

# Proactive Contact Tracing

10<sup>th</sup> Doctoral Researcher Award

Prateek Gupta  
(University of Oxford, The Alan Turing Institute)



**The  
Alan Turing  
Institute**

# ML/Epi/Privacy/Econ - Multidisciplinary Team



Yoshua Bengio



Hannah Alsdurf



Tristan Deleu



Abhinav Sharma



Prateek Gupta



Soren  
Harnois-Leblanc



Akshay Patel



Bernhard Schölkopf



Olexa Bilanuik



Tegan Maharaj



Joanna Merckx



Nanoy Minoyan



Irina Rish



Meng Qu



Nasim Rahaman



Christopher Pal



Pierre-Luc Carrier



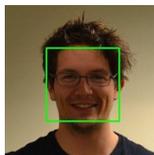
David Buckeridge



Victor Schmidt



Pierre-Luc St  
Charles



Martin Weiss



Andrew Williams



Yang Zhang



Eilif B. Muller



Joumana Ghosn



Jian Tang



Gaétan Marceau Caron

**To improve the digital contact tracing apps**

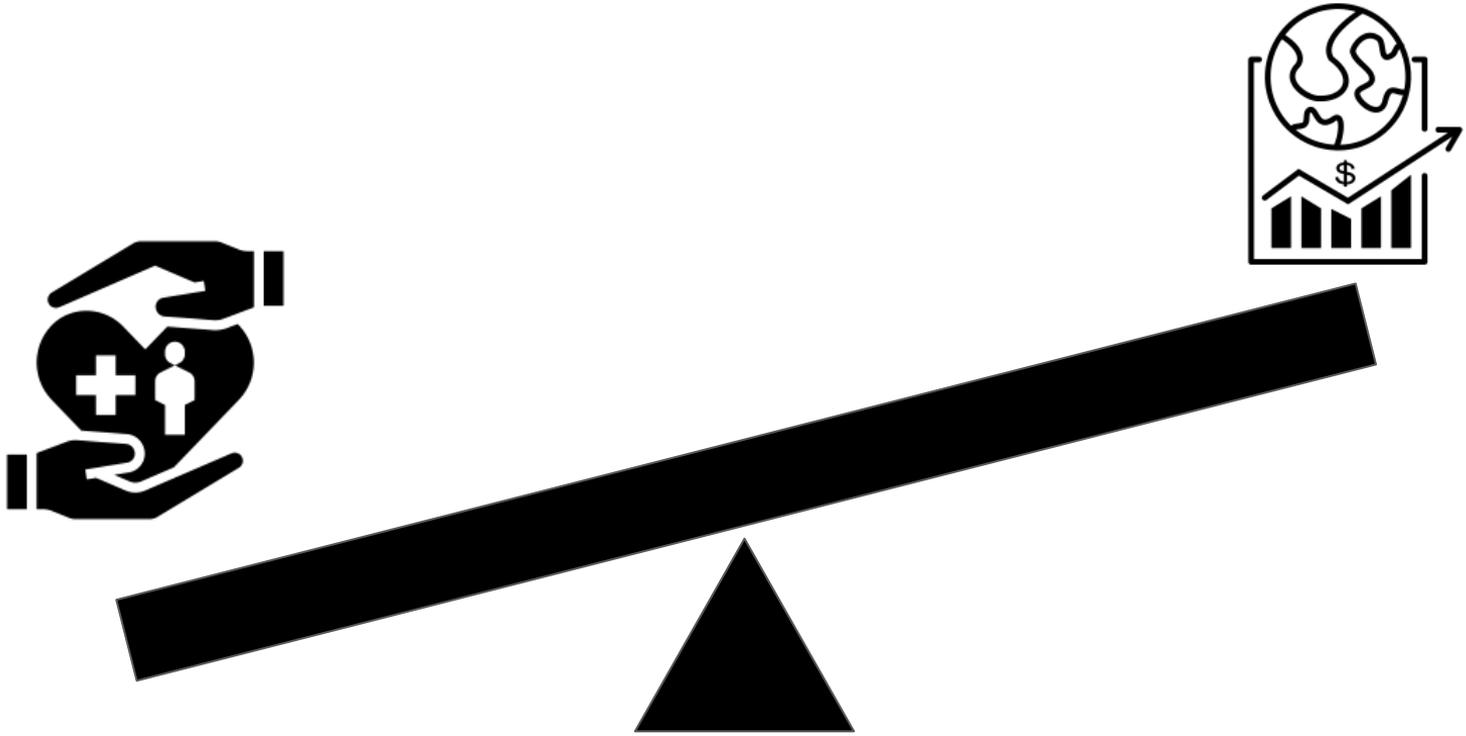
**To improve the digital contact tracing apps  
to help curb the viral spread**

**To improve the digital contact tracing apps**  
**to help curb the viral spread**  
**while minimizing the economic impact**

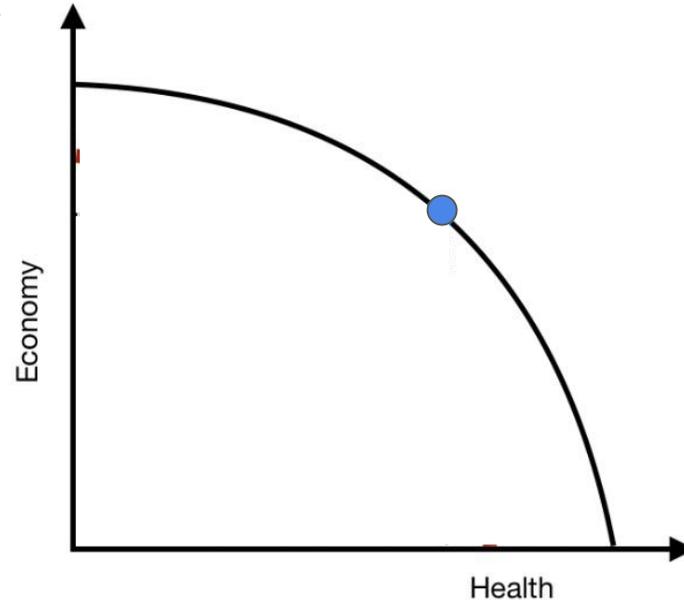
# Outline

- **Problem formulation**
- **Our approach: Proactive Contact Tracing**
  - **Framework**
  - **Privacy Concerns**
  - **Models**
  - **Results**
- **Conclusion and Ongoing work**

# Health vs Economy

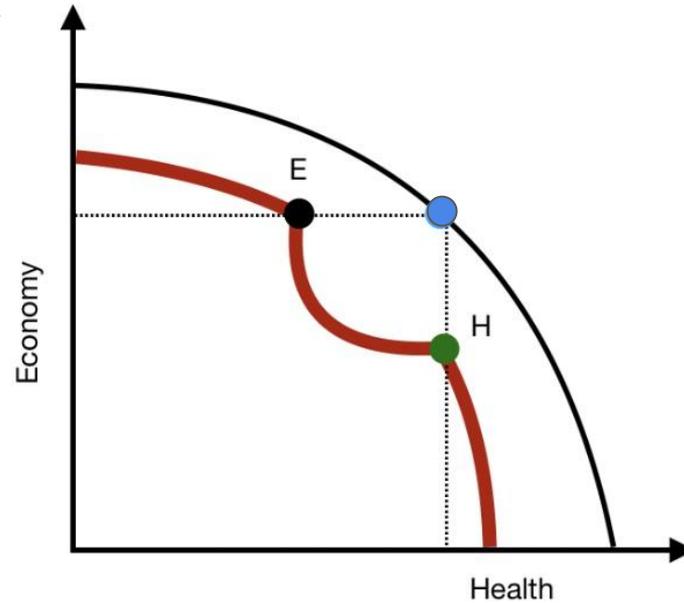


# Health vs Economy: Normal times



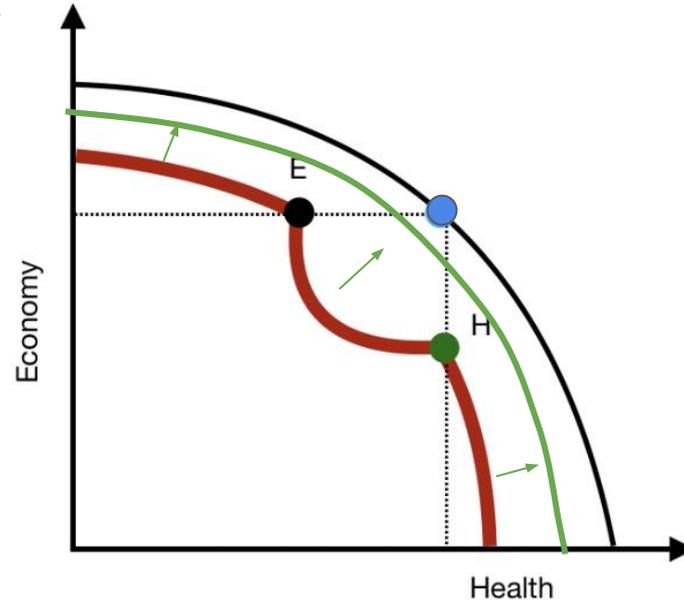
Source: Gans (2020) "Health Before Wealth: Economic Logic"

# Health vs Economy: Pandemic times



Source: Gans (2020) "Health Before Wealth: Economic Logic"

# Health vs Economy: Recovery



Source: Gans (2020) "Health Before Wealth: Economic Logic"

# Contact Tracing

- ★ **Manual Contact Tracing:** Uses Public Health Experts (PHE) to **email/phone** contacts
  - Class epidemic management
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# Contact Tracing

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- ★ **Digital Contact Tracing:** Uses **smartphone apps** to notify potentially infected contacts
  - **Binary Contact Tracing:**
    - Uses positive/negative test results
    - Recommends quarantine/no quarantine to the users
  
  - **Proactive Contact Tracing:**
    - Uses individual-features, test results, symptoms, “risk-messages”
    - Recommends Quarantine/reduced contacts/regular contacts

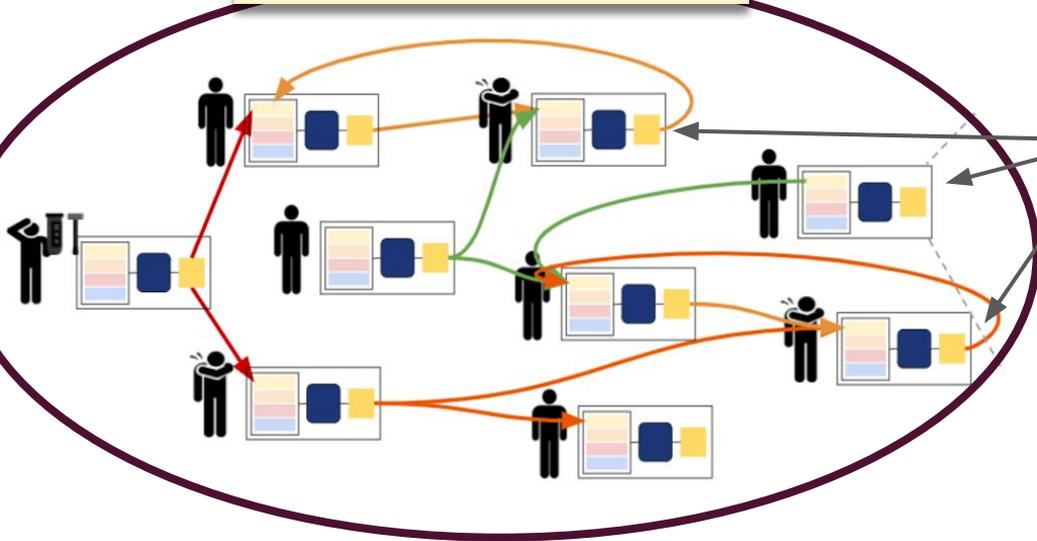
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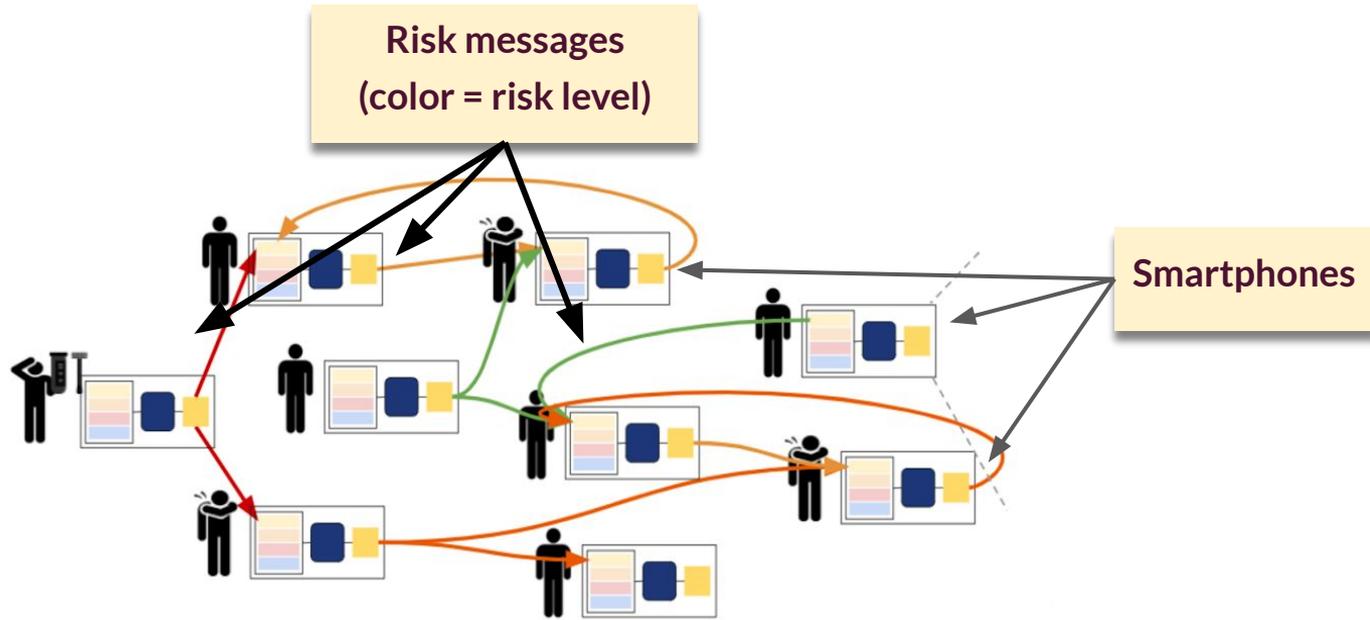
# PCT Framework

Population of individuals  
with smartphones

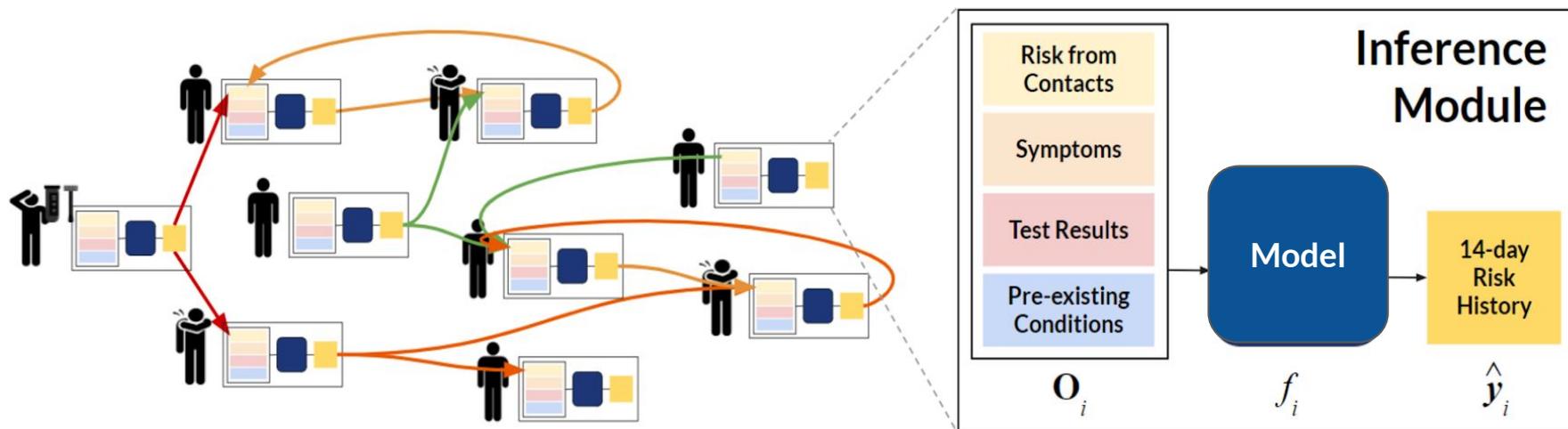
Smartphones



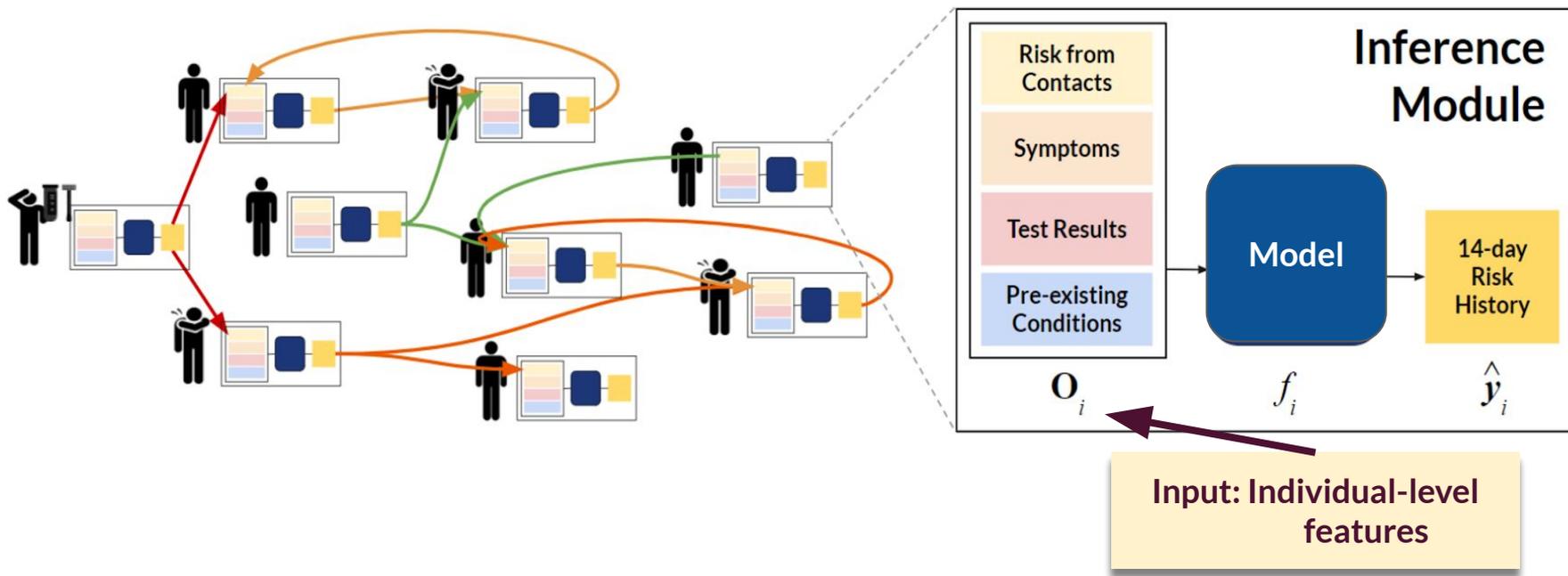
# PCT Framework



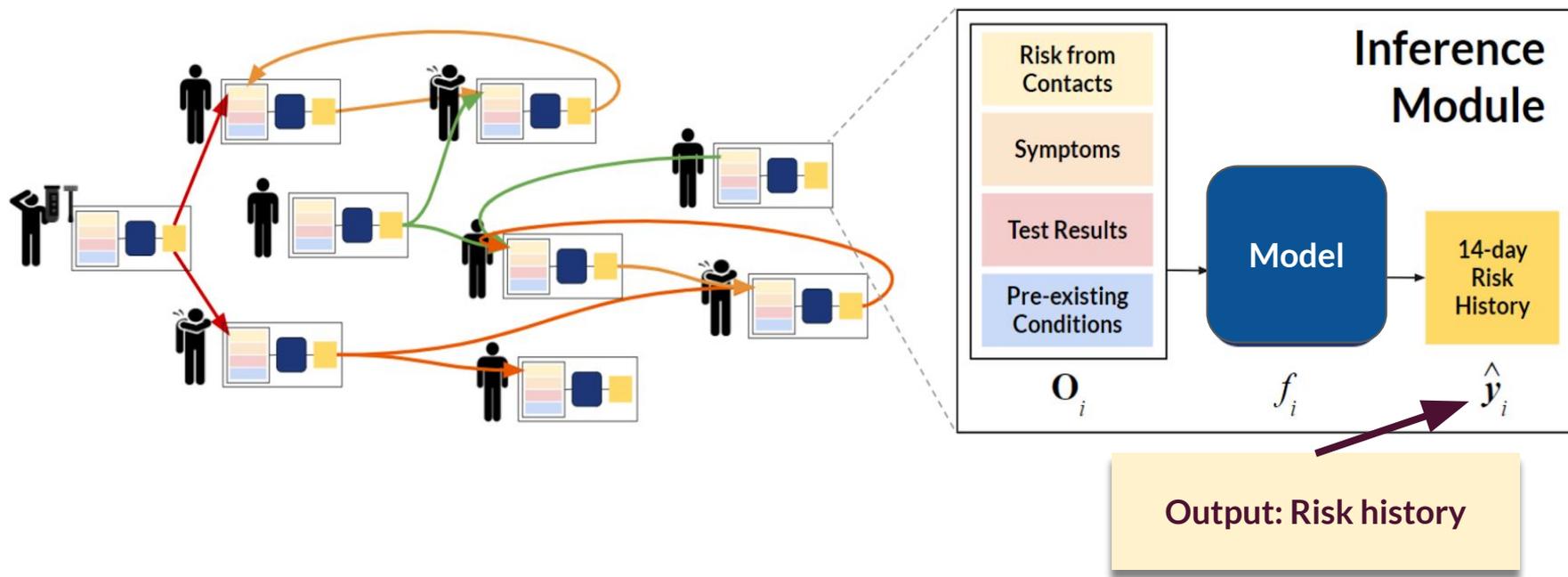
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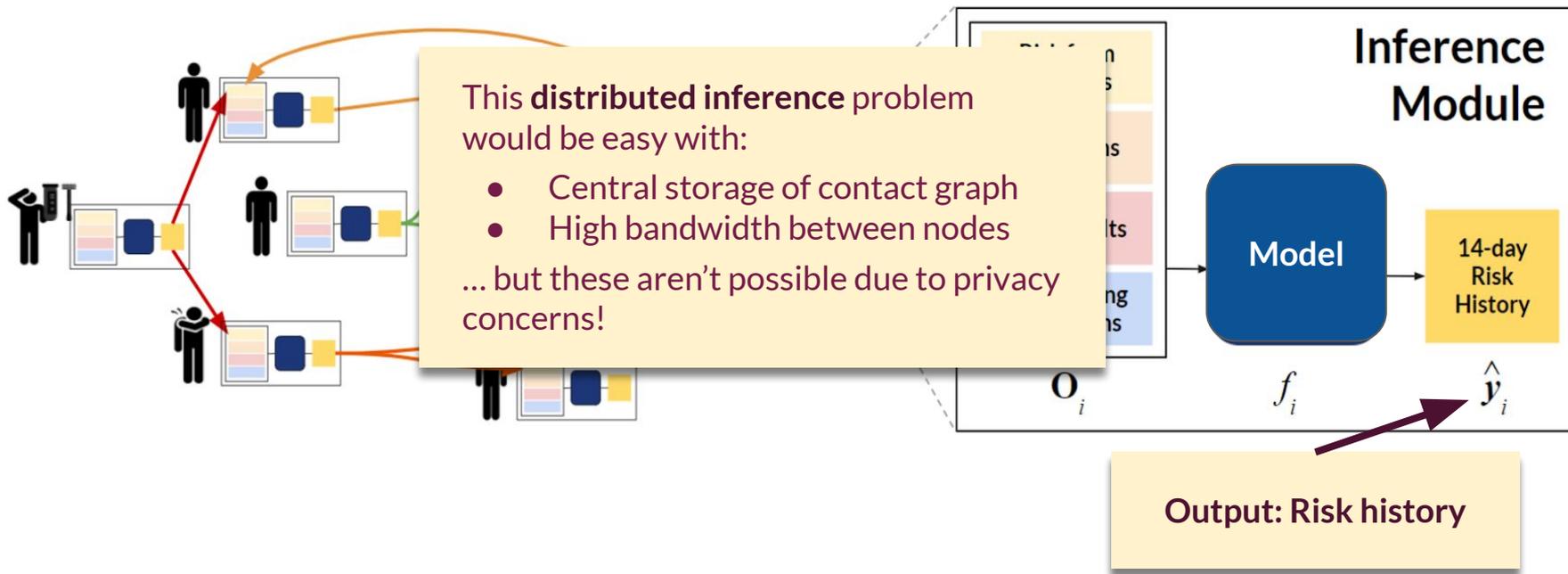
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# PCT: Addressing Privacy

- ❖ No central storage of contact graph

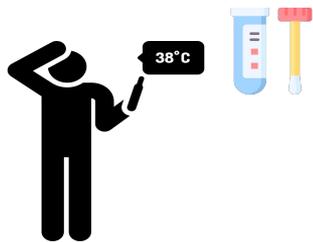
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- ❖ No central storage of contact graph
- ❖ De-identification and encryption of all data

## **PCT: Addressing Privacy**

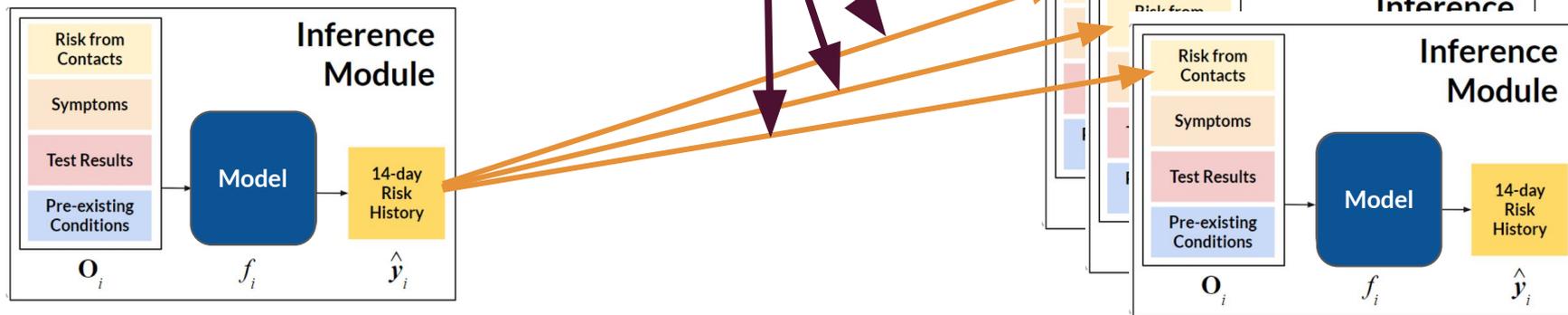
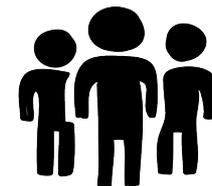
- ❖ **No central storage of contact graph**
- ❖ **De-identification and encryption of all data**
- ❖ **User information never leaves the phone**

# PCT: Risk Messages between phones

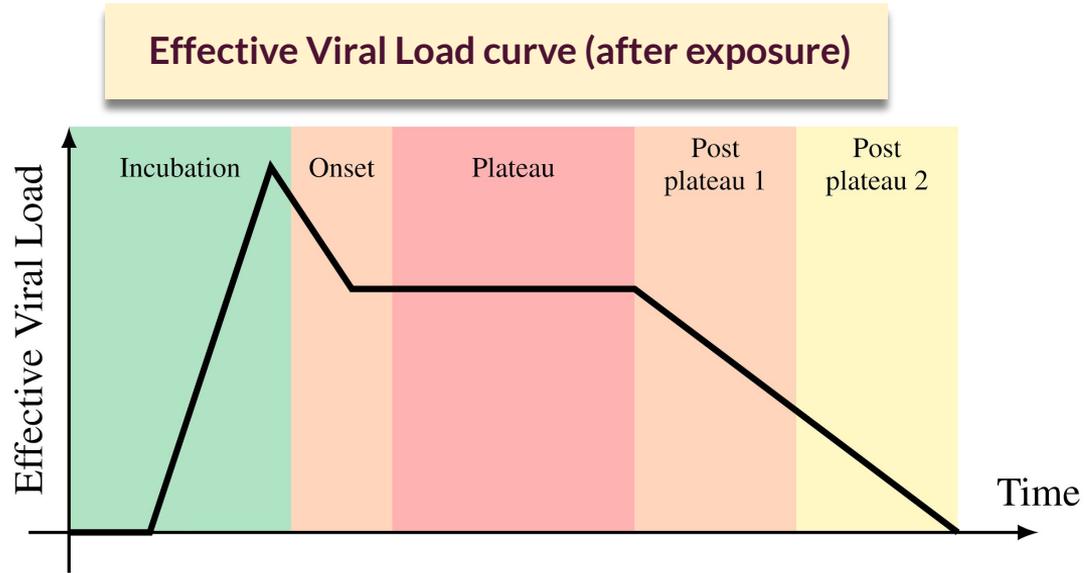


## Peer-to-Peer Private Risk Message Protocol

- Google-Apple Exposure Notification (GAEN)
- Temporary Contact Number (TCN)

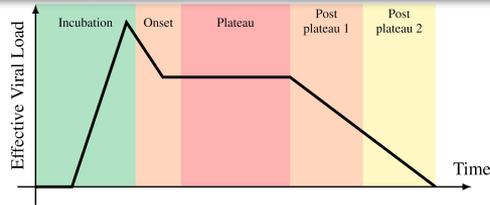


# PCT: Risk Messages & Infectiousness



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Effective Viral Load curve (after exposure)



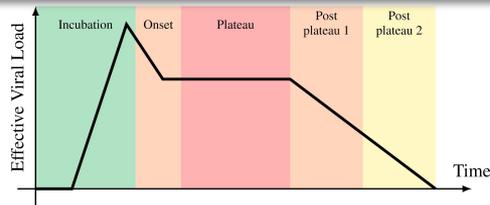
Example of target from curve

$y_i$  Infectiousness over 14 days

.00	.00	.08	.93	.75	.75	.75	.75	.75	.52	.37	.20	.12	.05
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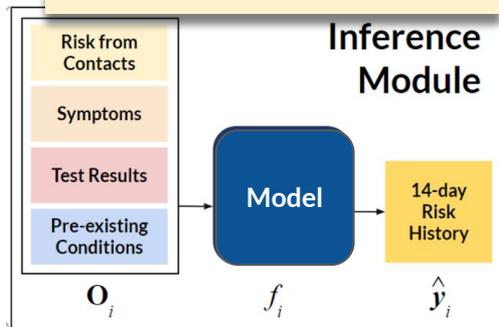
.00	.00	.08	.93	.75	.75	.75	.75	.75	.52	.37	.20	.12	.05	.00
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Example prediction

$\hat{y}_i$  Estimated Risk History over 14 days

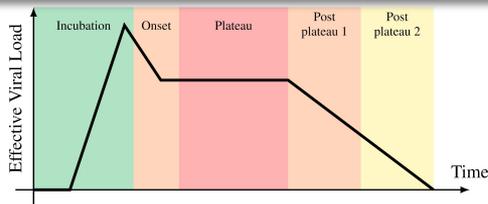
.00	.00	.12	.96	.70	.70	.70	.70	.66	.56	.45	.30	.22	.03	.01
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Inference module on each phone



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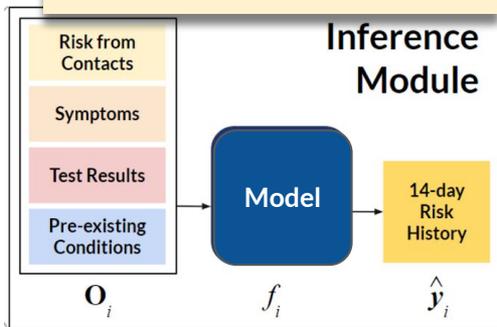
.00	.00	.12	.96	.70	.70	.70	.70	.66	.56	.45	.30	.22	.03	.01
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Example risk levels history

$\hat{y}_i$  Estimated Risk History (4-bits quantization)

0	0	2	13	11	7	7	7	7	7	6	4	3	1	1
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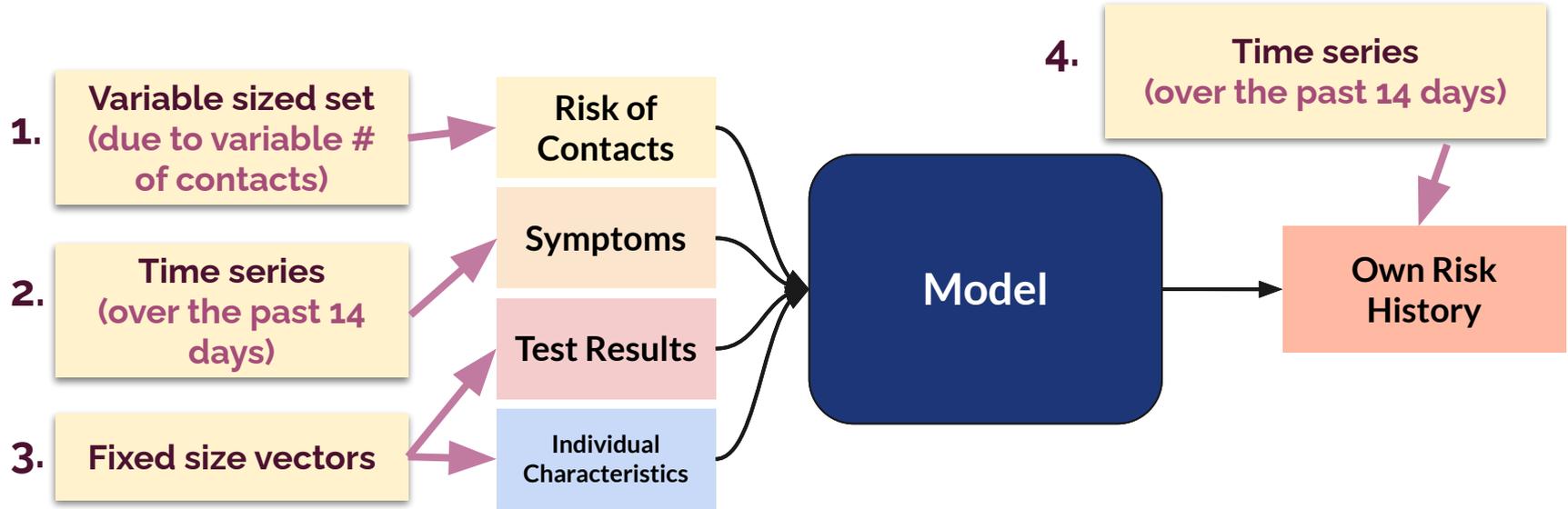
Inference module on each phone



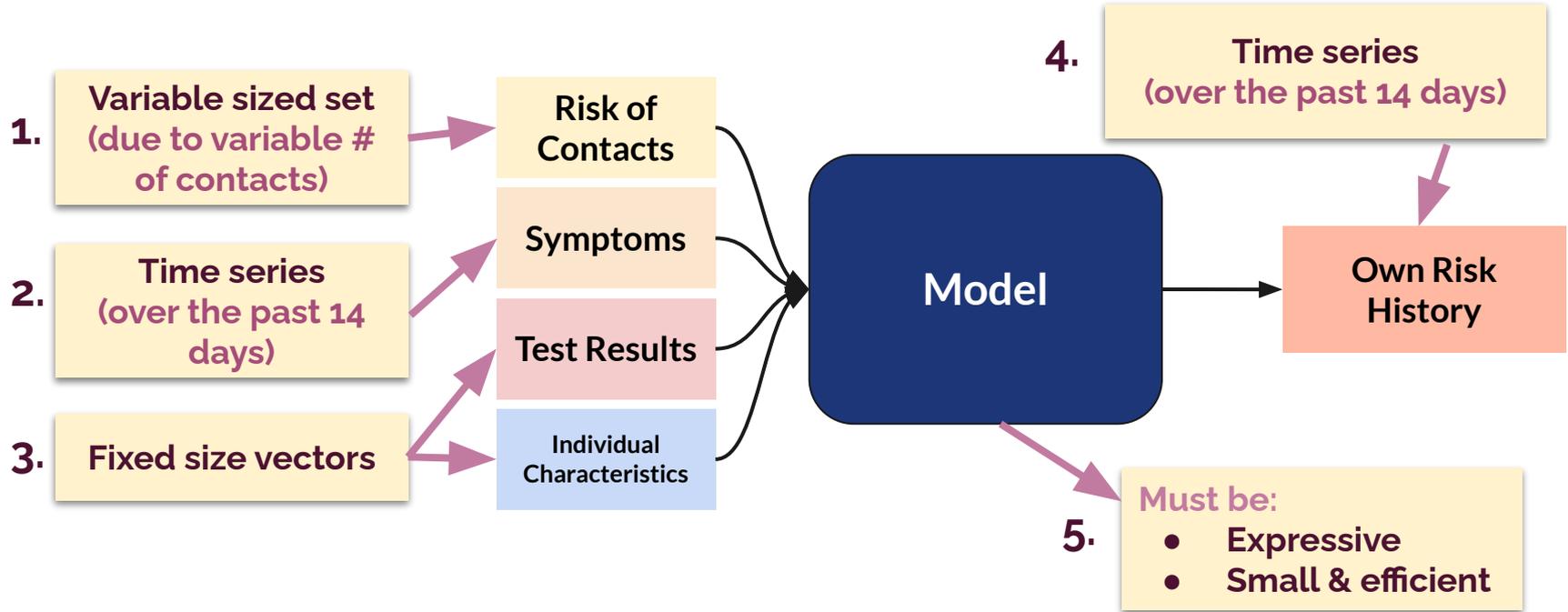
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# PCT: Model Inputs & Outputs

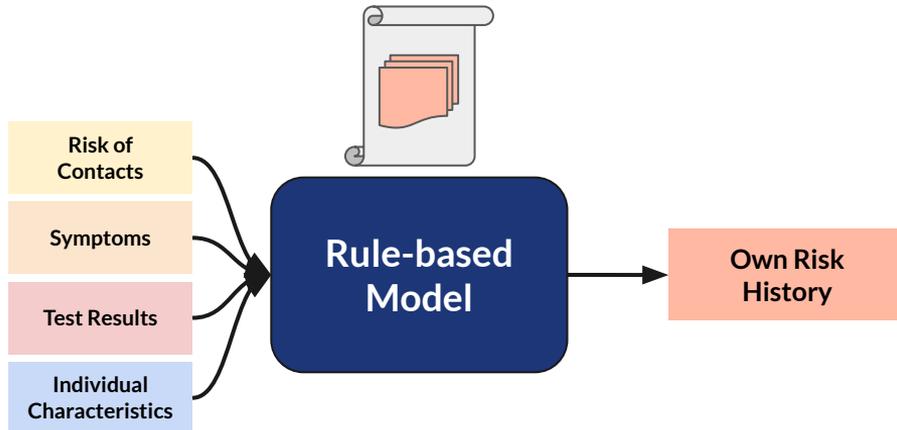


# PCT: Model Inputs & Outputs



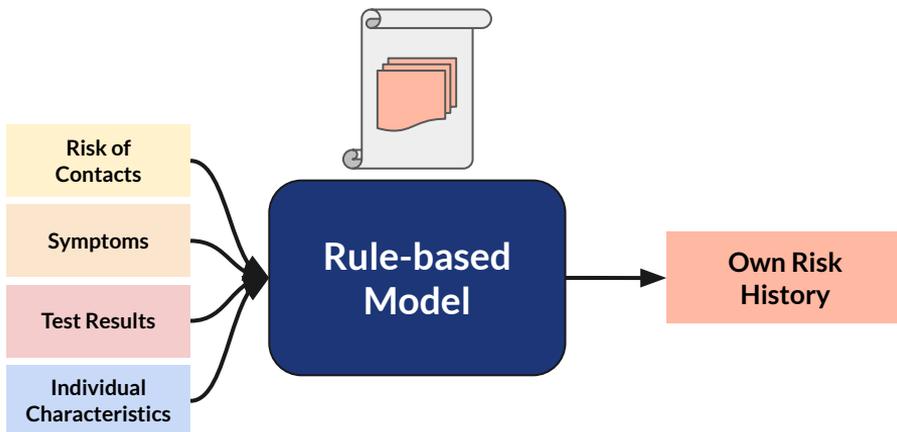
# PCT: Rule-based Models

- Rules designed by PHEs



# PCT: Rule-based Models

- Rules designed by PHEs
- Gupta et al. 2020 runs experiments on one such heuristic using COVI-AgentSim, an agent-based model



Algorithm 2 *Heuristic-FCT*

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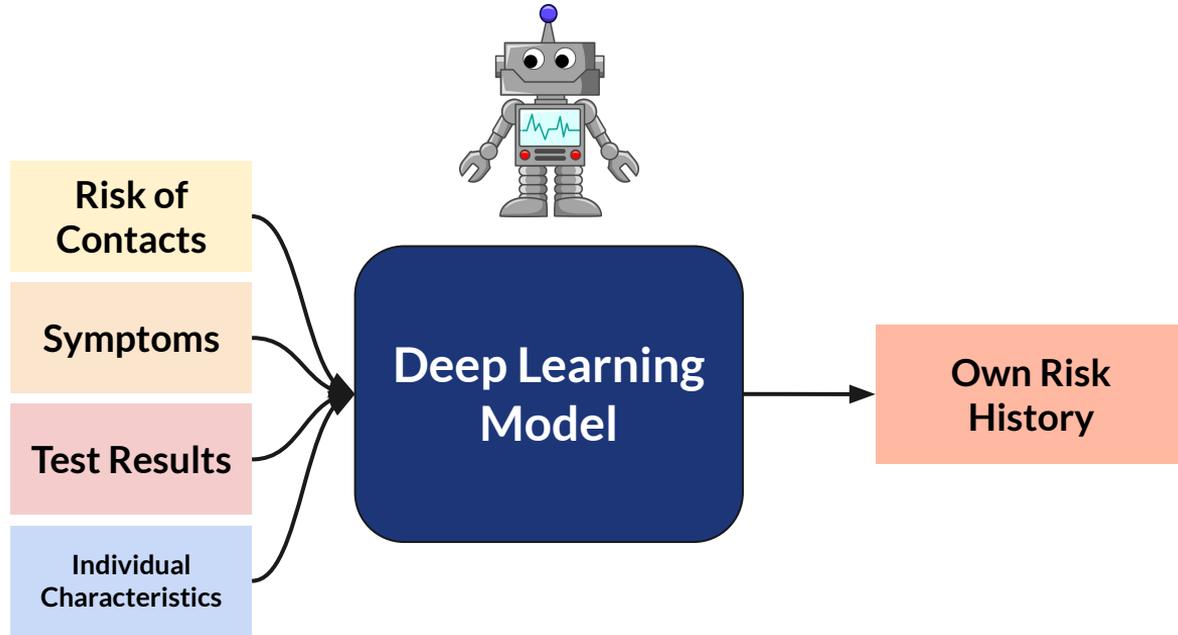
```

37: function HANDLERECOVERY( $\mathbf{S}_d^i, \mathbf{T}_d^i, M_{i,:}^i(\cdot), \mathbf{r}_d^i$ )
38:    $R_x \leftarrow 1$ 
39:   if  $\sum \mathbf{S}_{d,\{:,d,d-d_{max}/2\}}^i \geq 1$  or  $\sum_{d' \in D} \mathbb{1}_{\{\mathbf{T}_{d,d'}^i = +1\}} \geq 1$  then
40:      $R_x \leftarrow 0$ 
41:   if  $\sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i), d' \in D, d'' \in \{d,d-1, \dots, d-7\}} \mathbb{1}_{\{M_{i,j}^{d''}(d'') = r_{HIGH}\}} \geq 1$  then
42:      $R_x \leftarrow 0$ 
43:   else if  $\sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i), d' \in D, d'' \in \{d,d-1, \dots, d-4\}} \mathbb{1}_{\{M_{i,j}^{d''}(d'') = r_{MODERATE}\}} \geq 1$  then
44:      $R_x \leftarrow 0$ 
45:   else if  $\sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i), d' \in D, d'' \in \{d,d-1\}} \mathbb{1}_{\{M_{i,j}^{d''}(d'') = r_{MILD}\}} \geq 1$  then
46:      $R_x \leftarrow 0$ 
47:   if  $R_x = 1$  then
48:      $\mathbf{r}_{d,d,d-d_{max}/2}^i \leftarrow 0$ 
49:   return  $\mathbf{r}_d^i, R_x$ 
50: function APPLYNEGATIVETEST( $\zeta_d^i, \mathbf{r}_d^i, \mathbf{T}_d^i, W$ )
51:    $d_n \leftarrow$  day of the latest negative test
52:    $\mathbf{r}_{d,d,d_n-W/2:d_n+W/2}^i \leftarrow 0$ 
53:   if  $\mathbf{r}_{d,d}^i = 0$  then
54:      $\zeta_d^i = 0$ 
55:   return  $\mathbf{r}_d^i, \zeta_d^i$ 
56: function COMPUTE RISK( $\mathbf{T}_d^i, \mathbf{S}_d^i, M_{i,:}^i(\cdot), \mathbf{X}_i, \mathbf{r}_{d-1}^i$ )
57:    $W \leftarrow 8$ 
58:    $\mathbf{r}_t^i, \zeta_t^i \leftarrow$  TESTRESULTS COMPUTE RISK( $\mathbf{T}_d^i$ )
59:    $\mathbf{r}_s^i, \zeta_s^i \leftarrow$  SYMPTOMS COMPUTE RISK( $\mathbf{S}_d^i$ )
60:    $\mathbf{r}_m^i, \zeta_m^i \leftarrow$  RISK MESSAGES COMPUTE RISK( $M_{i,:}^i(\cdot)$ )
61:    $\mathbf{r}_r, R_x \leftarrow$  HANDLE RECOVERY( $\mathbf{S}_d^i, \mathbf{T}_d^i, M_{i,:}^i(\cdot), \mathbf{r}_{d-1}^i$ )
62:   if  $R_x = 1$  then
63:     return  $\mathbf{r}_r, 0$ 
64:    $\mathbf{r}_d \leftarrow \max(\mathbf{r}_t, \mathbf{r}_s, \mathbf{r}_m, \mathbf{r}_{d-1})$  ▷ element-wise maximum
65:    $\zeta_d^i \leftarrow \max(\zeta_t, \zeta_s, \zeta_m)$ 
66:   if  $\sum_{d' \in D} \mathbb{1}_{\{\mathbf{T}_{d,d'}^i = -1\}} \geq 1$  then
67:      $\mathbf{r}_d^i, \zeta_d^i \leftarrow$  APPLY NEGATIVE TEST( $\zeta_d^i, \mathbf{r}_d^i, \mathbf{T}_d^i, W$ )
68:   return  $\mathbf{r}_d^i, \zeta_d^i$ 

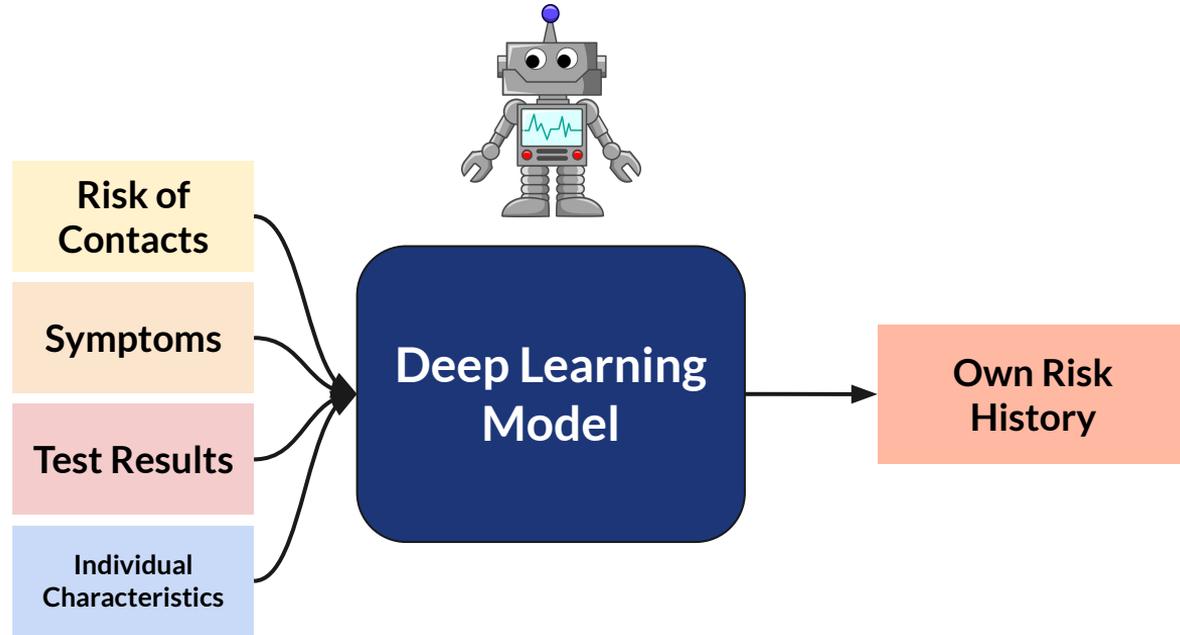
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# PCT: AI-based Models



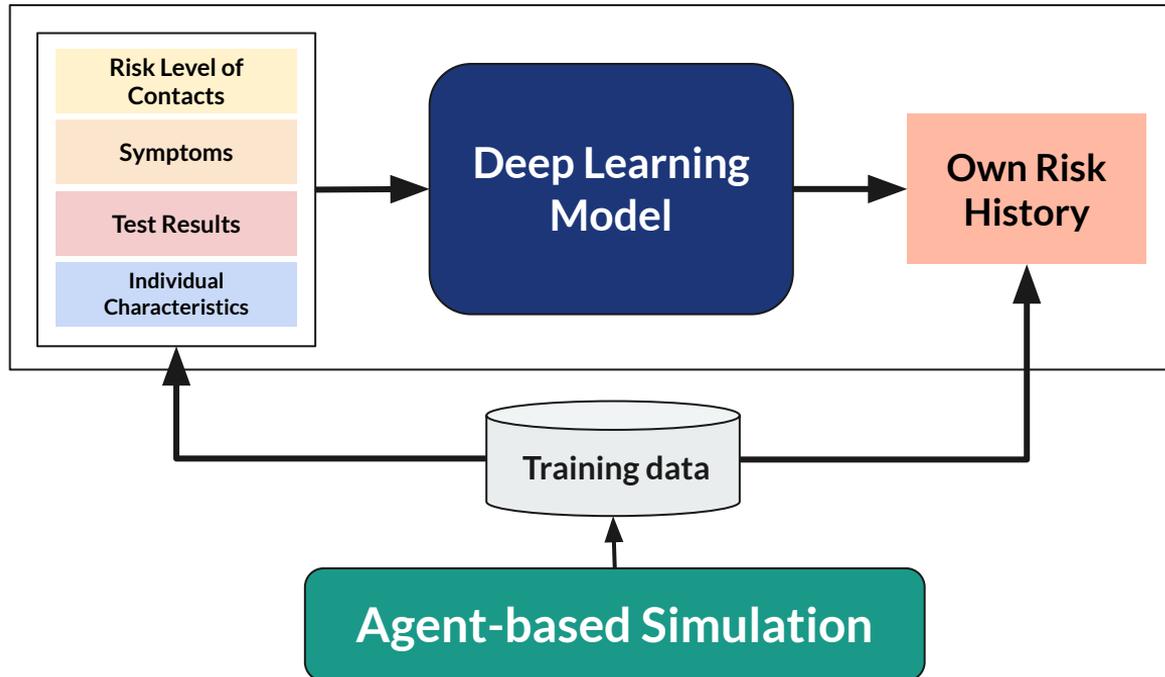
# PCT: AI-based Models



Bengio et al. 2020 (ICLR - Top 20) proposes neural network architecture and training protocol for deep learning based PCT predictor

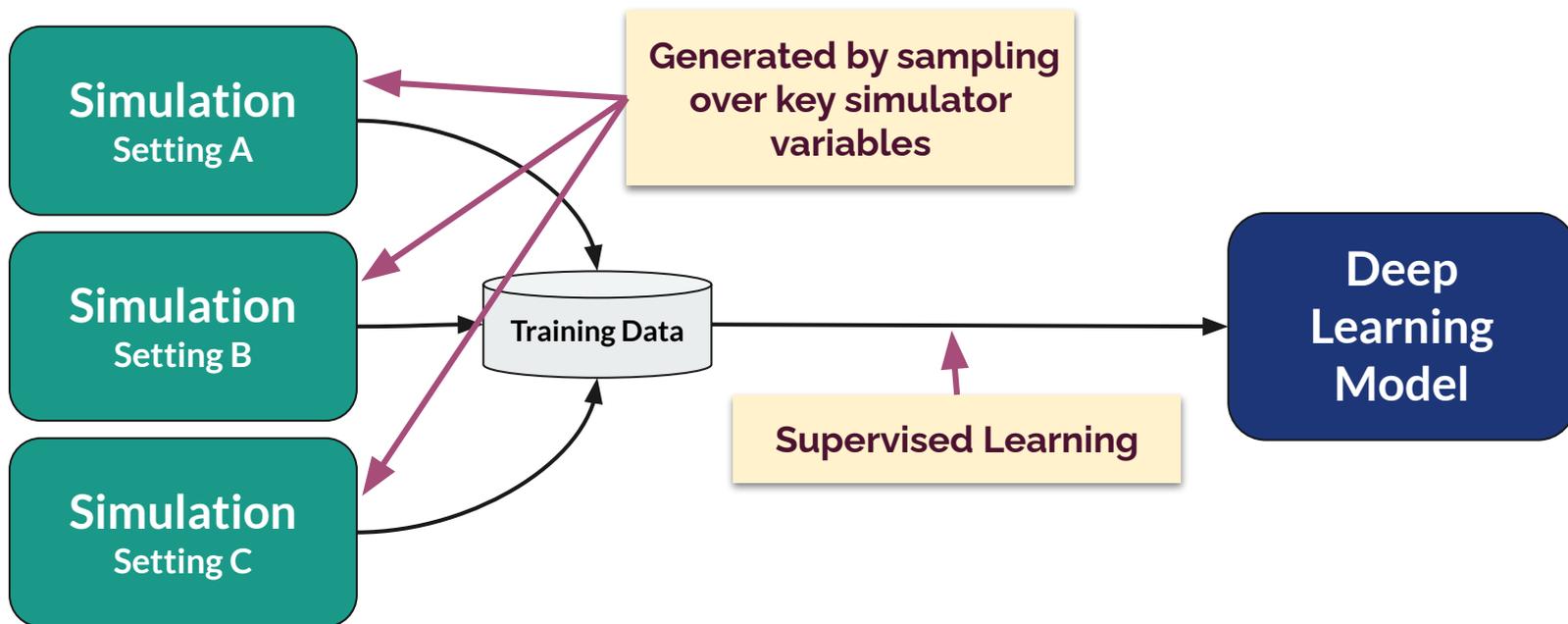
# Where does the training data come from?

- ◆ Learning from simulations
  - Covi-AgentSim (Gupta et al. 2020) is used as a simulator



## But simulator isn't the real world ...

- ◆ **Domain Randomization:**
  - Commonly used in robotics for sim-to-real transfer



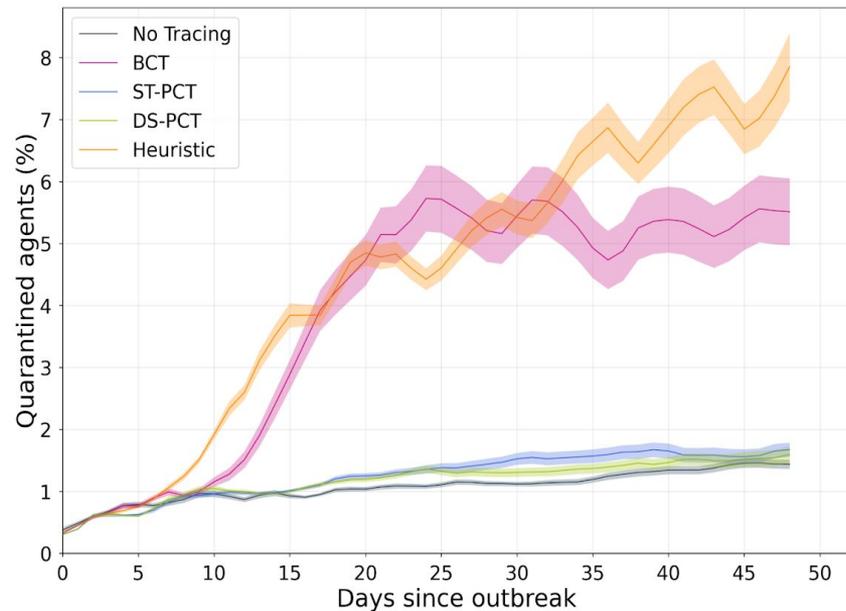
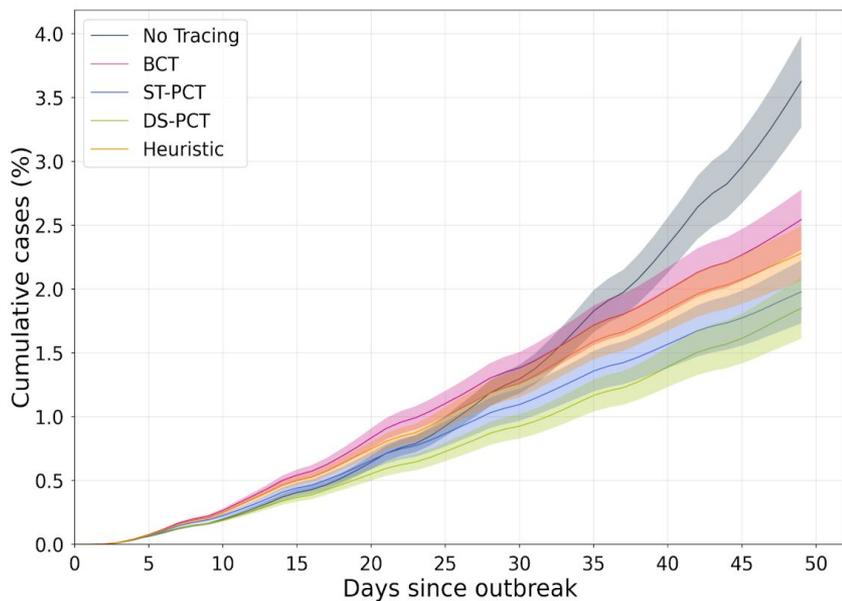
**But ...**

**And many more challenges were identified and rectified in our ICLR submission  
(Bengio et al. 2020)**

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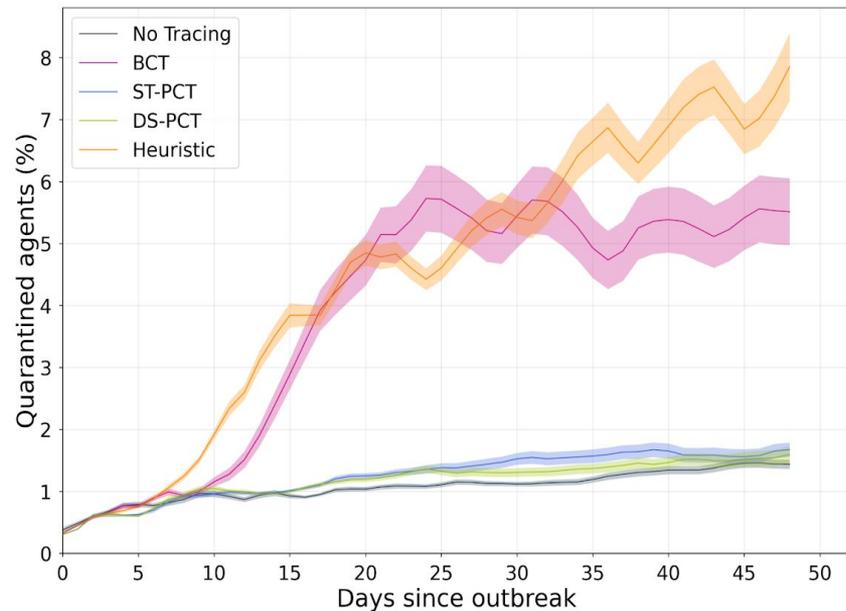
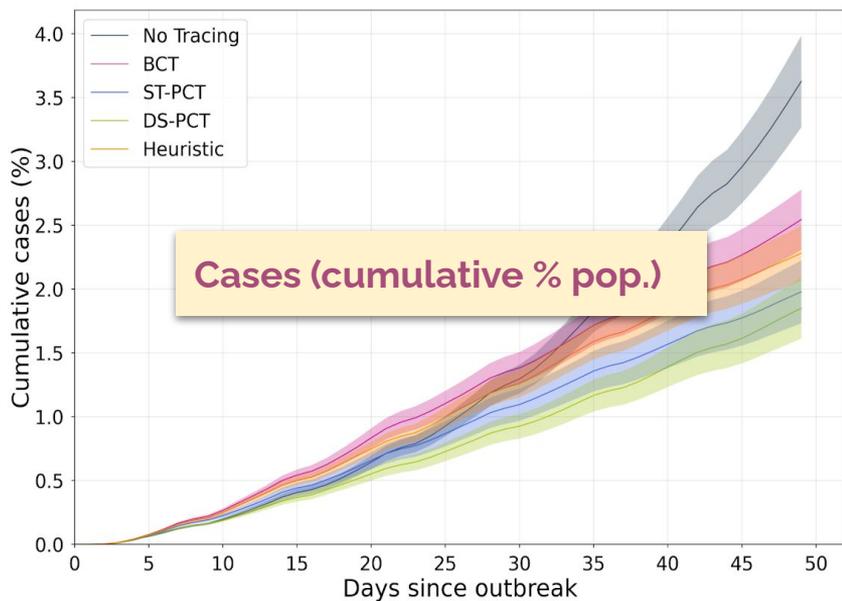
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# PCT: Results



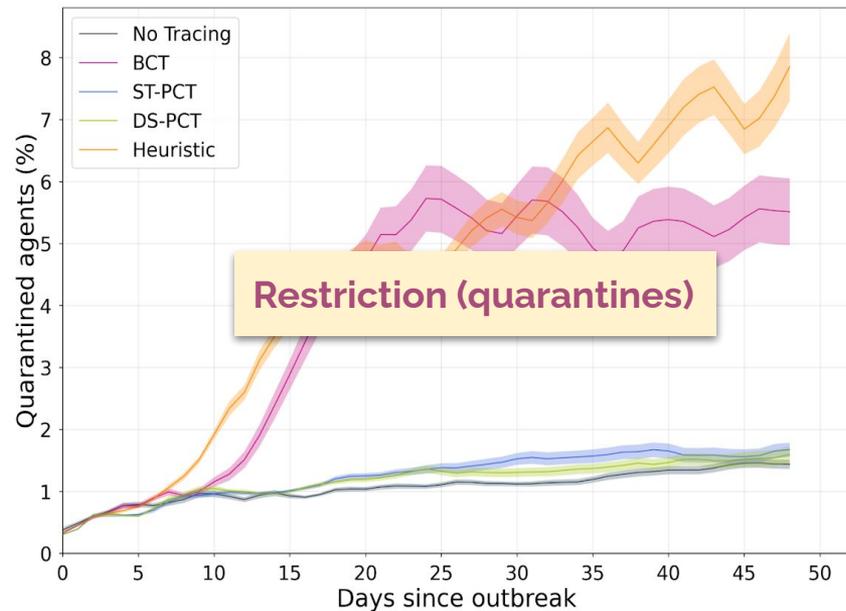
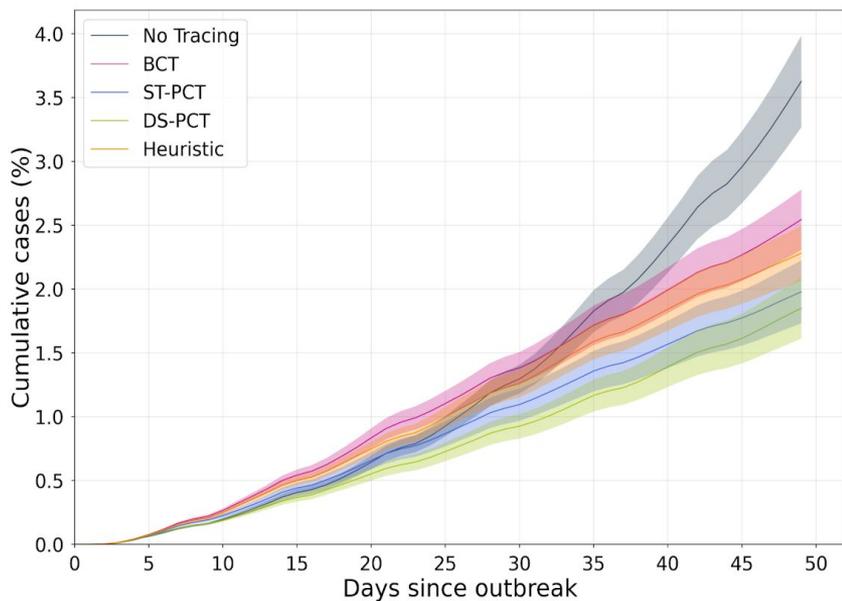
**3000 agents, 60% adoption rate, Control: 4-6 average number of contacts per day**

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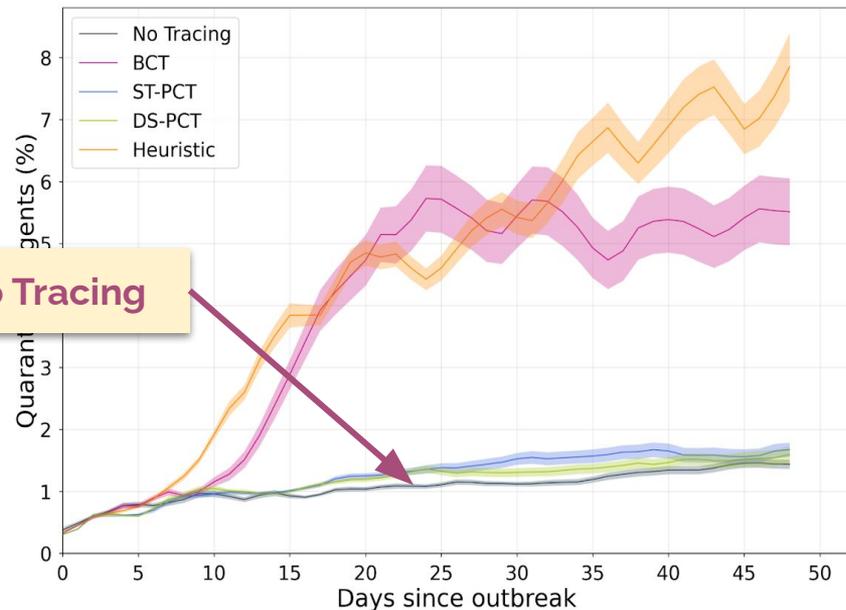
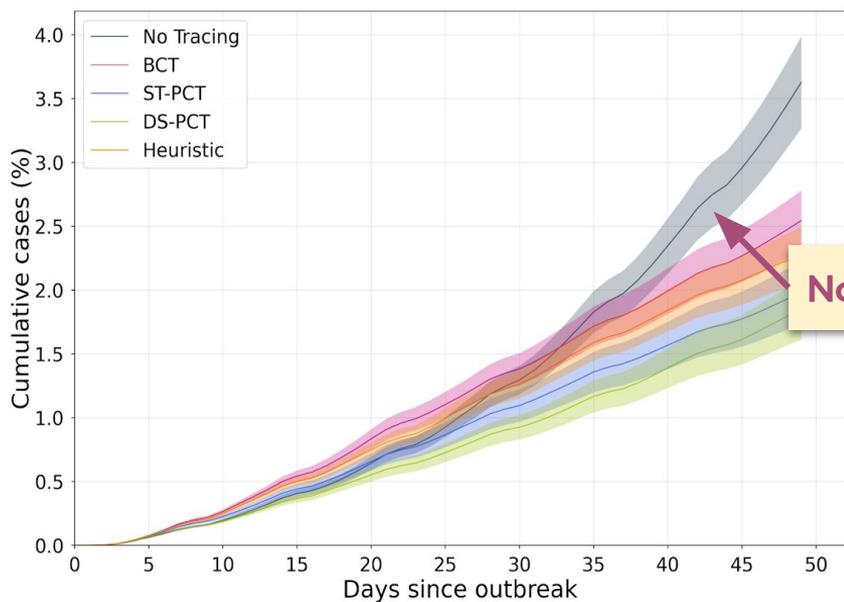
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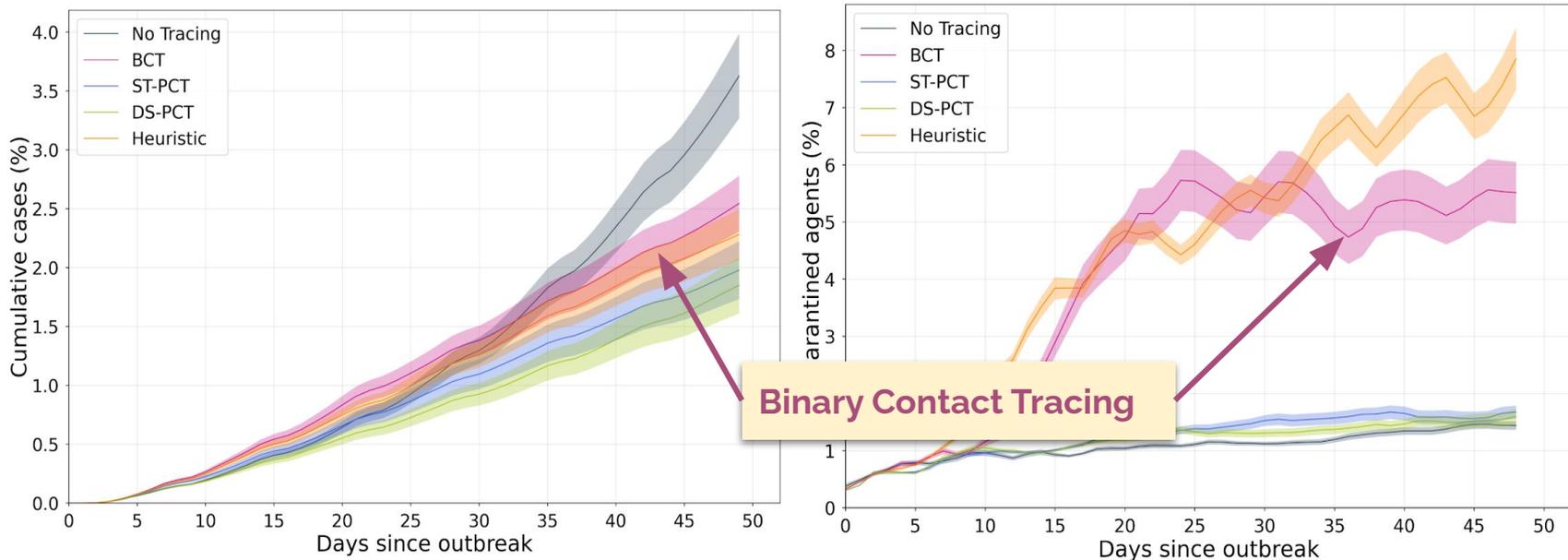
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No Tracing

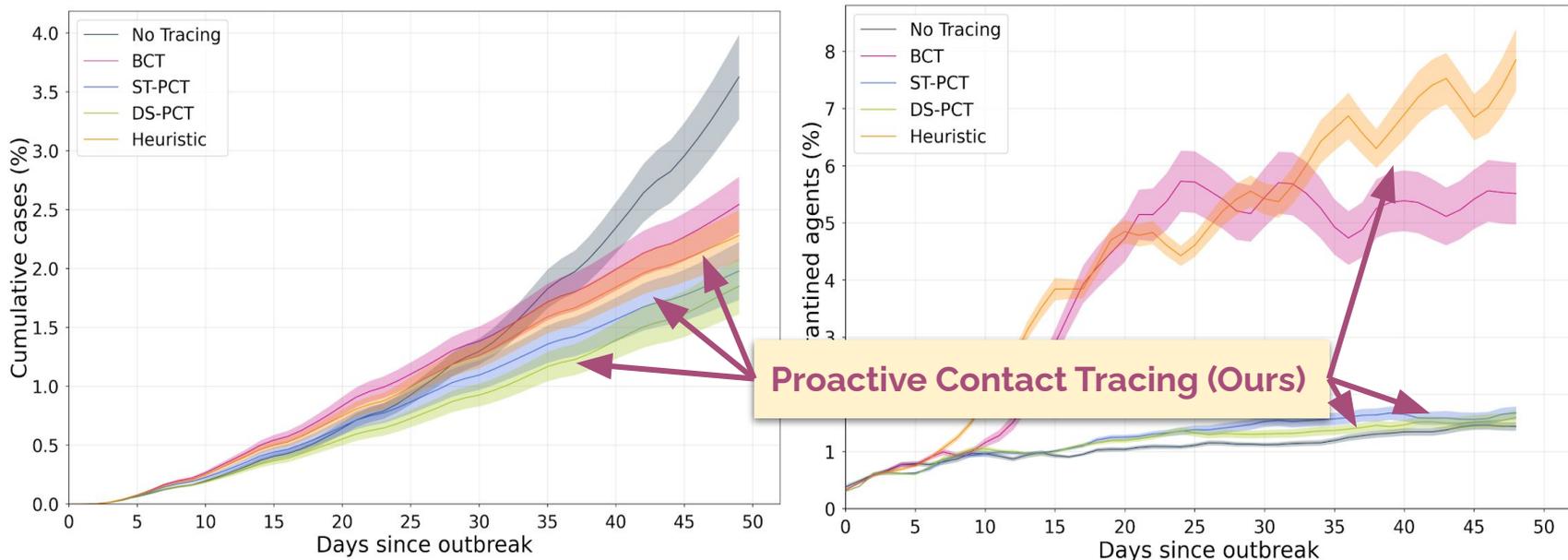
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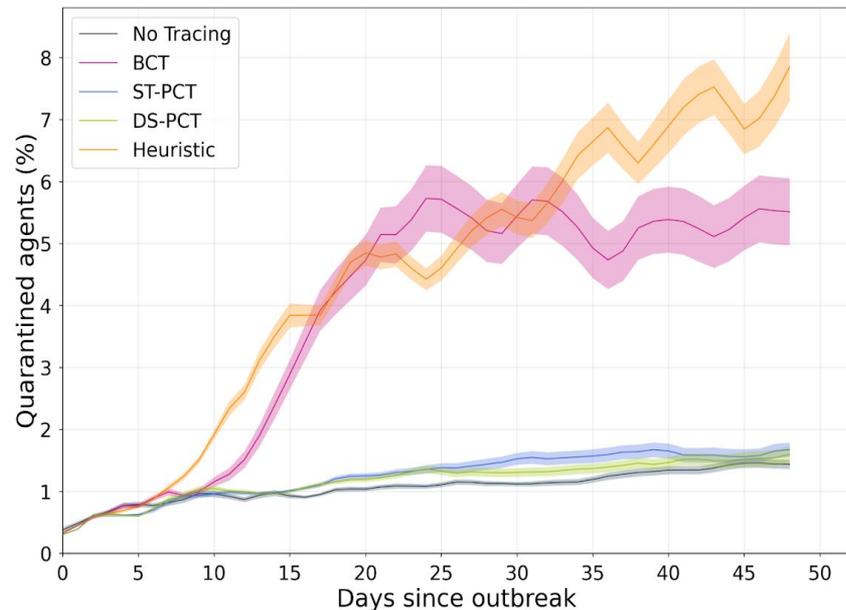
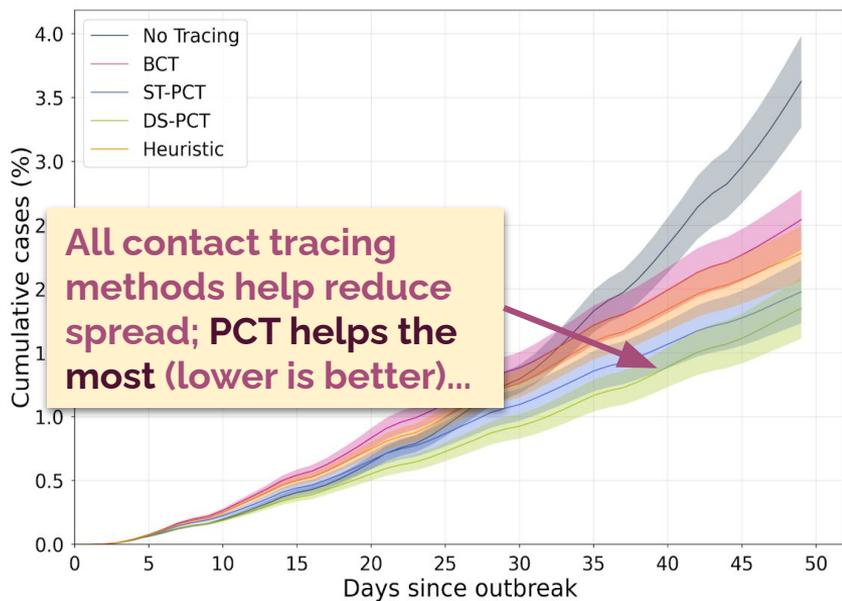
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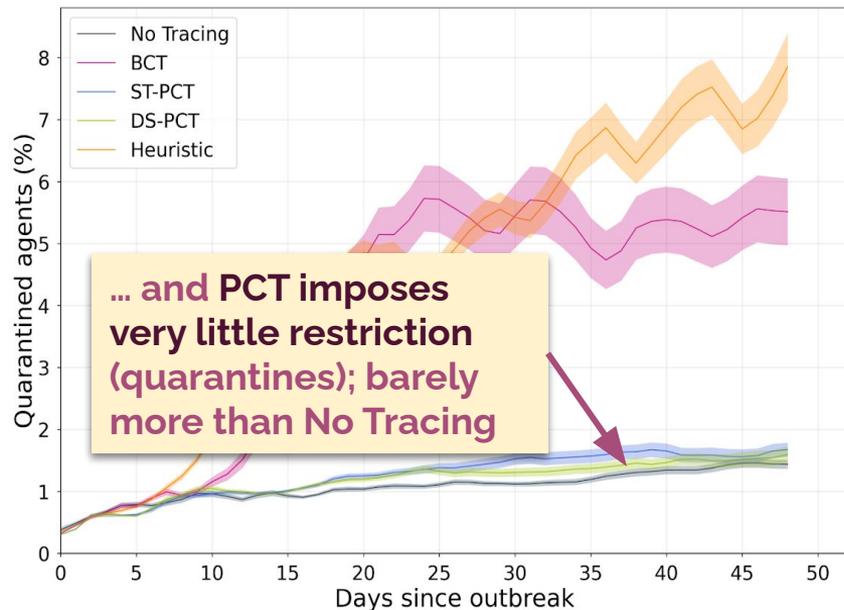
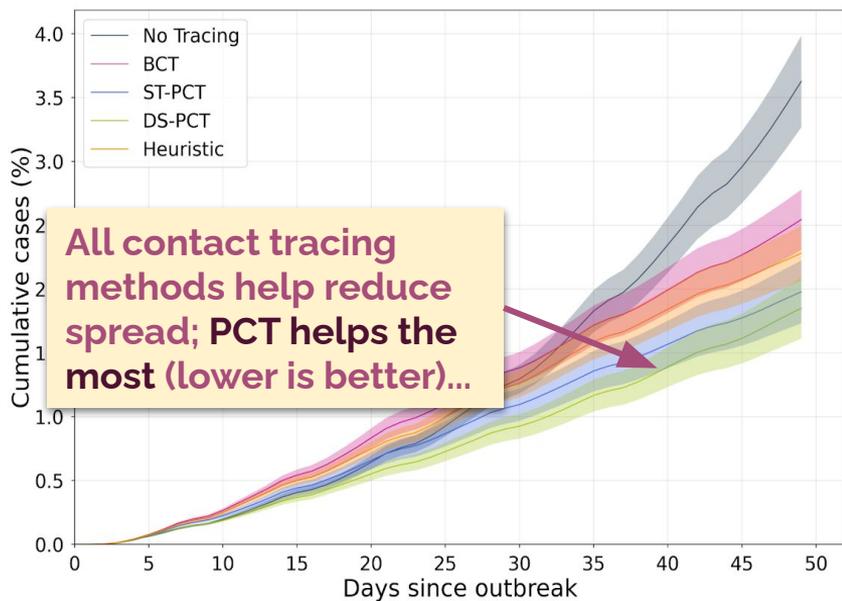
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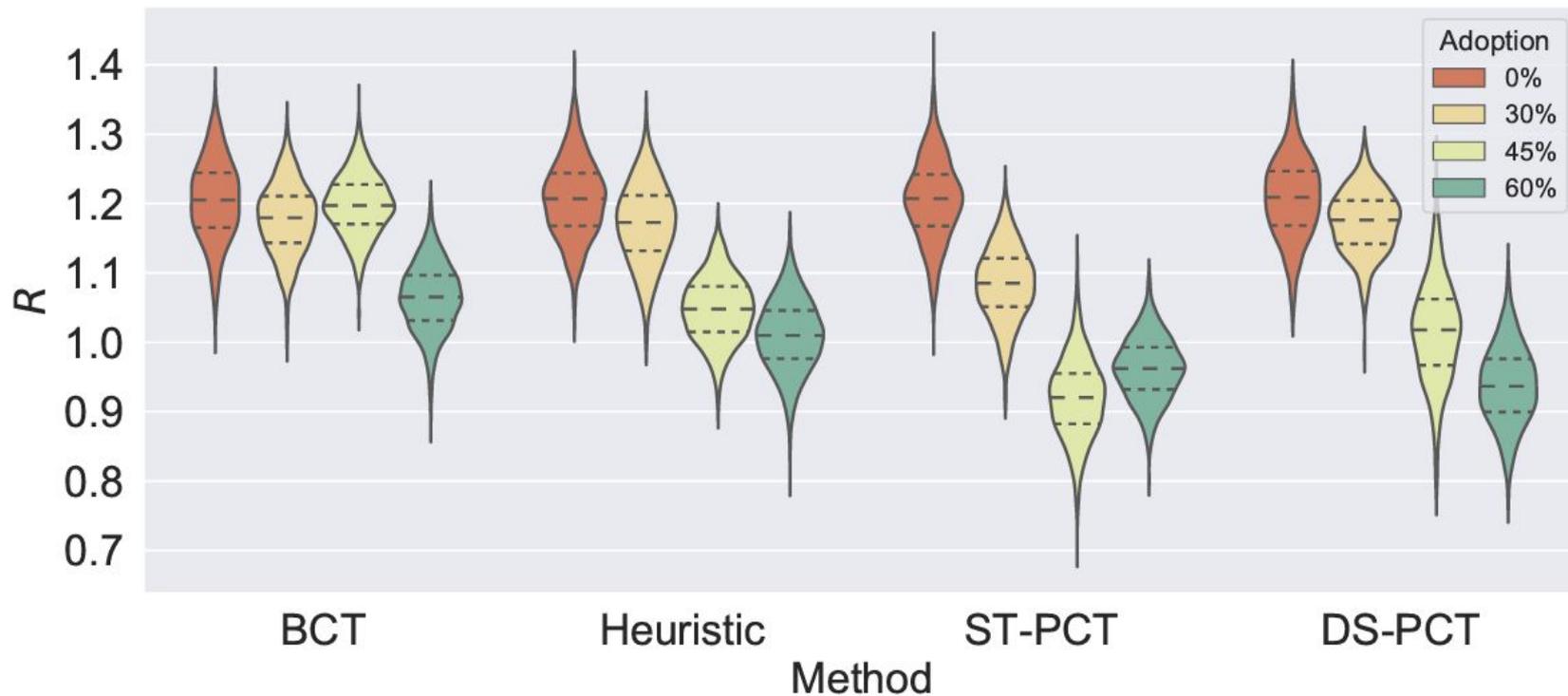
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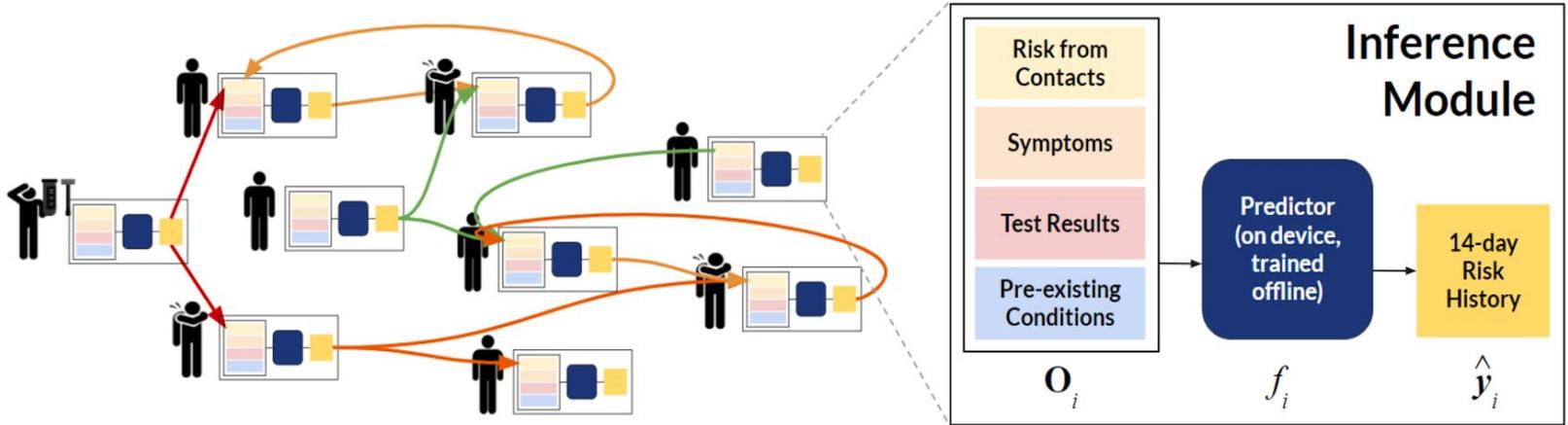
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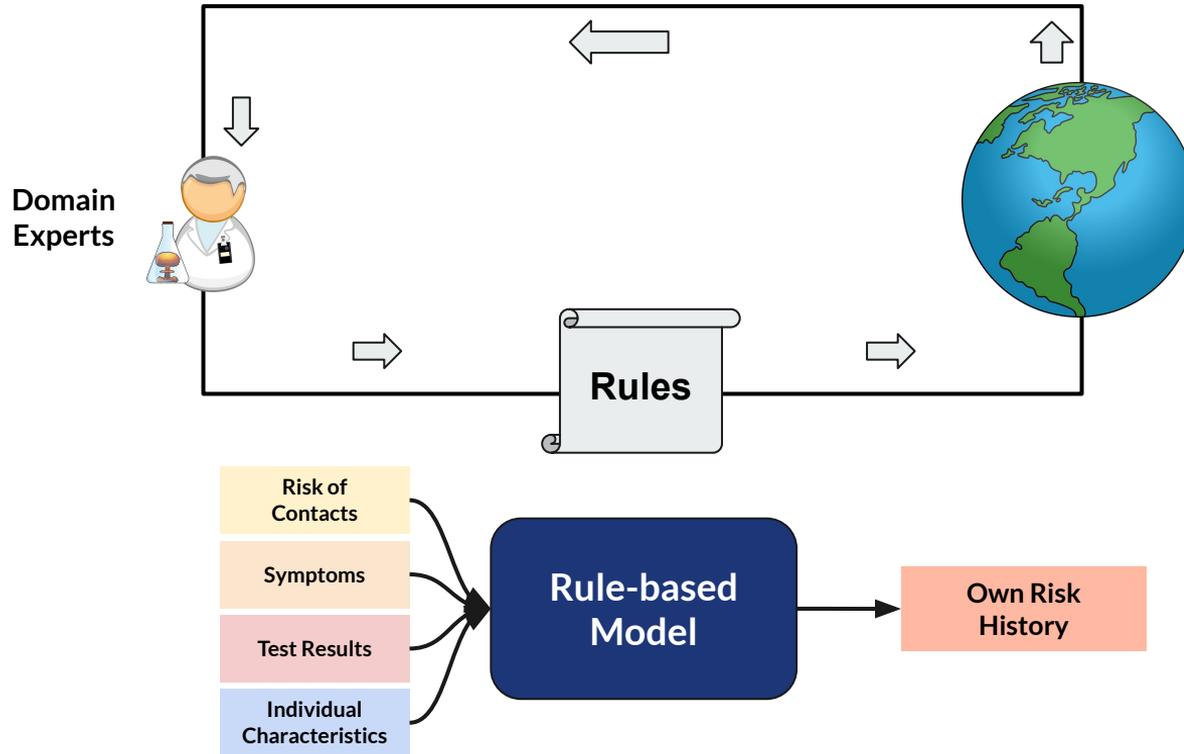
# Conclusions: PCT Framework

- Common platform for collaboration among
  - epidemiologists,
  - computer scientists,
  - privacy experts,
  - user behavior researchers

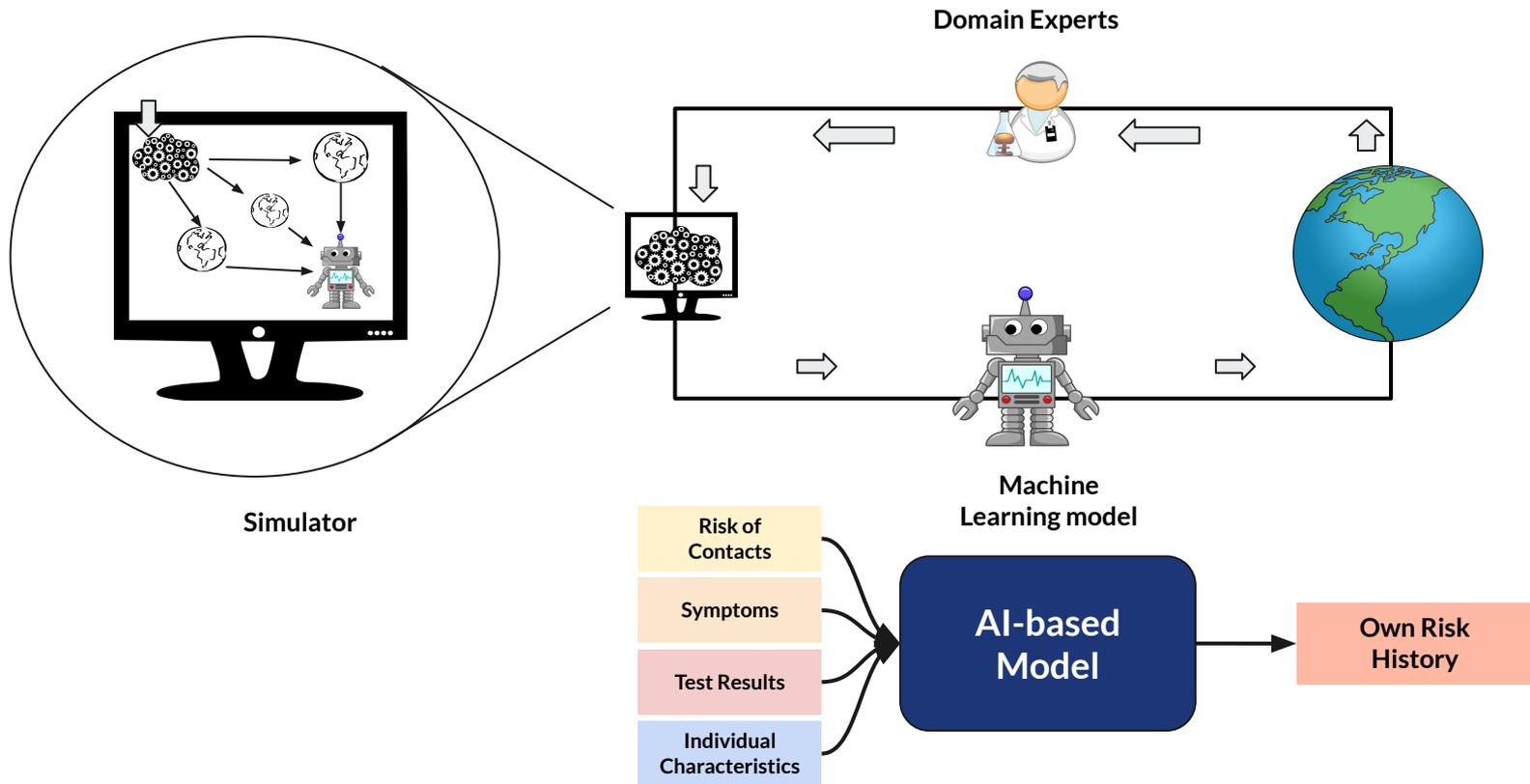
- Designed to address privacy concerns



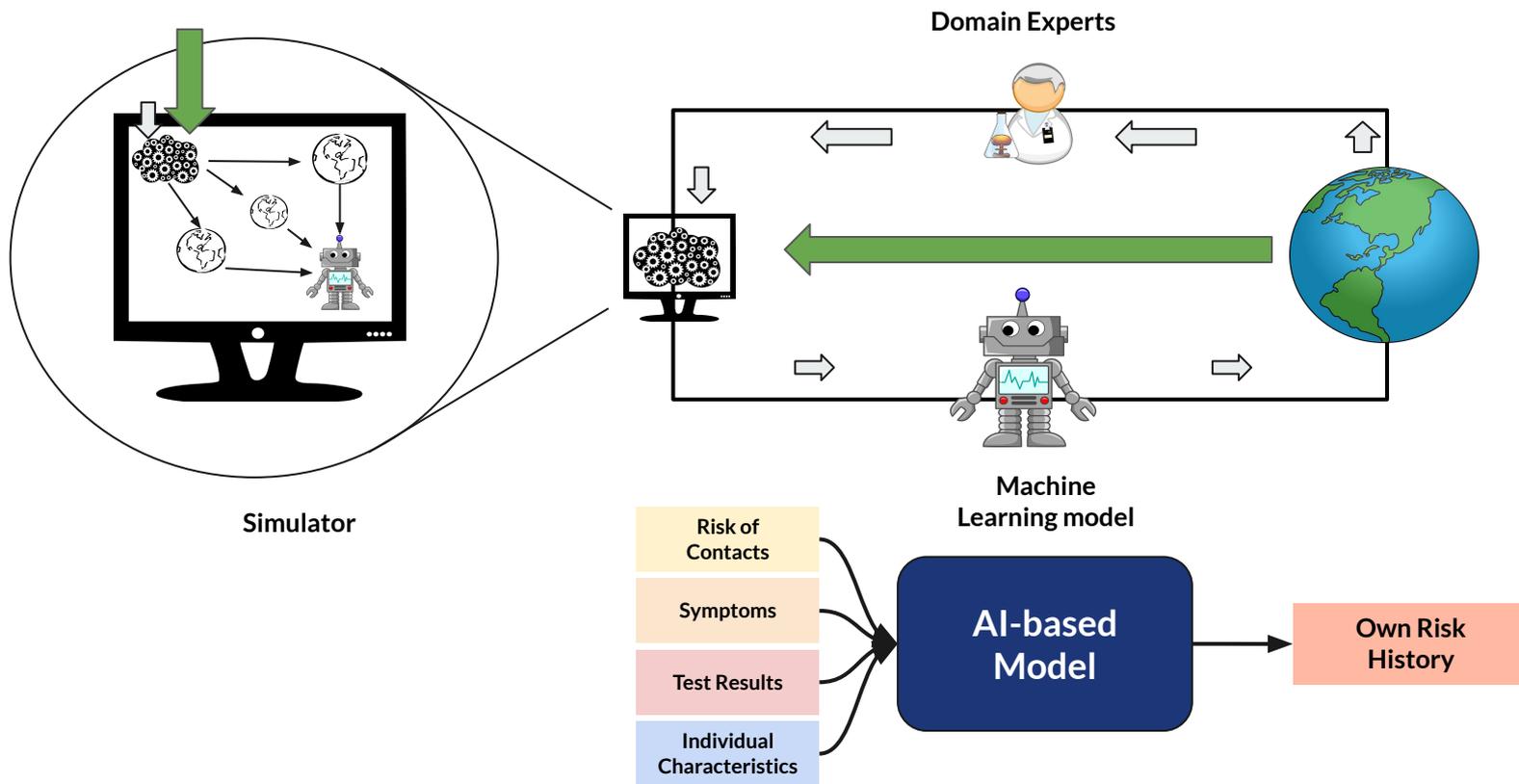
# Conclusions: Rule-based PCT



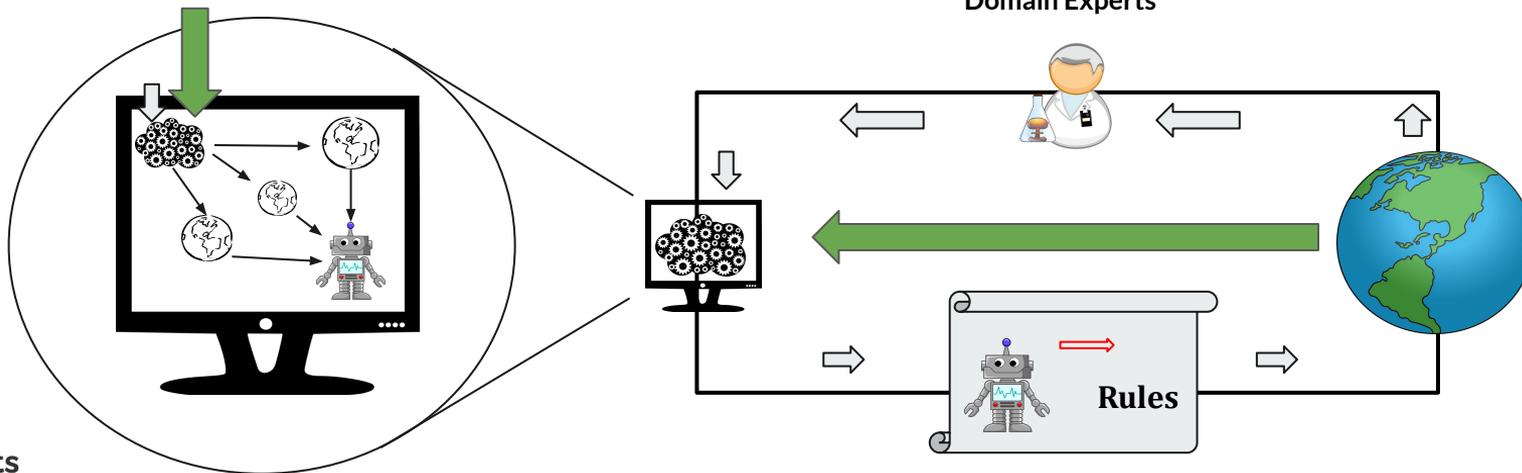
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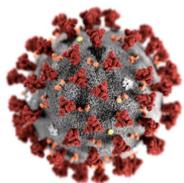


# Blog: Responsible AI-based PCT



## Blog Posts

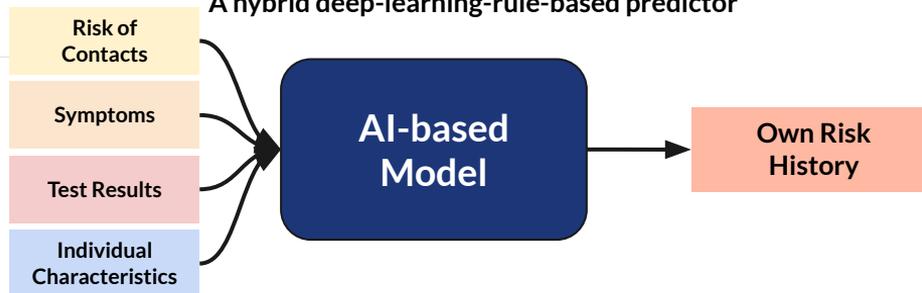
2021 [🔗](#)



### Contact tracing as a personalization framework

- *Why do we need contact tracing?*
- *Search for a unified framework*
- *Framework in practice*
- *Deep learning for the framework*
- *Limitations and Open Questions*
- *Why should we care now?*

A hybrid deep-learning-rule-based predictor



# COVI App



Montreal

## Testing the public's trust: Quebec premier mulls adopting contact-tracing app



Protecting users' privacy integral part of COVI app's design, says CEO of Montreal's AI institute

[Kate McKenna](#) · CBC News · Posted: May 19, 2020 6:46 PM ET | Last Updated: May 19, 2020

# Thank you & Resources



Slides:  
[www.pgupta.info/talks](http://www.pgupta.info/talks)



Blog:  
[www.pgupta.info/blog](http://www.pgupta.info/blog)



COVI White Paper:  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2005.08502>



Smartphone App:  
<https://mila.quebec/en/project/covi/>



COVI-AgentSim Paper:  
<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2010.16004.pdf>



COVI-AgentSim Code:  
<https://github.com/mila-iqia/COVI-AgentSim>



COVI-ML Paper:  
<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2010.12536.pdf>



COVI-ML Code:  
<https://github.com/mila-iqia/COVI-ML>



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# Policy Makers

