

FairText: An Algorithm in the loop writing platform for Inclusive writing

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Where I left last time ...

D-BIAS: A Human in the Loop Methodology for Algorithmic Bias Assessment and Mitigation

Category: Research

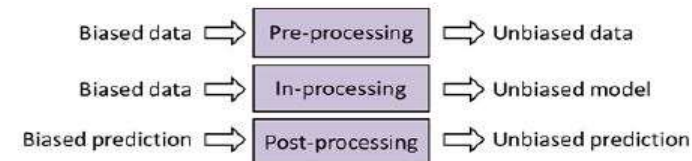
Paper Type: algorithm/technique

Abstract—Algorithmic decision making (ADM) is becoming omnipresent as a tool to guide professionals in making decisions in a wide spectrum of applications, such as hiring, admissions, social care, law enforcement, and others. ADM is based on observational data and a set of algorithms that operate on them. Initially conceived as a mechanism to eliminate human bias from a decision process, there is an increasing recognition that ADM is also not without bias, mostly due to the data. As a result, people can be treated unfairly due to their presence in a certain group, or even as an individual. Bias in the data relates to societal constructs, and algorithmic techniques cannot be expected to understand these complicated relationships. We propose a visual analytics approach that leverages human understanding to manipulate data and mitigate the effects of bias. We use causal analysis and correlation to identify sources of bias and debias it. Our visual tool identifies semantic relations between the attributes of the data, and it uses them to aid the decision maker (DM) in understanding the factors in the dataset that are contributing to the bias. The DM can then use his or her domain knowledge and institutional goals to make alterations to the bias reduction scheme such that it fits with the ground reality. We use various interactive visualizations and charts to show how the different techniques affect bias, accuracy, and different metrics of fairness.

Index Terms—Decision making, Data bias, Causality, Word embeddings

1 INTRODUCTION

With the rise of artificial intelligence and big data, algorithms are being increasingly employed to automate decision making processes with the premise of expediting the process and eliminating human bias. They are being used for college admissions, job applications, criminal justice [7], loan applications [47], healthcare [51], etc. and thus have an increasing



Big Thanks to IACS !!!

Outline



- Unconscious Bias
- Social Impacts
- Word Embeddings
- Motivation
- Our Approach
- Problem Statement
- Bias Identification
- Ranking Synonym
- Current Status
- Usage Scenarios

Picture a School Teacher ...



Everyone holds unconscious beliefs based on past experiences

Unconscious bias in Text

Male-gendered words

Active Adventurous Aggress* Ambitious
Challeng* Compet* Confident Competitive
Dominant Domina* Force* Greedy
Independen* Individual* Intellect* Intuitive
Outspoken Persist Principle* Reckless
Self-sufficien* Self-relian*

Female-gendered words

Affectionate Child* Cheer* Communicative
Cooperat* Depend* Emotiona* Empathetic
Interpersonal Interdependen* Interdependent
Nurtur* Pleasant* Polite Quiet* Supportive
Tender* Together* Trust* Understanding

Gendered noun	Gender-neutral noun
man	person, individual
mankind	people, human beings, humanity
freshman	first-year student
man-made	machine-made, synthetic, artificial
the common man	the average person
chairman	chair, chairperson, coordinator, head
mailman	mail carrier, letter carrier, postal worker
policeman	police officer
steward, stewardess	flight attendant
actor, actress	actor
congressman	legislator, congressional representative

Problematic terms

ambitious
analytical
assertive
autonomous
best of the best
brash
chairman
competitive salary
dominate
football
hija

hierarchical
rigid
Silicon Valley
stock options
strong
takes risks
workforce

Unconscious bias in language isn't always intuitive, but its impact is real

Social Impact of Unconscious bias (in text)



Impact of bias can be felt in all areas including Education, Career, Healthcare, etc.

Word Embeddings

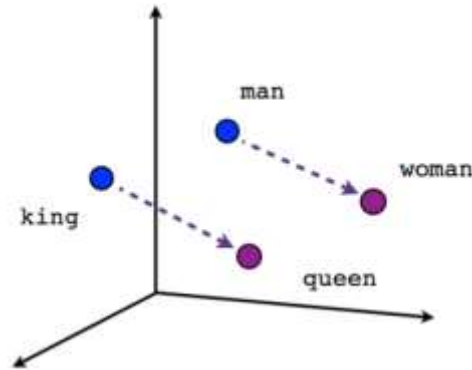


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The Free Encyclopedia

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WORD => [0.23, 0.86, 0.19, 0.49,..., .., .., ..]

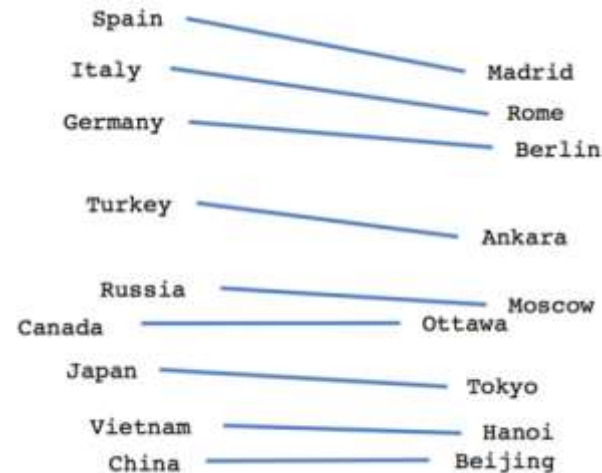


```
custom_word_vectors.most_similar('thx')
```

```
[('thanks', 0.4921847879886627),  
( 'thankyou', 0.4289834201335907),  
( 'thansk', 0.3909286856651306),  
( 'tks', 0.3625342845916748),  
( 'thanx', 0.36105877161026),  
( 'thnaks', 0.3544262647628784),  
( 'plz', 0.3251364529132843),  
( 'thnx', 0.31662681698799133),  
( 'cheers', 0.31641414761543274),  
( 'thnks', 0.3139786422252655)]
```

Queen – King + Man = Woman

Popular eg: word2vec, fastText, Glove



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Sentiment
Analysis

Machine
Translation

Question
Answering

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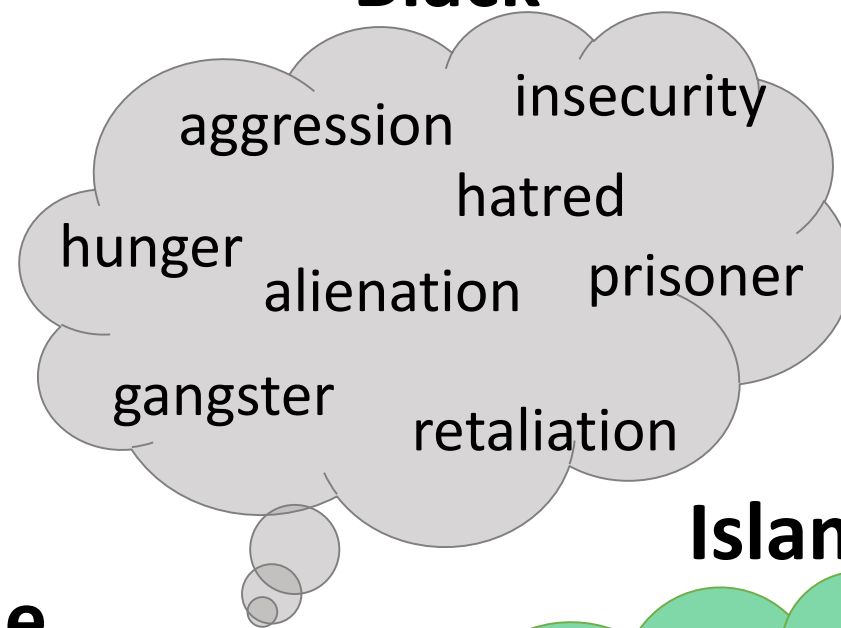
Named
Entity
Recognition

Word Embeddings are reflection of society

Male



Black



Islam



Female



* Christianity was used as reference religion for Islam and White was used as reference race for blacks.

Motivation

- One of the prime ways to tackle Unconscious bias is to make “*the unconscious, conscious*”
- Multiple research papers have established that ML algorithms have captured human like biases against a specific race, gender, etc.
- Specifically, Can we leverage bias encoded in word embeddings for more inclusive writing?

Our Approach

We focus on building
Intelligent Text editors

State of the art research is focused on these stages!

Humans

Text Editor

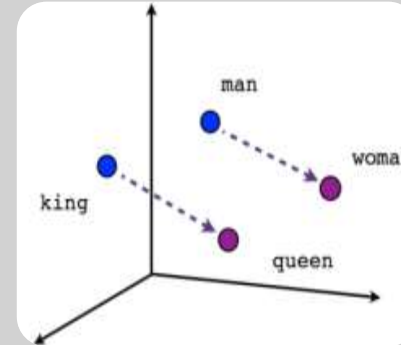
Text Corpus

Word Embedding

Sentiment
Analysis

Machine
Translation

Question
Answering



Help humans
tackle their
Implicit bias

Generate
Unbiased
text

We need AI powered Text editors to tackle human bias at its core

Problem Statement

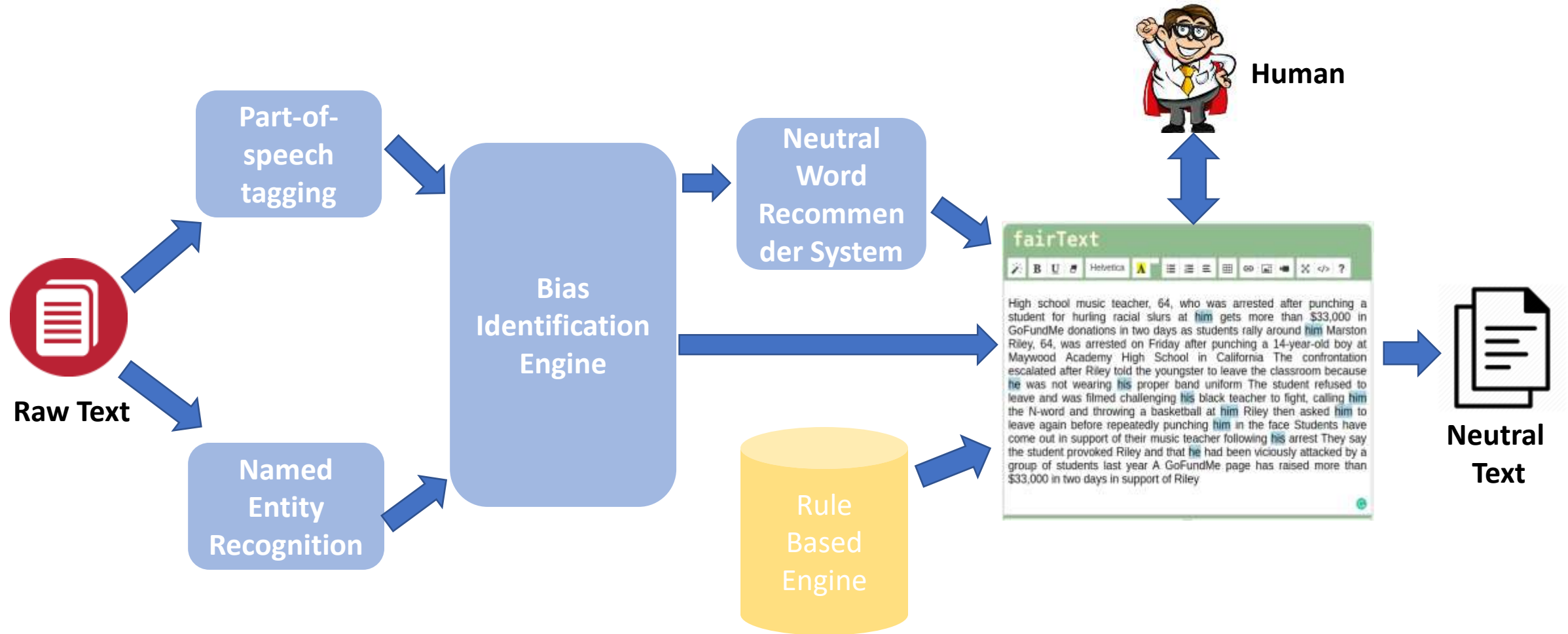
Given some text as input:-

→ Can we identify which words are more likely to incite unconscious bias in the minds of the readers?

→ Can we suggest/recommend alternate words which have similar meaning but doesn't incite bias?

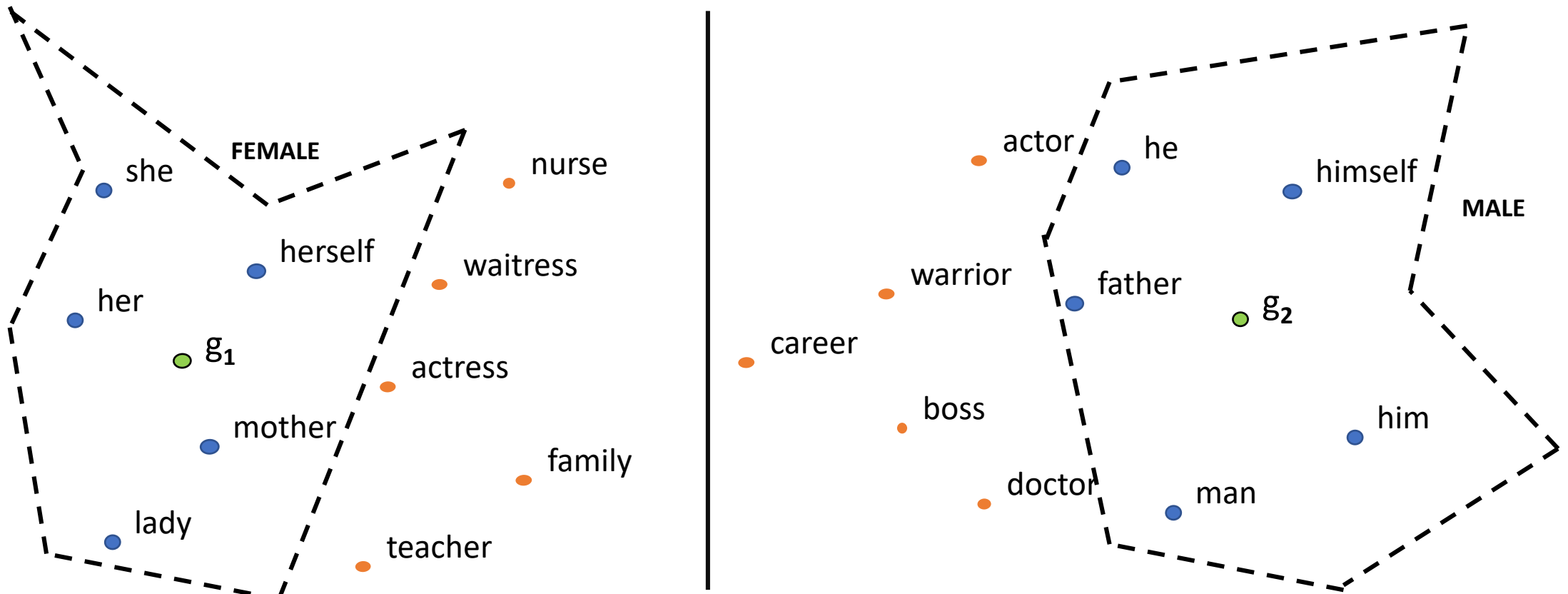
Return unbiased version of original text with the meaning preserved

Proposed Architecture



Human abilities are augmented with knowledge from NLP & Psychology research

Bias Identification



$$\text{Bias_score}(\text{word}) = \text{distance}(\text{word}, g_1) - \text{distance}(\text{word}, g_2)$$

Ideally, neutral words should be equidistant from either cluster

Synonym Retrieval

Thesaurus



- ✓ Good quality synonyms
- ✗ Limited vocabulary
- ✗ Lacks similarity score

Thesaurus.com

synonyms bank

bank [bangk]

[SEE DEFINITION OF bank](#)

noun financial institution | **noun ground bounding waters** | **noun row or tier of objects** | **verb collect money or advantage**

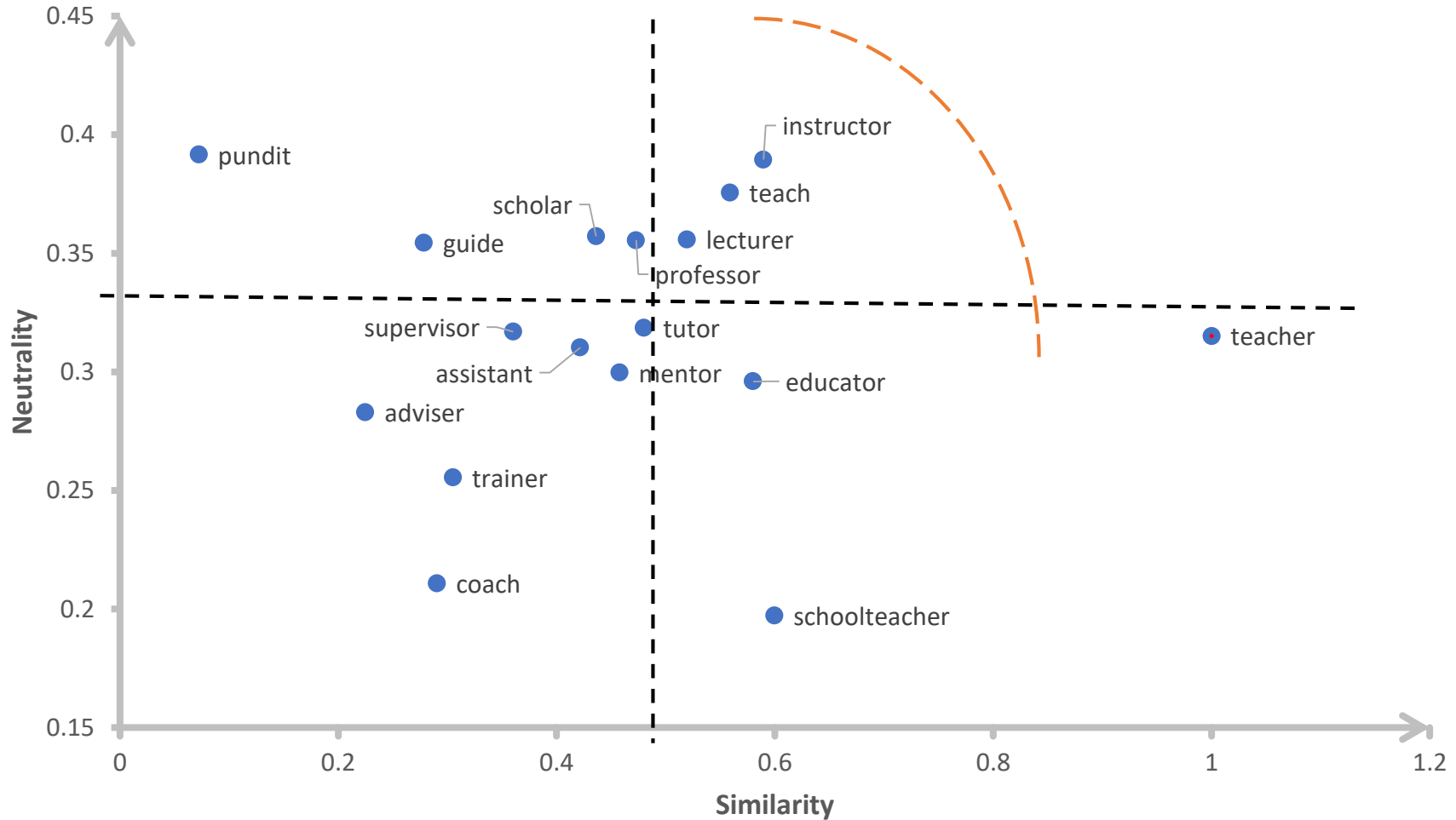
Synonyms for bank

fund	countinghouse	reserve	storehouse	trust company
stock	depository	reservoir	thrift	
store	exchequer	safe	vault	
treasury	hoard	savings	credit union	
coffer	repository	stockpile	investment firm	

■ MOST RELEVANT

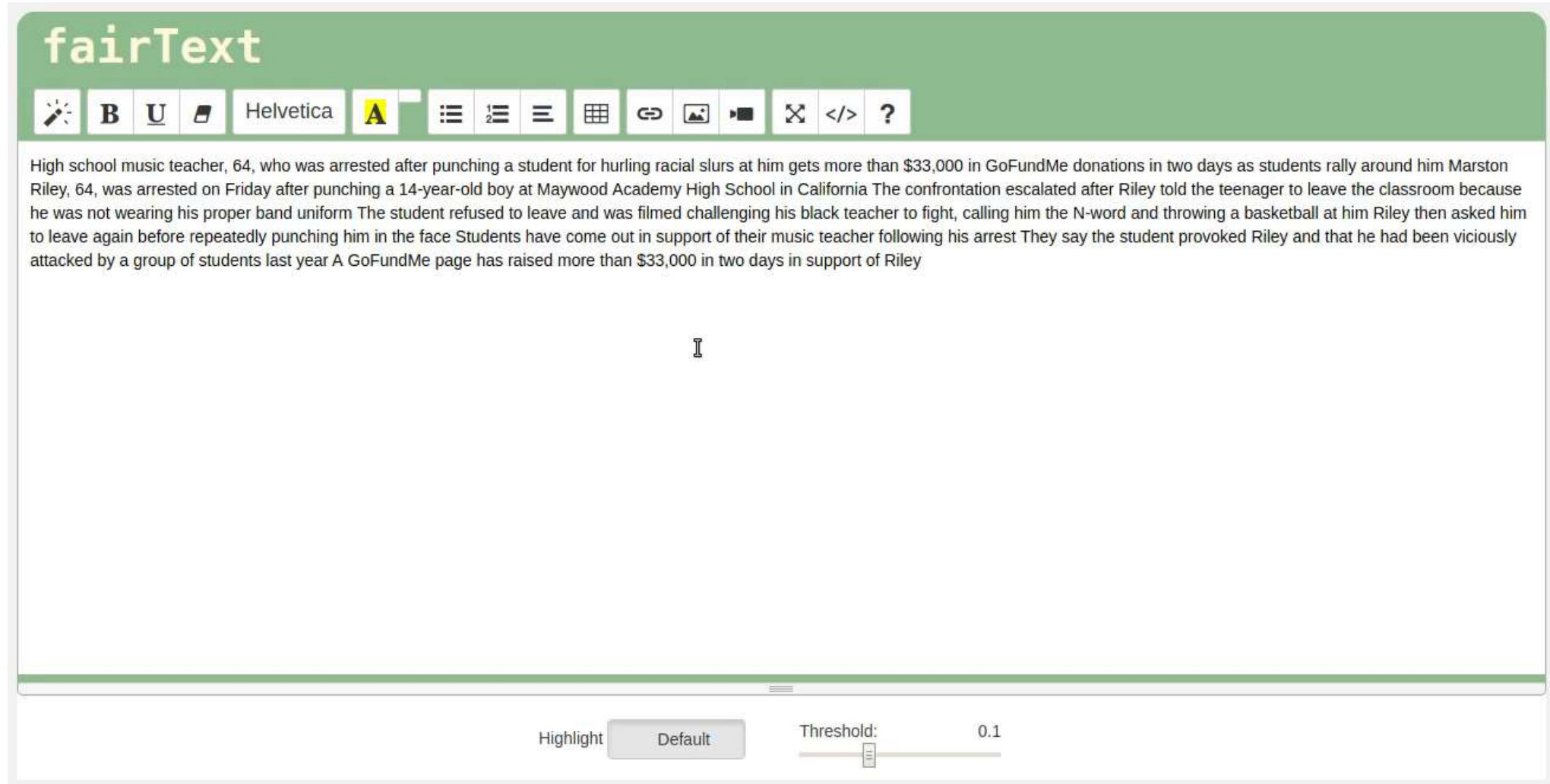
Contextualized word embeddings is the way to go!

Ranking of Synonyms



Finding the right word is a bi-objective optimization problem

Current State



Basic framework with text highlighting is implemented

Usage Scenarios



Job Postings



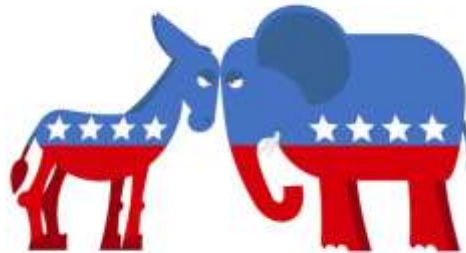
News Articles



**Integrate into
Mainstream tools**



Letter of Recommendation



Political Speeches



**Natural Language
Generation**

We haven't made any assumptions on the domain, so possibilities are endless!

Plan of Research

- Improve Bias Identification using POS tagging & Named Entity Recognition
- Improve word recommendations using Contextualized word embedding
- Add overall gender tone meter
 - Slightly masculine tone
- Evaluate using User Study
 - How often do user concur with word highlighting?
 - Do users adopt the suggestion or figure out a new way?
 - Does user demographics play a role?
- Extend to other kinds of bias like political, racial, etc.
- Detect if phrases/sentences are biased.
 - E.g.- “Don’t be such a drama queen.”

Slightly masculine tone



It's an uncharted territory & there's a lot to explore!

Conclusion



- Unconscious Bias is ubiquitous & has serious real-world consequences
- Identifying & mitigating bias in language is a tricky Interdisciplinary problem
- We propose a novel approach by leveraging the bias encoded in word embeddings
- Our approach works in real time & can have direct real-world impact as a product
- In future, we will plan to extend to different kinds of biases and detect biases in sentences

Every word matters so choose your words carefully!

Thank You ...



Why our approach?

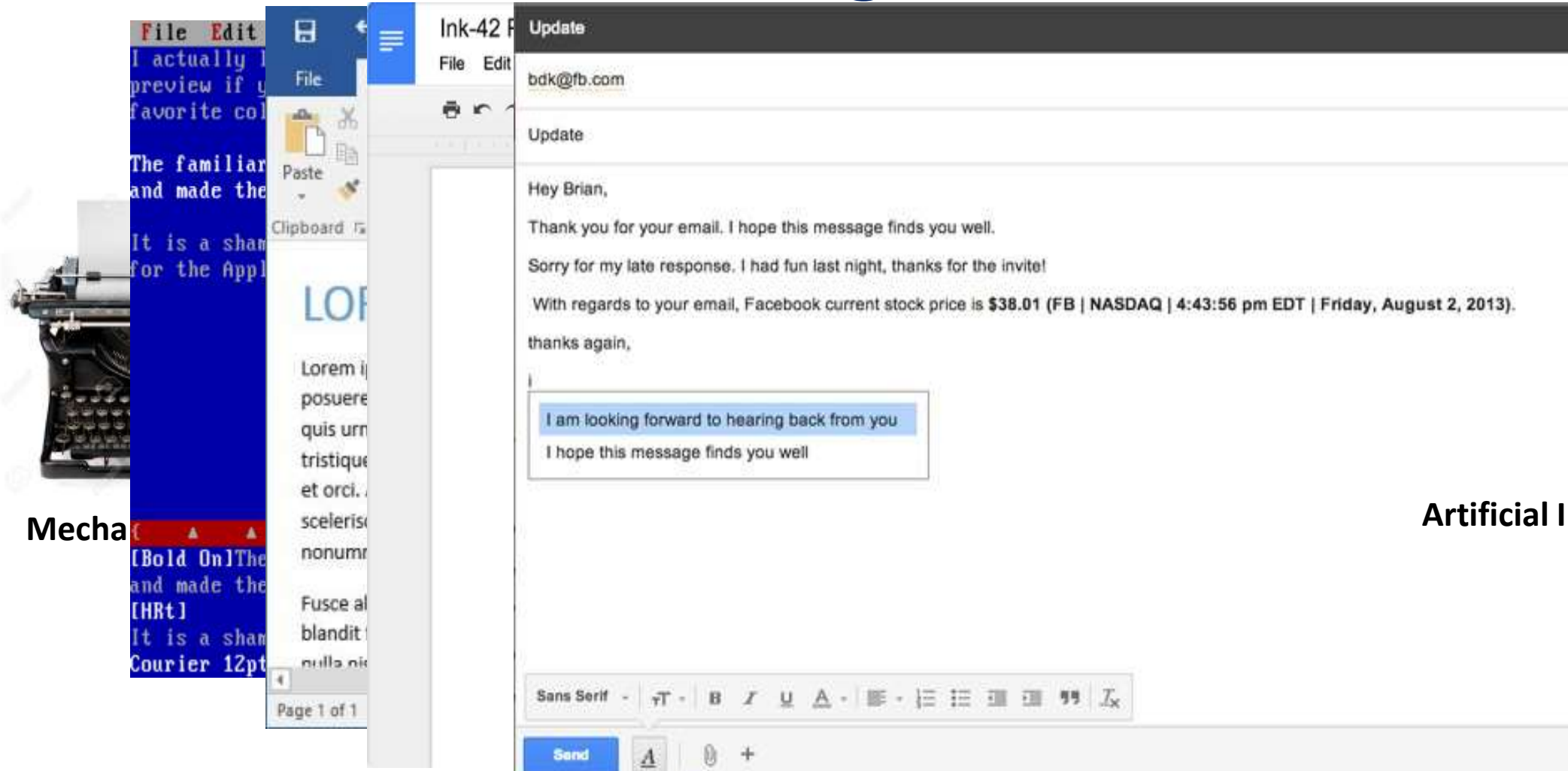
Scalable

Works in real time

Makes unconscious, conscious

Finding the right word is a bi-objective optimization problem

Writing Platforms



AI powered text editors is the way forward!

How Algorithmic Bias is impacting Society?

Allocative Harms

Representation Harms

Gender Classifier

	Darker Male	Darker Female	Lighter Male	Lighter Female	Largest Gap
Gender Classifier	24.00%	70.00%	40.00%	60.00%	20.00%

Google Translate Examples:

- English: "He is a babysitter. She is a lawyer." → Estonian: "Ta on lapsehoidja. Ta on advokaat."
- Estonian: "Ta on lapsehoidja. Ta on advokaat." → English: "She's a babysitter. He is a lawyer."

Representation Gaps:

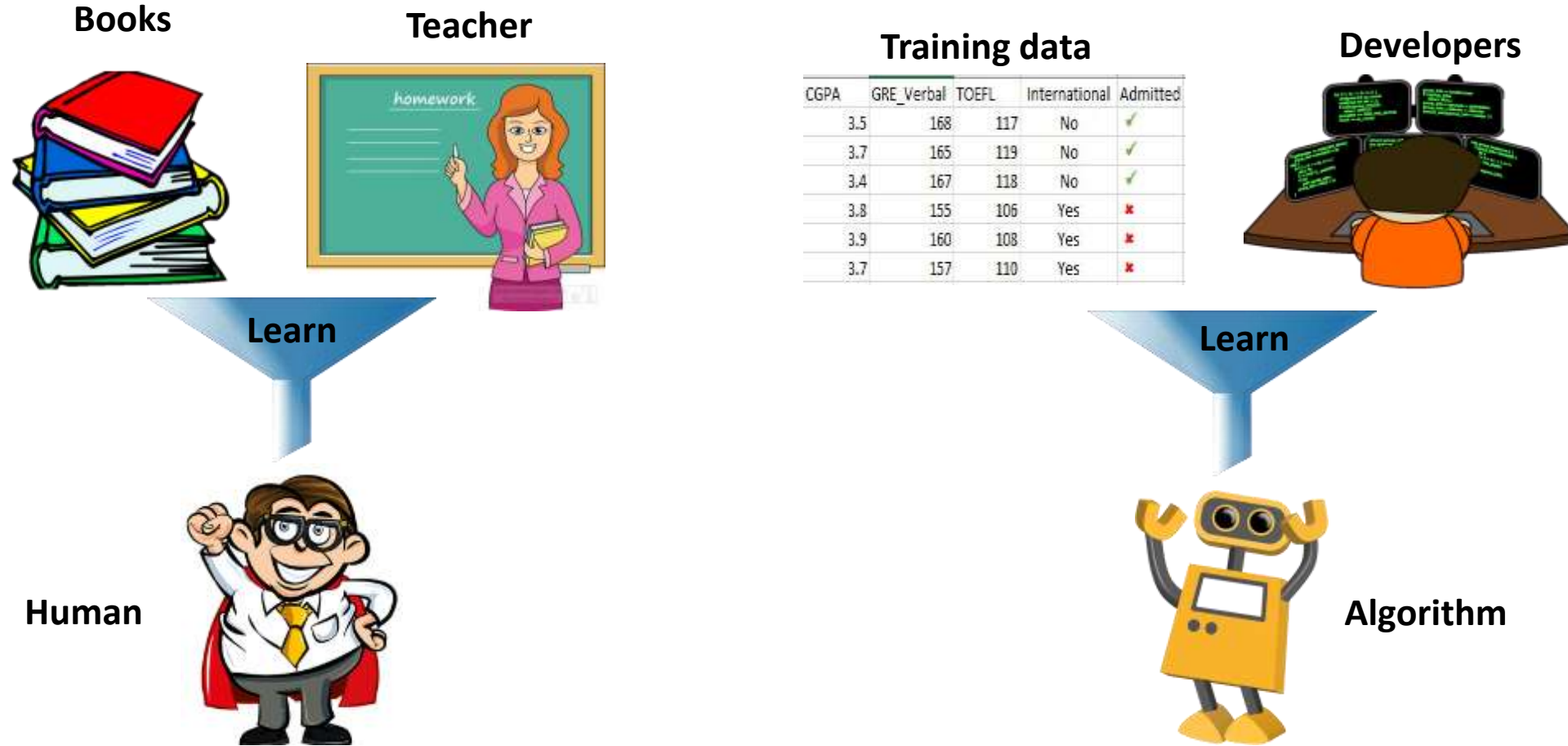
	Darker Male	Darker Female	Lighter Male	Lighter Female	Largest Gap
Gender Classifier	24.00%	70.00%	40.00%	60.00%	20.8%
Lighter Male	24.00%	70.00%	40.00%	60.00%	33.8%
Lighter Female	24.00%	70.00%	40.00%	60.00%	34.4%

Other Elements:

- Recidivism:** A label next to a window image.
- Insurance:** A document with a calculator.
- Portrait:** A small image of a woman's face.

Algorithms are trying to replicate the bias encoded in data

Sources of Bias



If training data or code developer is biased, Algorithms will be biased

In the media ...

WIRED

SUBSCRIBE

BRIAN BARRETT SECURITY 07.26.18 04:59 PM

LAWMAKERS CAN'T IGNORE FACT/ RECOGNITION

The New

Biased Algorithms Are Everywhere, and No One Seems to Care



BUSINESS **TheUnshot**

HIDDEN

Intelligent Machines

AI is hurting
Experts warn
New study uncovers gender

Who
Help

Forget Killer Robots— Bias Is the Real AI Danger

John Giannandrea, who leads AI at Google, is worried about intelligent systems learning human prejudices.



kills conservative news feeds,

algorithm mistakenly
people 'gorillas'
h a Bad

The Value-Added Model has done more to confuse and oppress than

Algorithms vs Humans



Human

- ✓ Domain Expertise
- ✓ Interpretable
- ✓ Storytelling
- ✗ Expensive
- ✗ Biased
- ✗ Slow



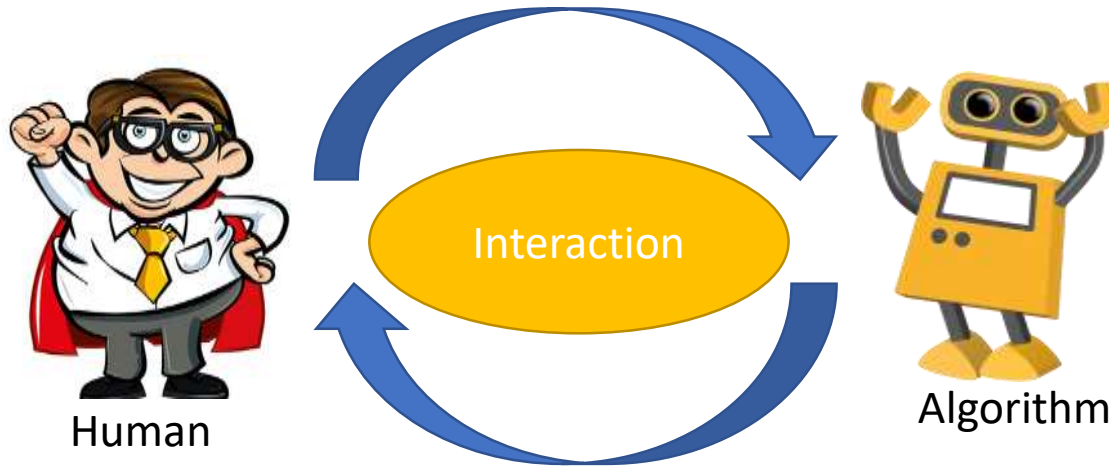
Algorithm

- ✓ Fast
- ✓ Economical
- ✓ Unbiased
- ✗ Opaque
- ✗ Non-culpable
- ✗ No domain Knowledge

- * Algorithms are often implemented **without any appeals method** in place (due to the misconception that algorithms are objective, accurate, and won't make mistakes)
- * Algorithms are often used at a much **larger scale** than human decision makers, in many cases, replicating an identical bias at scale (part of the appeal of algorithms is how cheap they are to use)
- * Instead of just focusing on the least-terrible existing option, it is more valuable to ask how we can create **better, less biased decision-making tools** by leveraging the strengths of humans and machines working together

Humans and machines have their own pros & cons

Our approach – Human Centered AI



- AI Systems should understand humans
- AI help humans understand itself
- Computational creativity

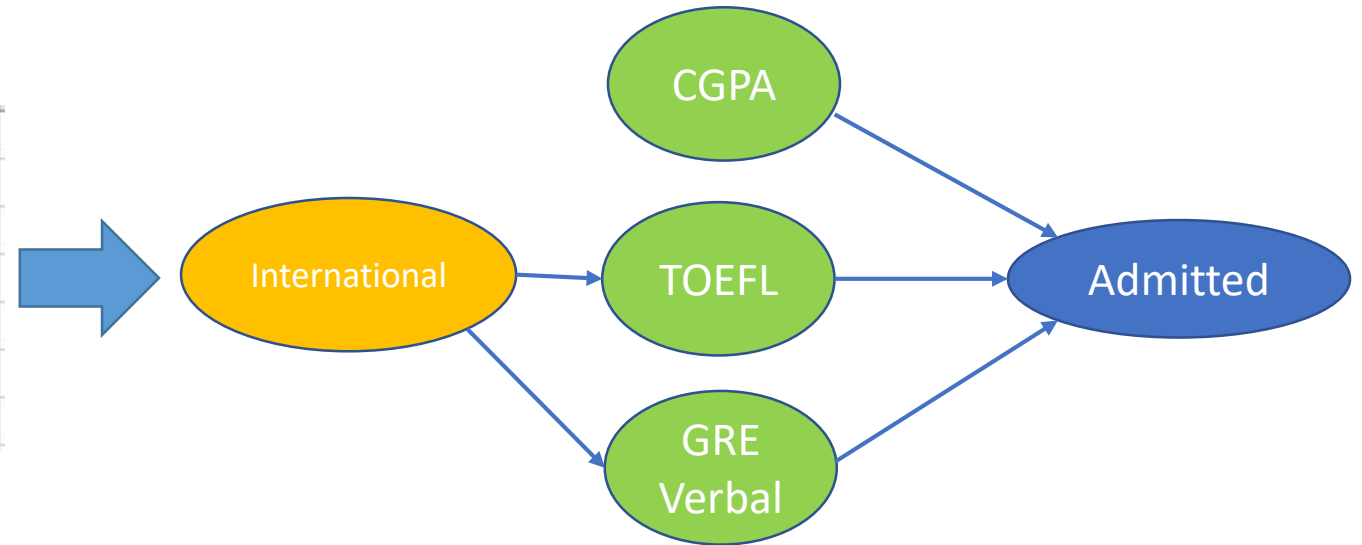
- Propose an interactive visual interface to identify and tackle bias
- Understand underlying structures in data using interpretable model like causal inference
- Infuse domain knowledge into the system by modifying causal network
- Evaluate debiased data using Utility, Distortion, Individual fairness & group fairness

Our approach brings the best of both worlds!

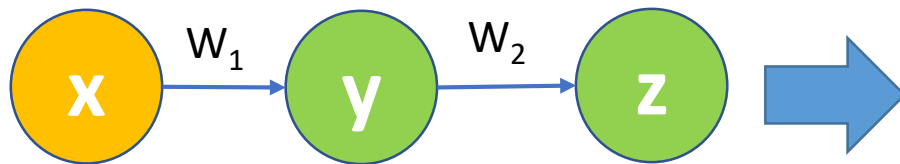
Causal Networks & Debiasing

Causal Network

CGPA	GRE_Verbal	TOEFL	International	Admitted
3.5	168	117	No	✓
3.7	165	119	No	✓
3.4	167	118	No	✓
3.8	155	106	Yes	✗
3.9	160	108	Yes	✗
3.7	157	110	Yes	✗



Debiasing



$$Y_{\text{new}} = Y - w_1 X$$

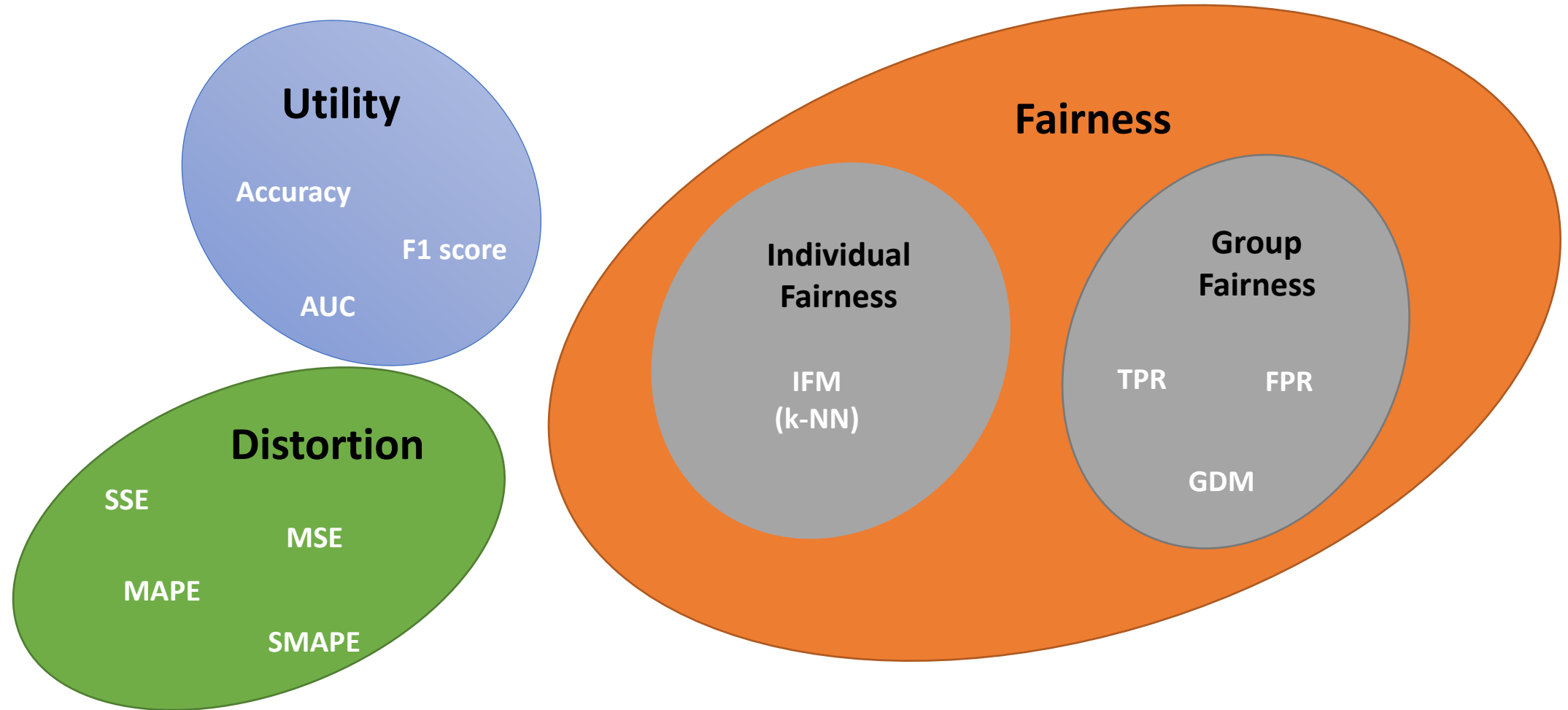
$$Z_{\text{new}} = Z - w_1 w_2 X$$

Partial Debiasing

$$Y_{\text{new}} = Y - \alpha w_1 X$$

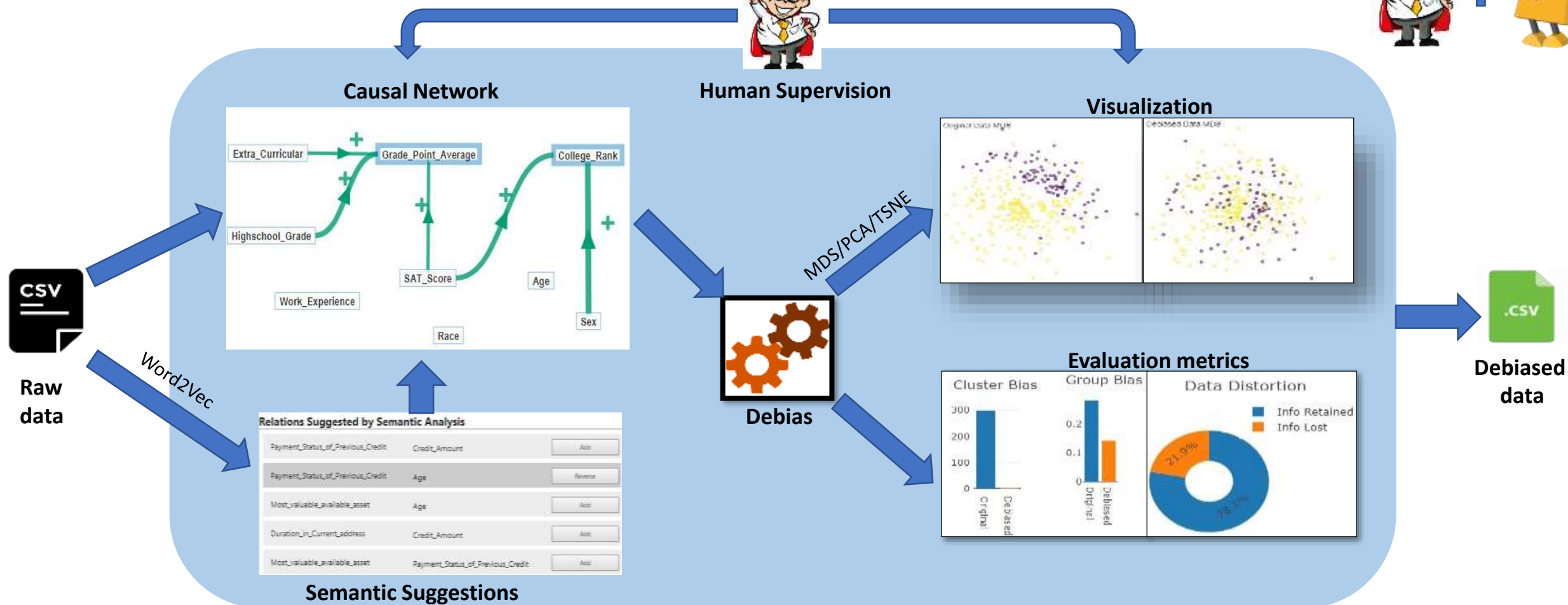
Causal Networks help identify bias

Evaluation Objectives



Preserve utility, maximize fairness & minimize distortion

Proposed Architecture



Humans can infuse domain knowledge by interacting with the causal network

Why our Approach?



Fairness

✓ Using multiple fairness definitions



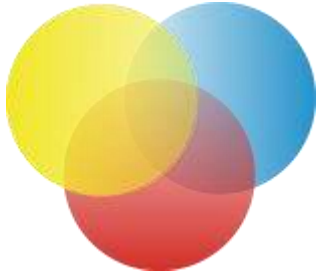
Transparency

✓ Interactive visual interface boosts transparency



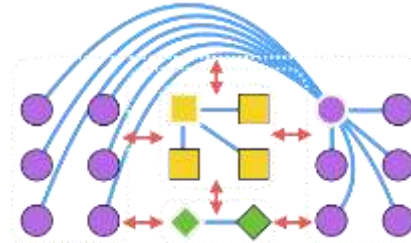
Accountability

✓ Human in-charge can be held accountable



Multidisciplinary

✓ Human expert infuses domain knowledge into system



Data-driven Storytelling

✓ Investigate policies by traversing causal network



Trust

✓ Human brings more trust into the system

Introducing Human in the loop is the way forward!