



Institute
and Faculty
of Actuaries

Machine Learning

Duncan Anderson

GIRO 2017



GIRO 2016 - Response to machine learning

Don't panic!

We're doomed!



This is not all new

Actuaries adopt GLMs

First computer

Trees

CART

Random forests

Neural nets

GLMs

GBMs



Deep Blue vs Kasparov

AlphaGo vs Lee Sedol

1996 General Insurance Convention

Neural Networks v. GLMs in pricing general insurance

2.2 NN topologies

The most common structure for a NN consists of an Input layer, one or more intermediate "Hidden" layers and an Output layer. The inputs of a given neuron are fed from the outputs of neurons in the previous layer. Information flows from the Input layer, through the Hidden layer(s) and finally out through the Output layer. This is known as a Feed-forward network. Because there is no feedback, the NN produces a result in a single operation and is stable - that is it happily arrives at a single value given a certain set of inputs.

Input layer

Neuron

Neuron

Neuron

Workshop to be presented by

Julian Lowe (Chairman)

Louise Pryor

42

GIRO 1996

2.3 NN transfer functions

The transfer, or activation, function is applied to the weighted sum of the inputs of a neuron to translate the inputs to an output. Good candidates for transfer functions are bounded, monotonic, continuous and differentiable everywhere. A commonly used function is the sigmoid function, $g(S)$:

$$g(S) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-S}}$$

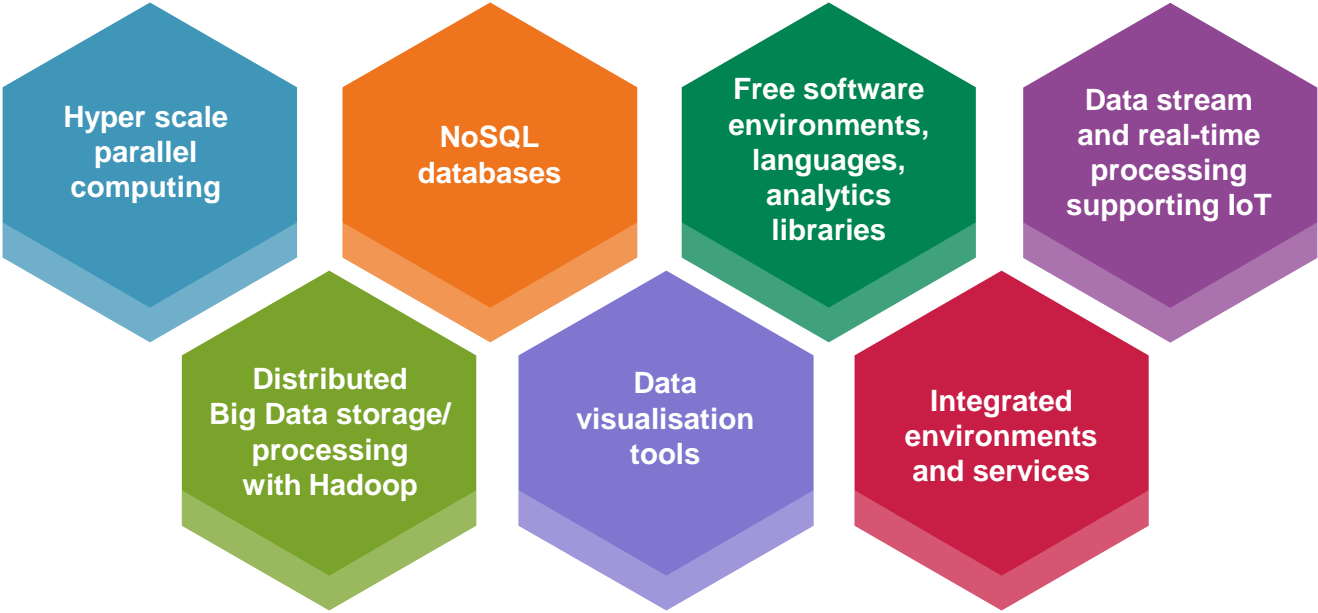
As D gets larger, $g(S)$ becomes more and more like a simple step function - that is a function that just switches between two levels. For the hard of thought, a quick summary of different sigmoid functions for different levels of D is given below:

Comparison of Sigmoid functions

In practice, different values of D simply lead to the weights being rescaled, so D is usually taken to be 1.

Why bother with this transfer function, when we could just have the threshold function, giving an output of 1 if S was above a certain level? Well, Minsky & Papert proved that perceptrons, the systems of thresholding output neurons, could never represent the exclusive-or function. That is, a function that outputs "0" from two "0" inputs or two "1" inputs, and "1" from a combination of "0" and "1" inputs. They also showed that perceptrons couldn't represent a variety of other functions. So, different types of transfer function are needed so that NNs can represent certain types of function.

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There is a spectrum of complexity

“Vastly more
risky than
North Korea”

GLM
stepwise
macro

AI comprehension	Bespoke image recognition	Speech analytics	Machine learning predictive modelling
Full autonomous driving	Object recognition	Topic modelling	Automated GLMs



Hard
Evolving
Requires significant expertise



Not at all hard
Already in use
Actuaries can do this stuff

Example machine learning methods

Ensemble
Methods

Classifications
Trees

"Earth"

Gradient
Boosting
Machines

K-Means
Clustering

Support Vector
Machines

Elastic Net

Neural Networks

Naïve Bayes

Random Forests

Regression
Trees

Principal
Components
Analysis

Lasso

K-nearest
Neighbours

Ridge
Regression

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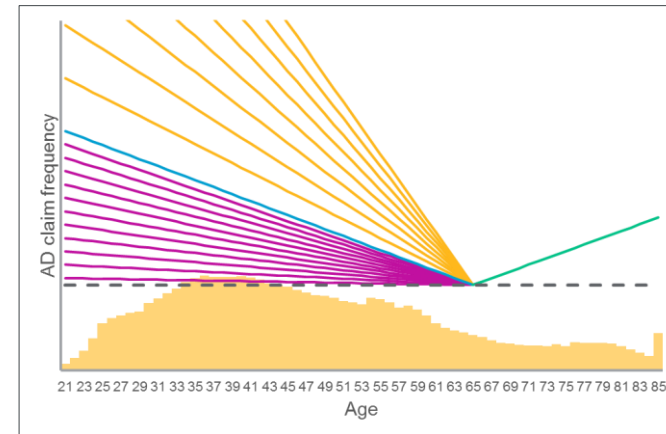
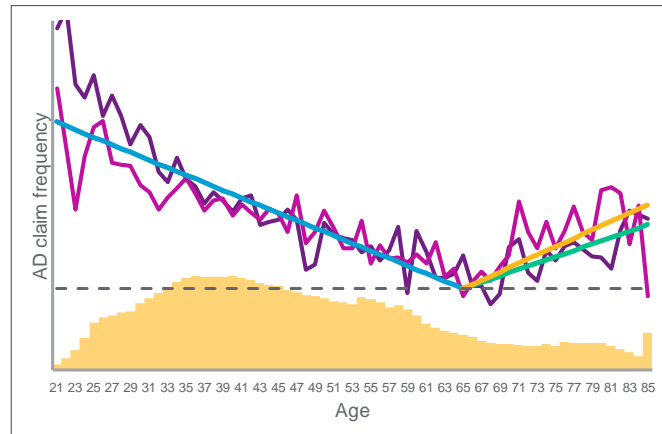
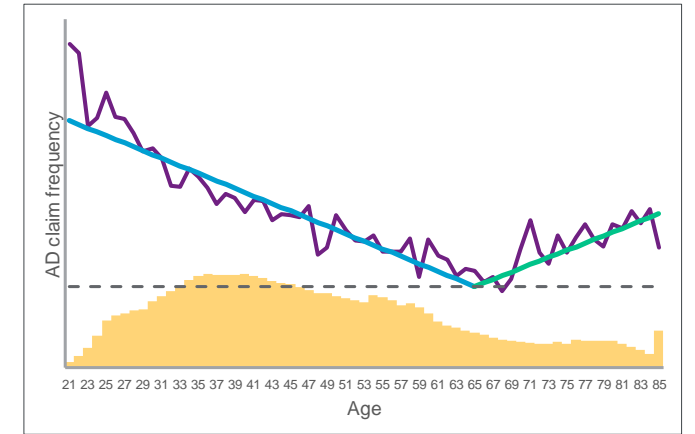
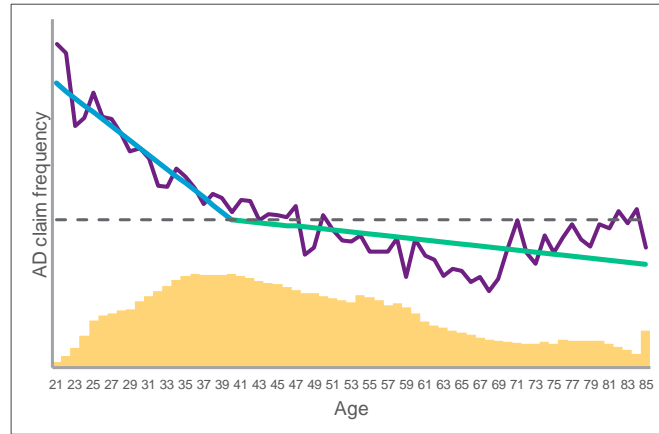
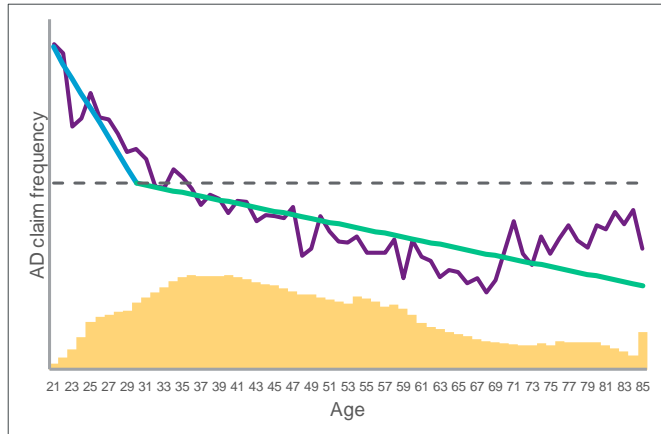
Principal
Components
Analysis

Lasso

K-nearest
Neighbours

Ridge
Regression

Multivariate adaptive regression splines (“Earth”)



Penalised regression (Lasso, Ridge, Elastic Net)

$f(\underline{x}) = g^{-1}(\underline{X} \cdot \underline{\beta})$ where $\underline{\beta}$ estimated by minimising

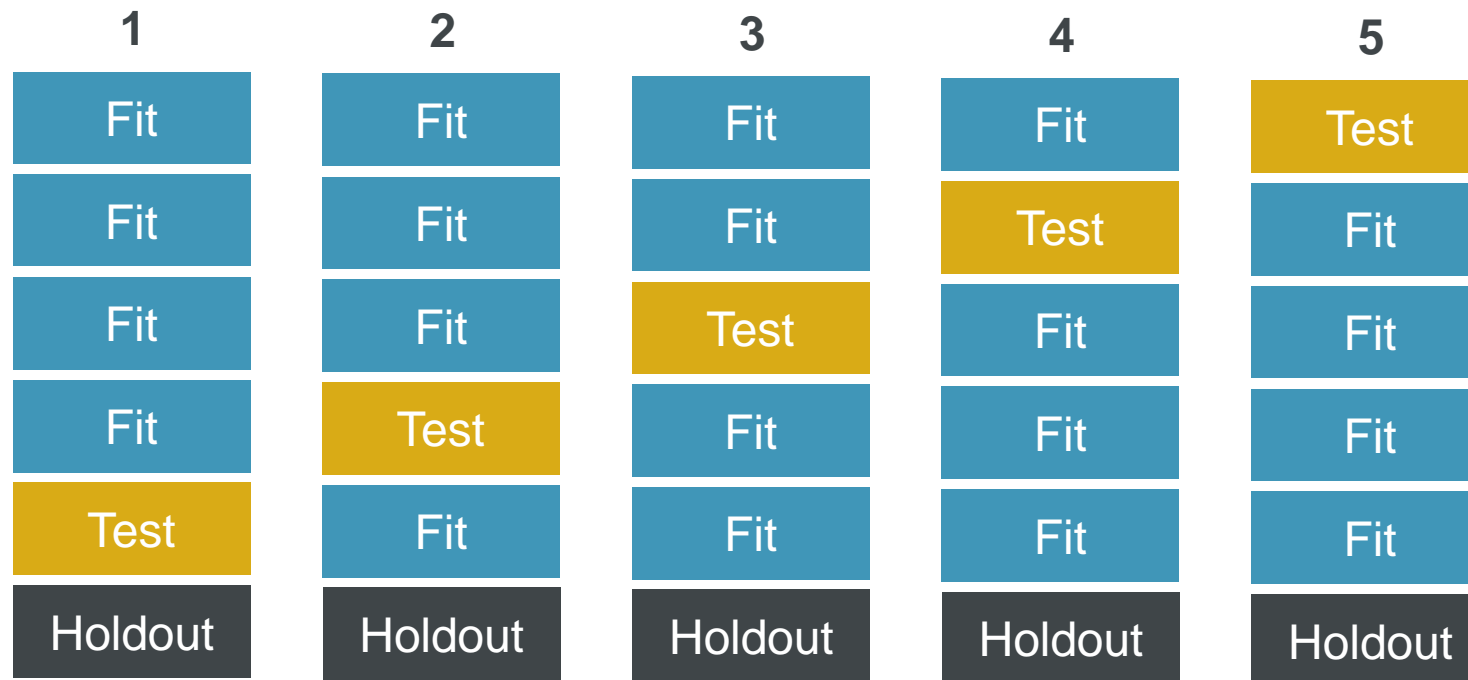
GLM

Lasso

Ridge

$L(\beta|X, y) + \lambda_1 \sum_i |\beta_i| + \lambda_2 \sum_i \beta_i^2$

Elastic Net



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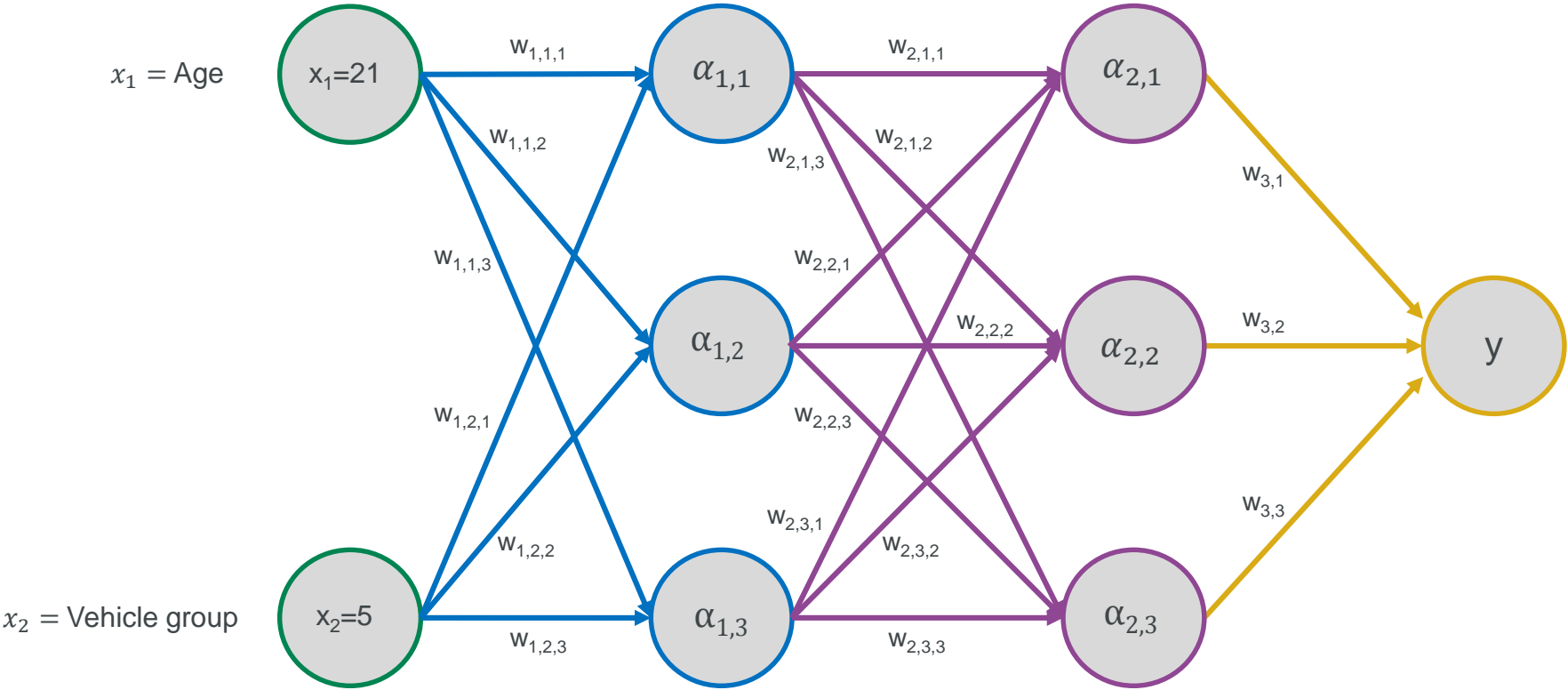
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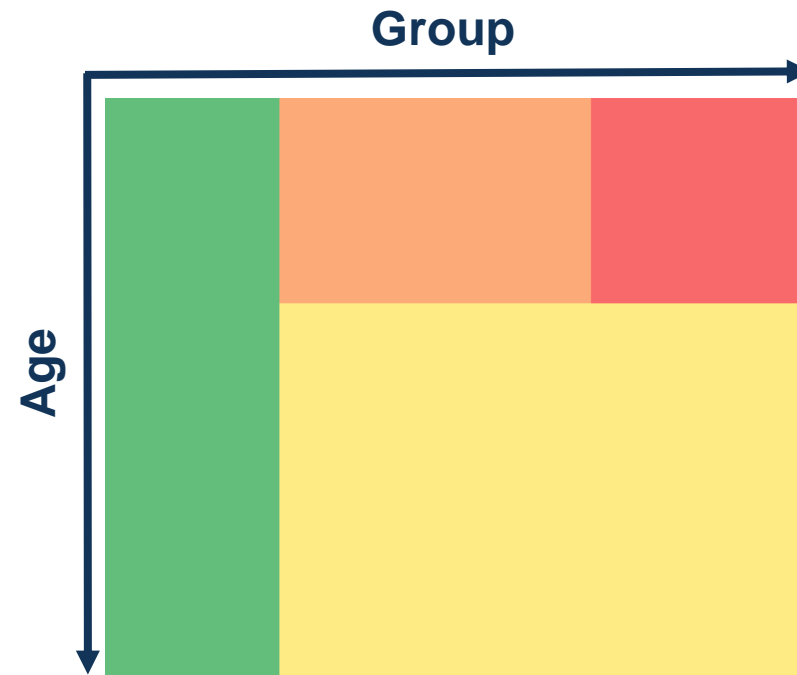
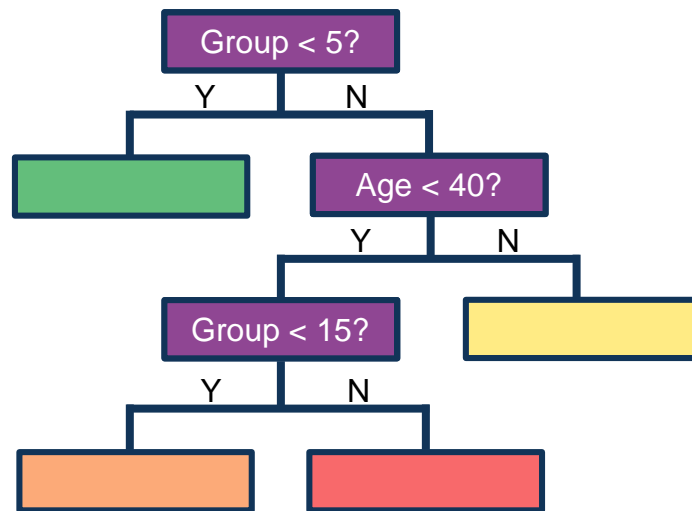
Principal
Components
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Lasso

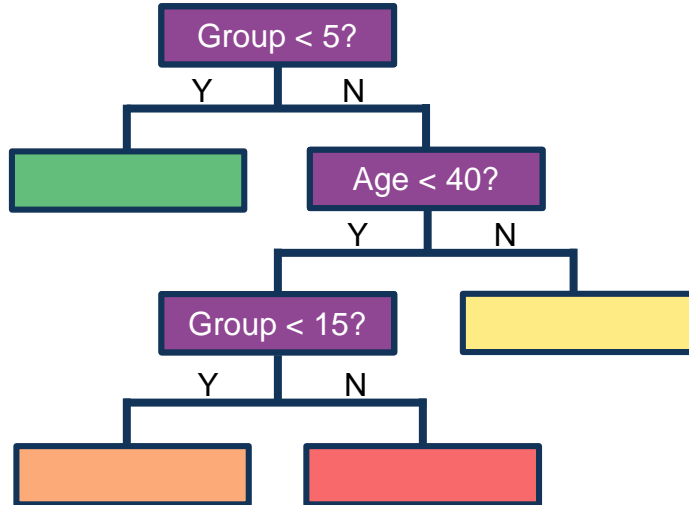
K-nearest
Neighbours

Ridge
Regression

Decision trees



Random Forests

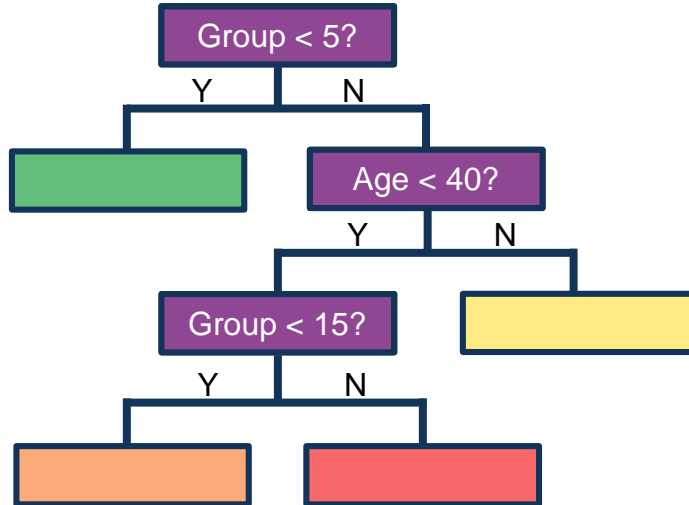


A random forest

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N f_n(x)$$

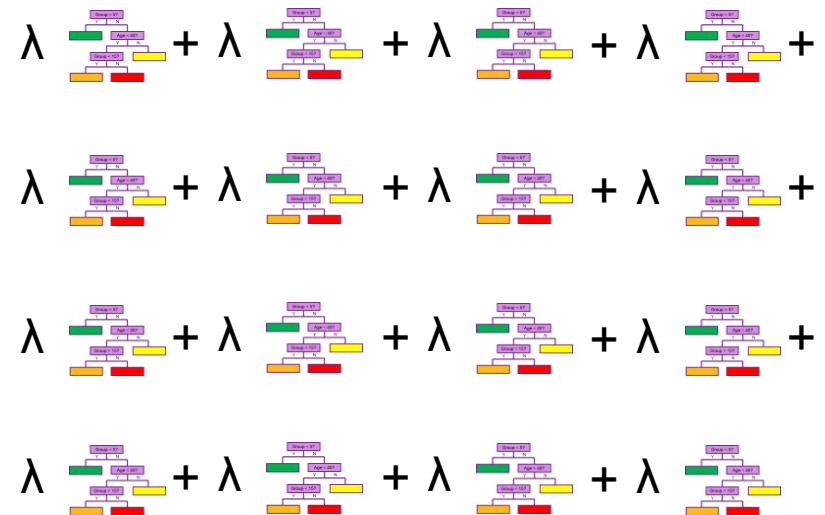
$$\frac{1}{N} \left[\begin{array}{cccc} \text{Tree 1} + & \text{Tree 2} + & \text{Tree 3} + & \text{Tree 4} + \\ \text{Tree 1} + & \text{Tree 2} + & \text{Tree 3} + & \text{Tree 4} + \\ \text{Tree 1} + & \text{Tree 2} + & \text{Tree 3} + & \text{Tree 4} + \\ \text{Tree 1} + & \text{Tree 2} + & \text{Tree 3} + & \text{Tree 4} + \end{array} \right]$$

Gradient Boosted Machine or “GBM”



A GBM

$$f(x) = \lambda \sum_{n=1}^N f_n(x)$$



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Do they add value?

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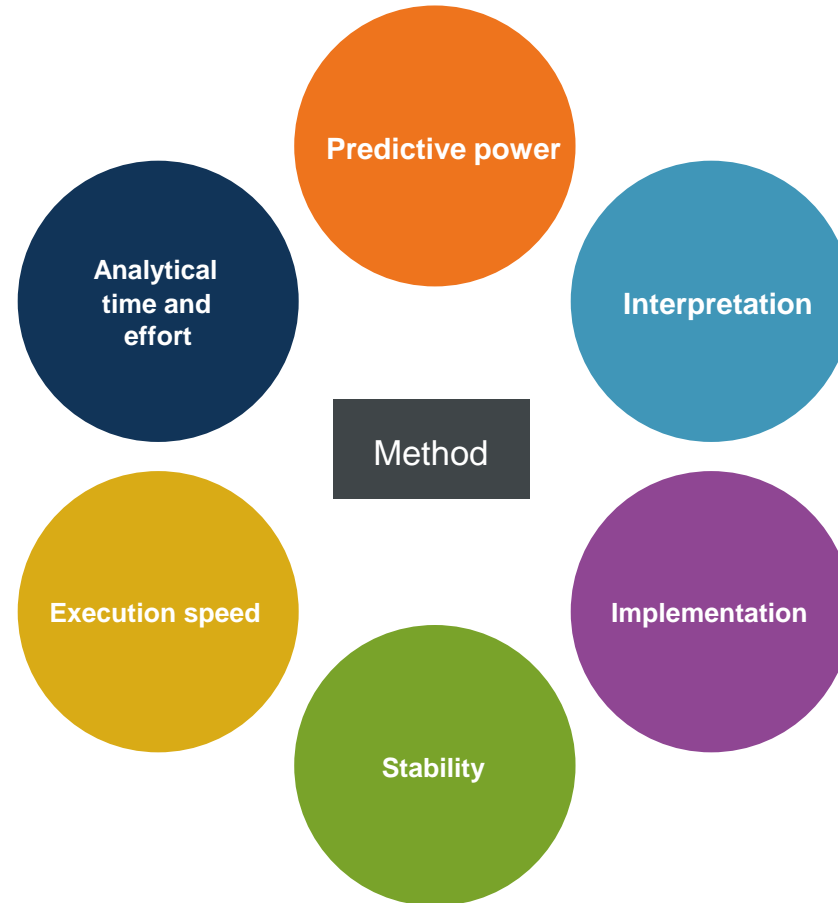
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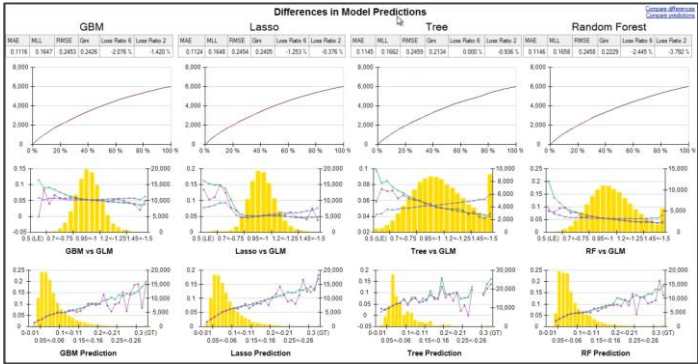
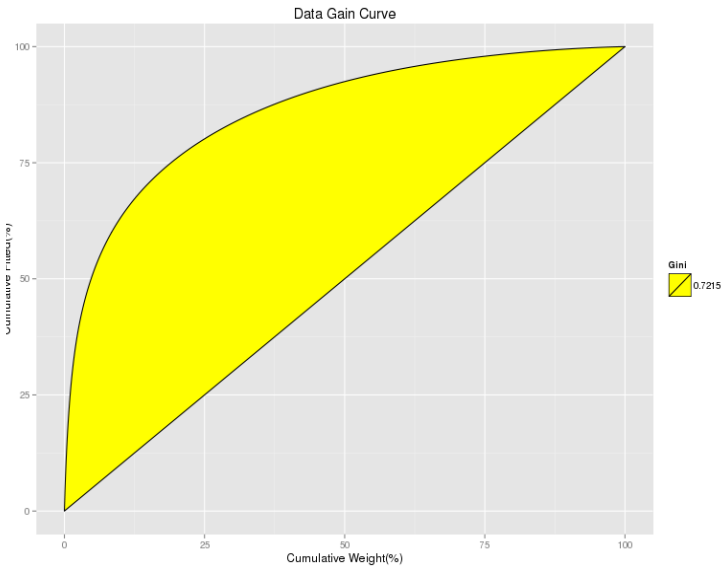
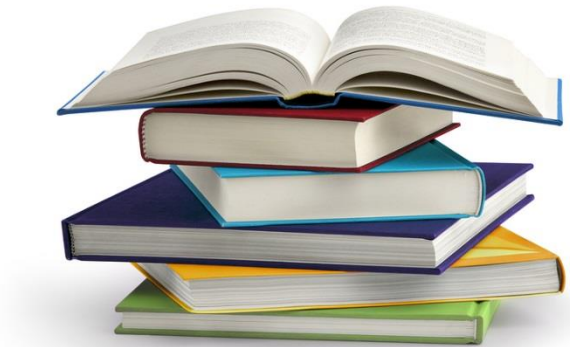
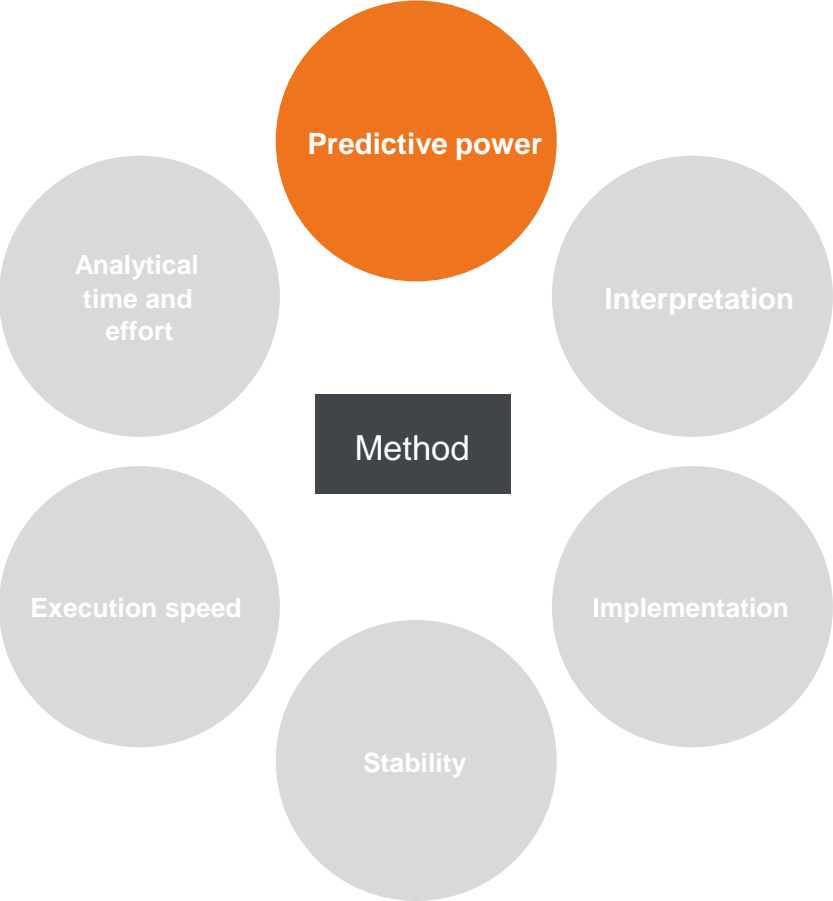
K-nearest
Neighbours

Ridge
Regression

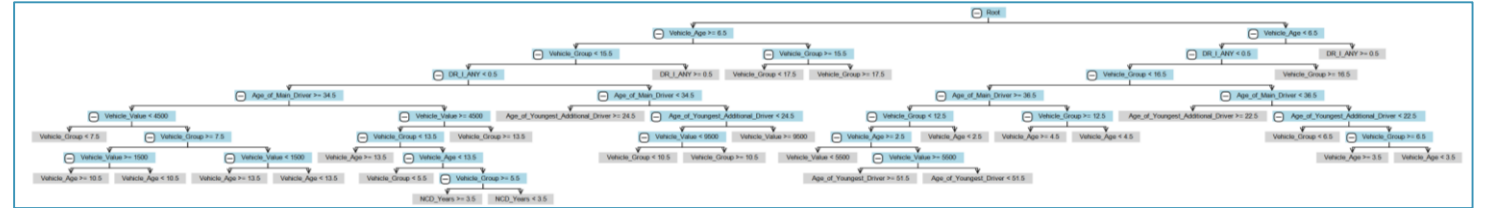
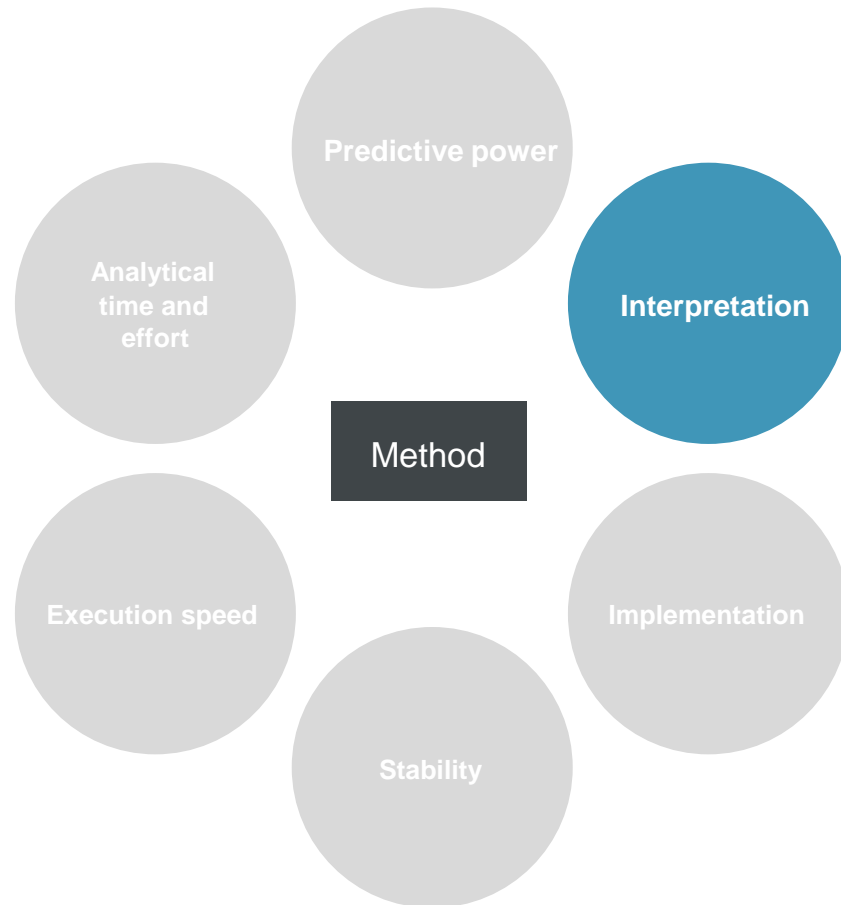
Dimensions of utility



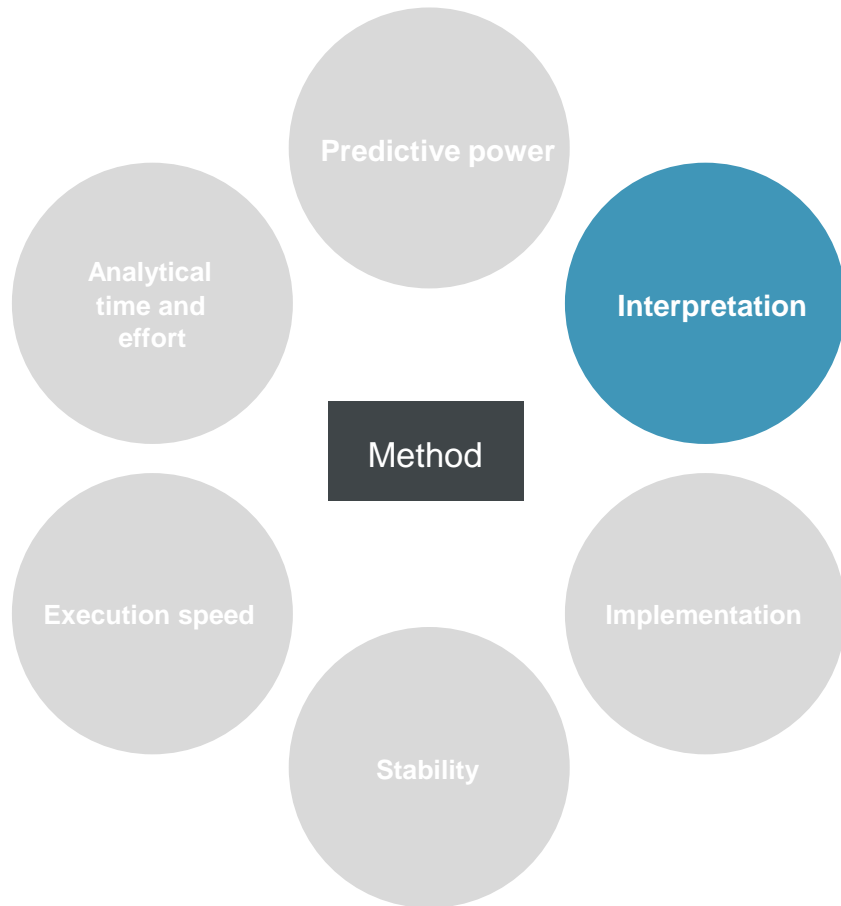
Dimensions of utility

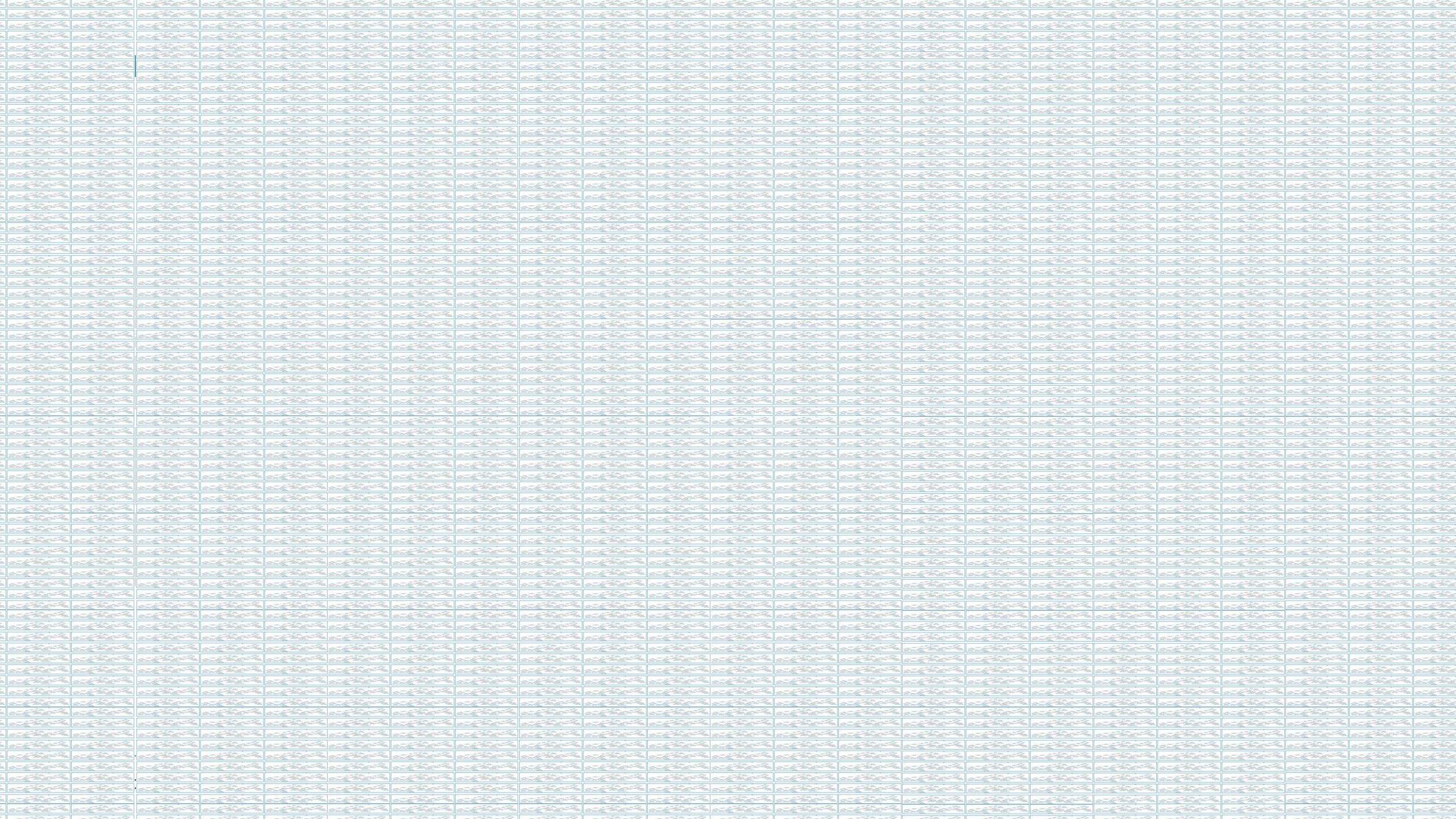


Dimensions of utility

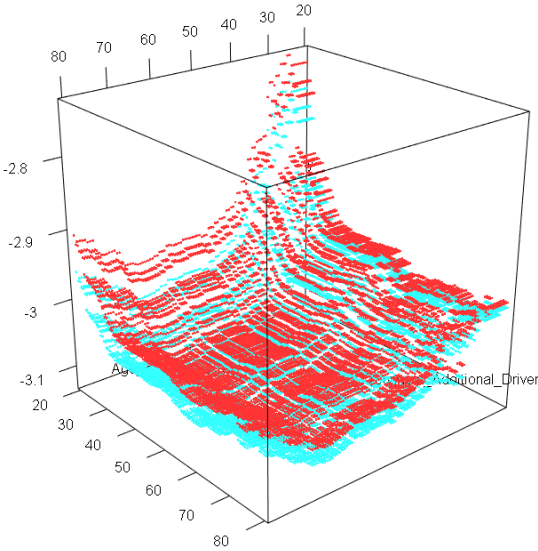
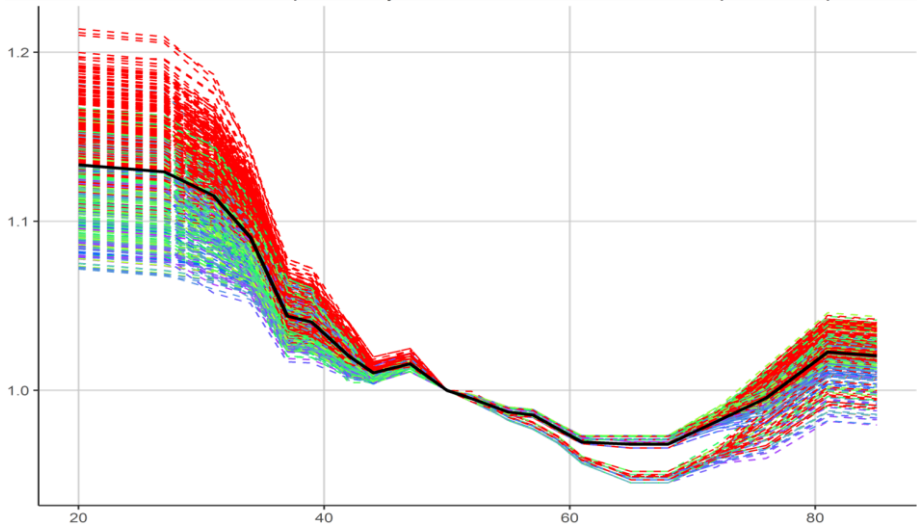
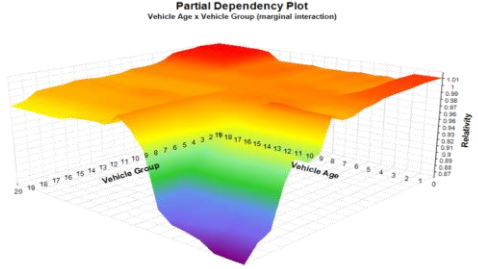
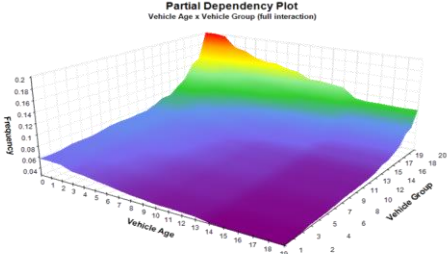
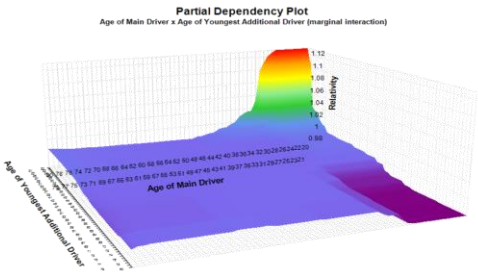
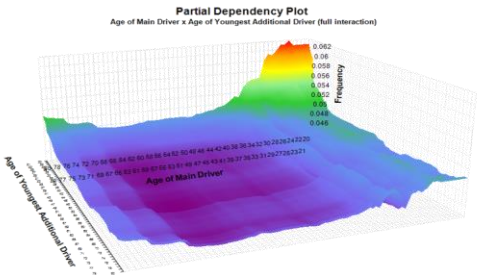
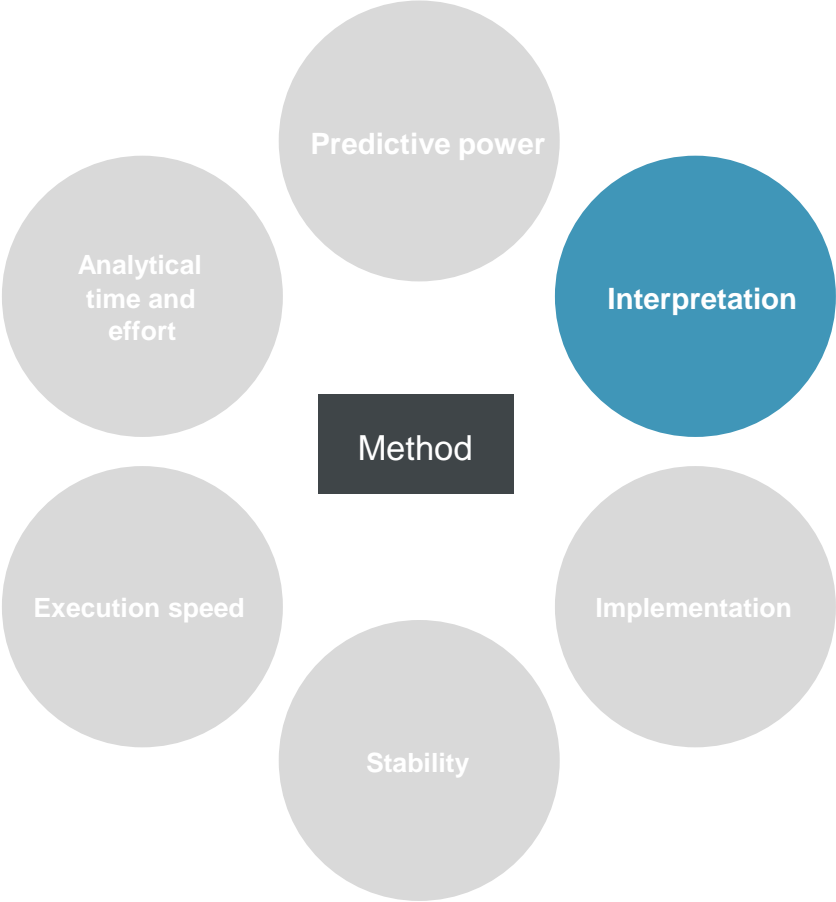


Dimensions of utility

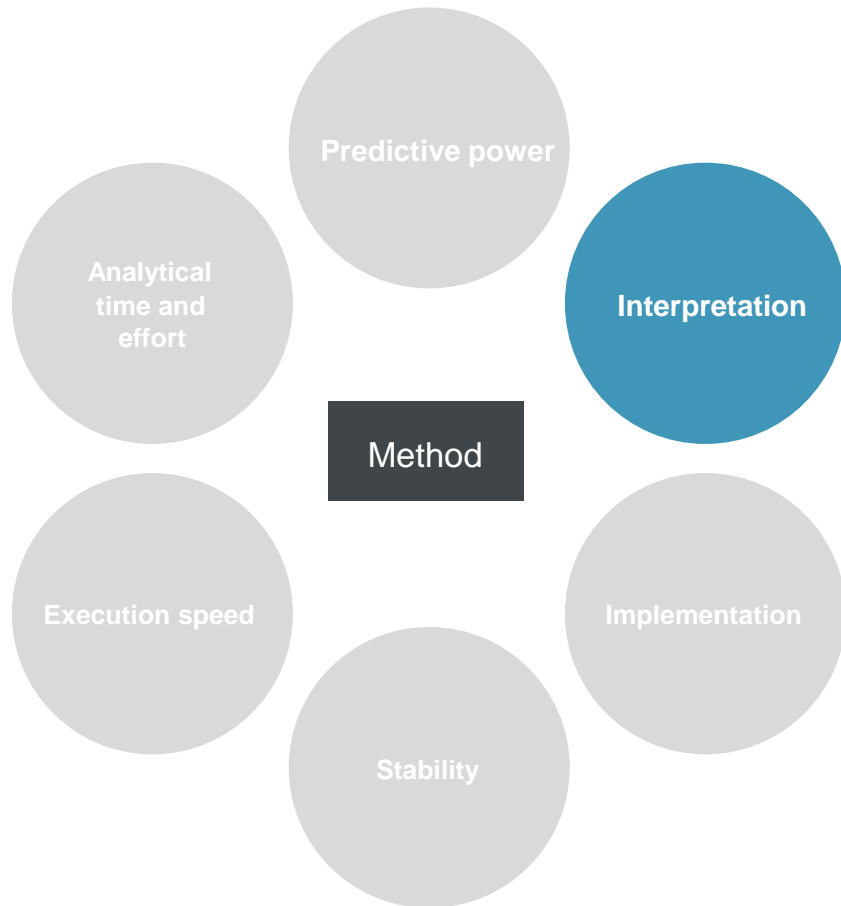
[illegible]



Dimensions of utility



Dimensions of utility



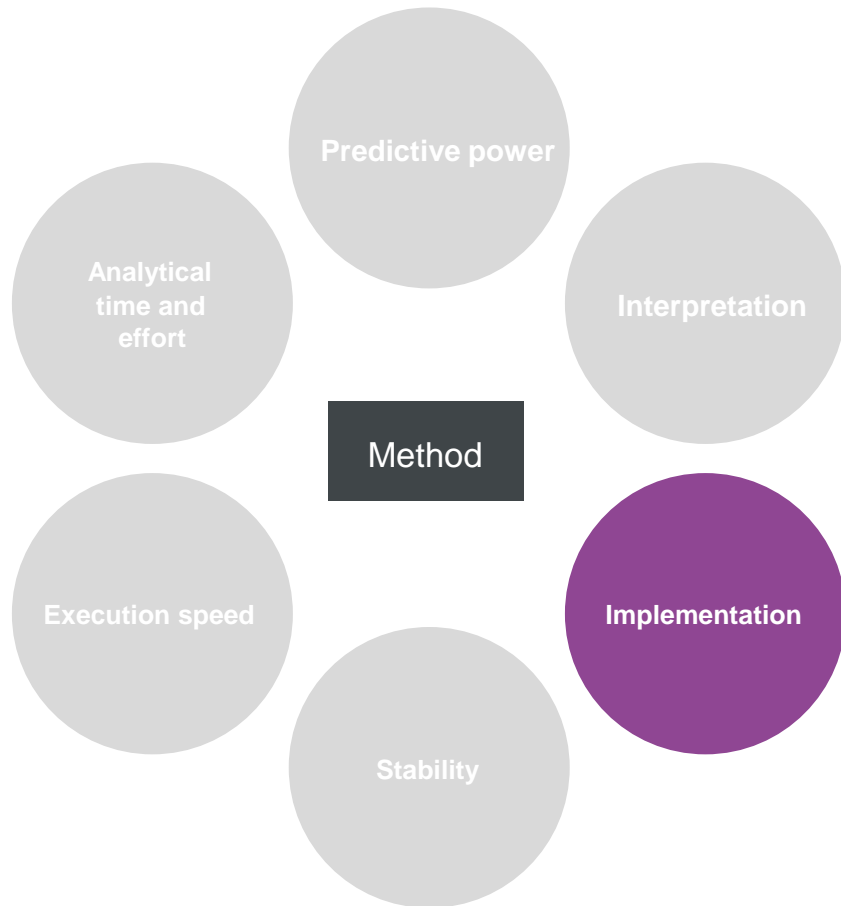
- How much do you need to understand?
 - How much would you normally understand? (eg vehicle classification)
 - Cost of error? (eg marketing)
 - Regulatory requirements
 - Professional standards
- “Comfort diagnostics”

Model

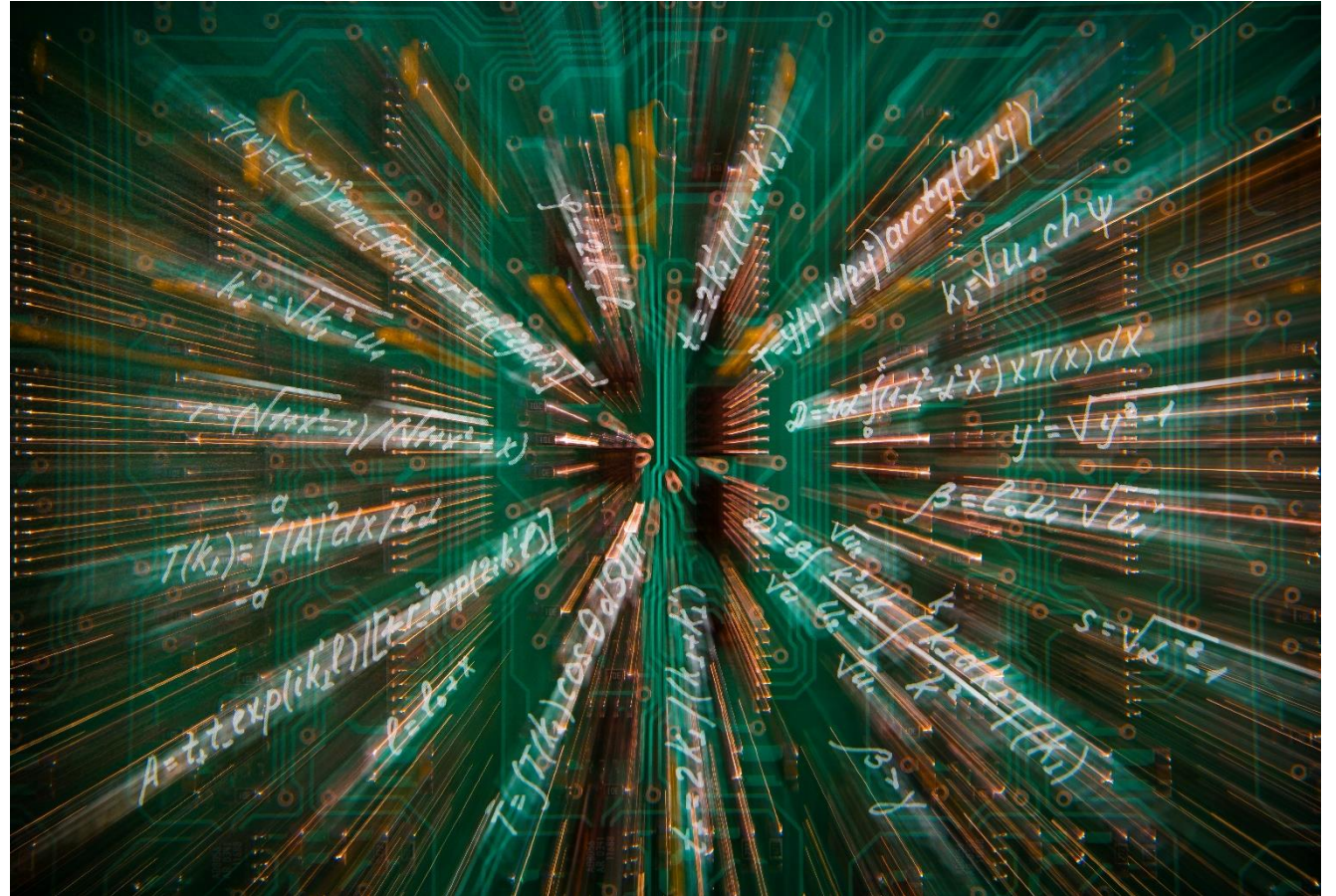
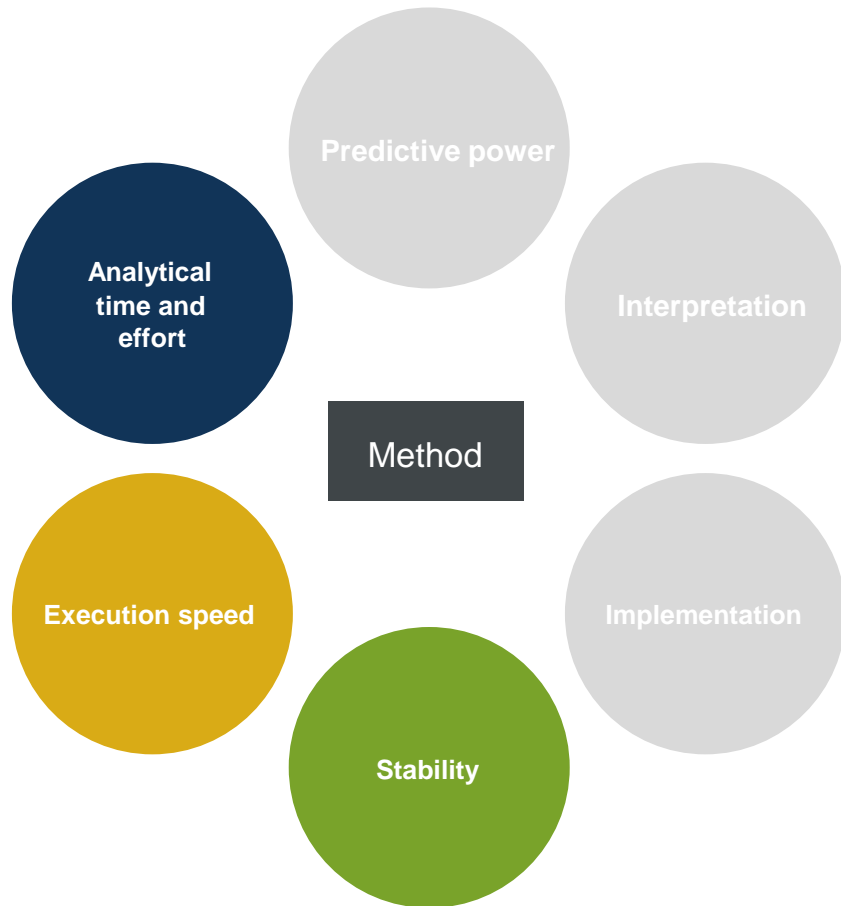
Pre/post
adjustments



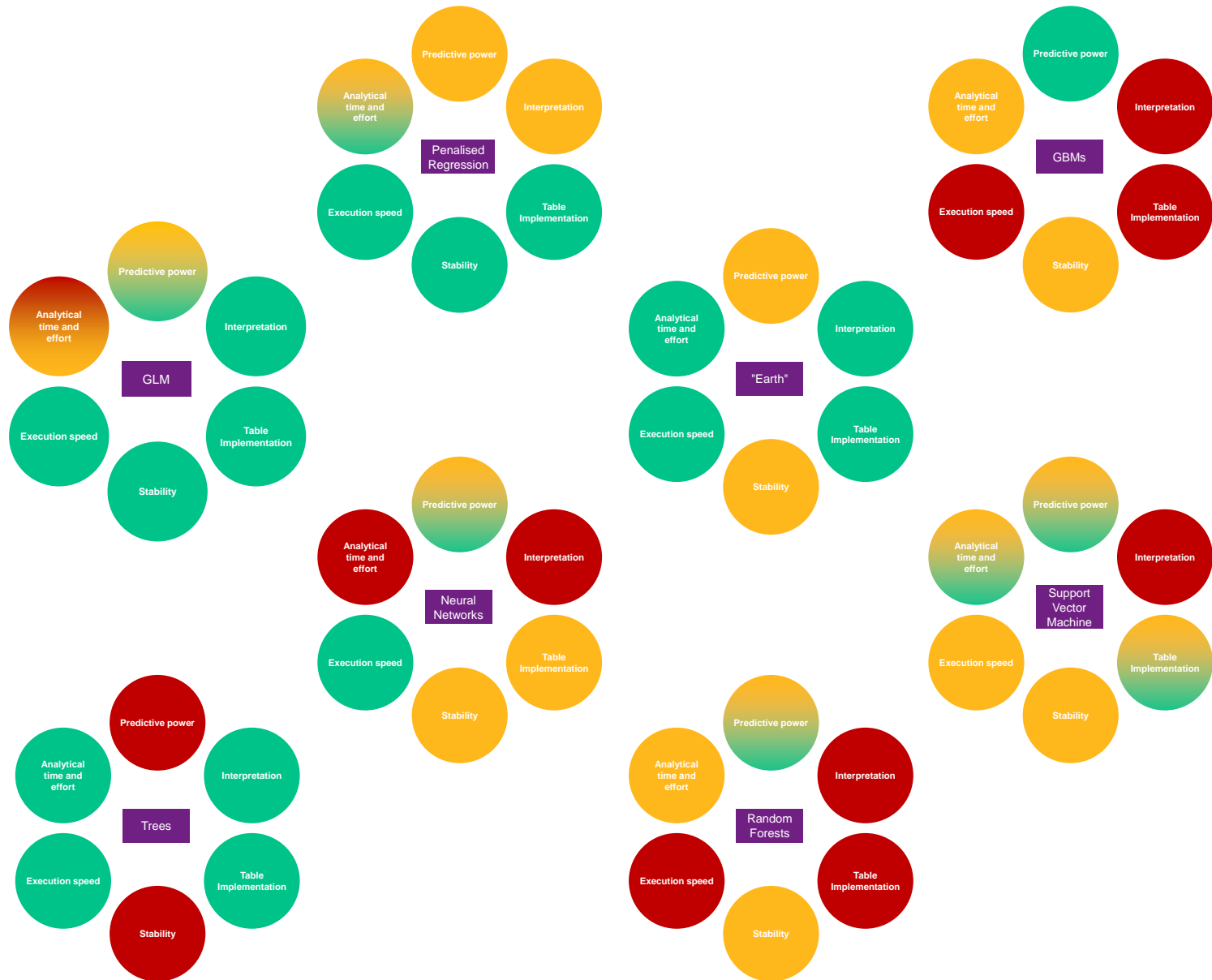
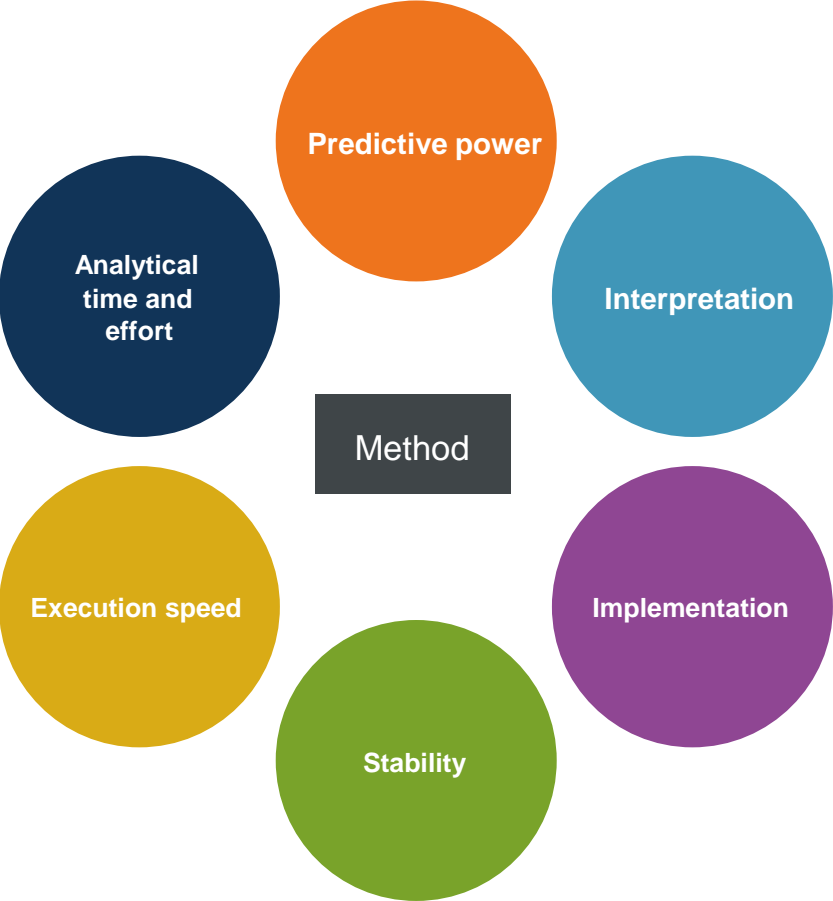
Dimensions of utility



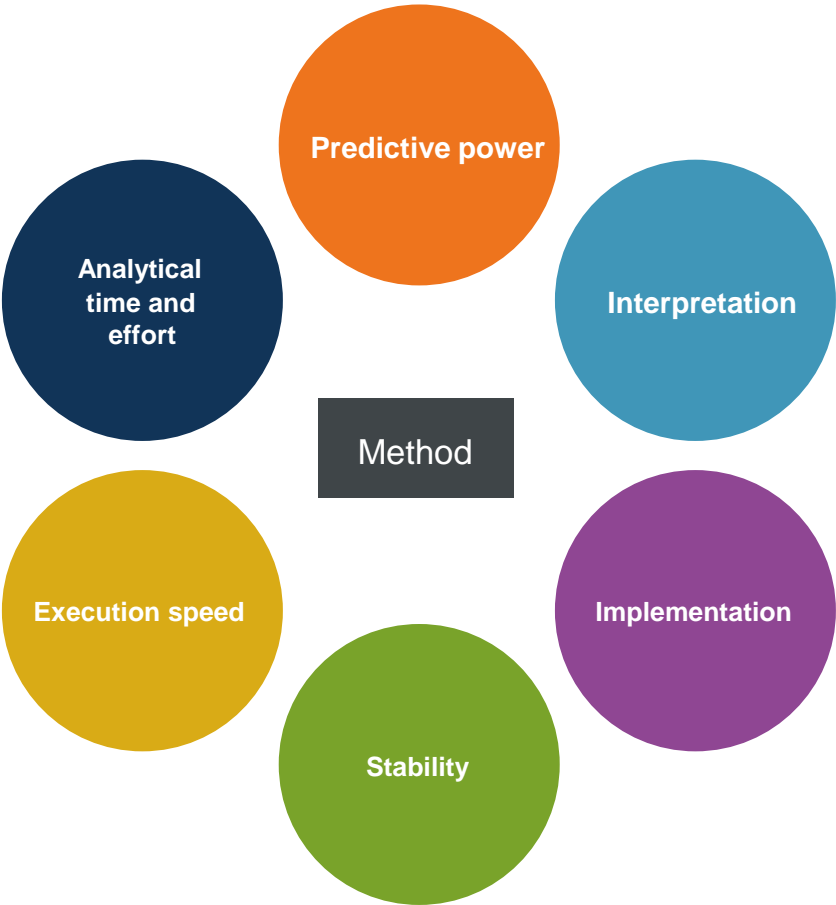
Dimensions of utility



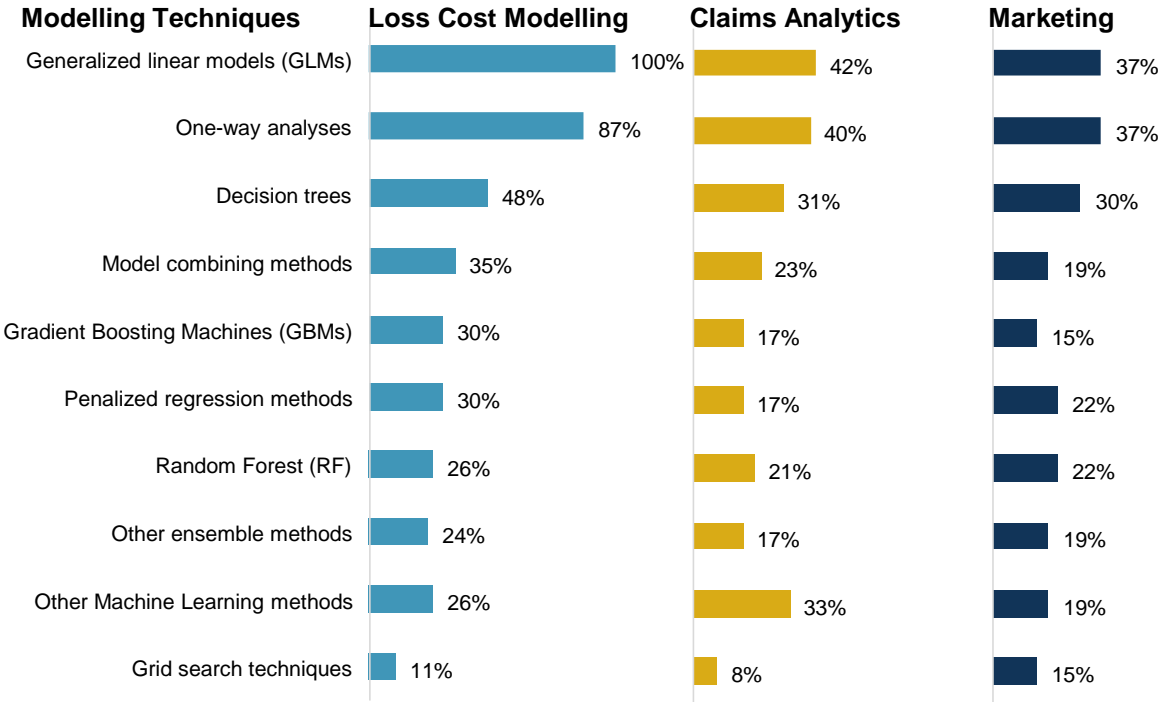
A toolkit...



...that is already in use



2016 US market survey
For which business applications do you use or plan to use these methods?



Willis Towers Watson Predictive Modeling Survey 2016

So...

Machine learning is already in use
Actuaries are already involved

It's not just about methods
Data beats models

It's not just about methods
Working out what to model matters

It's not just about predictiveness
A broader set of problems can be analysed
- rapid basic insight adds value

Evolution not revolution
Models are complementary
to existing methods

Issues for the Profession

Role of the actuary

- Domain expertise matters (at least currently)
- Easier for an actuary to pick up machine learning than for a data scientist to understand insurance?
- Siloed teams don't work
- Familiarity and the right vernacular can help
- Scope of involvement?
Pricing ✓ Reserving ✓ Claims analytics ✓
Customer management ? Marketing ???

Training

- A generation less familiar with stats?
- CAS, SOA ahead? (eg CSPA)
- GIRO too big now to help?
- IFoA on the case, but fast enough?

Regulatory issues

- TAS: Judgement - what judgement?
- GDPR
- FCA
- Government Select Committee (Science and Technology)

That spectrum of complexity

**We can do
this stuff**



AI comprehension Bespoke image recognition Speech analytics Machine learning predictive modelling
Full autonomous driving Object recognition Topic modelling Automated GLMs



**This end could be
interesting...**



1_Ferrari.jpg

ferrari 24.15 %
nissan 13.55 %
jaguar 10.12 %
mclaren 7.32 %
ford 6.14 %
 Elapsed: 2968



2_Ford.jpg

ford 79.46 %
dodge 6.30 %
chevrolet 5.08 %
am 2.15 %
gmc 1.81 %
 Elapsed: 1422



3_LandRover.jpg

land 64.69 %
jeep 21.45 %
mazda 4.73 %
am 1.89 %
toyota 0.84 %
 Elapsed: 1391



4_Mini.jpg

mini 68.86 %
chrysler 7.02 %
spyker 5.95 %
bmw 5.16 %
aston 3.39 %
 Elapsed: 1390



09_Volkswagen.jpg

volkswagen 21.89 %
suzuki 12.35 %
acura 9.27 %
gmc 7.50 %
cadillac 7.09 %
 Elapsed: 1406



5_Tesla.jpg

tesla 20.04 %
porsche 18.24 %
jaguar 8.88 %
lamborghini 6.47 %
honda 5.27 %
 Elapsed: 1359



6_Ford.jpg

ford 22.99 %
honda 21.39 %
suzuki 10.98 %
hyundai 9.37 %
cadillac 8.37 %
 Elapsed: 1390



7_Mini.jpg

mini 64.58 %
chrysler 15.28 %
buick 2.64 %
infiniti 2.01 %
ford 1.94 %
 Elapsed: 1500



8_LandRover.jpg

land 63.36 %
audi 6.88 %
volvo 6.02 %
bmw 6.01 %
bentley 4.64 %
 Elapsed: 1375



10_Mitsubishi.jpg

mitsubishi 33.07 %
chrysler 13.51 %
toyota 12.34 %
acura 7.06 %
buick 5.92 %
 Elapsed: 1406





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