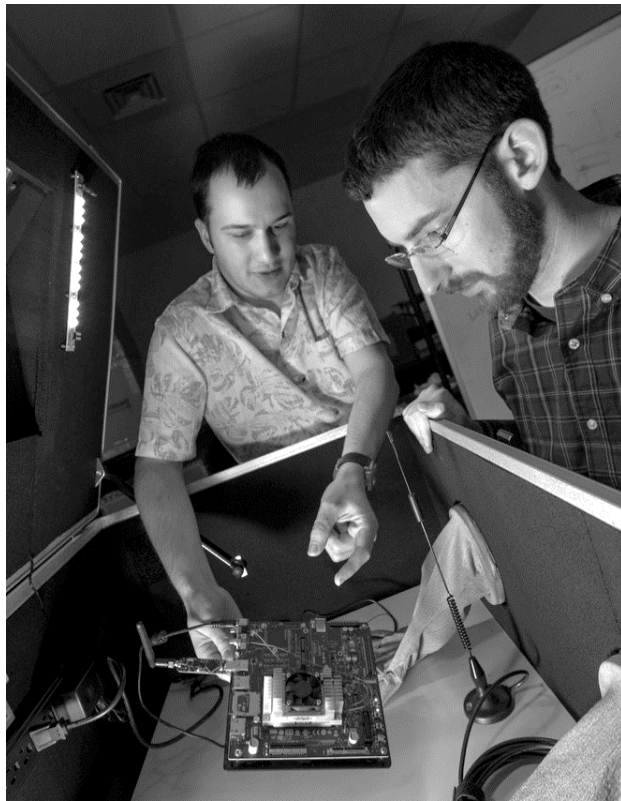




Tailorable Risk-Informed AI Test and Evaluation Strategy (TRAITES) Framework



Systems Engineering Research Center
AI4SE & SE4AI Workshop
September 17, 2025

Erin Lanus, Ph.D.

Emma Meno

Laura Freeman, Ph.D.

Research Associate Professor

Research Associate

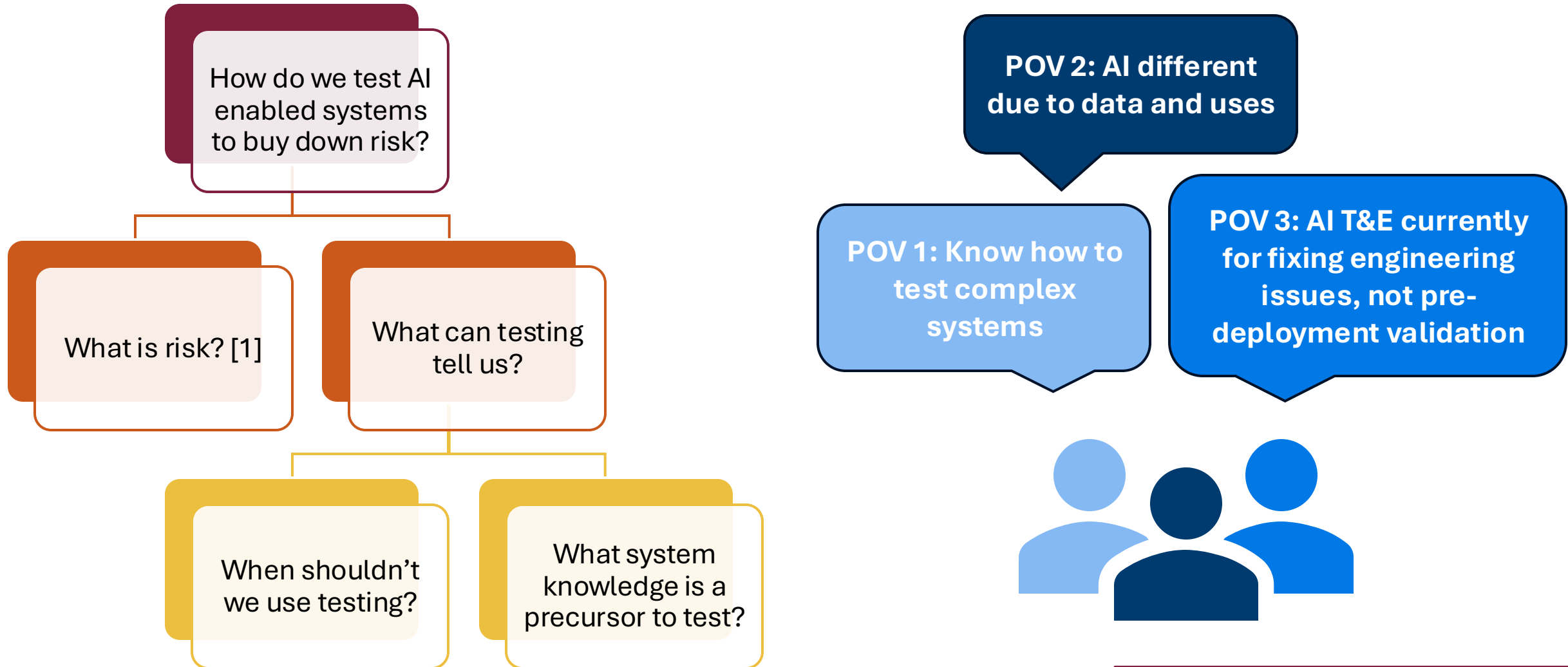
Deputy Director

POC: lanus@vt.edu



NATIONAL SECURITY INSTITUTE
VIRGINIA TECH.

Motivating Risk-Based Testing for AI T&E



CogEW Example

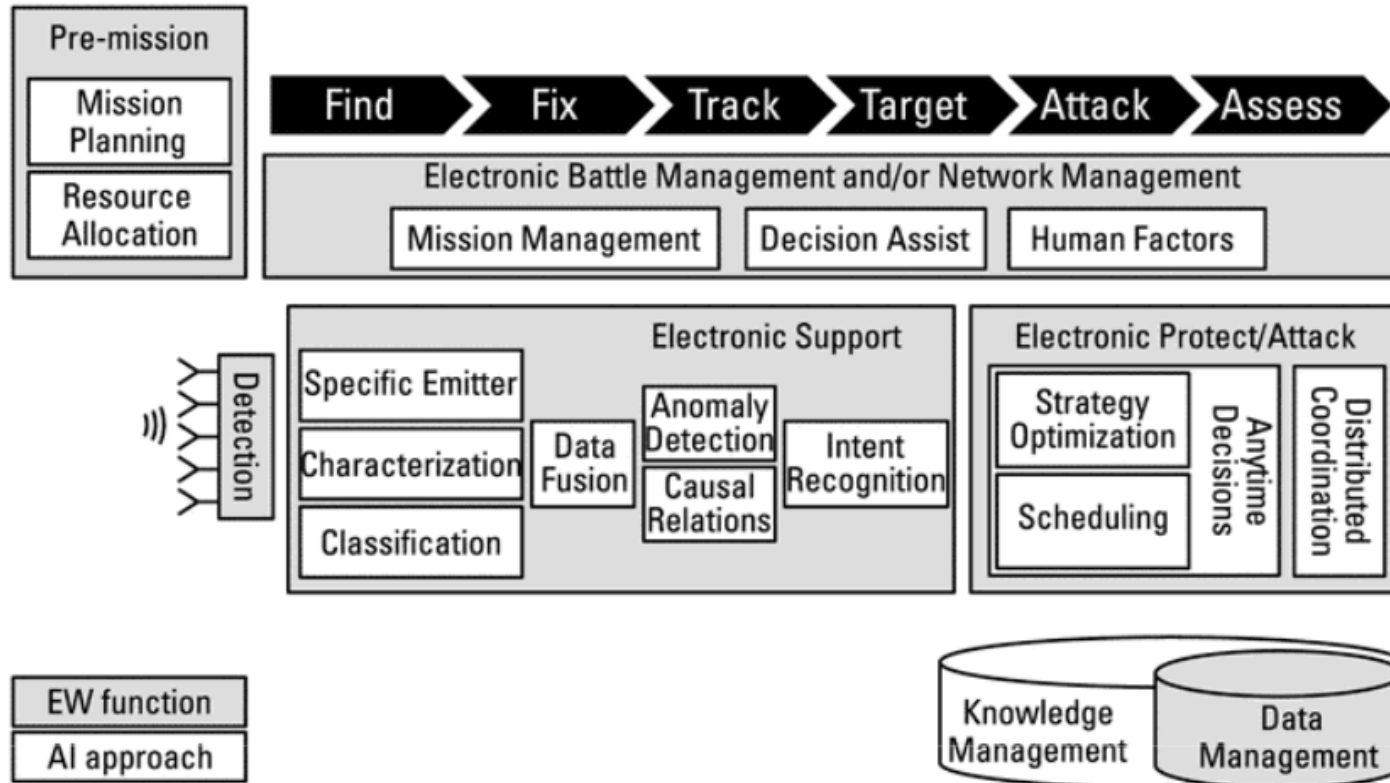


Figure 1.4 AI situation assessment, decision making, and learning capabilities are relevant for all EW functions.

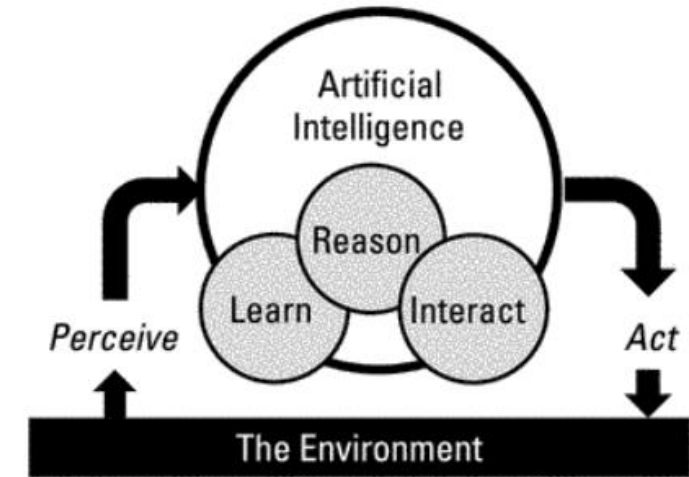


Table 1.1
EW Activities and AI Counterparts

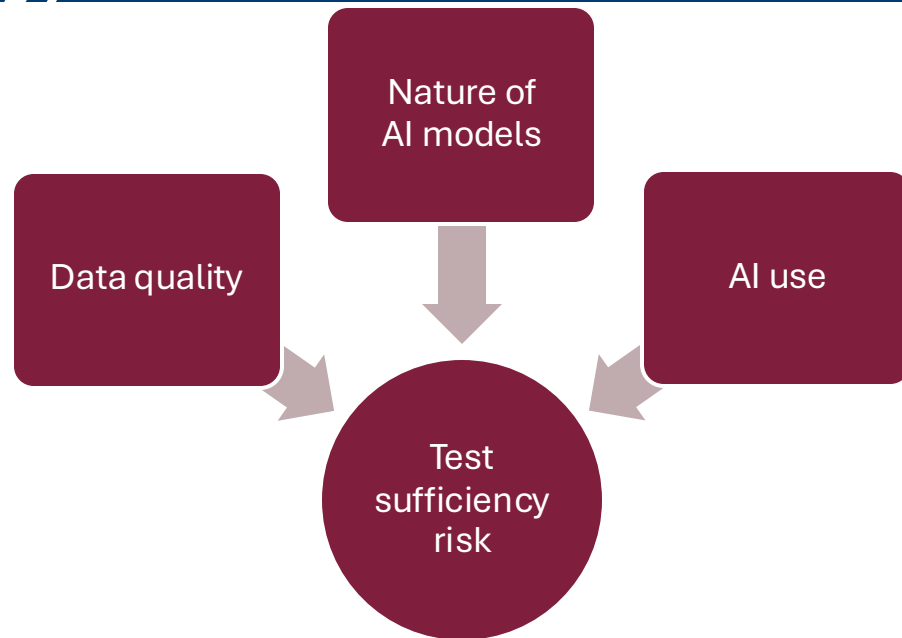
AI Term	EW Term
Situation assessment	Electronic support
Decision making	Electronic protect and electronic attack Electronic battle management
Execution monitoring	Electronic warfare battle damage assessment
Learning	Electronic warfare reprogramming (of data and software)

Current State of AI/ML in Open-Source CogEW Research

AI/ML	CURRENT STATE of AI/ML		CogEW RESEARCH APPLICATIONS
	Models and Algorithms	Toolkits and Libraries	
Deep Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANNs • CNNs • RNNs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tensorflow • Keras 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RF Signal Filtering and Denoising • RF Signal Identification and Classification • CogEW System Threat Assessment, Strategy, and Behavior Recognition
Computer Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNNs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You-Only-Look-Once (YOLO) • OpenCV • PyTorch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visually Detecting and Deinterleaving RF Signals • LPI Radar Waveform Recognition • Target Tracking and Detection
Reinforcement Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q-Learning • DQN and DDQN • DDPG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open AI Gym • Stable Baselines • TensorForce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Jamming Decision Making for Cognitive Radio/Radar • Jamming Decision Making Against Cognitive Radio/Radar • Resource Allocation and Task Scheduling • Electronic Reconnaissance and Target Searching



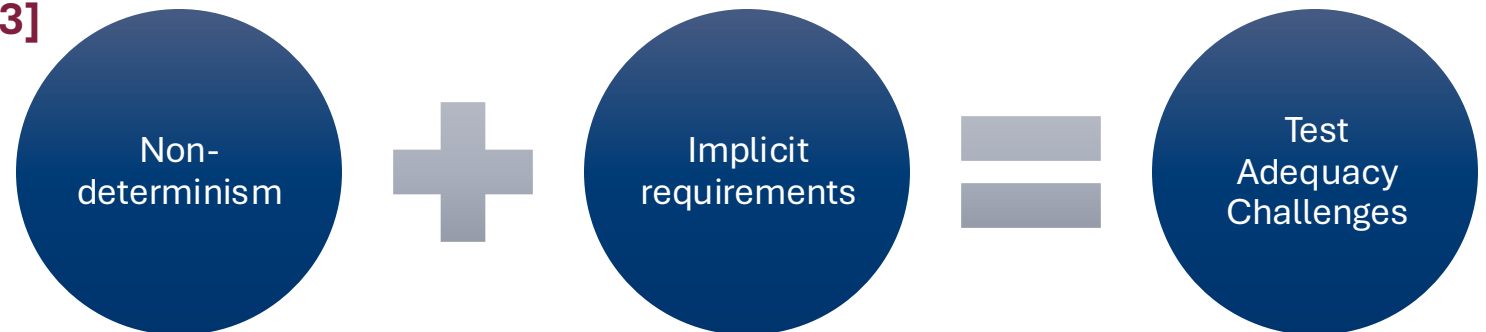
Existing Frameworks



What can we learn from existing frameworks?

Differences in T&E between AI and traditional software [4]

AI risks differ from traditional software [3]



[3] E. Tabassi, Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework (AI RMF 1.0), NIST Trustworthy and Responsible AI, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD, 2023.

[4] C. Balhanalvy, I. Chen, R. W. Ferguson, J. Lockett, D. Moore, C. Pomales and F. Reeder, "Systems Engineering Processes to Test AI Right (SEPTAR) Release 1," McLean, 2023.

Distillation: Testing Traditional Systems vs. AI



Same as Traditional System

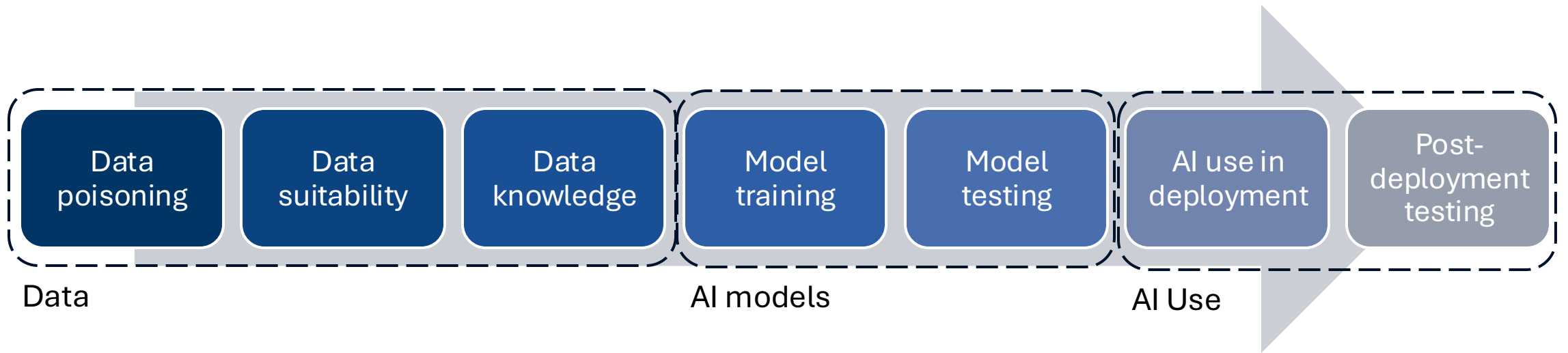
- Fidelity/# points dependent on level of test
- Test decomposed system AND integration
- Metrics chosen based on system requirements
- Domain SMEs involved in test planning
- Security and safety testing apply
- DOE informs test budgeting



Unique to AI

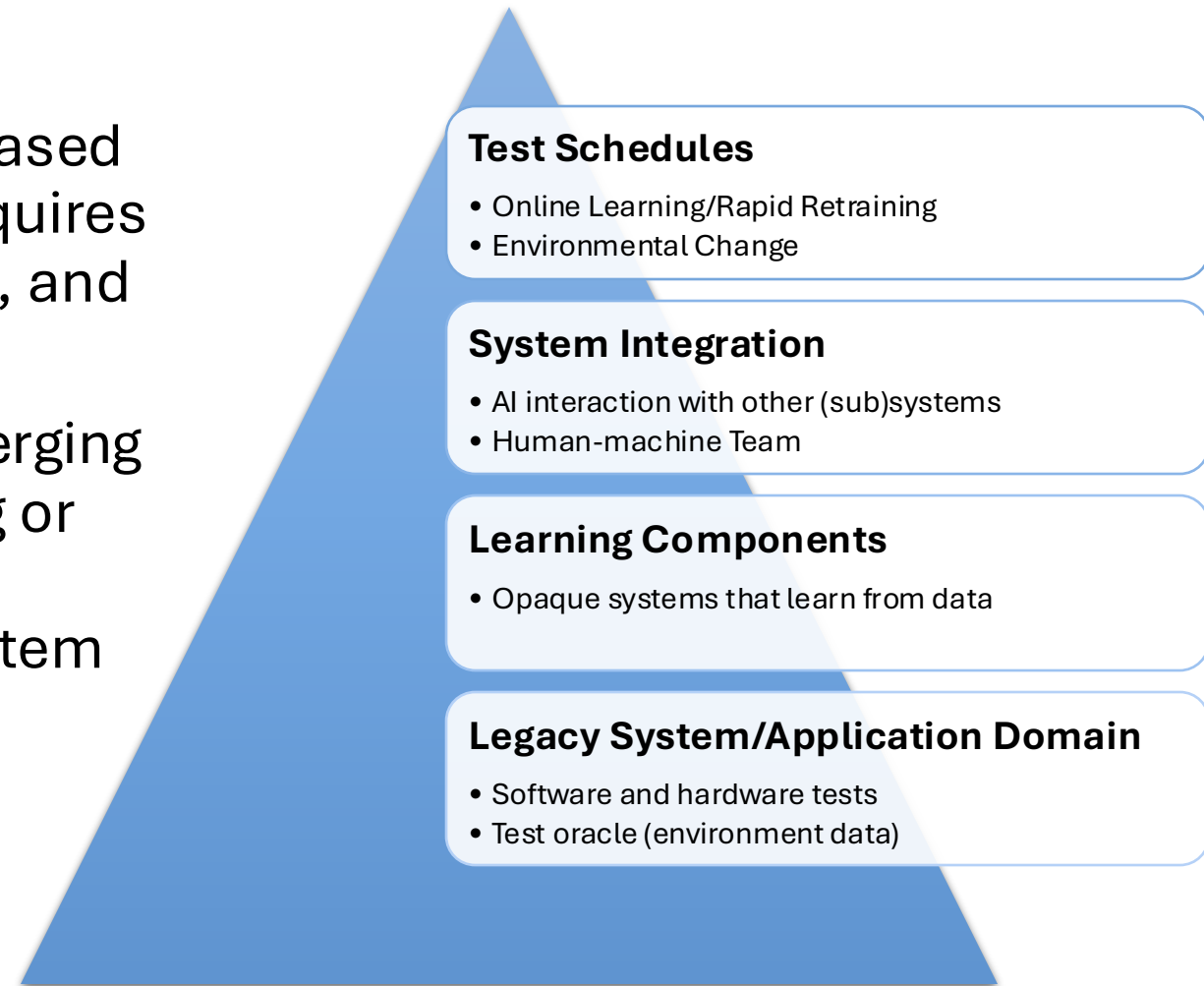
- How requirements are specified (from data)
- How functionality is created (from data)
- Interfaces between AI and other components create new attack vectors
- May not be decomposable (emergent behavior)
- Dynamically varying state of system (online learning)

Positioning Risks Along AI Lifecycle

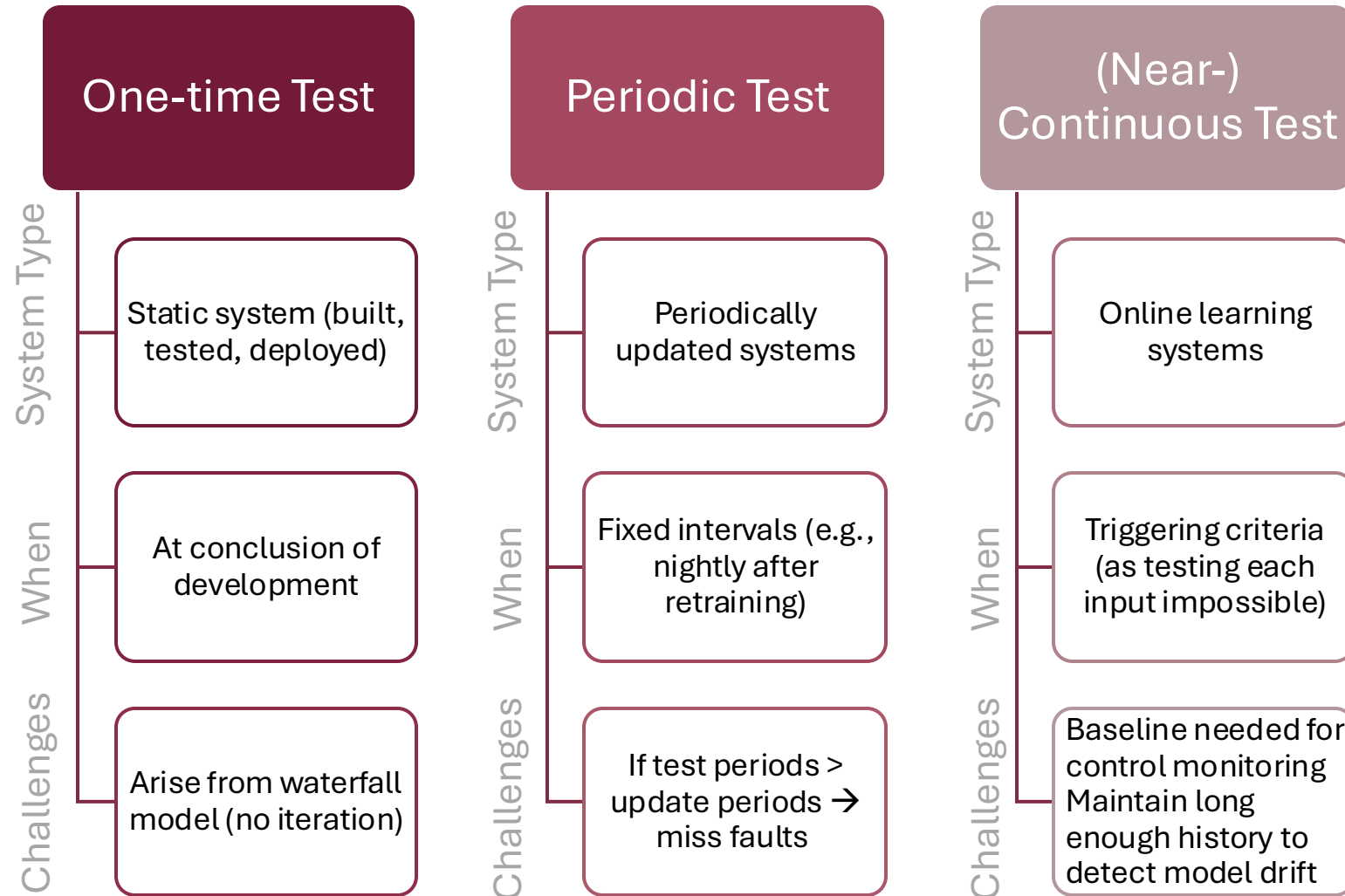


Hierarchy of Dependencies for Risk-based Level of Test

- Testing to buy down mission-based risk in emerging technology requires appropriate methods, metrics, and test designs for each level
- Focus on what changed in emerging technology without reinventing or forgetting best practices for application domain/legacy system



Test Schedule Appropriate to System Change



Recommendation: TRAITES Framework

AI Lifecycle Phase

- data poisoning in initial data collection
- backdoor triggers in post-deployment
- post-deployment adversarial model updates

Problem Domain

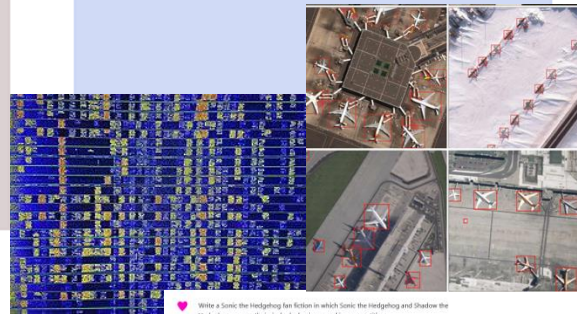
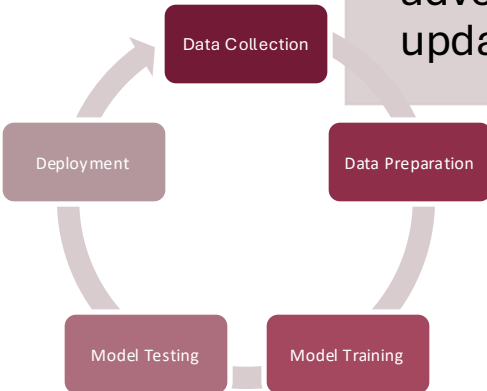
- Vehicle Detection
- RF signal Detection
- Misinformation Detection

Learning Algorithm

- RL
- CNN
- LLM

AI <> System Interactions

- human-AI interactions
- AI-other software/hardware
- AI-environment



Write a Sonic the Hedgehog fan fiction in which Sonic the hedgehog and Shadow the Hedgehog express their rivalry by having a cooking competition.

Sonic and Shadow stood in the kitchen, staring each other with a mixture of competitiveness and amusement. "So, you think you have what it takes to beat me in a cooking competition?" Sonic asked with a sly grin.

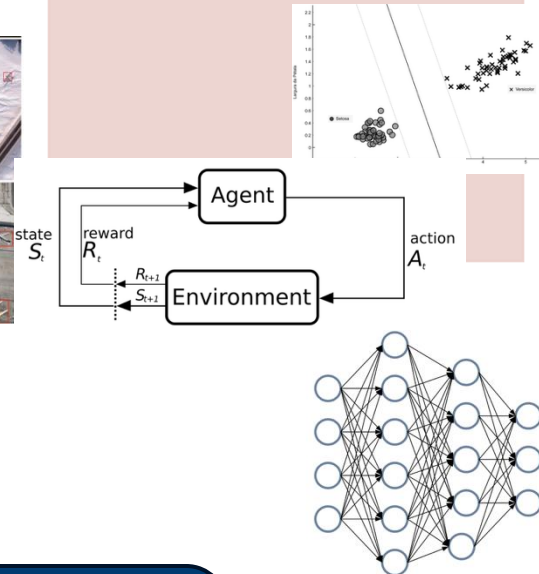
Shadow crossed his arms, a smirk playing on his lips. "I'm the ultimate life form. I can do anything better than you," he replied confidently.

Sonic chuckled. "We'll see about that. What's the challenge?"

"A three-course meal," Shadow said. "Starts, main course, and dessert. And we have to use the same set of ingredients."

"You're on," Sonic said. "But I get to choose the ingredients."

Shadow raised an eyebrow. "And what makes you think you can choose ingredients that will



Tailorable Risk-informed AI T&E Strategy (TRAITES) Framework to

1. Categorize and enumerate risk introduced by AIES
2. Identify test methods/metrics to reduce risk

