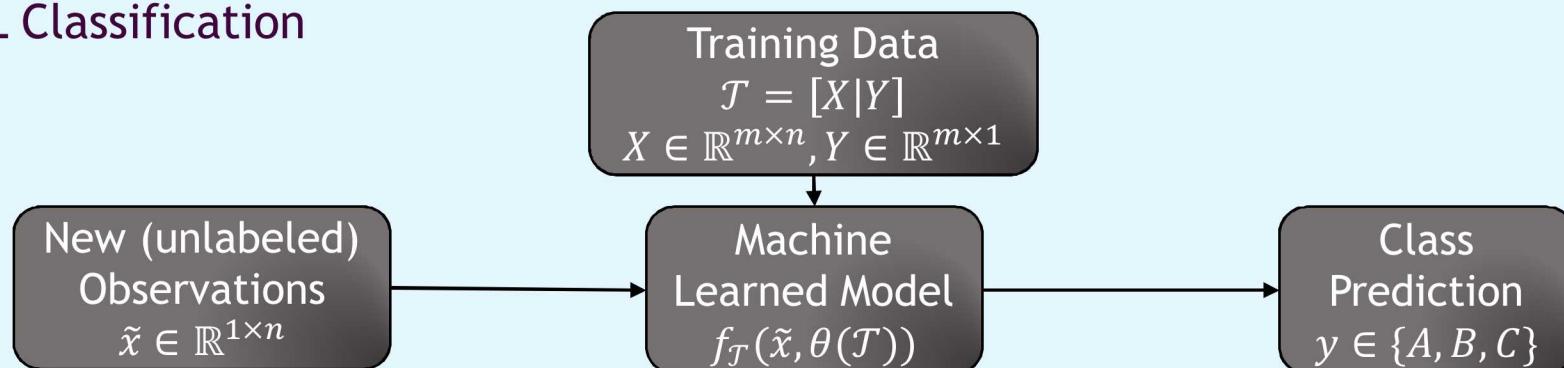
Sum of ALL other combined contributions

# Experimental Design for ML Explainability

## Original Modeling Flow Diagram



## Translation to ML Classification



**Inputs:**  
Uncertainty in Features

### Sampling

Preserving the statistical properties of the training data: **non-Gaussian, discrete, correlated, and sparse**

**Process:**  
Machine Learned Model

### Controlled/Uncontrolled Random Behavior

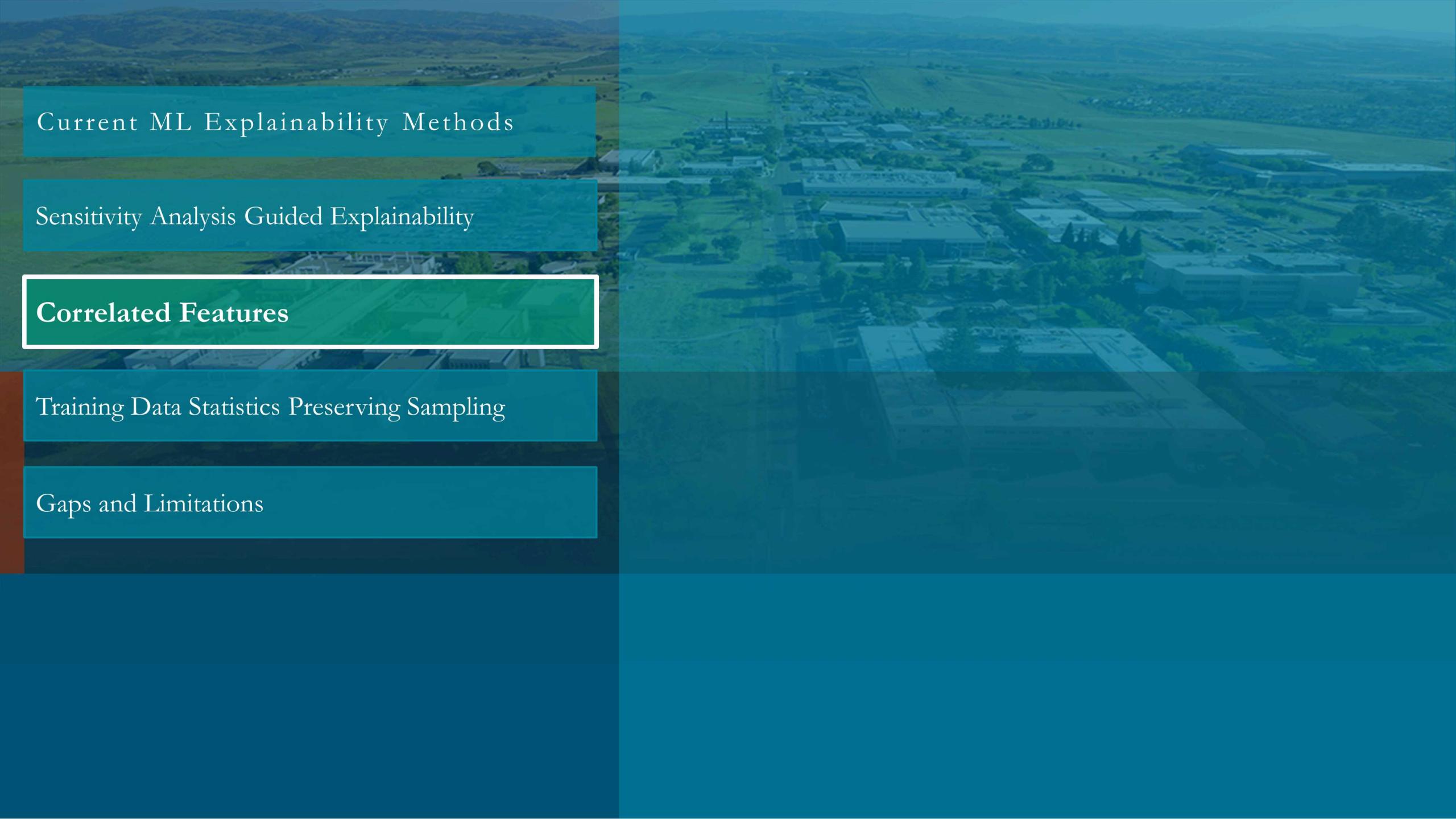
Running sufficient replicates for the random behavior of stochastic machine learned models.

**Outcome:**  
Uncertain Model Predictions

### Quantity of Interest (QoI)

What is the appropriate QoI for which a sensitivity analysis will provide insight for ML explainability?

Methods to apportion the influence of sources of input uncertainty across output uncertainty, accounting for **higher-order interactions** in a model and **input correlations**.



Current ML Explainability Methods

Sensitivity Analysis Guided Explainability

**Correlated Features**

Training Data Statistics Preserving Sampling

Gaps and Limitations

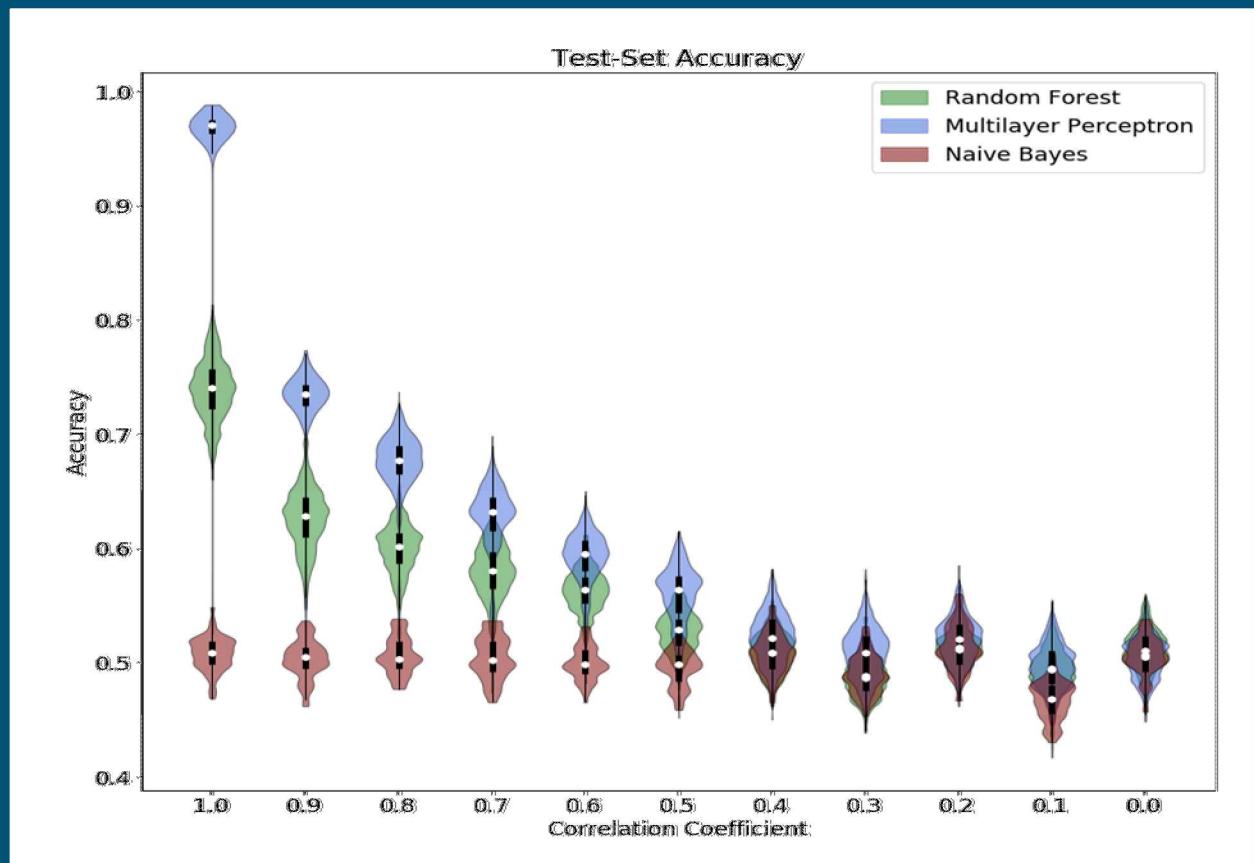
# Correlated Features Provide Discriminative Power

Design of Experiments was used to the debunking the myth that correlated variables only provide redundant information.

- Used synthetic data to control the amount of correlation as the distinguishing characteristic between classes
- Naive Bayes is the baseline for linear relationships

Most explainability methods assume independence

- Incongruent explanations for the learned model
- LIME uses a linear model
- SHAP makes independence and linear assumptions
- Tested with quadratic regression





Current ML Explainability Methods

Sensitivity Analysis Guided Explainability

Correlated Features

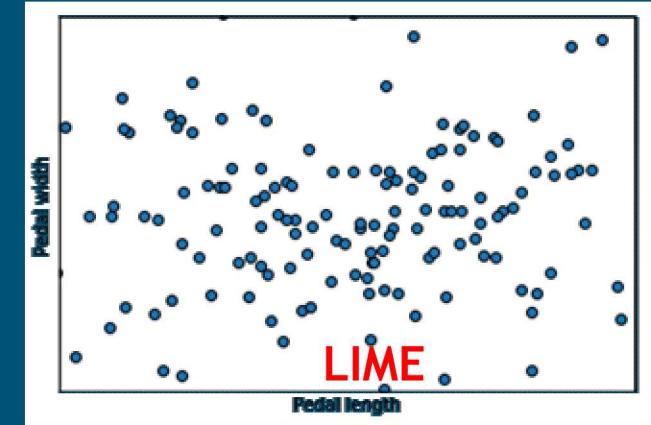
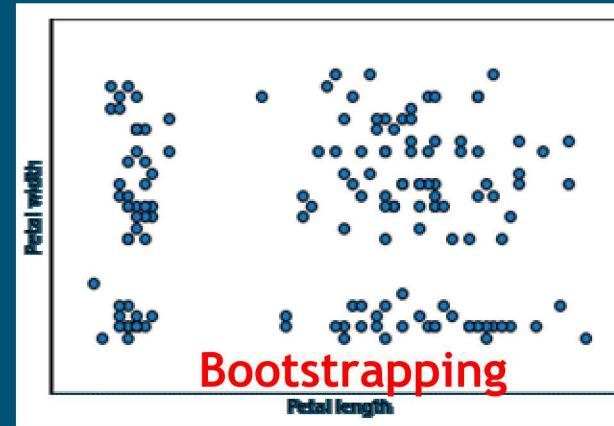
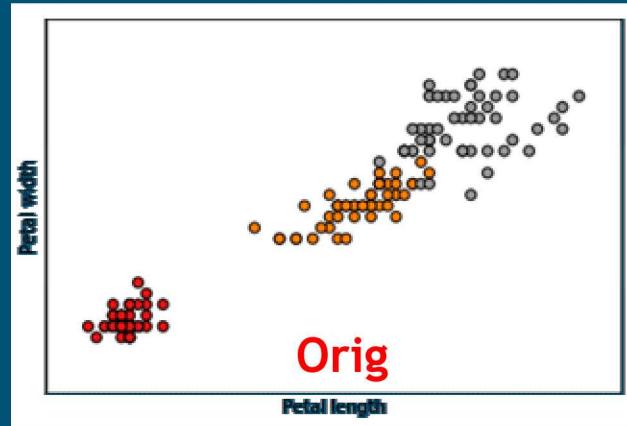
**Training Data Statistics Preserving Sampling**

Gaps and Limitations

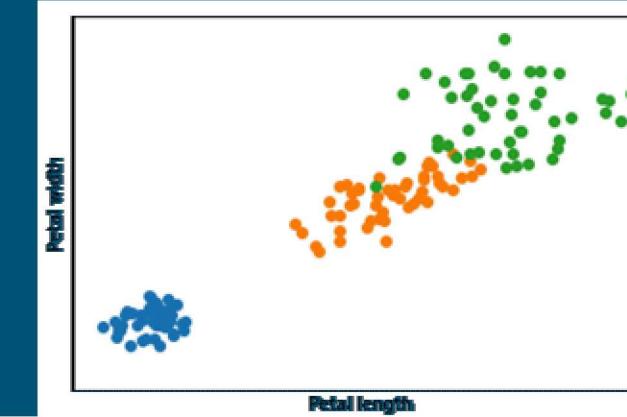
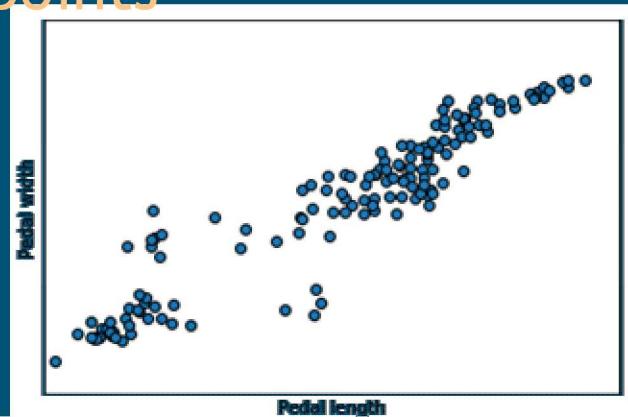
# Training Data Statistics Preserving Sampling

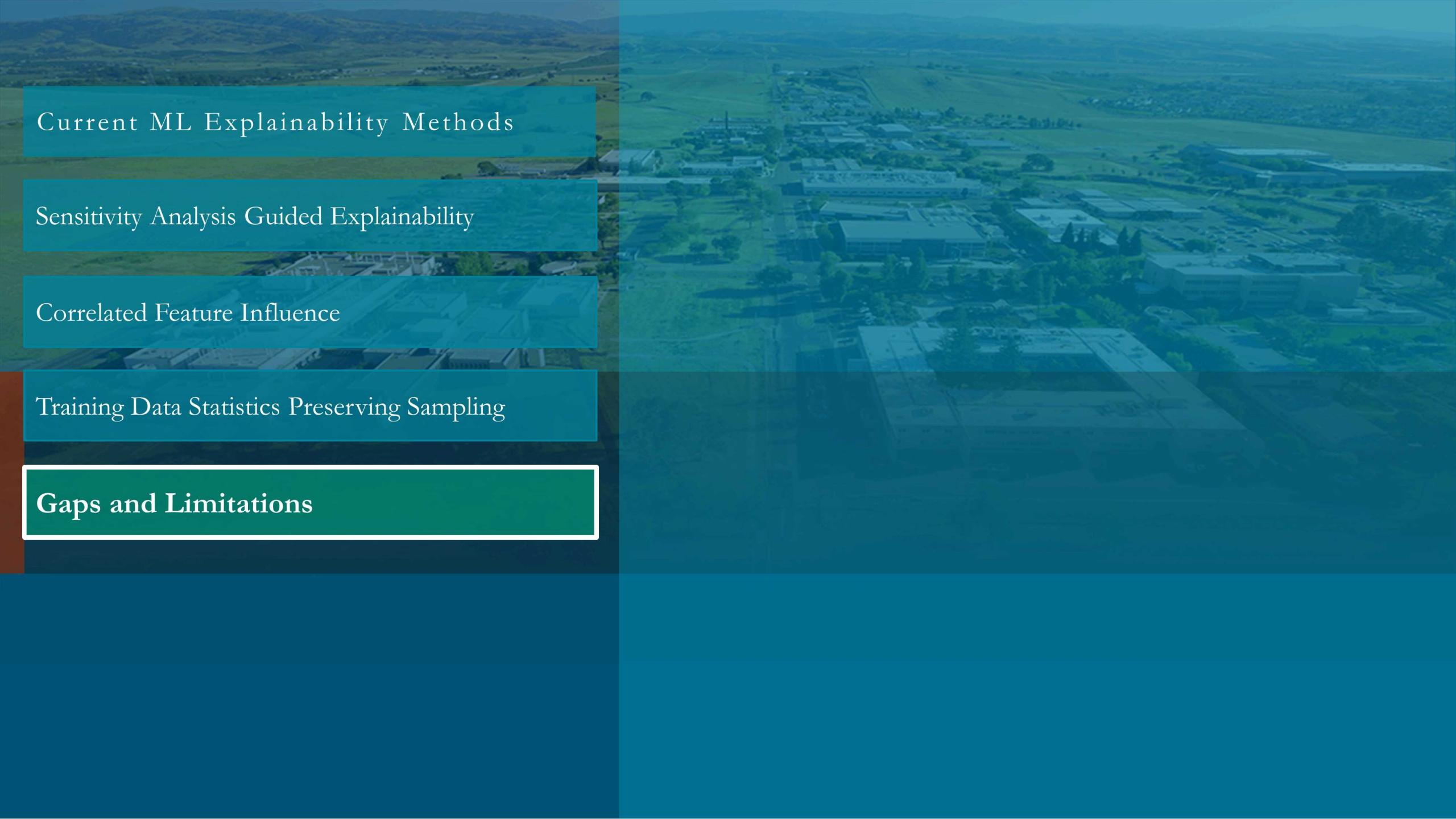
Current sampling approaches can create unrealistic data points  
(Do not preserve correlations or distributions)

Features 3 and 4 from the iris data set (correlated features)



Developed Sampling methods that preserve correlations and generate realistic data points





Current ML Explainability Methods

Sensitivity Analysis Guided Explainability

Correlated Feature Influence

Training Data Statistics Preserving Sampling

**Gaps and Limitations**

# Blockers to using GSA on ML Models for Explainability

- Dependence in our feature space, which defines our sources of uncertainty
- Appropriate Quantity of Interest that will map to an explanation.
- Expedient Computational Methods for our correlation and distribution preserving sampling technique.

## Questions to the Working Group:

- Are there scalable methods for approximating the Shapley indices?
- How are dependent sources of uncertainty currently handled by the research community?

## Continued Research Directions:

- Extensions of Sobol indices for dependent features. [5,6]
- Verification of computational estimators for SHAP feature importance indexes.

# References

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