A cosmic background image featuring a dense field of stars and bright, colorful streaks of light (star trails) in shades of purple, blue, and white, radiating from a central point, creating a sense of depth and movement.

A Psychological Theory of Explainability

Scott Cheng-Hsin Yang*, Tomas Folke* & Patrick Shafto

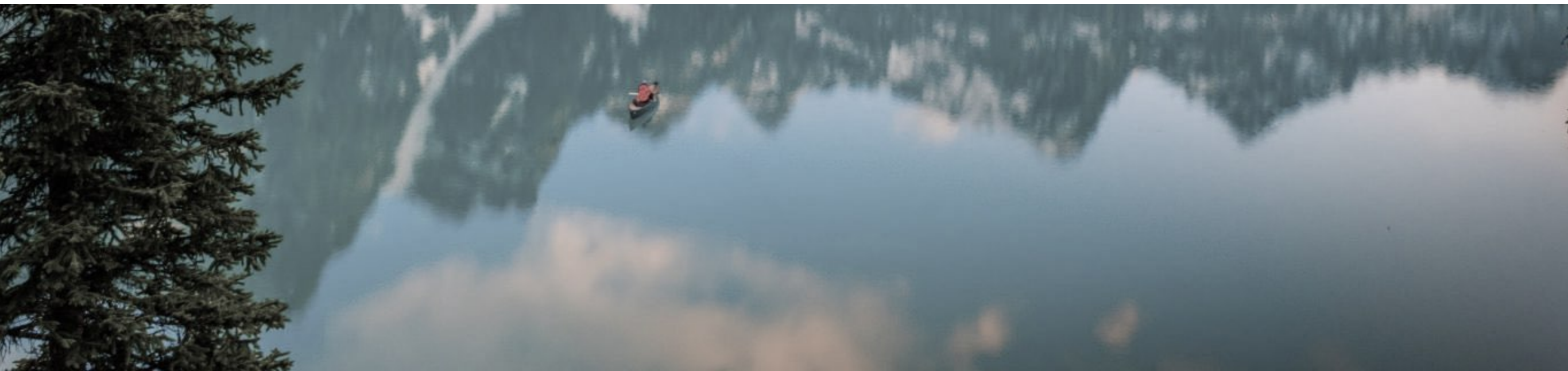
*equal contribution

The goal of eXplainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) is to make AI decision **understandable to humans**.

- ✓ Techniques to generate explanations
- ✓ Analysis of the techniques
- ✓ Validation of the techniques
- ✗ How humans interpret the explanations given

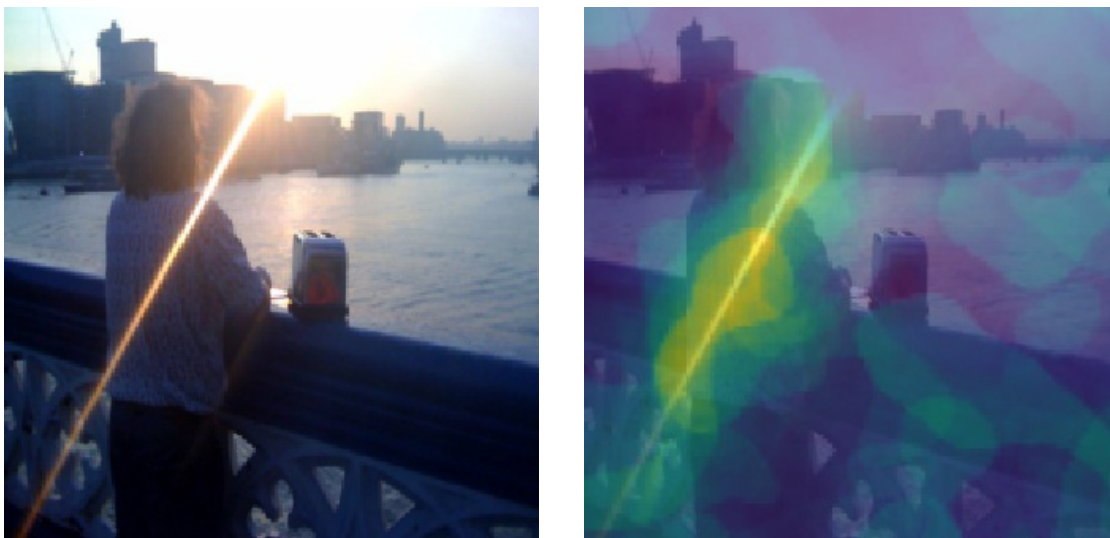


**Humans project their beliefs onto the AI;
thus, they interpret the explanation provided
by comparing it to the explanations that
they themselves would give.**



Example trial
(Explanation condition)

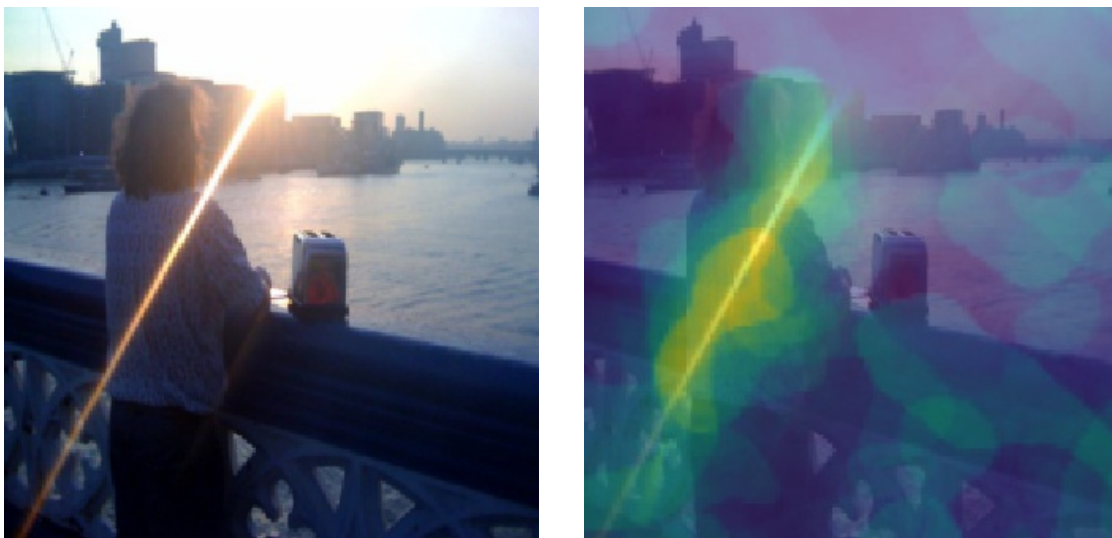
**Which category you think the robot
will classify the image as?**



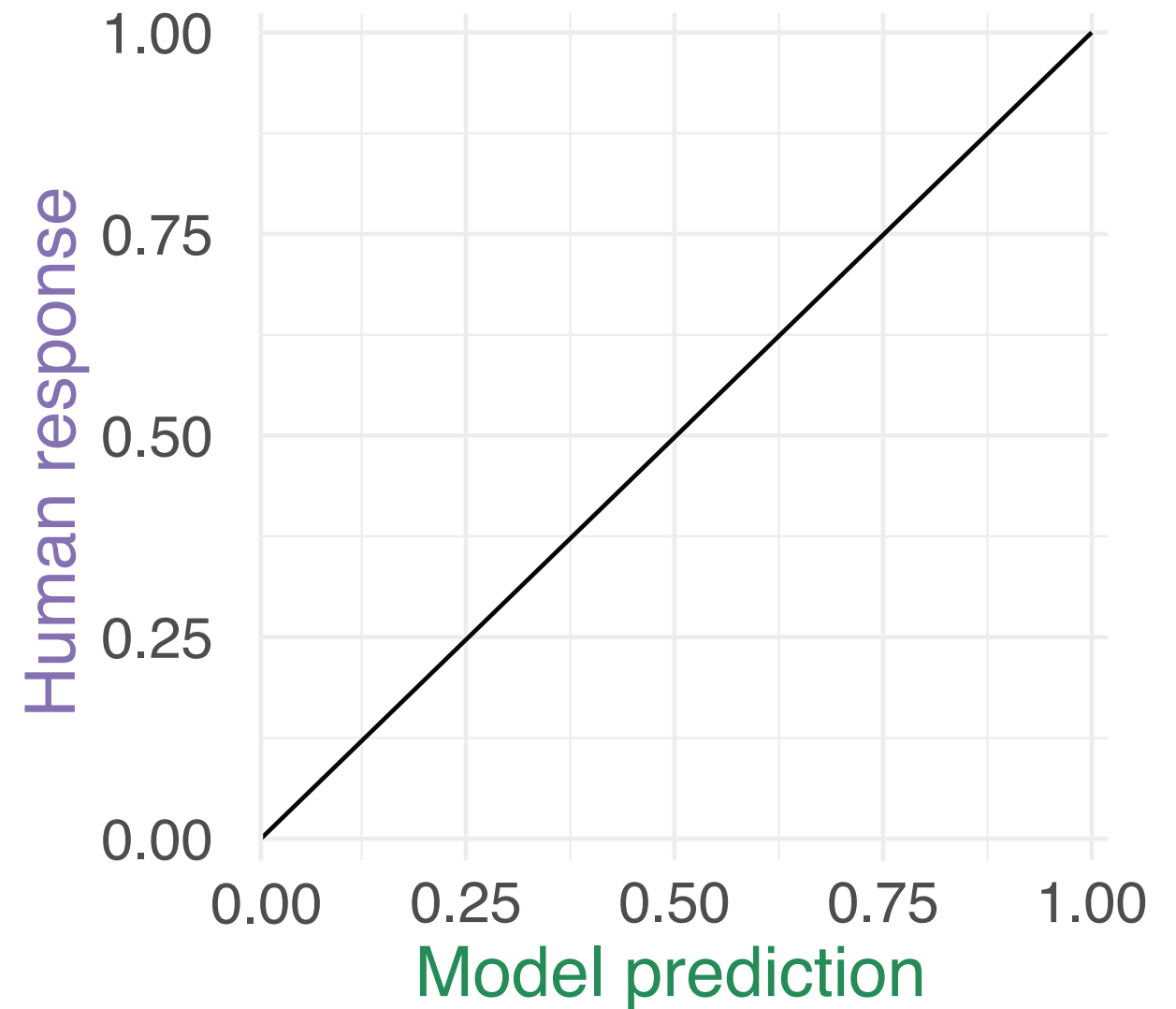
**Toaster
Quill**

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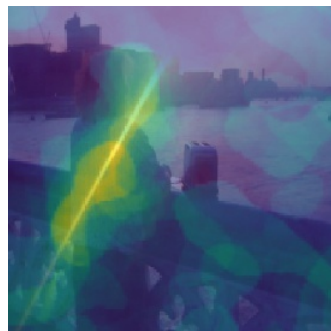
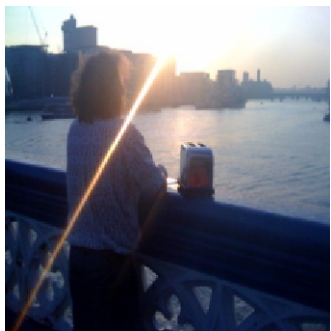
Posterior

Prior

Likelihood

$$P(c \mid \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{x}) \propto P(c \mid \mathbf{x}) p(\mathbf{e} \mid c, \mathbf{x})$$

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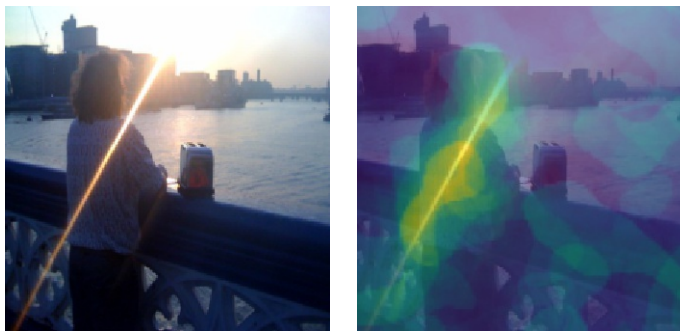
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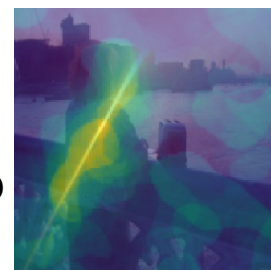
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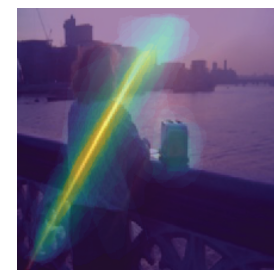


Toaster
Quill

Obs
map



Self
map



$$\text{sim}[\mathbf{e}(c, \mathbf{x}), \mathbf{e}'(c, \mathbf{x})] = \frac{\langle \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{e}' \rangle}{\|\mathbf{e}\|_2 \|\mathbf{e}'\|_2}$$

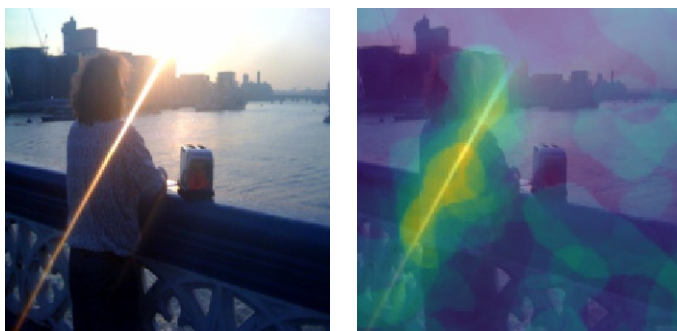
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Likelihood

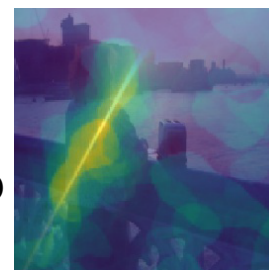
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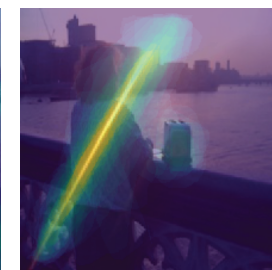


Toaster
Quill

Obs
map



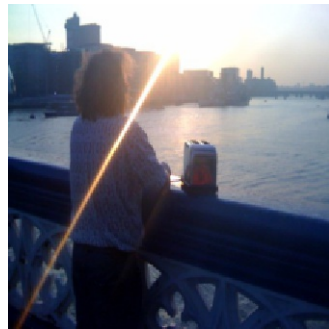
Self
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$$\text{sim}[\mathbf{e}(c, \mathbf{x}), \mathbf{e}'(c, \mathbf{x})] = \frac{\langle \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{e}' \rangle}{\|\mathbf{e}\|_2 \|\mathbf{e}'\|_2}$$

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Toaster
Quill

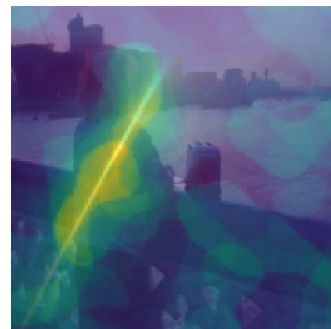
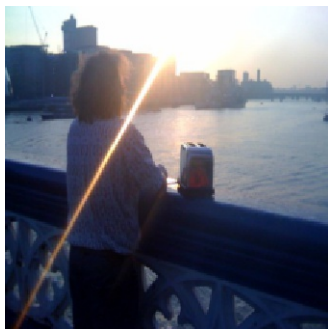
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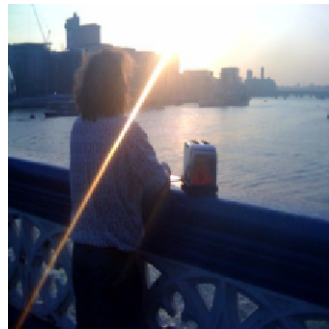


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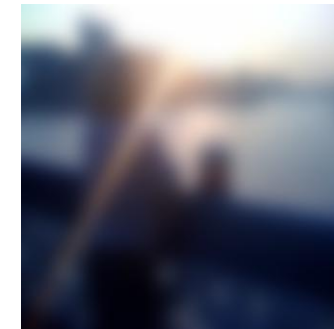
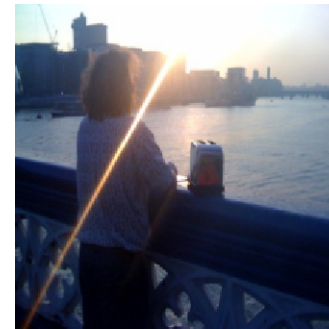
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Toaster
Quill

Enclose the critical regions for classifying this image as Quill



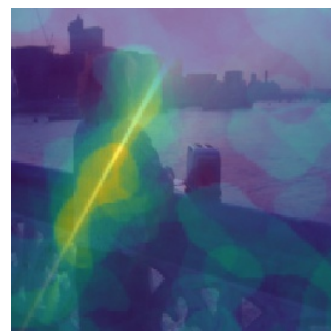
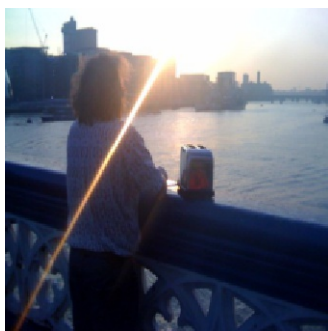
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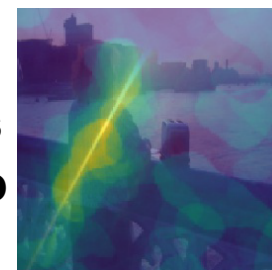
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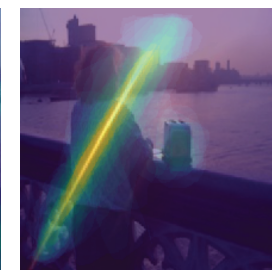


Toaster
Quill

Obs
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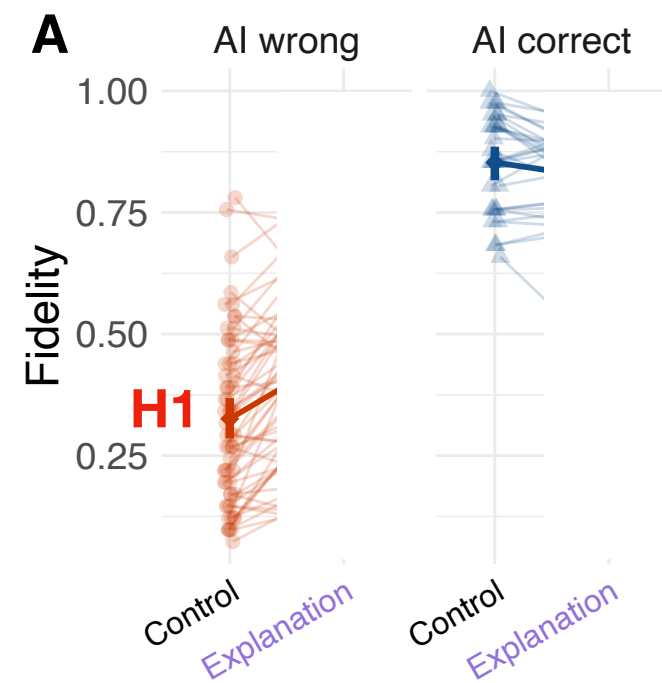
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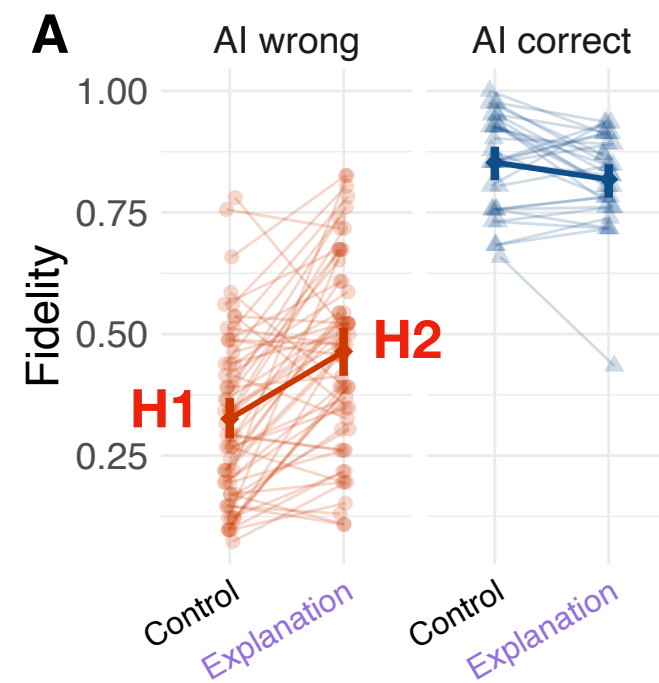
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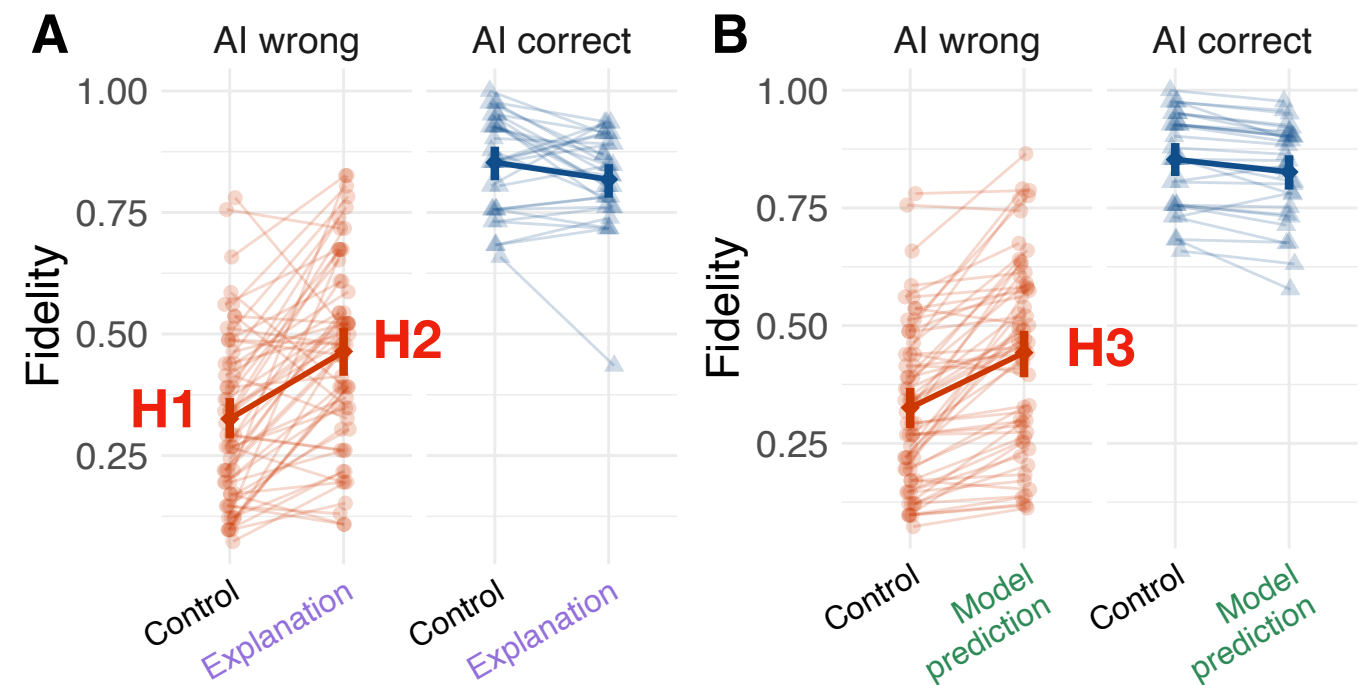
1. Participants will project their own beliefs onto the AI, resulting in low fidelity between human beliefs and AI behavior for trials when the AI is wrong.



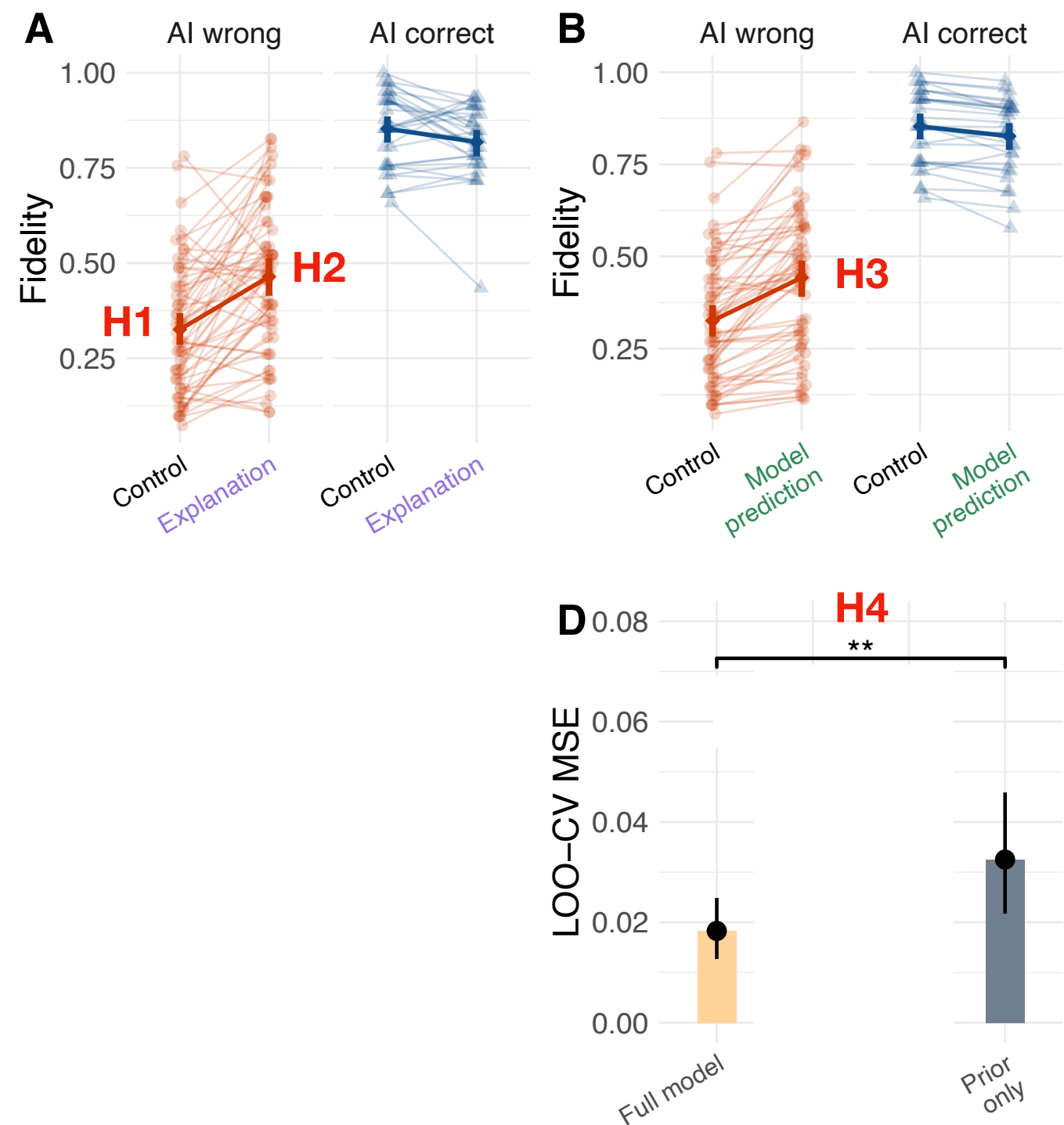
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2. Good explanations increase fidelity, especially when the original fidelity is low (when AI is wrong).



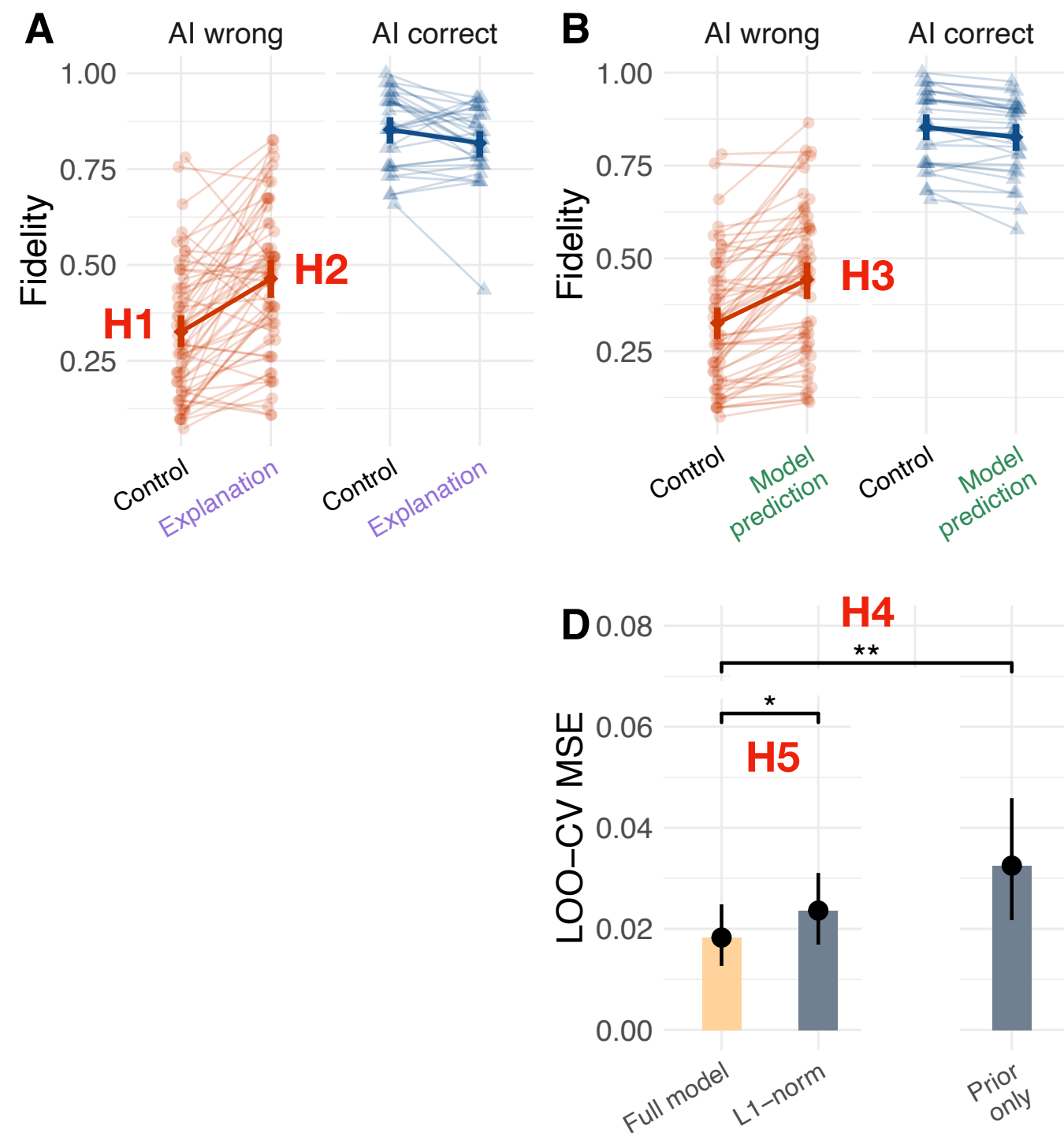
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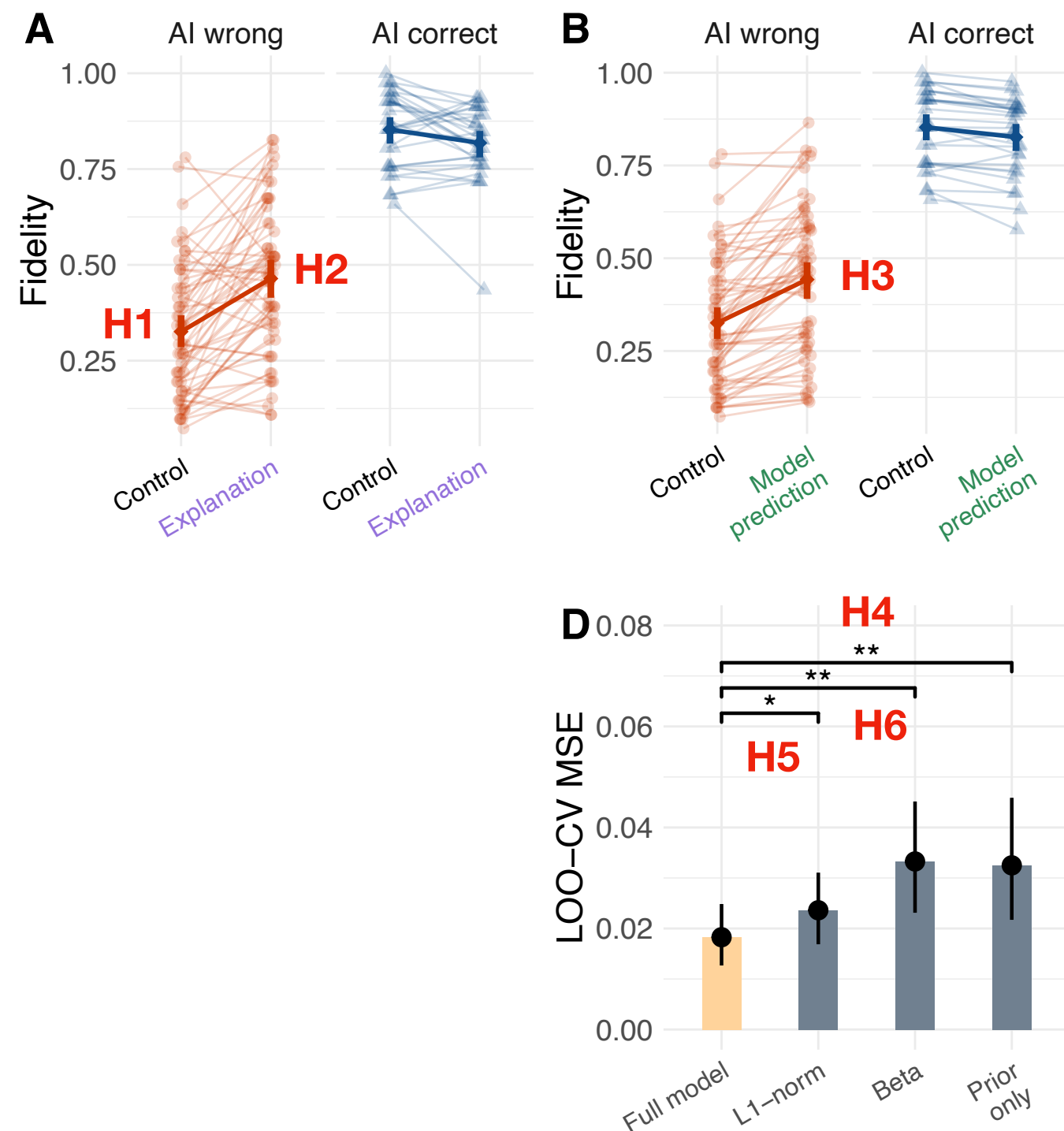
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7. The theory predicts human response well across a wide range of stimuli, classes, and explanations.

