

AI for Search and Rescue



Gary Bloom, Chris Young,
Franz Kurfess, Logan
Barker, Vasanth Pugalenti,
Brandon Kim, Yayun Tan,
Brandon Eng, Anthony
Chen, Emi Dinh, Brian Mai

NMUPC
04-15-2025



A Quick Primer on Intelligent Search Management

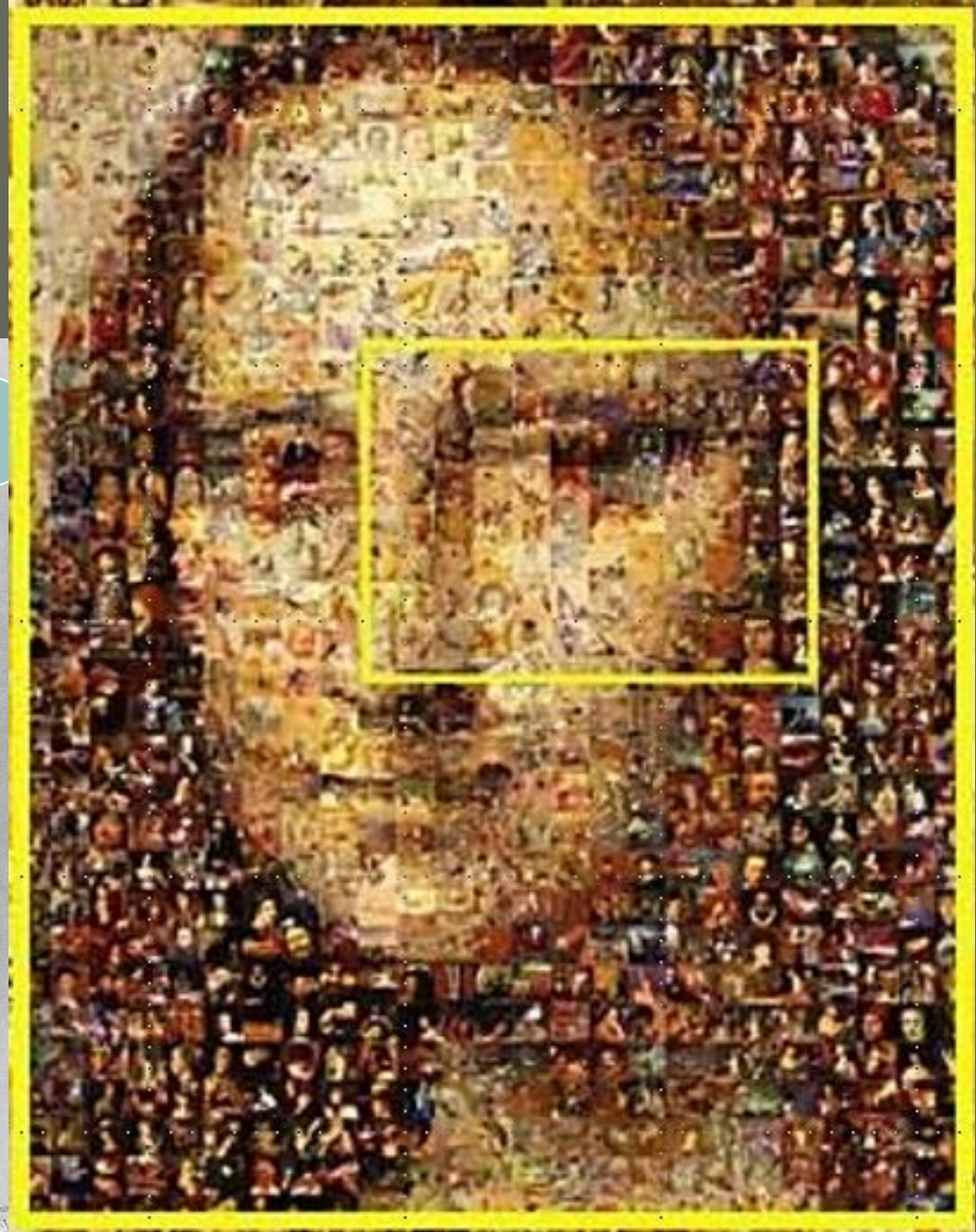
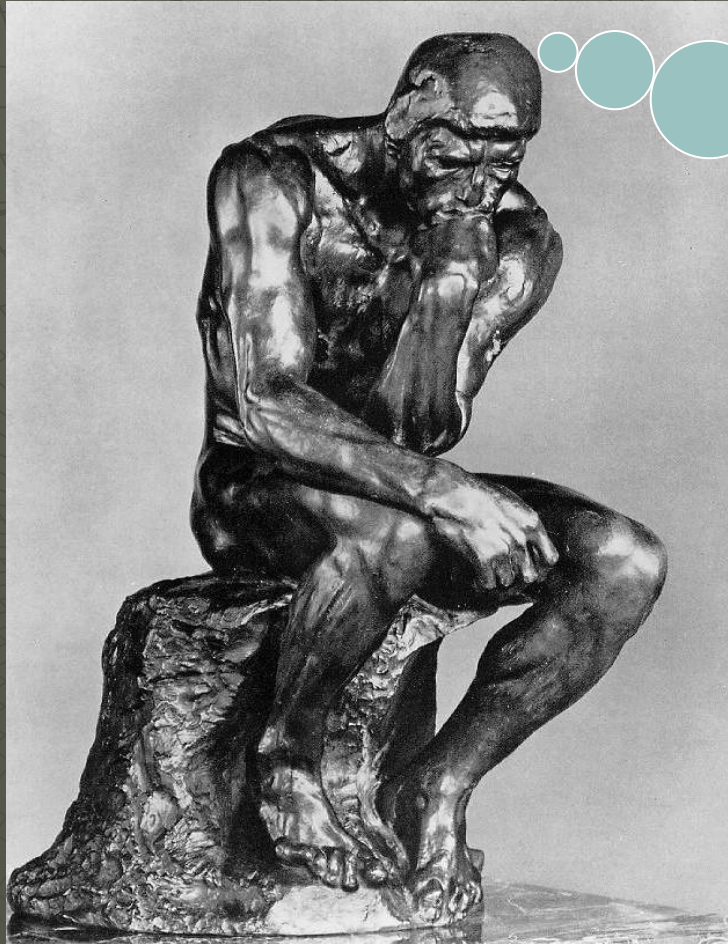
CHRISTOPHER S. YOUNG

INTELLIGENT SEARCH

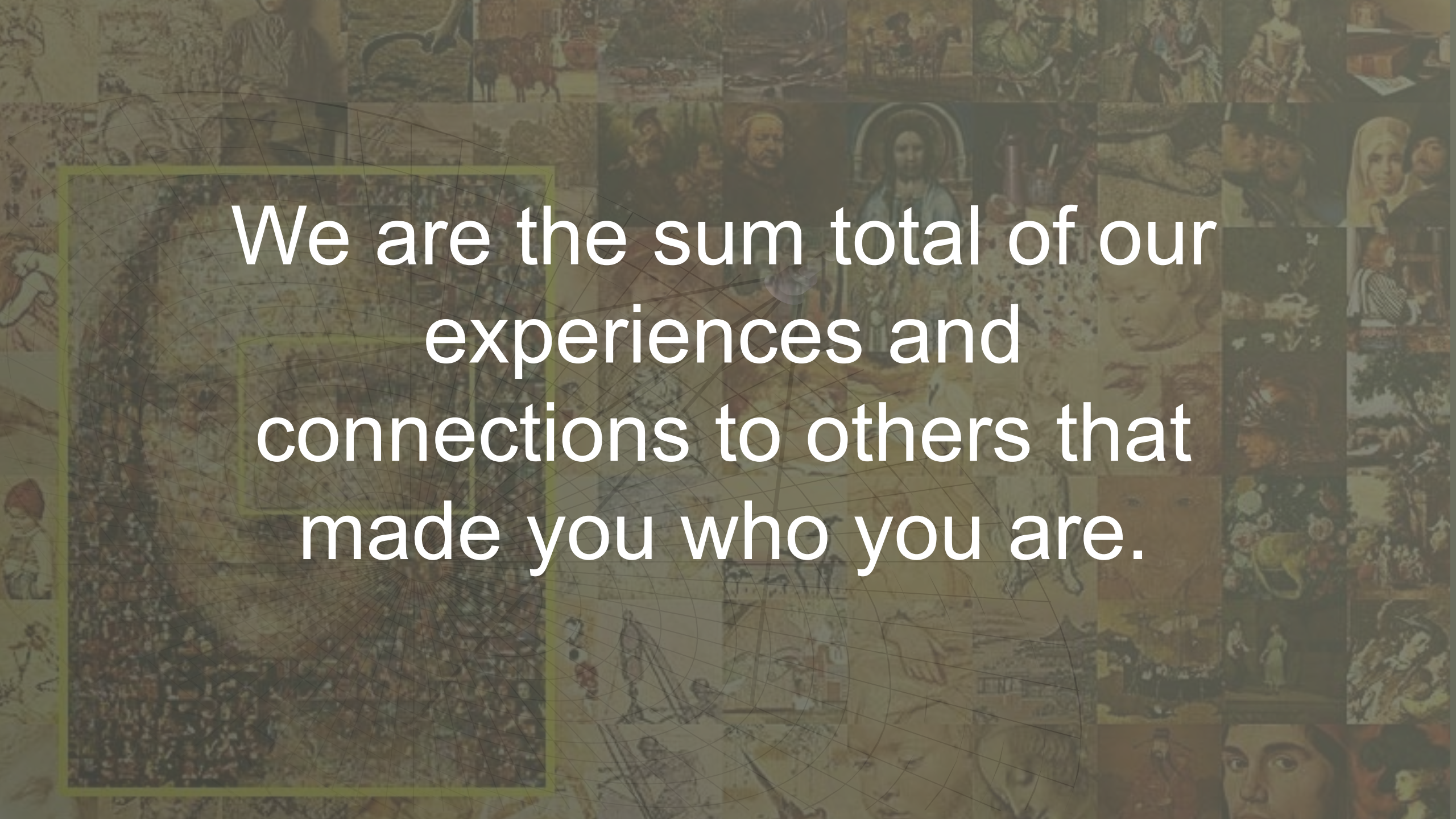
MANAGING THE INTELLIGENCE PROCESS IN THE
SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSONS



Painting a Picture



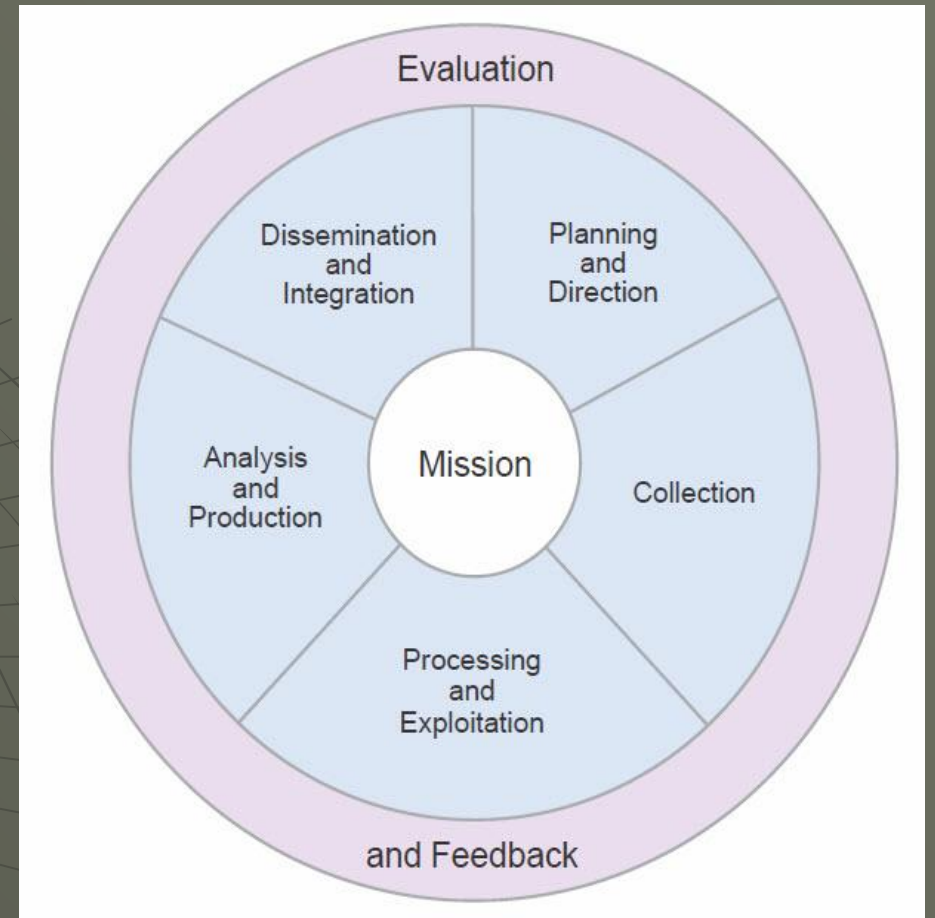




We are the sum total of our
experiences and
connections to others that
made you who you are.

Intelligence as a Process

- ◆ Planning and direction
- ◆ Collection
- ◆ Processing and exploitation
- ◆ Analysis and production
- ◆ Dissemination and integration (take action)
- ◆ Evaluation and feedback



Intelligent Evaluation Requires Data

The Intelligence Process



Figure I-3. The Intelligence Process

“Data! Data! Data!” he cried impatiently. “I can’t make bricks without clay.”

- Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Copper Beeches

A grayscale Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) image of a coastal area, showing a grid of concentric arcs and radial lines emanating from a central point, likely representing a radar station or a specific geographic feature. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be overlaid clearly.

IntelliSAR Project Introduction

Gary Bloom



Project Overview

A collaborative effort with California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) Computer Science and Software Engineering Department and experienced SAR leaders

- ◆ Professor Dr. Franz Kurfess, undergraduate and graduate students
- ◆ Experienced SAR leaders and Cal Poly Alumnus Gary Bloom and Dr. Chris Young

Started in the summer of 2021 through private funding, leading to student led research, senior projects and master's theses.

The “Art of What’s Possible”

Collect search data in real-time and apply next generation AI technologies to a search operation **in progress** to predict where to look and to improve the time and probability of locating the missing subject.



The “Art of What’s Possible”

Put more simply - - find
the missing faster!!

MISSING PERSON

LAST SEEN, FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6, 1998



LISA DIANNE NORRELL

HISPANIC FEMALE, 15 YEARS, DOB 6/13/83
5'1", 120 LB., BROWN HAIR, BROWN EYES
LAST SEEN WEARING A GREY SWEATSHIRT,
BLUE JEANS AND SANDALS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THIS
DISAPPEARANCE, CONTACT THE ANTIOCH POLICE DEPARTMENT
AT (925) 779-6802

Today's Reality: SAR is mostly a paper-based system

[illegible]

CLUE REPORT		1. INCIDENT NAME	2. DATE	3. INCIDENT NUMBER										
4. CLUE NUMBER	5. DATE/TIME LOCATED	6. TEAM THAT LOCATED CLUE												
7. NAME OF INDIVIDUAL THAT LOCATED CLUE														
8. DESCRIPTION OF CLUE														
9. LOCATION FOUND														
10. TO INVESTIGATIONS <input type="checkbox"/> URGENT REPLY NEEDED: TEAM STANDING BY TIME _____ <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY														
11. INSTRUCTIONS TO TEAM <input type="checkbox"/> COLLECT <input type="checkbox"/> BURN AND LEAVE <input type="checkbox"/> DISREGARD <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____														
CLUE & SEGMENT PROBABILITIES TO BE COMPLETED BY PLANS														
12. CLUE PROBABILITY		13. SEGMENT PROBABILITY												
<input type="checkbox"/> VERY LIKELY A GOOD CLUE <input type="checkbox"/> PROBABLY A GOOD CLUE <input type="checkbox"/> MAY BE A GOOD CLUE <input type="checkbox"/> PROBABLY NOT A GOOD CLUE <input type="checkbox"/> VERY LIKELY NOT A GOOD CLUE <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>LIST SEGMENTS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>INITIALLY WITH CLUE/CLUE MEANS SUBJECT IS IN THESE SEGMENTS</td></tr> <tr><td>BETTER STRONG CHANCE THAT CLUE MEANS SUBJECT IS IN THESE SEGMENTS</td></tr> <tr><td>STRONG CHANCE THAT CLUE MEANS SUBJECT IS IN THESE SEGMENTS</td></tr> <tr><td>BETTER THAN BORN CHANCE THAT CLUE MEANS SUBJECT IS IN THESE SEGMENTS</td></tr> <tr><td>NO INFORMATION FROM THE CLUE TO SEGMENT SUBJECT IS ON/IN/NOT IN THESE SEGMENTS</td></tr> <tr><td>BETTER THAN BORN CHANCE THAT CLUE MEANS SUBJECT IS IN THESE SEGMENTS</td></tr> <tr><td>STRONG CHANCE THAT CLUE MEANS SUBJECT IS IN THESE SEGMENTS</td></tr> <tr><td>BETTER STRONG CHANCE THAT CLUE MEANS SUBJECT IS IN THESE SEGMENTS</td></tr> <tr><td>INITIALLY WITH CLUE/CLUE MEANS SUBJECT IS IN THESE SEGMENTS</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			LIST SEGMENTS	INITIALLY WITH CLUE/CLUE MEANS SUBJECT IS IN THESE SEGMENTS	BETTER STRONG CHANCE THAT CLUE MEANS SUBJECT IS IN THESE SEGMENTS	STRONG CHANCE THAT CLUE MEANS SUBJECT IS IN THESE SEGMENTS	BETTER THAN BORN CHANCE THAT CLUE MEANS SUBJECT IS IN THESE SEGMENTS	NO INFORMATION FROM THE CLUE TO SEGMENT SUBJECT IS ON/IN/NOT IN THESE SEGMENTS	BETTER THAN BORN CHANCE THAT CLUE MEANS SUBJECT IS IN THESE SEGMENTS	STRONG CHANCE THAT CLUE MEANS SUBJECT IS IN THESE SEGMENTS	BETTER STRONG CHANCE THAT CLUE MEANS SUBJECT IS IN THESE SEGMENTS	INITIALLY WITH CLUE/CLUE MEANS SUBJECT IS IN THESE SEGMENTS
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COPIES <input type="checkbox"/> PLANS <input type="checkbox"/> INVESTIGATIONS <input type="checkbox"/> DESKTOPS		<input type="checkbox"/> ATTACH TO CLUE <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____												
SAR 135 NOV 2008 330		15. CLUE & SEGMENT PROBABILITIES PREPARED BY												

From Check-in to Investigations

[illegible]


Insert
Logo
Here

[Insert Name of Agency, SAR Team or Organization]

Missing Person (MP) Questionnaire/Interview Form/Guideline

(v6 rev. 01/06/2022)

For hard copy of this form go to:
www.civiliansearchandrescue.org
 or use this QR code



NOTE: Use pencil/black ink, print clearly. Avoid confusing phrases/words and unfamiliar abbreviations. Record complete and detailed answers for future use. Answer ALL relevant questions, if possible.

INTERVIEWER: Introduce yourself, background, qualifications, and explain purpose and process of the interview.

IMPORTANT: Take breaks during the interview to report important search and planning information to CP.

Complete & report highlighted sections & item #s to CP ASAP.

Check with Search Management for any additional high priority items.

A. INCIDENT INFORMATION

1. Incident Name: _____ 2. Today's date: _____ 3. Time: _____

4. Interviewer(s): _____ 5. Location: _____ 6. Incident number: _____

B. SOURCE(S) INFORMATION

1. Name: _____ 2. How Info received: ☐ In Person ☐ Phone ☐ Other _____

3. Home Address: _____

4. Phone 1: _____ 5. Phone 2: _____ 6. Relationship to MP: _____

7. Where/How to contact now: _____

8. Where/How to contact later: _____

9. What does interviewee believe happened: _____

9. Why is witness qualified to provide background information: _____

C. MISSING PERSON INFORMATION

1. Full Name: _____ 2. DOB: _____ 3. Sex: _____

4. Maiden Name: _____ 5. Nicknames: _____ 6. Other AKA's: _____

☒ 7. Name to call: _____ 8. Safe/Password: _____ 9. Who Knows Safe/Password: _____

10. Home Address: _____ 11. Zip: _____

12. Local Address/Campsite/Lodging: _____ 13. Zip: _____

14. Home Phone: _____ 15. Local Phone: _____ 16. E-mail Address(es): _____

☒ 17. 1st Cell Phone: _____ 18. 1st Cell Carrier: _____ 19. 1st Voice Mail PIN: _____

☒ 20. 2nd Cell Phone: _____ 21. 2nd Cell Carrier: _____ 22. 2nd Voice Mail PIN: _____

(Complete Section N with more Cell Phone data)

23. How long lived at this location/area? _____ 24. Previous addresses: _____

25. Facebook/Other Sites: _____ 26. Screen Names/Alias: _____ (See Section N for Details)

27. Birthplace: _____ 28. Ethnicity: _____ 29. National Origin: _____ 30. Immigration Status: _____

☒ 31. Language(s)/Preferred: _____ 32. Spoken under stress (curse): _____ 33. Impediments/accents: _____

34. Work/Student: _____ 35. Contact Person: _____ 36. Phone: _____

37. Work/School Address: _____

38. Driver's License Number: _____ 39. State: _____ 40. Status (Current/Suspended): _____

MP Interview Form - C Young v6-1 01-06-2022.doc © C Young 2022

Incident ID # _____

Page 1

**This Reality Makes
Analysis of the Data
Very Difficult and
Real-Time Analysis
Impossible**

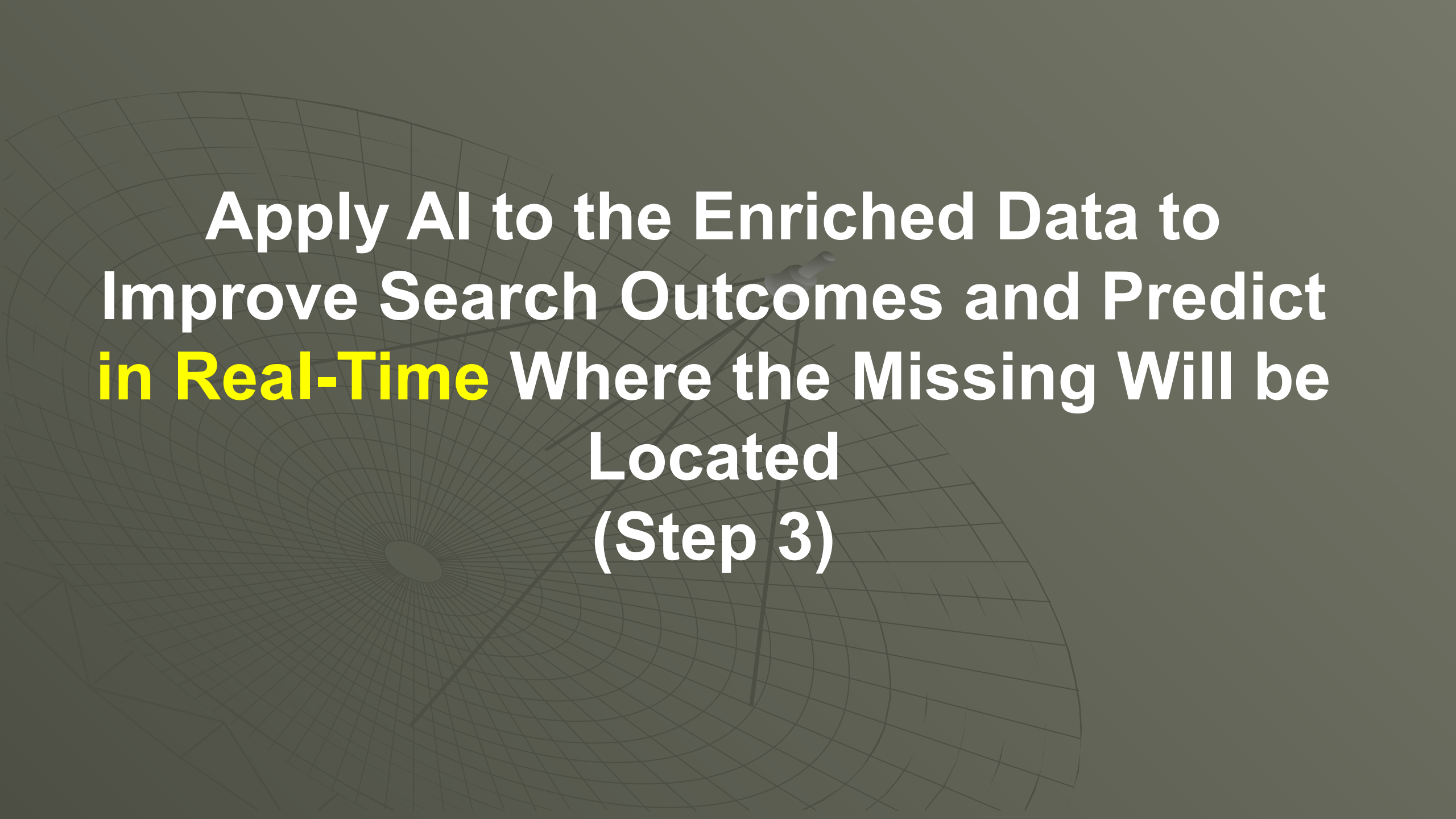


The Solution – IntelliSAR (Step One)

Move the entire search operation to an online system where information is collected in a database in real-time - - improving productivity, the flow of information and ultimately, search outcomes

Enrich the Real-Time Data with External Data Sources (Step Two)

- ◆ Dr. Robert Koester's historical data set (ISRID)
- ◆ Public data sets
 - New York
 - Yosemite...
- ◆ Mapping data – Google Maps™, Terrain maps, CalTopo™ data, ESRI ArcGIS™



**Apply AI to the Enriched Data to
Improve Search Outcomes and Predict
in Real-Time Where the Missing Will be
Located
(Step 3)**

General Briefing - Missing Person (SAR 100A)

Return to Incident

Collapse All Sections

Incident Info

Incident Name

Baltimore Harbor Rescue

Incident Date

04/05/2024

Incident Number

7483

Operational Period

1

Incident Summary

The individual was reported missing after renting a single person kayak at the Baltimore Kayak Rental Office. They were last spotted by the kayak rental agent launching off of the shore, heading NE towards the upper harbor.

Communications Plan

	Frequency	Channel Description	Channel
Command (TEAM--BASE)	561 MHz	Baltimore Coast Guard	3
Tactical (TEAM--TEAM)	620 MHz	Baltimore Tactical Rescue Te.	1

Subject Info

Subject Name

John Doe

Sex

M

Age

21

Name to Call

John

Expected Response

Vocal

Subject's Plan Or Intent

The subject was last seen renting out a single person kayak, with the intent to kayak around the Baltimore Harbor and birdwatch.

Save Initial Copy to Device

Resubmit to Command Post

Team Assignment (SAR 104)

Return to Incident

Collapse All Sections

Incident Info

Incident Name

Baltimore Harbor Rescue

Incident Date

04/05/2024

Incident Number

7483

Operational Period

Operational Period

Assignment Info

Assignment Number

Assignment Number

Resource Type

Resource Type

Personnel Info

	Personnel Name	Personnel Agency	Channel
1	Dawn Scuba Diver	Harbor Scuba Team	2
2	Jill Scuba Diver	Harbor Scuba Team	2

Add

Assignment Details

Assignment

Dive within sector 40 of the harbor and attempt to locate any evidence of the kayak, subject, or other clues that may be relevant to the search effort.

Map(s) Attached

Previous and Present Search Efforts in Area

No present or previous search efforts.

Debriefing Info Attached

Time Allocated

1.5 Hours

Save Initial Copy to Device

Resubmit to Command Post

Step One: Real-Time Electronic Collection of Search Data

Clue Log (SAR 134)

Return to Incident

Collapse All Sections

Incident Info

Incident Name

Baltimore Harbor Rescue

Incident Date

04/05/2024

Incident Number

7483

Operational Period

2

Clue Info

	Item Found	Team	Date	Time	Lat of Find	Long of Find	Initials
1	Orange Nike S	Harbor Scuba	04/06/2024	09:38 AM	39.230115	-76.417045	RP
2	Molded Plastic	Harbor Scuba	04/06/2024	09:54 AM	39.238567	-76.529861	RP

Add

Preparation Info

Prepared By

Roger Preparer

Date Prepared

04/06/2024

Time Prepared

11:03 AM

Save Initial Copy to Device

Resubmit to Command Post



Demonstration of Step 1: Real Time Data Collection and Search Management Platform

Logan Barker



Incidents

Create New Incident

JPD Rescue Incident	Gary Bloom - Simple Pre-...	Leo Demo Incident	Gary Bloom - redo simple...	Demo - First Pass
Incident Name: JPD Rescue Incident	Incident Name: Gary Bloom - Simple Pre-test prior to starting more extensive testing	Incident Name: Leo Demo Incident	Incident Name: Gary Bloom - redo simple pre-test as saved version of this form is listed, but will not reload	Incident Name: Demo - First Pass
Incident Number: 82374	Incident Number: 500	Incident Number: 815311	Incident Number: 600	Incident Number: 1
Incident Date: 2018-02-14	Incident Date: 2024-02-04	Incident Date: 2024-04-04	Incident Date: 2024-02-04	Incident Date: 2024-03-18



Incidents

Create New Incident

JPD Rescue Incident	Gary Bloom - Simple Pre-...	Leo Demo Incident	Baltimore Harbor Rescue	Gary Bloom - redo simple...	Demo - First Pass
Incident Name: JPD Rescue Incident	Incident Name: Gary Bloom - Simple Pre-test prior to starting more extensive testing	Incident Name: Leo Demo Incident	Incident Name: Baltimore Harbor Rescue	Incident Name: Gary Bloom - redo simple pre-test as saved version of this form is listed, but will not reload	Incident Name: Demo - First Pass
Incident Number: 82374	Incident Number: 500	Incident Number: 815311	Incident Number: 7483	Incident Number: 600	Incident Number: 1
Incident Date: 2018-02-14	Incident Date: 2024-02-04	Incident Date: 2024-04-04	Incident Date: 2024-04-05	Incident Date: 2024-02-04	Incident Date: 2024-03-18



Baltimore Harbor Rescue

Dashboard My Saved Forms My Submitted Forms All Submitted Forms

Missing Person Information



Name: John Doe

Age:

Height:

Sex: M

When reported missing:
4/5/2024

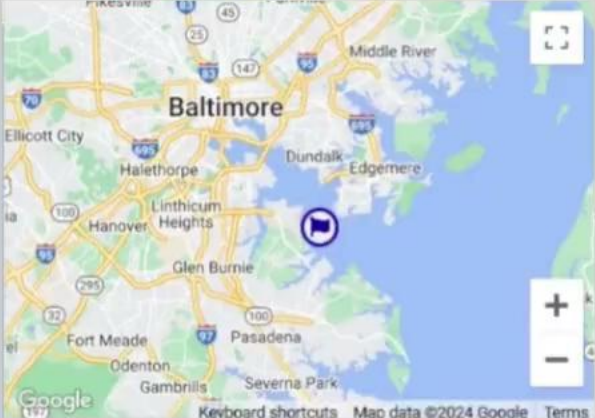
Clues

No clues to display 



Map

☒ Clues ☒ Command Post Location



Keyboard shortcuts Map data ©2024 Google Terms

Resources

Agency

Headcount

No resources to display 

Timeline

Last Seen:

Unknown

Time Since Last Seen:

Unknown

Reported Missing:

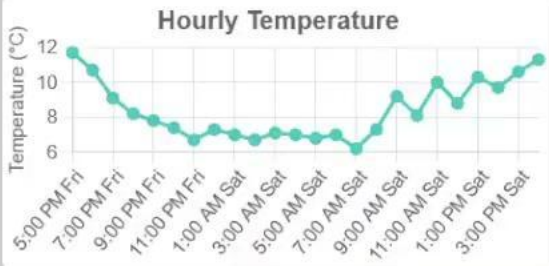
04/05/2024, 05:08:59 PM

SAR Arrived:

No agencies have arrived yet.

Weather

Hourly Temperature



1 ▾

Temperature

Precipitation

Humidity

Cloud Cover

Wind Speed

Wind Direction



Missing Person Information



Name: John Doe

Age: 21

Height: 5'11

Sex: M

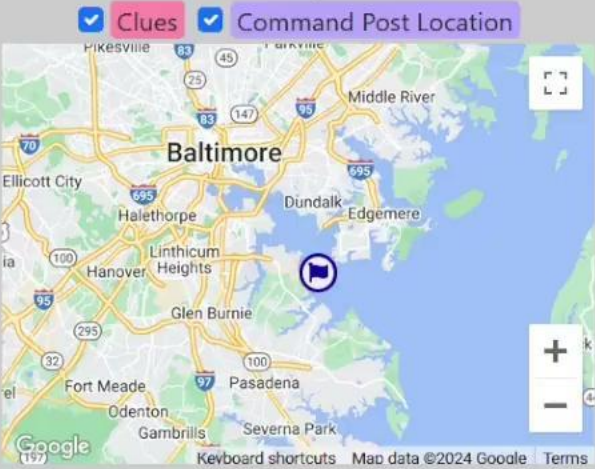
When reported missing:
4/5/2024

Clues



No clues to display

Map



Resources

Agency

Headcount

No resources to display

Timeline

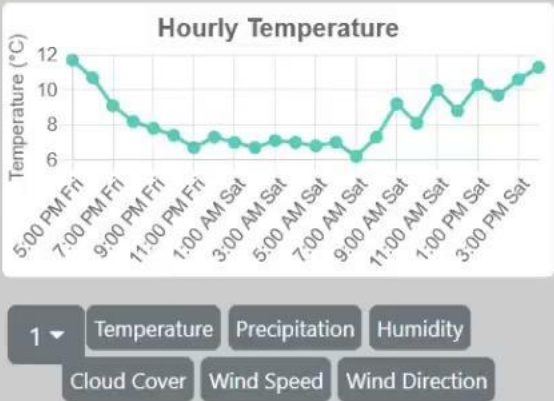
Last Seen: Unknown

Time Since Last Seen: Unknown

Reported Missing: 04/05/2024, 05:08:59 PM

SAR Arrived: No agencies have arrived yet.

Weather



Missing Person Information



Name: John Doe


Age: 21


Height: 5'11

Sex: M

When reported missing:
4/5/2024

Clues


No clues to display 



Map

☒ Clues

☒ Command Post Location



Keyboard shortcuts Map data ©2024 Google Terms

Resources

Agency	Headcount
Harbor Scuba Team	6
Baltimore Sheriff's Office	1

Timeline

Last Seen:

Unknown

Time Since Last Seen:

Unknown

Reported Missing:

04/05/2024, 05:08:59 PM

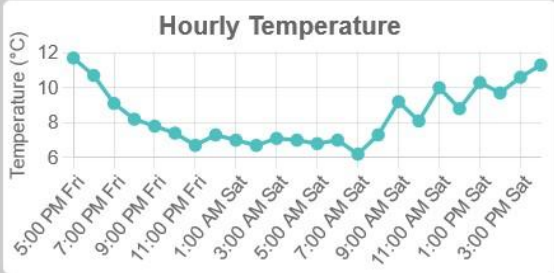
SAR Arrived:

Harbor Scuba Team

Baltimore Sheriff's Office

Weather

Hourly Temperature



1 ▾

Temperature

Precipitation

Humidity

Cloud Cover

Wind Speed

Wind Direction



Missing Person Information



Name: John Doe

Age: 21

Height: 5'11

Sex: M

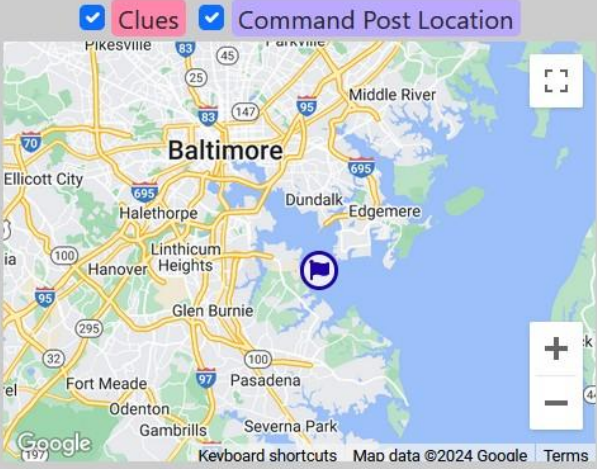
When reported missing:
4/5/2024

Clues



No clues to display 

Map



Resources

Agency	Headcount
Harbor Scuba Team	6
Baltimore Sheriff's Office	10

Timeline

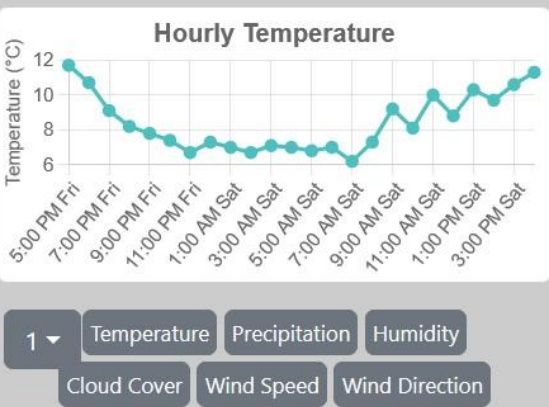
Last Seen: Unknown

Time Since Last Seen: Unknown

Reported Missing: 04/05/2024, 05:08:59 PM

SAR Arrived: Harbor Scuba Team
Baltimore Sheriff's Office

Weather





Dashboard My Saved Forms My Submitted Forms All Submitted Forms

Missing Person Information



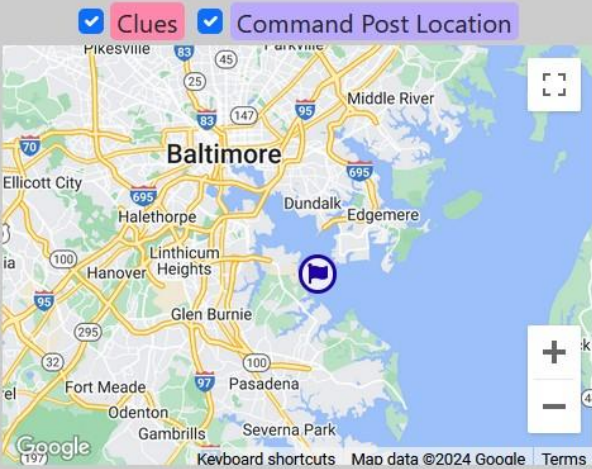
Name: John Doe
Age: 21
Height: 5'11
Sex: M
When reported missing:
4/5/2024

Clues



No clues to display

Map



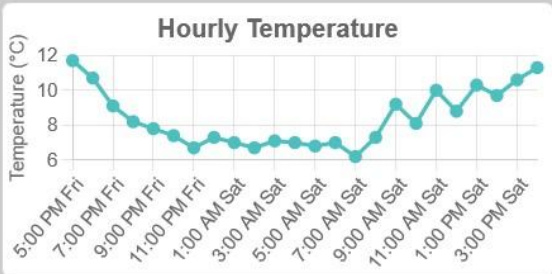
Resources

Agency	Headcount
Baltimore SAR Team 1	4
Harbor Scuba Team	6
Baltimore Sheriff's Office	10

Timeline

Last Seen: Unknown
Time Since Last Seen: Unknown
Reported Missing: 04/05/2024, 05:08:59 PM
SAR Arrived: Baltimore SAR Team 1
Harbor Scuba Team
Baltimore Sheriff's Office

Weather



1 ▾ Temperature Precipitation Humidity
Cloud Cover Wind Speed Wind Direction

[Return to Incident](#)

Team Assignment (SAR 104)

[Collapse All Sections](#)

Personnel Info

	Personnel Name	Personnel Agency	Channel
1	<input type="text" value="Regina Searcher"/>	<input type="text" value="Baltimore SAR Team 1"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>
2	<input type="text" value="Phillip Searcher"/>	<input type="text" value="Baltimore SAR Team 1"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>
3	<input type="text" value="Alexander Searcher"/>	<input type="text" value="Baltimore SAR Team 1"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>

[Add](#)

Assignment Details

Assignment

Drive to lifeguard station 3, and interview the lifeguard manager to get any relevant information. Collect the name and contact information of the lifeguard who was on duty when the subject went missing. Inquire about CCTV footage of the harbor roads and footpaths.

Map(s) Attached ☒

Previous and Present Search Efforts in Area

No present or previous search efforts.

Debriefing Info Attached ☐

[Save Initial Copy to Device](#)[Submit to Command Post](#)

[Return to Incident](#)

Team Assignment (SAR 104)

[Collapse All Sections](#)

Personnel Info

	Personnel Name	Personnel Agency	Channel
1	<input type="text" value="Dawn Scuba Diver"/>	<input type="text" value="Harbor Scuba Team"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>
2	<input type="text" value="Jill Scuba Diver"/>	<input type="text" value="Harbor Scuba Team"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>

[Add](#)

Assignment Details

Assignment

Map(s) Attached ☒

Previous and Present Search Efforts in Area

Debriefing Info Attached ☐

Time Allocated

[Save Initial Copy to Device](#)[Submit to Command Post](#)



Baltimore Harbor Rescue

Dashboard My Saved Forms My Submitted Forms All Submitted Forms

Missing Person Information



Name: John Doe

Age: 21

Height: 5'11

Sex: M

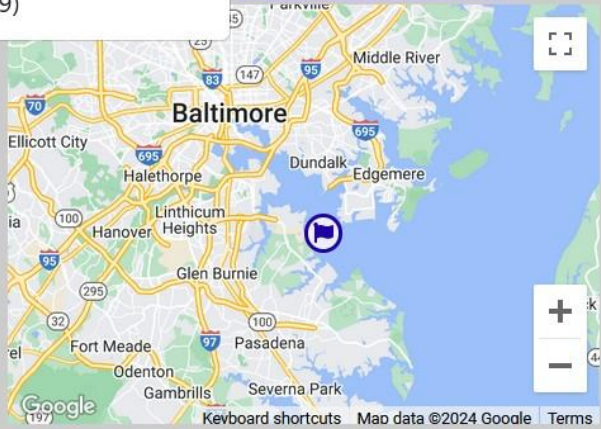
When reported missing: 4/5/2024

No c

- Team Debriefing (SAR 110)
- Team Debriefing - Dog Supplement(SAR 111)
- Team Debriefing - Area Search Supplement (SAR 112)
- Team Debriefing - Equestrian Supplement (SAR 113)
- Team Debriefing - Tracking Team Supplement (SAR 115)
- Team Debriefing - Hasty Search Supplement (SAR 116)
- Team Debriefing Supplement (SAR 119)

Map

Command Post Location



Resources

Agency	Headcount
Baltimore SAR Team 1	4
Harbor Scuba Team	6
Baltimore Sheriff's Office	10

Timeline

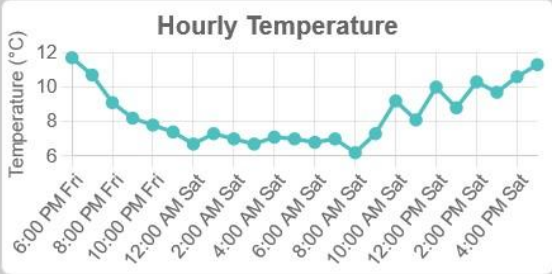
Last Seen: Unknown

Time Since Last Seen: Unknown

Reported Missing: 04/05/2024, 05:08:59 PM

SAR Arrived: Baltimore SAR Team 1
Harbor Scuba Team
Baltimore Sheriff's Office

Weather



- 1 ▾
- Temperature
- Precipitation
- Humidity
- Cloud Cover
- Wind Speed
- Wind Direction

[Return to Incident](#)

Team Debriefing (SAR 110)

[Collapse All Sections](#)

Search Details

Describe Search Efforts

The team was underwater for a total of 1 hour 14 minutes, of which 58 minutes were spent searching the harbor floor. The team spread out and swept the sector East to West, at a distance of about 20 feet from each other. Oxygen supplies during and after the search effort were normal.

Describe Portions You Were Unable To Search

The NE corner of the sector was not searched thoroughly due to time constraint. The team is requesting another assignment to explore this corner further.

Describe any Hazards or Problems Encountered

No hazards were encountered. The water clarity was low, which is normal for the harbor, making search efforts more difficult and time consuming. The dive team noted that they will bring additional flashlights for the next assignment.

Search Results

Describe Any Clues, Tracks, Or Sign Located, Or Any Pertinent Trail Interviews

An orange Nike shoe matching the clothing description was recovered floating on the water by the dive support team. The dive team also found a piece of molded plastic that could have possibly originated from a kayak.

Suggestions For Further Search Efforts In Or Near Your Assignemnt

Sector 45, which is adjacent to sector 40 should be searched, as well as the NE corner of sector 40, which was not searched as thoroughly as the dive team would have liked.

[Save Initial Copy to Device](#)[Submit to Command Post](#)

[Return to Incident](#)

Team Debriefing (SAR 110)

[Collapse All Sections](#)

Search Details

Describe Search Efforts

The team was underwater for a total of 1 hour 14 minutes, of which 58 minutes were spent searching the harbor floor. The team spread out and swept the sector East to West, at a distance of about 20 feet from each other. Oxygen supplies during and after the search effort were normal.

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[Save Initial Copy to Device](#)[Submit to Command Post](#)

Clue Log (SAR 134)

[Return to Incident](#)[Collapse All Sections](#)

Incident Info

Incident Name

Baltimore Harbor Rescue

Incident Date

04/05/2024

Incident Number

7483

Operational Period

2

Clue Info

	Item Found	Team	Date	Time	Lat of Find	Long of Find	Initials
1	Orange Nike Sho	Harbor Scuba Te	04/06/2024	09:38 AM	39.229405	-76.529661	SSD
2	Molded Plastic Sl	Harbor Scuba Te	04/06/2024	09:54 AM	39.234567	-76.525639	SSD

[Save Initial Copy to Device](#)[Submit to Command Post](#)



Missing Person Information



Name: John Doe
Age: 21
Height: 5'11
Sex: M
When reported missing:
4/5/2024

Clues



Molded Plastic Shard

Date: 2024-04-06 **Team:** Harbor Scuba
Time: 09:54 Team
Lat: 39.234567 **Initials:** SSD
Long: -76.525639

Orange Nike Shoe

Date: 2024-04-06 **Team:** Harbor Scuba
Time: 09:38 Team
Lat: 39.229405 **Initials:** SSD

Map

☒ Clues ☒ Command Post Location



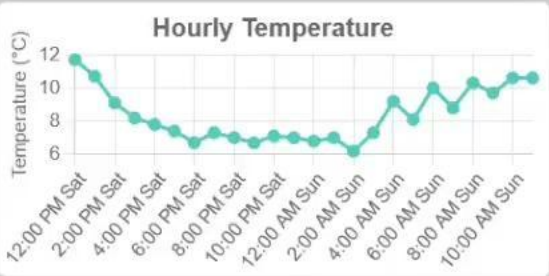
Resources

Agency	Headcount
Baltimore SAR Team 1	4
Harbor Scuba Team	6
Baltimore Sheriff's Office	10

Timeline

Last Seen: Unknown
Time Since Last Seen: Unknown
Reported Missing: 04/05/2024, 05:08:59 PM
SAR Arrived: Baltimore SAR Team 1
Harbor Scuba Team
Baltimore Sheriff's Office

Weather



1 ▾ Temperature Precipitation Humidity
Cloud Cover Wind Speed Wind Direction

Current Status

- ◆ Integrated search for full text and semantic search
- ◆ Dashboard complete and populating automatically as data is entered
- ◆ Mobile applications moving to App Stores
- ◆ BASARC and ICS forms field tested with Contra Costa County (California) SAR mock search
- ◆ AI Insights linked to dashboard



Applying AI Technology

Dr. Franz Kurfess

<i>Aspect</i>	<i>Generative AI</i>	<i>SAR AI Insights</i>
Foundation	Shallow: Correlations extracted from large sets of documents	Deep: Information from SAR-specific sources
Interpretation	Implied from statistical similarities	Based on domain knowledge
Context	Very broad, general knowledge	Focused on SAR
Interaction	Separate tool (browser window)	IntelliSAR dashboard integration
Timeliness	Static repository of documents, possibly augmented by generic Web search	Direct integration of ongoing search information
Explainability	Recent attempts at exposing "reasoning" steps	Use of decision trees derived from historical data (in addition to those created by domain experts)

Find missing persons faster: Support SAR personnel through a digital platform with AI technologies				
Goal	Approach	Technology	AI Methods	Buzzwords
Reduce cognitive load	capture information digitally	mobile forms, dictation, photos	speech transcription, image processing	Intelligent Assistant, Deep Learning
	extract and filter information	database, information retrieval	natural language processing, machine learning	Deep Learning
	assemble knowledge repository	database	ontology, knowledge graph	Knowledge Graphs, LLMs
	unearth connections	graph analysis	LLM, multimodal representation	LLMs, Deep Learning
	prioritize clues	database	recommendation system	machine learning
Support decision-making	access to historical cases	ISRID, previous cases	ontology, knowledge graph	Knowledge Graphs, LLMs
	specialized knowledge, skills (e.g., medical)	access to external systems	decision trees, expert systems	
	what-if scenarios	case repository	simulation, decision trees, planning systems	LLMs, Agents, Agentic Design, Generative AI
Utilize resources effectively	catalog of resources (capabilities, availability)	database		
	planning and coordination	database	planning, constraint reasoning, agents	Agents, Reasoning
	Information sharing	communication	agents	Agents, MCP

Limitations

- ♦ Lack of data
 - gaps and quality issues in most historical data
 - some data may also be outdated
- ♦ Limited experience with technologies
 - LLMs, GenAI are only a few years old
- ♦ Over-reliance on technology
 - lack of experience
 - suspension of common sense

Our Primary Approaches After Experimenting with Multiple Emerging AI Technologies

- ◆ Machine Learning
- ◆ Deep learning
- ◆ Explainable AI
- ◆ Knowledge Graphs and Large Language Models
- ◆ Agentic Design (the newest trend)



Machine Learning Models

Vasanth Pugalenth

Train machine learning models on SAR datasets to **predict, reduce and analyze** costs, resources, and time



Data



ML Training



Pattern Analysis

Expected Outcome

- Enhance the efficiency of search and rescue missions
- Direct searchers to high probability areas
- This approach will **reduce both the time and financial costs** associated with search efforts

Data Sources

- Digital and scanned physical reports
- Datasets include **ISRID 2, ISRID 3**, etc
- Close to **62k observations** recorded
- Features span from **broad categories** such as age to more **precise details** like latitude.

Priority Score Model

Machine Learning Beats Standard Checklists

- Predicts **actual survival risk** by learning from **past cases**, not just scores.
- Finds **deeper patterns** in terrain, time, age, and activity.
- Improves with more data and handles missing info well.

Subject Profile Age

Very Young	1
Very Old	1
Other	2-3

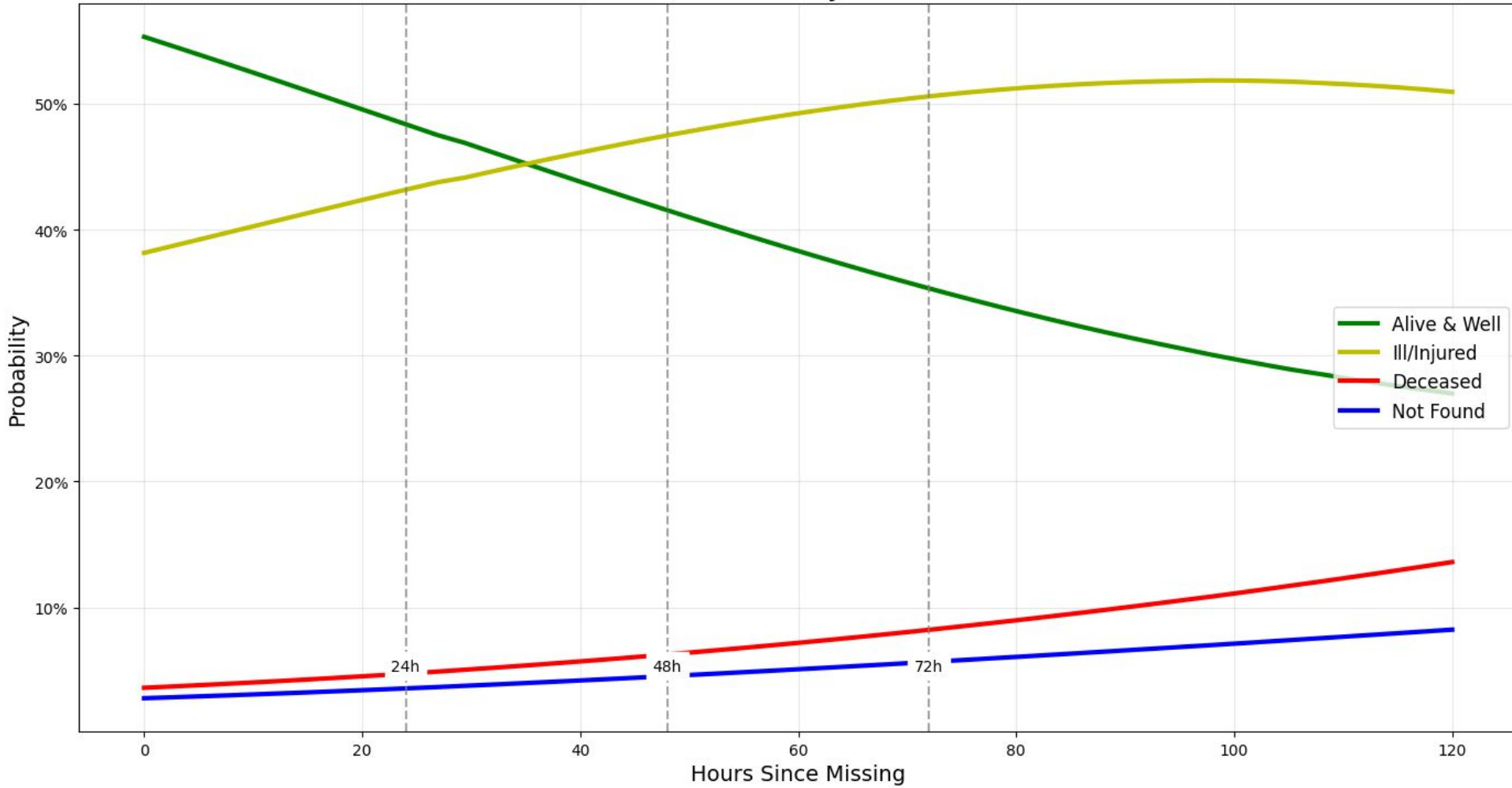
Medical condition

Known or suspected ill or injured	1-2
Healthy	3
Known Fatality	3

Number of Subjects

One Alone	1
More than one (unless separation suspected)....	2-3

Status Probability Over Time

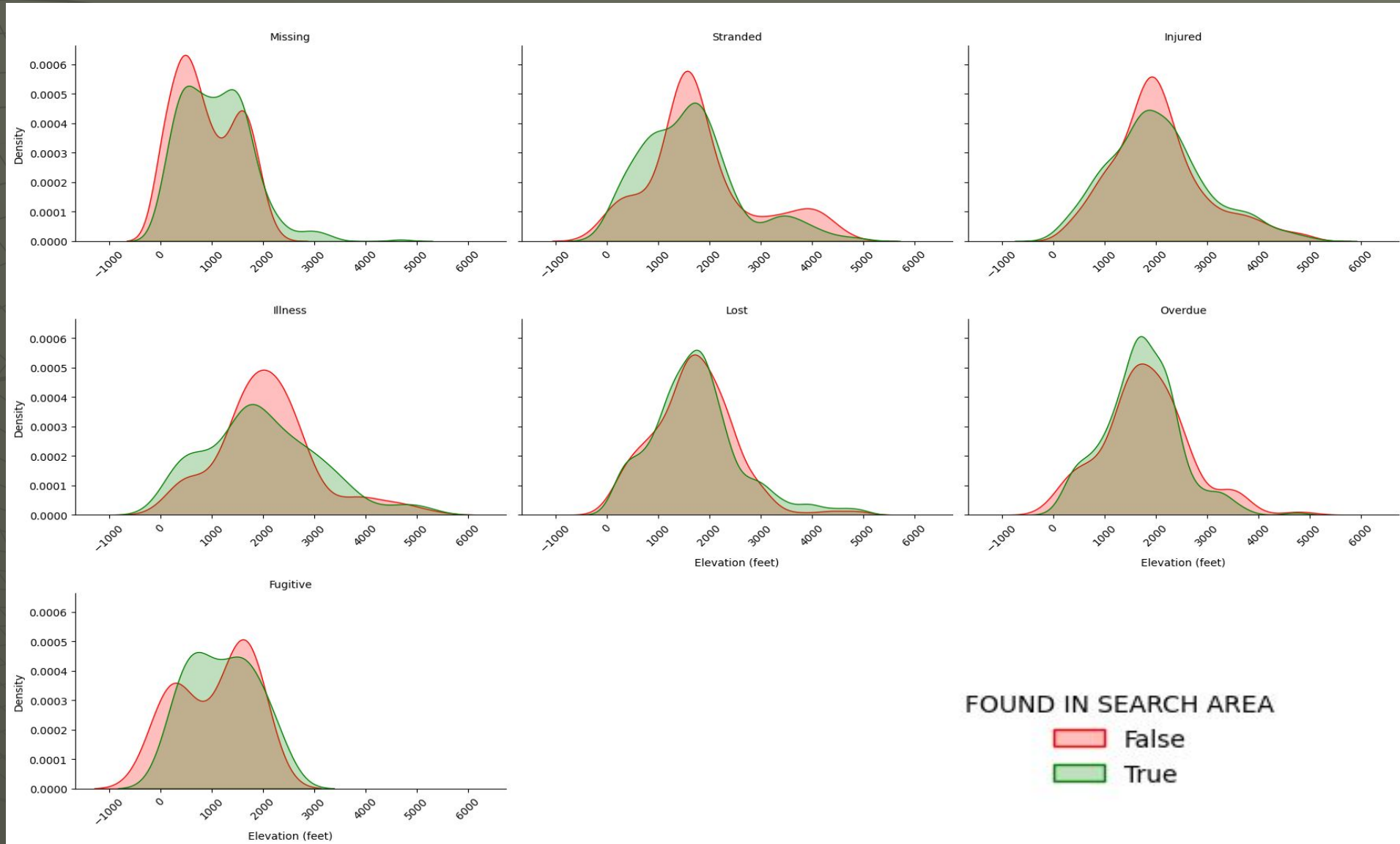


Subject Profile

- Age 35
- Physical Fitness: Good
- Experience: Experienced
- Environment: Forest

How Elevation Influences Subject Situation and Discovery

Population Density



Elevation(Feet)

K-Nearest-Neighbors Wander Status Prediction Model

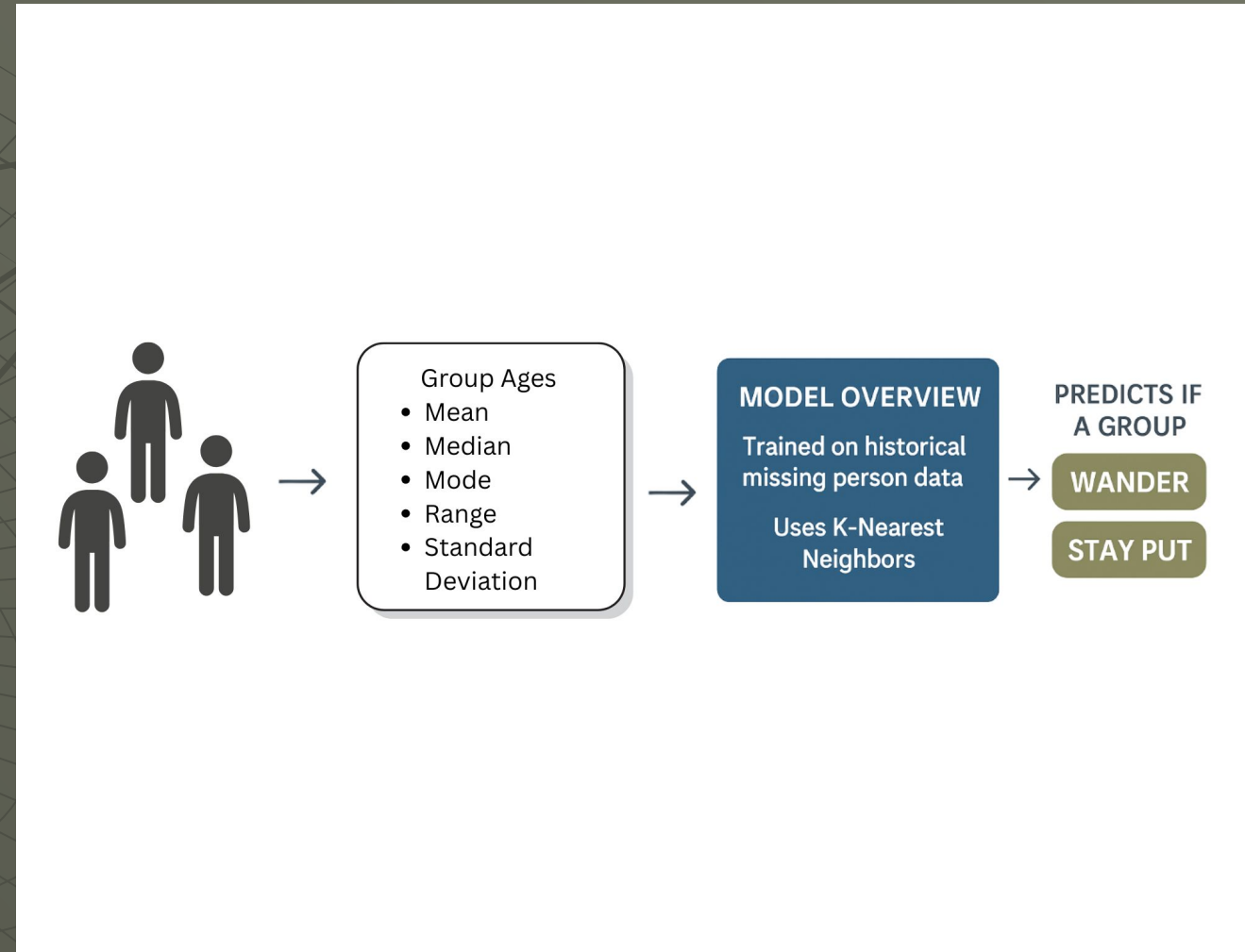
Model Overview:

- Input Features: Group size and ages of people in group

How It Works:

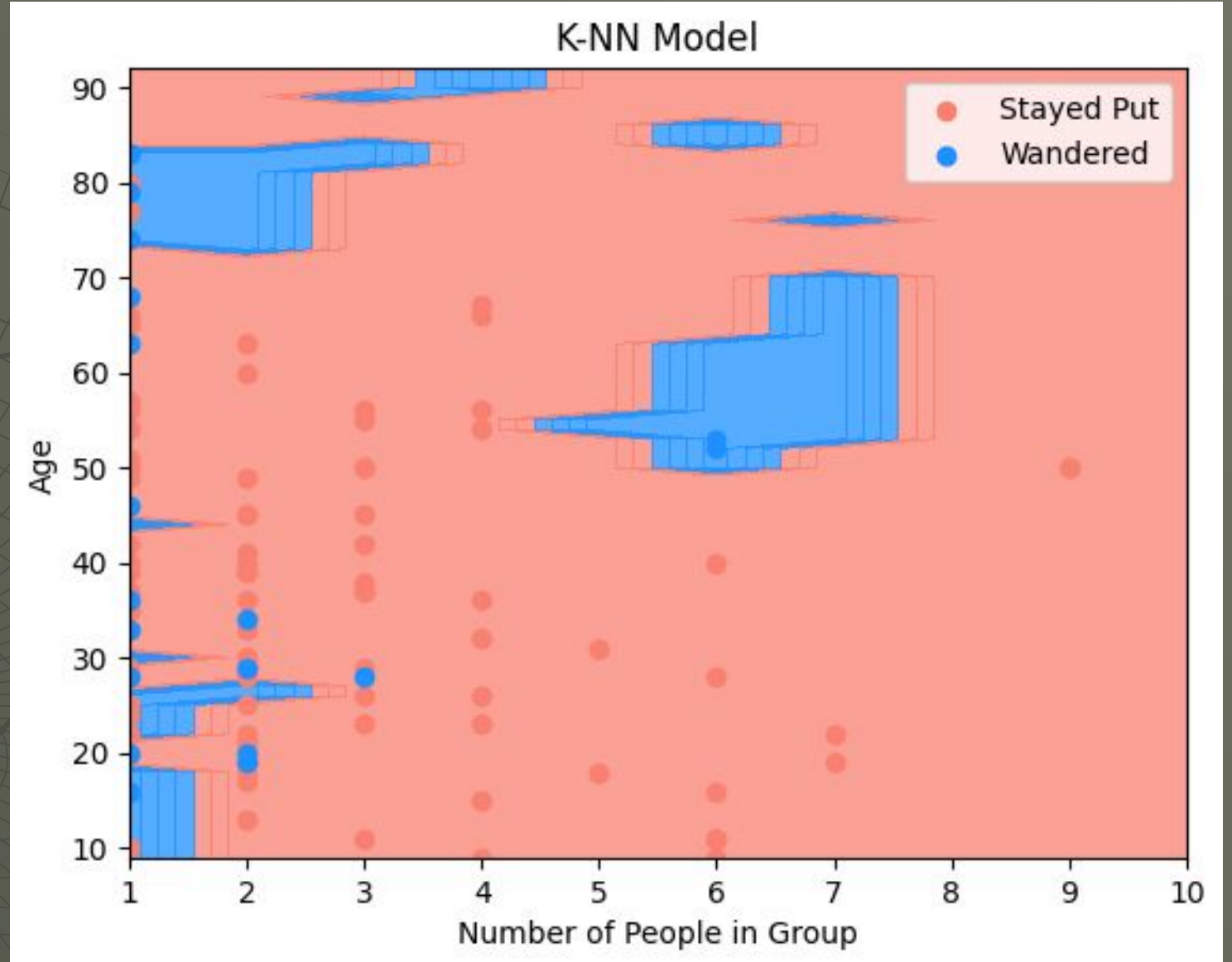
- Trained on historical missing person data
- Uses K-Nearest Neighbors to identify patterns in group behavior

Predicts if a group is likely to "Wander" or "Stay Put"



Relationship between age, group size, and wandering behavior

- Individuals aged 75-85, in groups of 1-3, show a higher tendency to wander, consistent with prior dementia-related findings.



A dramatic landscape of mountains and clouds, with a grid overlay. The scene is rendered in a cinematic style, with a mix of warm and cool tones. The mountains are rugged and layered, creating a sense of depth. The sky is filled with large, billowing clouds, and the lighting suggests a time of day like dawn or dusk. A faint grid pattern is overlaid on the entire image, adding a technical or digital feel.

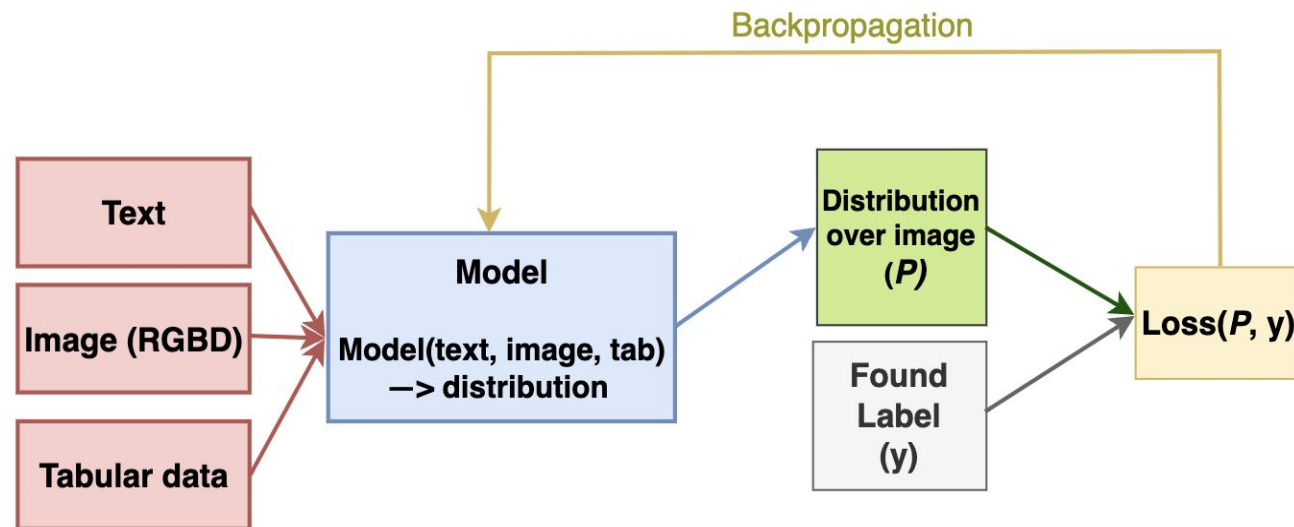
Deep Learning

Brandon Kim

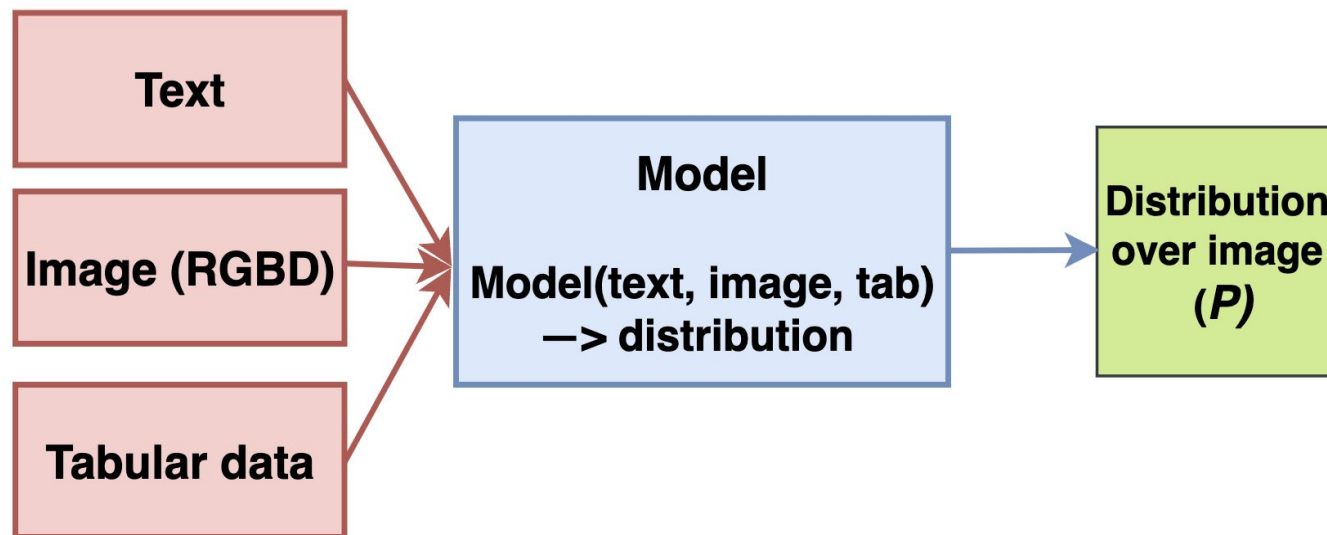
Process

SARFormer Architecture

Training process:



Inference process:



Text:

Mammoth Cave National Park (Southeast Region, Kentucky)

Start: 2019-05-10, 11:43:00

Due to: inattention, judgment error, physical condition

4 subjects, boating:

- 31 yo female, poor physical condition
- 21 yo female, poor physical condition
- 21 yo female, poor physical condition
- 21 yo female, poor physical condition

IPP: (-86.11017551, 37.20051619)

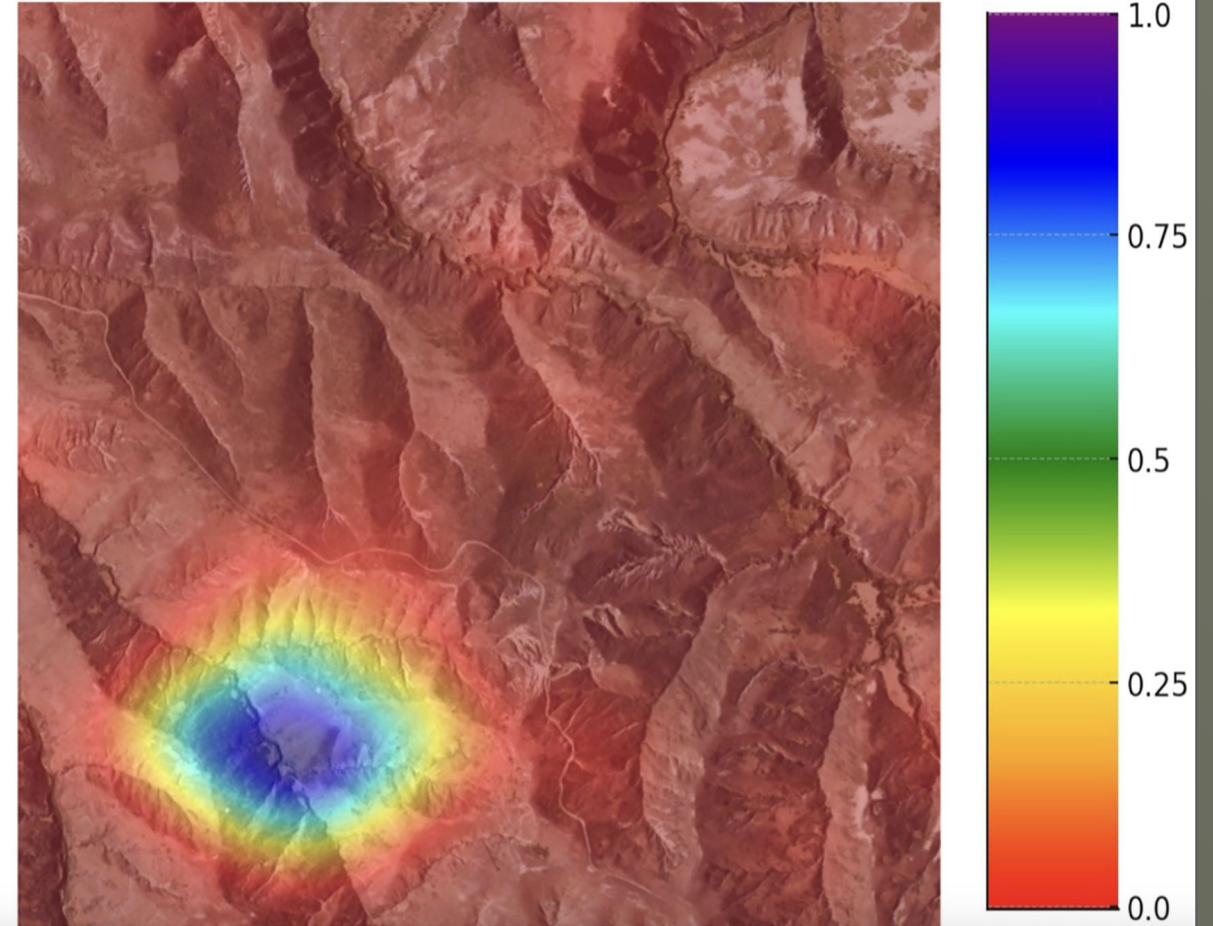
Tabular:

Cloud Cover	Wind (free-air)	Afternoon Max. Temp. Adj. (°C)	Morning Min. Temp. Adj. (°C)
clear	Light/Mod	0 to 3	-8 to -10

Images:

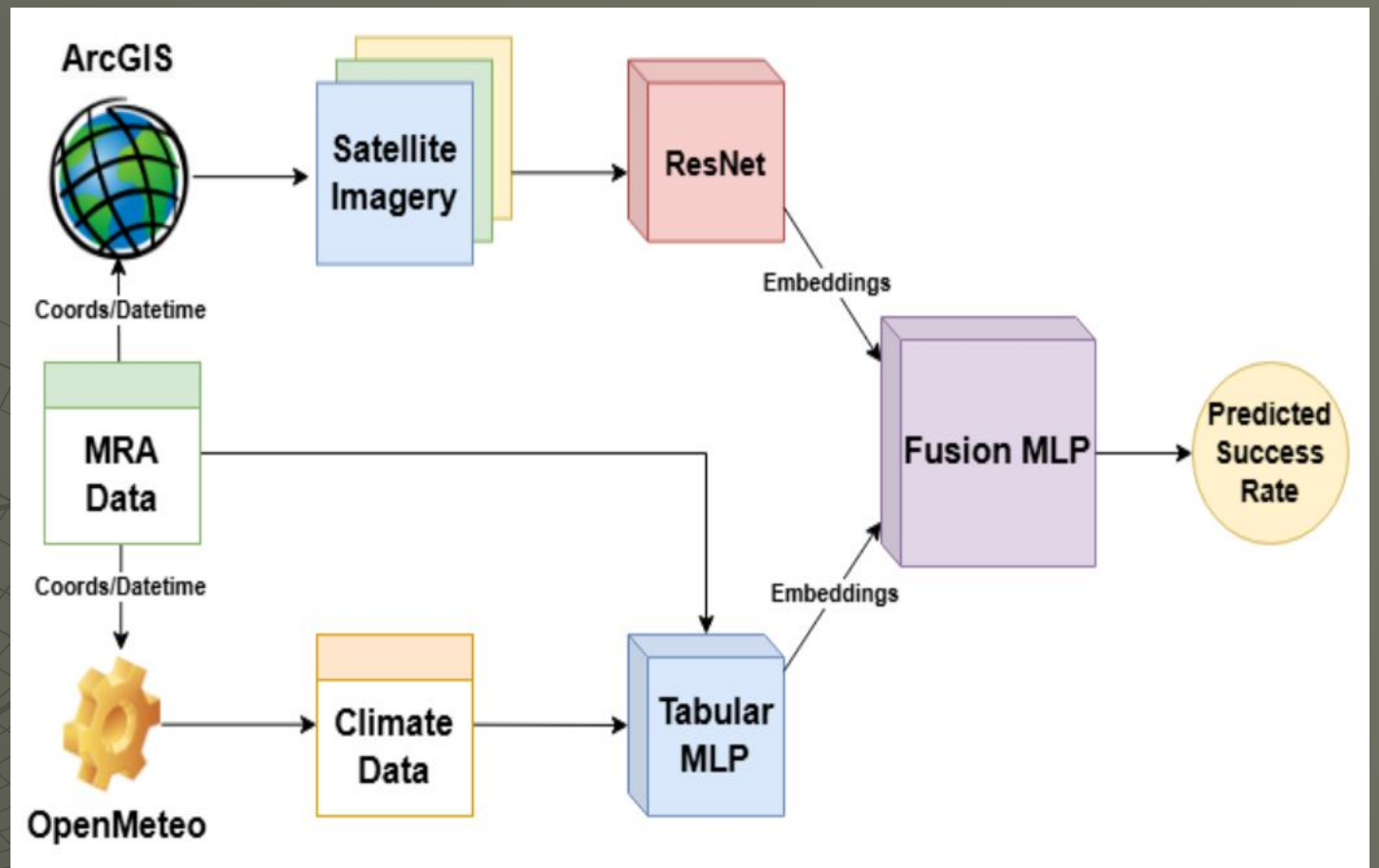


Probability of Finding a Person



SuccSARNet

- ◆ Predicts **success rate** of search and rescue case
- ◆ **Statistical analysis** approach, rather than **predictive modeling**
- ◆ Data split: 14% unsuccessful



Metric	Score
Recall	86%
Precision	75%
Accuracy	74%



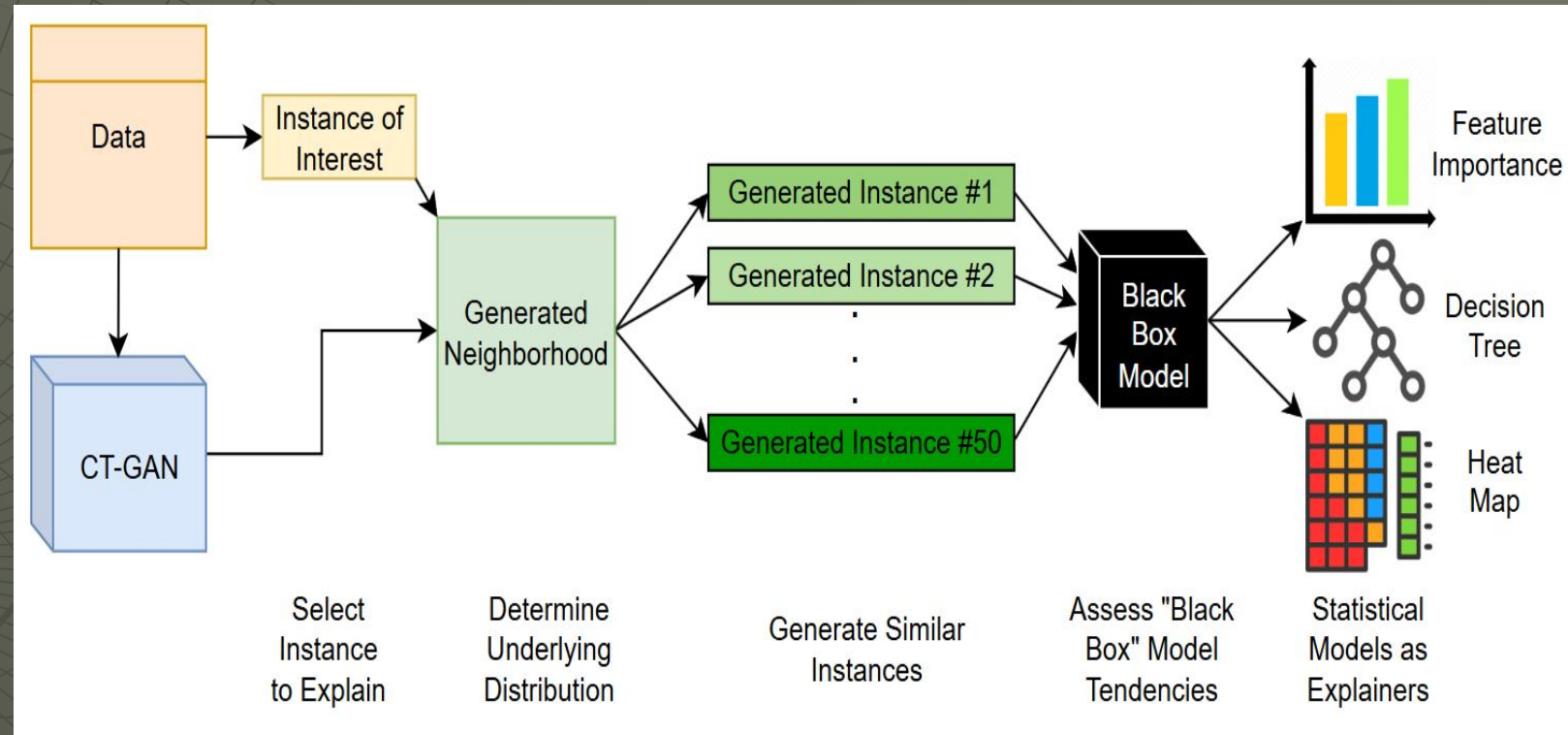
Explainable AI

Brandon Kim (again)

What is Explainable AI

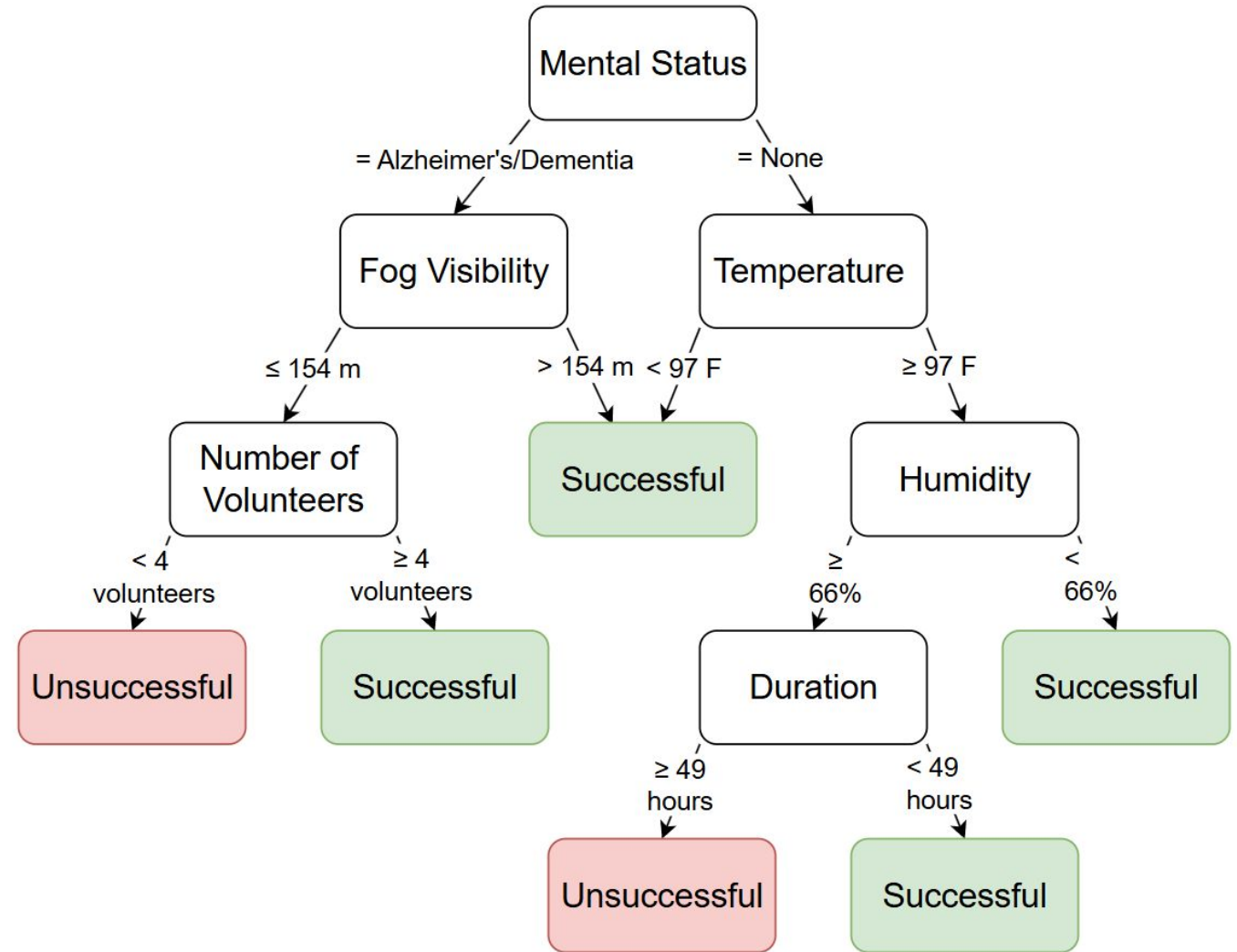
- ◆ Explaining “black box” models, which are inherently **uninterpretable**
- ◆ Utilizes statistical analysis techniques, which are **interpretable**
- ◆ Developed a new **explainer** technique:

Rule-based Explanations for Generated neighborhoods Around Localized cases (REGAL)



Decision Trees Explainers

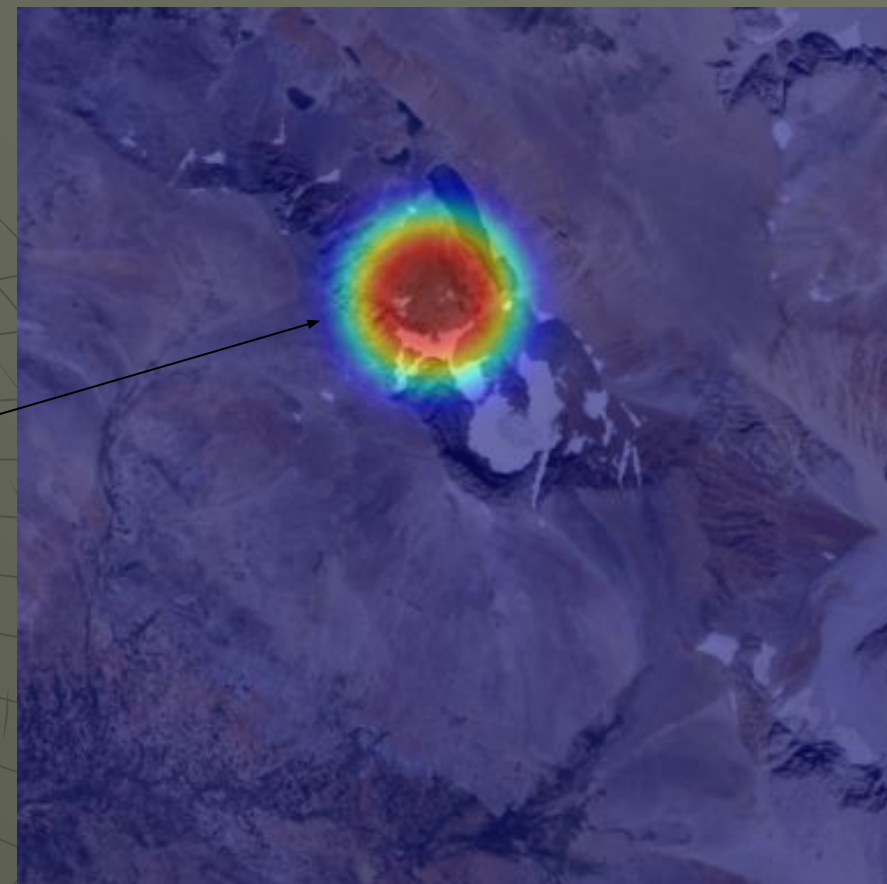
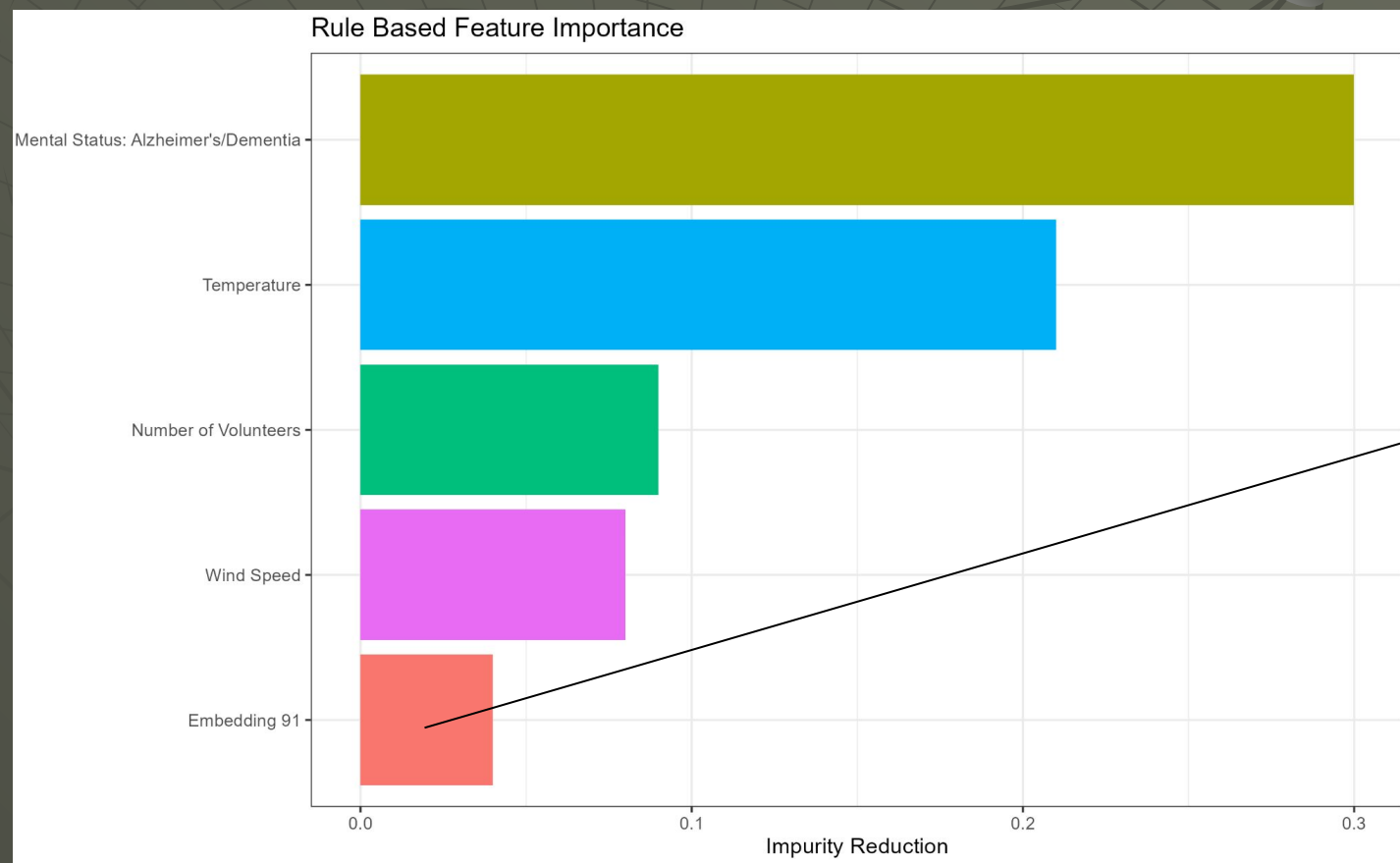
- ◆ Localized decision trees
- ◆ Based on Young (2021)



Feature Importance + Heat Map

Initial Split Candidates

Mapping Embeddings
Via **Grad-CAM**



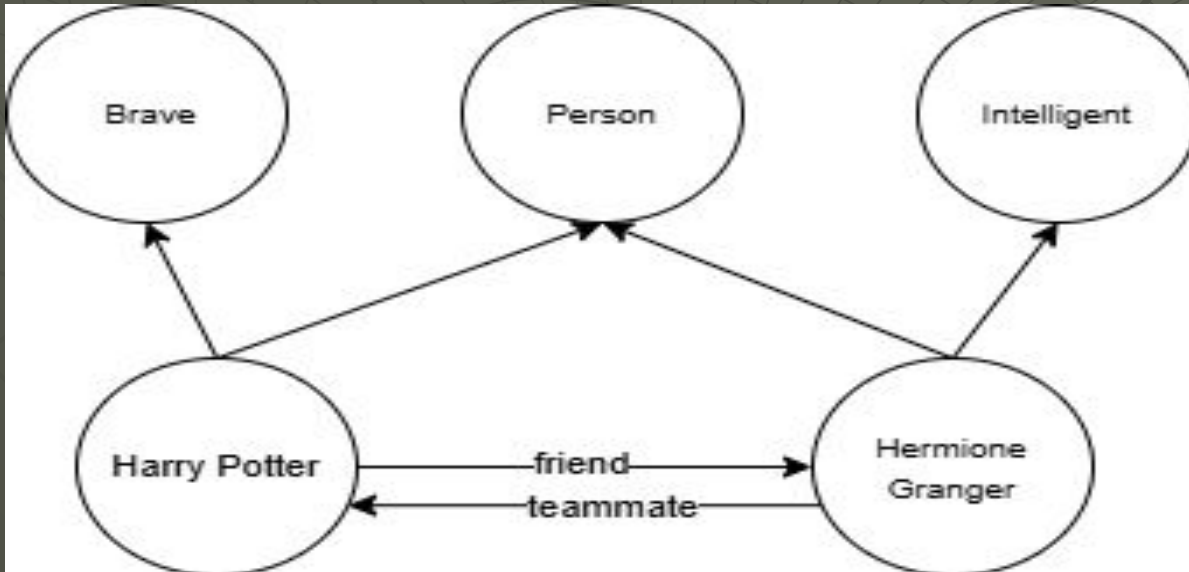
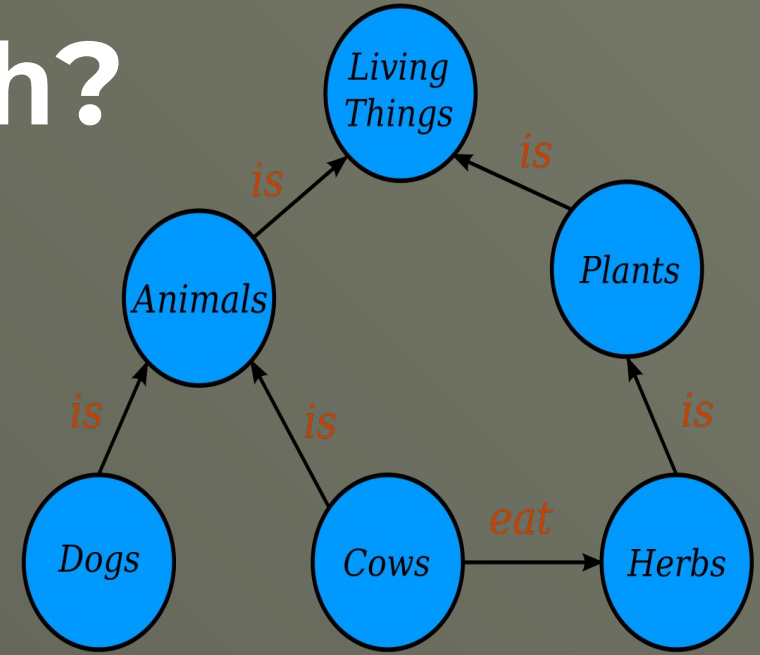


Knowledge Graphs and Large Language Models

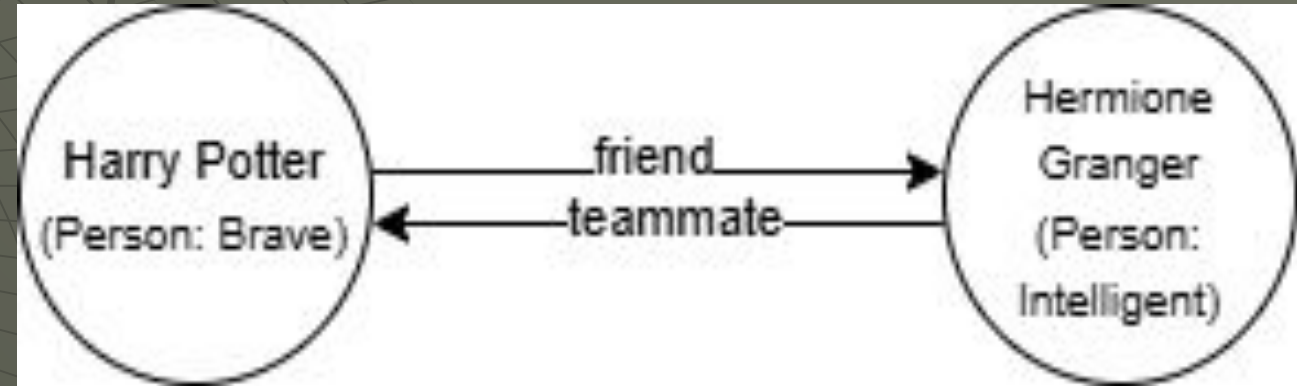
Yayun Tan

What is a Knowledge Graph?

- A knowledge graph is a semantic network composed of nodes (entities) and edges (relationships).
- Two Common Types – Resource Description Framework (RDF) and Labeled Property Graph (LPG)

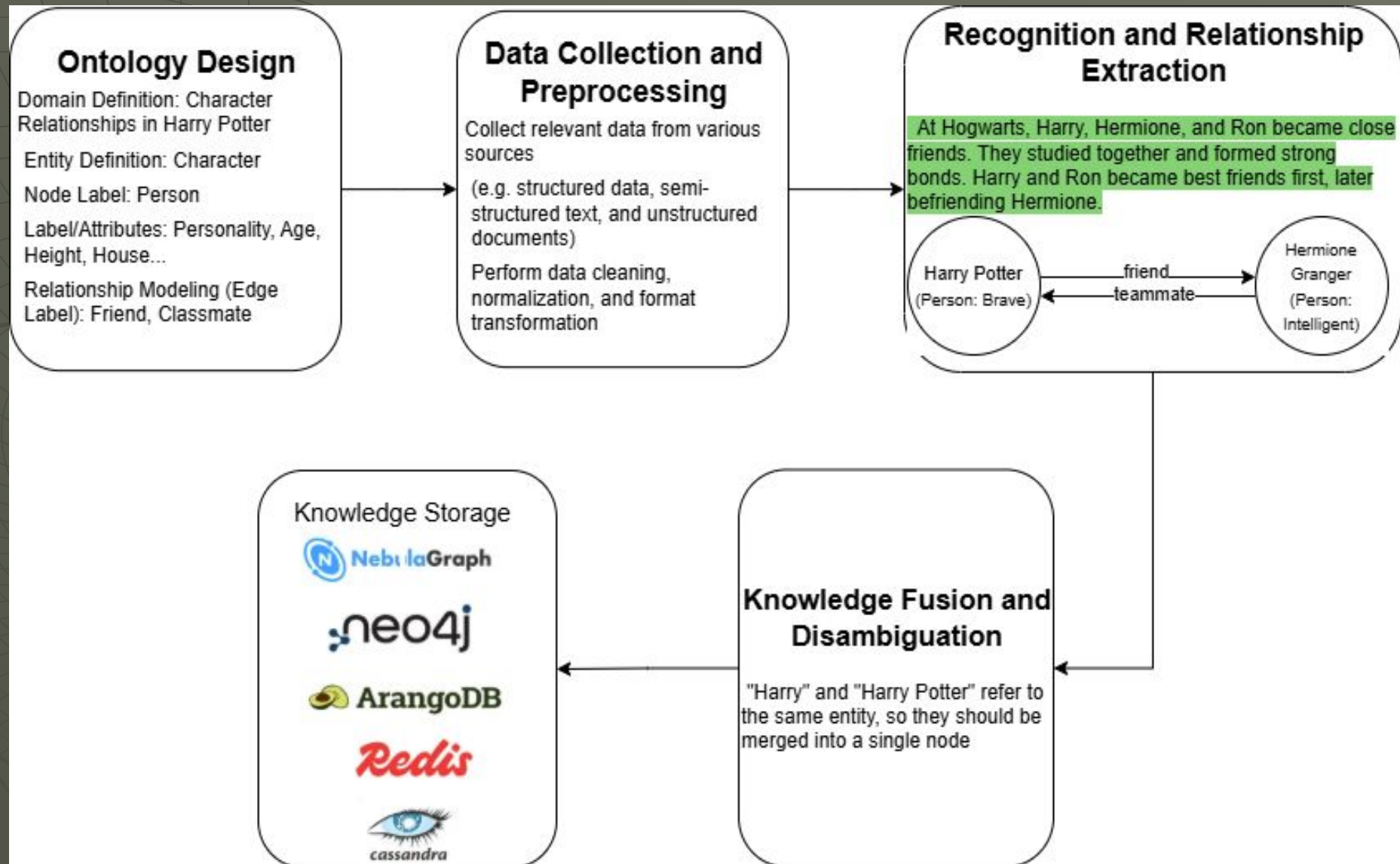


RDF example



LPG example

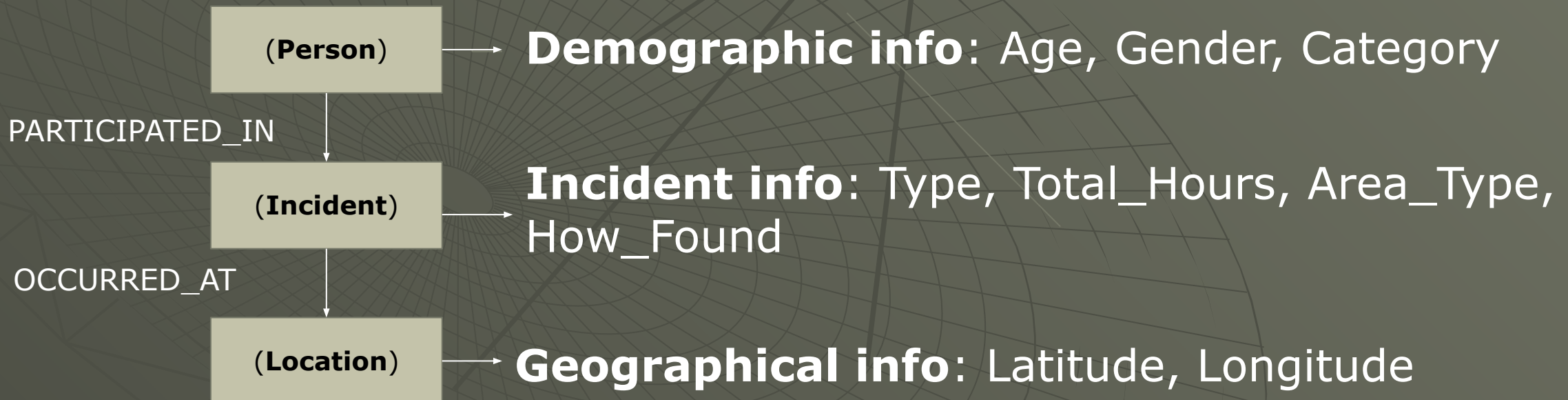
How to Build a Knowledge Graph



Application: SAR Knowledge Graph

- Dataset: ISRID (Koester)

longitude	latitude	globalid	Type	Total_Hours	Area_Type	Category	Age	Gender	How_Found
-79.8548	40.36169	{28F4259E-	SEARCH	5	URBAN	ALZHEIMERS_DEMENTIA	79	MALE	FAMILY/FRIENDS
-80.43129	41.11171	{7228A2A3-	SEARCH	32	RURAL	ALZHEIMERS_DEMENTIA	55	MALE	FAMILY/FRIENDS
-106.5122	39.60306253	{FD50AF14-	SEARCH	1	OTHER	SNOW_SKIING	0	MALE	SELF-RESCUED



Application: Query Example

Find people older than 70 years who were involved in incidents classified as "Alzheimers/Dementia"

```
1 MATCH (p:Person)-[:PARTICIPATED_IN]→(i:Incident)
2 WHERE p.age > 70 AND p.category = "ALZHEIMERS_DEMENTIA"
3 RETURN p.globalid, p.age, p.category, i.type, i.total_hours
4
```

	p.globalid	p.age	p.category	i.type	i.total_hours
1	"{28F4259E-B894-4A59-B611-0E628B492642}"	79	"ALZHEIMERS_DEMENTIA"	"SEARCH"	5
2	"{FDF59CA0-280B-4115-B703-60882219AE6B}"	76	"ALZHEIMERS_DEMENTIA"	"SEARCH"	13
3	"{03C38311-7263-4630-94DC-BA4EE0450986}"	71	"ALZHEIMERS_DEMENTIA"	"SEARCH"	60



Application: KG-Augmented LLM

Method: KG-enhanced Inference

Knowledge Graph Construction: Neo4j

LLM Integration: Gemini 1.5 Flash

User Interface: Gradio

Query Capability: Complex KG-enhanced Queries

Knowledge Graph + LLM Demo

Ask a question about SAR data, and get an answer powered by Knowledge Graphs and LLMs.

user_question

Looking for people missing in Rural areas for more than 24 hours

Clear

Submit

output

Based on the provided data, there were 6 individuals missing in rural areas for more than 24 hours (24 hours = 1440 minutes):

- * Three individuals with Alzheimer's Dementia were missing for 60, 102, and 120 hours respectively.
- * One individual with Alzheimer's Dementia was missing for 412 hours.
- * One individual with Diminished Capacity was missing for 49 hours.
- * One individual with Alzheimer's Dementia was missing for 45 hours.

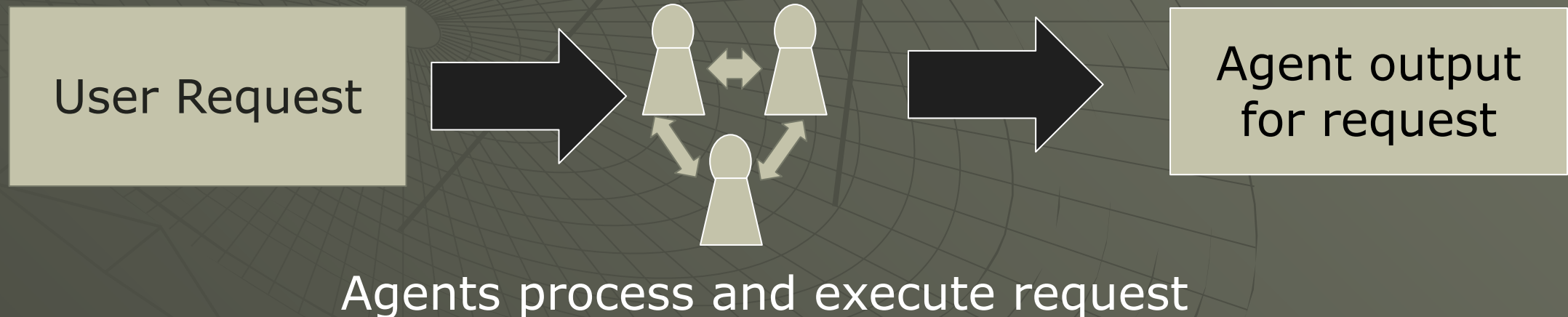


Agentic Design

Brandon Eng, Antonio Chen

What is Agentic Design?

- Agentic design focuses on creating AI agents that can act autonomously toward goals
- These agents follow user instructions, make decisions, and take actions on their own
- Involves combining learning, planning, and reasoning capabilities
- Useful for building systems that adapt and operate with minimal human input

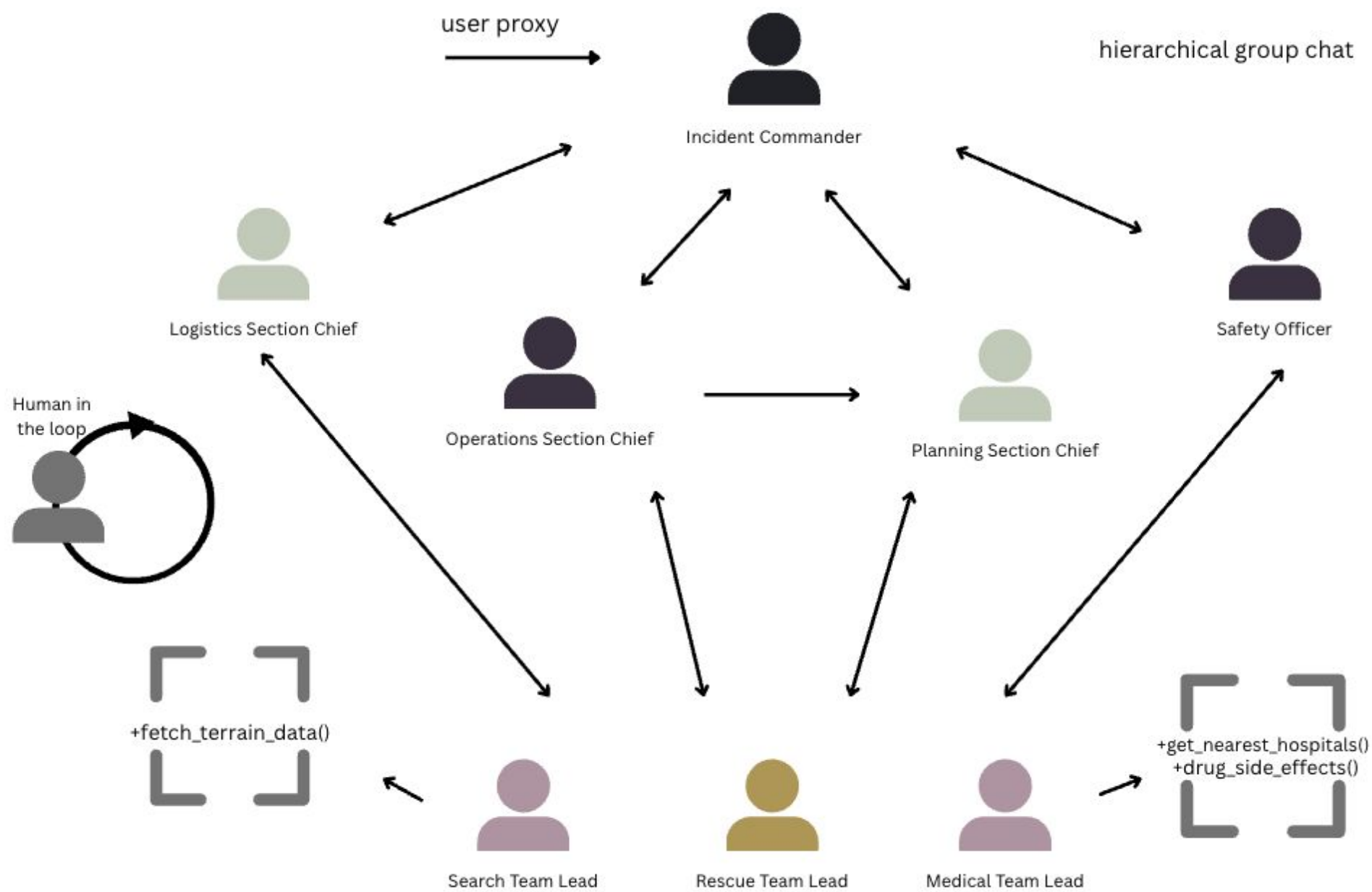


Expected Outcomes

- Improved coordination and workflow efficiency across SAR teams through more intelligent task management
- Reduce manual burden through task automation
- Faster and more informed decision-making
- Offer greater operational support through adaptable, goal-driven AI agents in dynamic environments

SAR Example Agents

- **Incident Commander** - Oversee entire operation
- **Logistics Chief** - Manage equipment and supplies
- **Operations Sections Chief** - Manages all field operations
- **Safety Officer** - Ensure safety protocols are followed
- **Planning Section Chief** - Develop Search strategies
- **Search Team Lead** - Lead search team in field operations
- **Medical Team Lead** - Provide medical care to injured personnel
- **Rescue Team Lead** - Lead rescue team in technical operations



AutoGen

- AutoGen is Microsoft's open-source framework for building multi-agent systems

Why Autogen?

- On demand code generation and execution
- Asynchronous, event-driven architecture
- Context aware agent selection
- Greater customizability options
- Human-agent collaboration



Future Work

- Adaptive agents that learn from missions
- Real-time collaboration between multiple agents
- Context-aware decision support in crises
- Personalize agents for different SAR roles and environments



Usability Testing

Emi Dinh, Brian Mai

Usability Testing

- Understand how real users interact with a system
- Identify pain points
- Improve the experience before it's too late
- Ensure platform is working as intended and free from bugs

Please Stop By Our Booth and Give Us Your Feedback!!

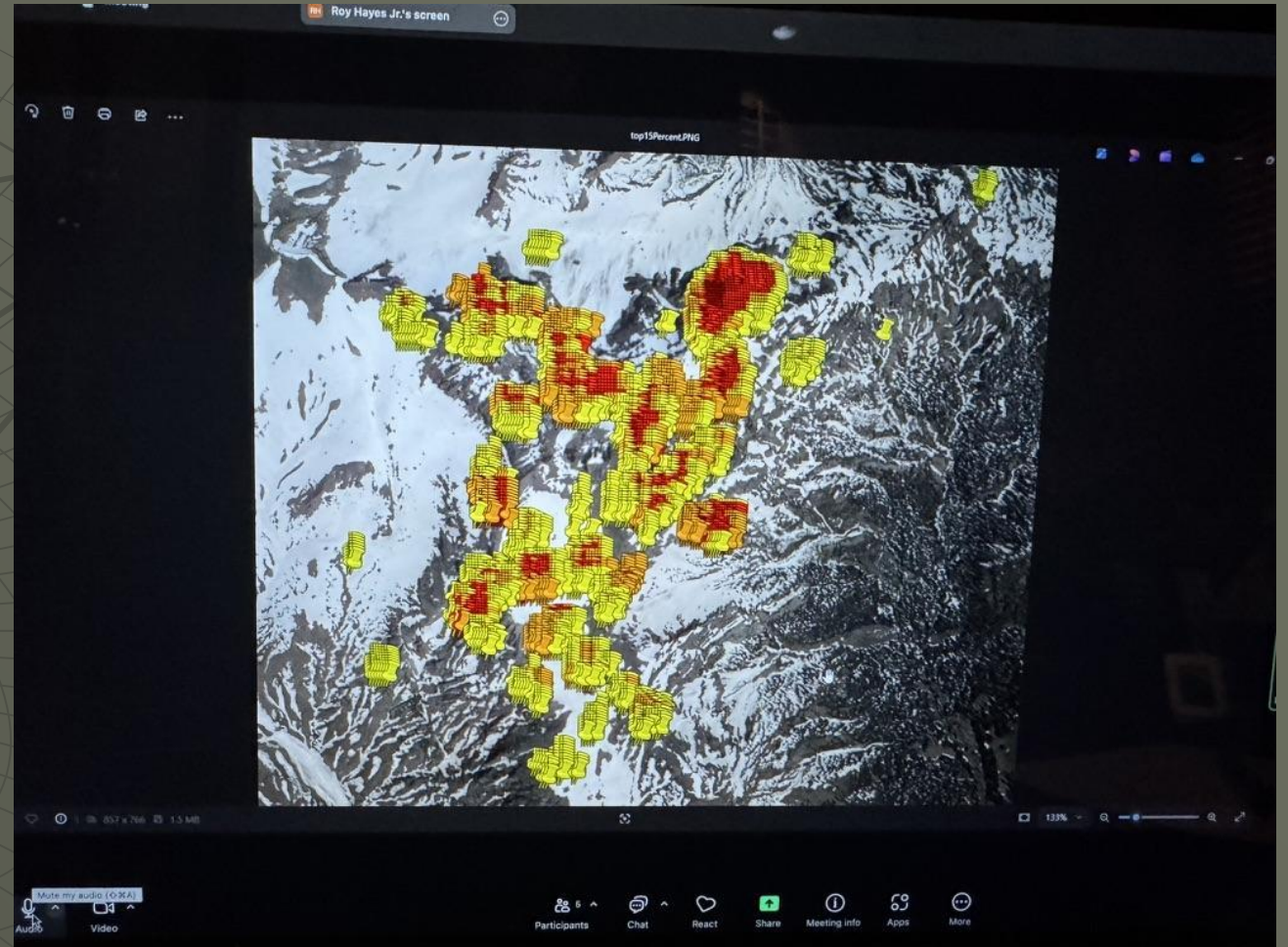


Other Research and Wrap-up

Chris Young

US Air Force – locating downed pilots

- Air Force funded project in Virginia, Dr. Roy Hayes, System Engineering, Inc.
- Based off of same underlying research that our deep learning team is using
- Predicts search areas and generates a heat map
- Based primarily on geospatial data and the “missing pilot” profile



SAR Technology, Inc

- Canada based company supporting SAR missions
- Similar management platform
- Familiar NIMS and Canada based search models and forms

<https://sartechnology.ca/>

[Introduction](#)

 **'Incident Commander Pro'** 

[Overview](#)



INCIDENT COMMANDER
Management Tools for Search, Rescue and Emergency Response

[Program Overview](#)

- Manage Search, Rescue & Emergency missions!
- Plan and Protect People and Infrastructure.
- Real-time Satellite Tracking of People & Equipment.
- Local and Remote Messaging, including SOS/Help.
- Monitor Responder Safety: Tracking & Messages.
- Real-Time 'Live' Mission Maps & Status Displays.
- Seamlessly Manage People, Information & Resources.
- Create Response Plans for Immediate Activation.
- Integrated Planning Information, Data & Images.
- Enhanced Network-Capability for Multi-Users.
- Extensive Reporting, Importing and Exporting.
- Familiar NIMS / Incident Command structure.



INCIDENT COMMANDER
Management Tools for Search, Rescue and Emergency Response

[Program Features](#)

- With Remote Messaging and SOS/Help 
- With Real-Time GPS Tracking 



 - 'Incident Commander Pro' Features - 

Features	Overview	Planning	Mapping	 Tracking	Downloads	Videos
What's New	Sales	Demos	Support	Training	 Global Earth	Multi-Platform Connectivity
Barcode	Command Post	 Cloud Package	Mapping Tools	 Tactical Symbols	 Tactical Symbols	Knowledge Base
Pre-Plans	Response	 Travel & Drift	 Sound Sweep	 Planning Data	Networking	



 **'Incident Commander Pro'**



**Mission Management
GPS-Tracking Software**

Additional Projects.....

- New Zealand, Terrain-Based Probability Modelling for Advanced SAR Operations in Aotearoa New Zealand
- Evaluation of terrain characteristics influencing the likelihood of locating the missing person



Acknowledgments

- **Computing Resources** provided by National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA)
 - **NCSA ACCESS** through project “Artificial Intelligence in Search and Rescue” (CIS240458)
- **Microsoft Azure** Educational & Research Grant
- International Search & Rescue Incident Database (ISRID) **ISRID Dataset** access courtesy of Dr. Robert Koester

Moving IntelliSAR from Research to Production

- Move from private funding to production funding
- Move from donated capacity to production capacity
- Commercial ownership required for 24-hour support, long term development, marketing and distribution

Question and Answer

- After Hour Discussion and Q&A
- Time: 5:15 - 6:15 PM this evening
- Location: Melrose 3
- Also, posters and developers at our booth

Questions ?

