

# AI for Audit Case Selection

**Experiences, Caveats and Lessons Learned**

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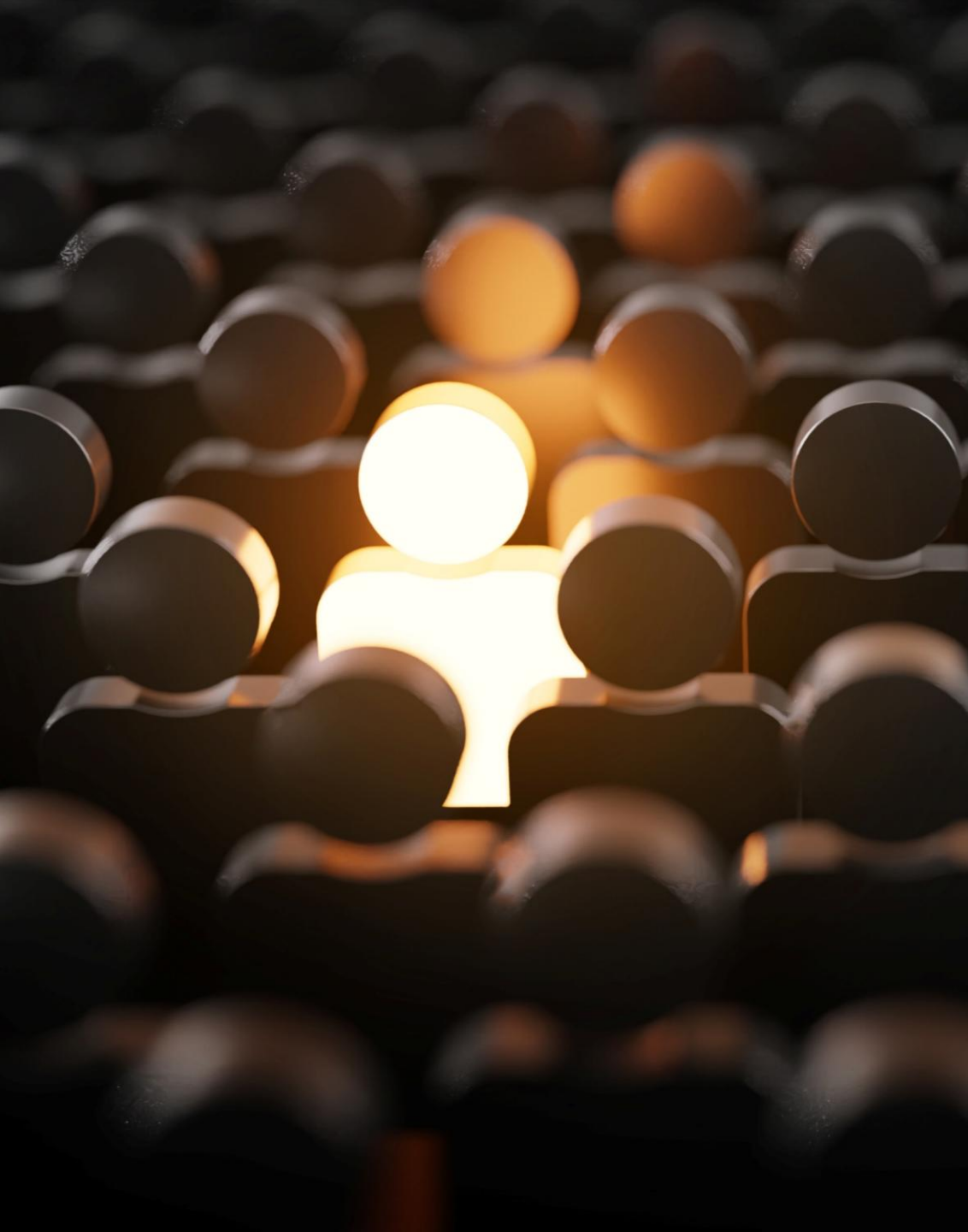
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**Senior Governance Specialist**

**Economic Policy & Growth**

**Global Unit**

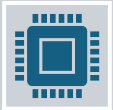




# Current State

- Traditional audit selection methods (rule-based systems) struggle to detect sophisticated tax evasion tactics effectively.
- Limited collaboration, absence of standardized reference datasets, and privacy concerns hinder progress.
- Machine learning models can transform audit case selection, but real-world validation with robust datasets is crucial.

# Problem Statement



Training AI systems for audit case selection is difficult, requires extensive prior data and requires collaboration.



There is no collaboration with external organizations to iteratively improve architectures because of privacy concerns.



Testing various AI architectures is time consuming.



Limited validation of AI solutions.

# Solution

- Create a synthetic data repository that can be used by tax administrations to propose novel AI architectures for AI systems for audit case selection.
- Enable sharing architecture and training data with other administrations without violating privacy and confidentiality of data.

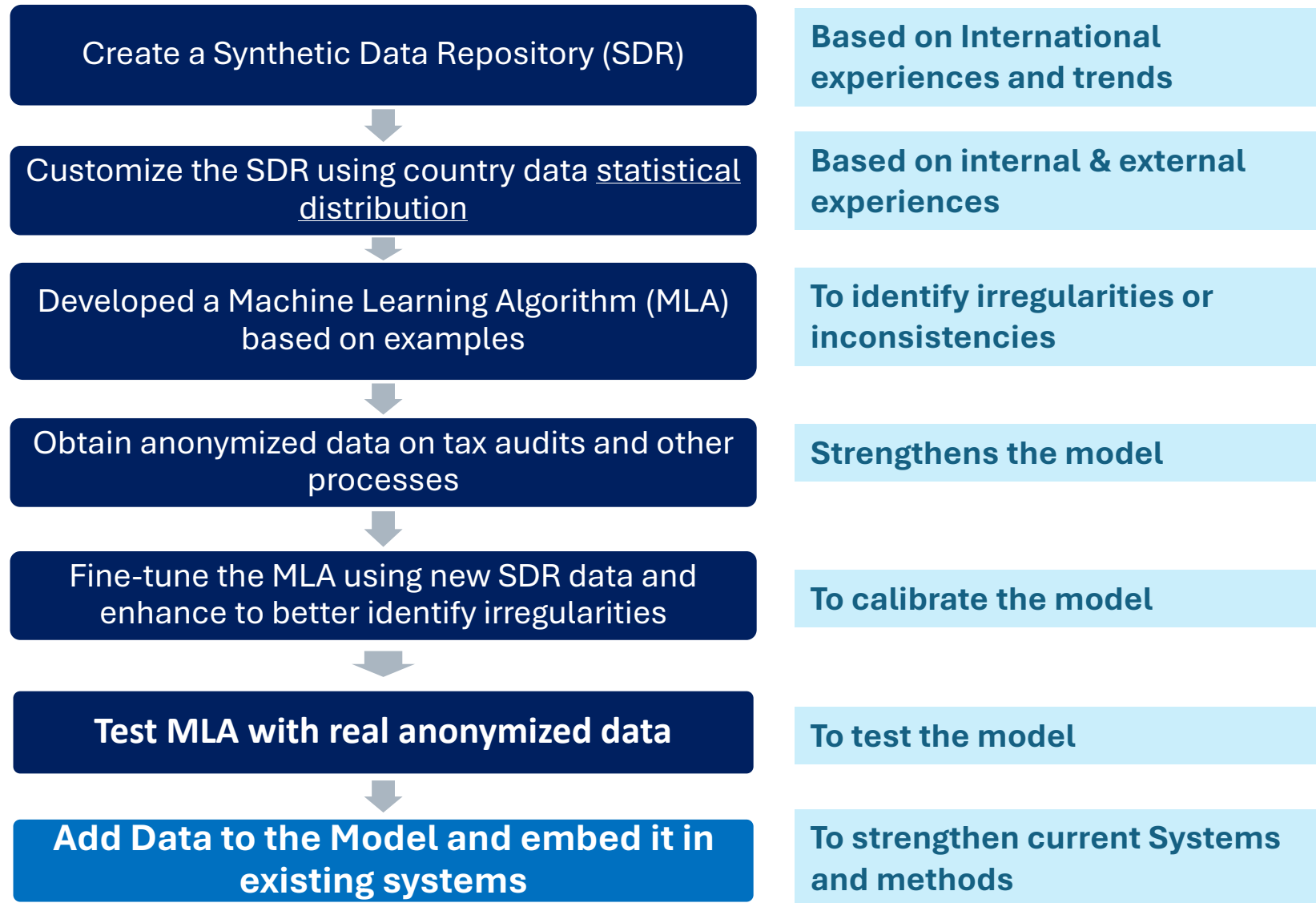


# Objective

- Complement existing audit selection techniques with AI systems to enhance tax audit efficiency to boost tax revenues, increase risk perception and reduce administrative costs.

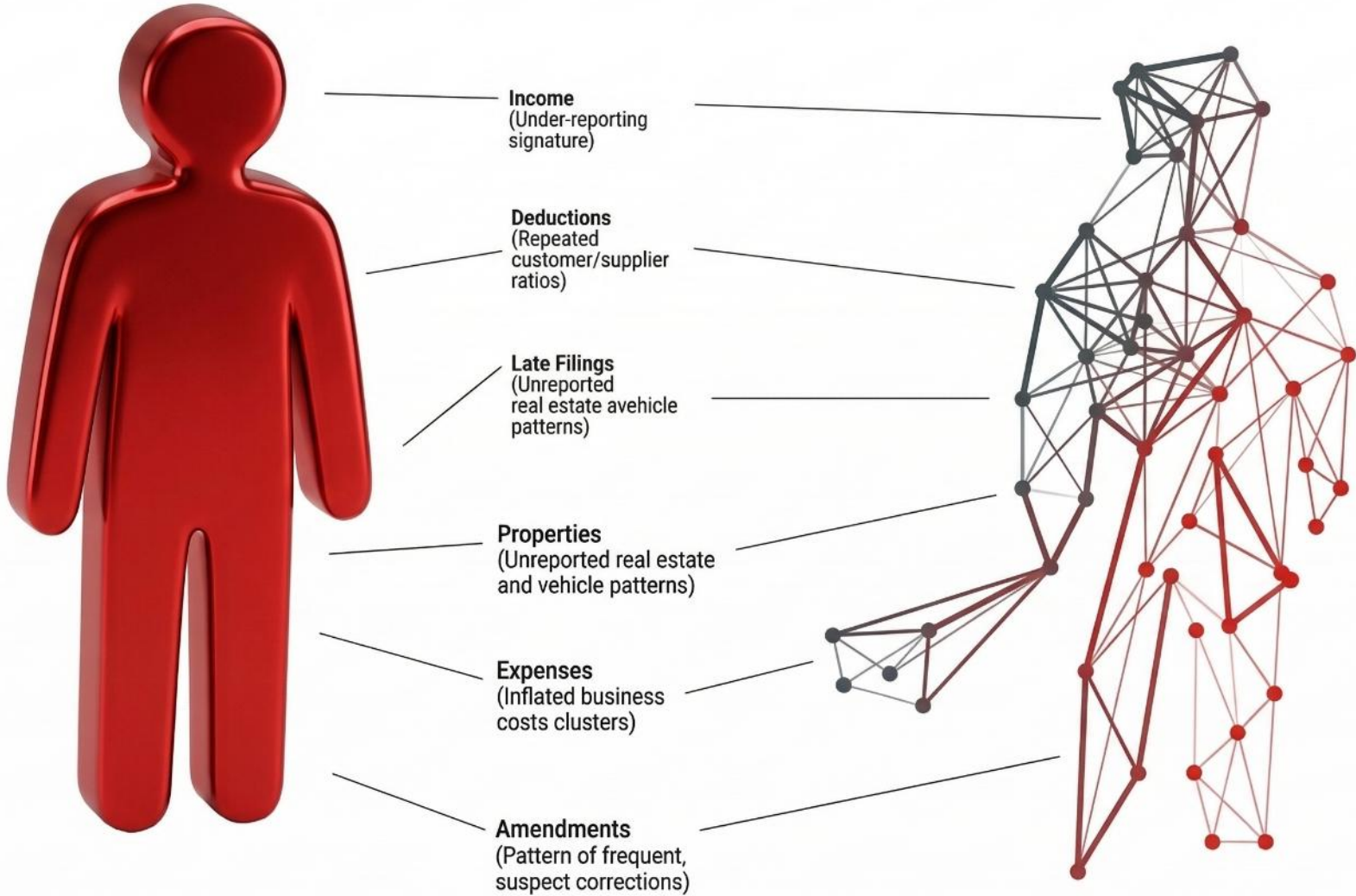


# AI for Audit Selection Process





We assume that fraudulent taxpayers fit a pattern



If a pattern exists,  
we can train an  
ML algorithm to  
detect it

### TARGET DATA SIGNATURE PATTERN FOR CLASSIFICATION



#### CatBoost (Gradient Boosting)



Optimized for categorical data analysis from disparate tax return fields. Trained to recognize sophisticated non-linear patterns.



#### LSTM (Long Short-Term Memory Network)

Processes sequence data over multiple filing years. Learns historical behavior signatures to detect anomalies from past patterns.



#### Temporal Fusion Transformer (TFT)

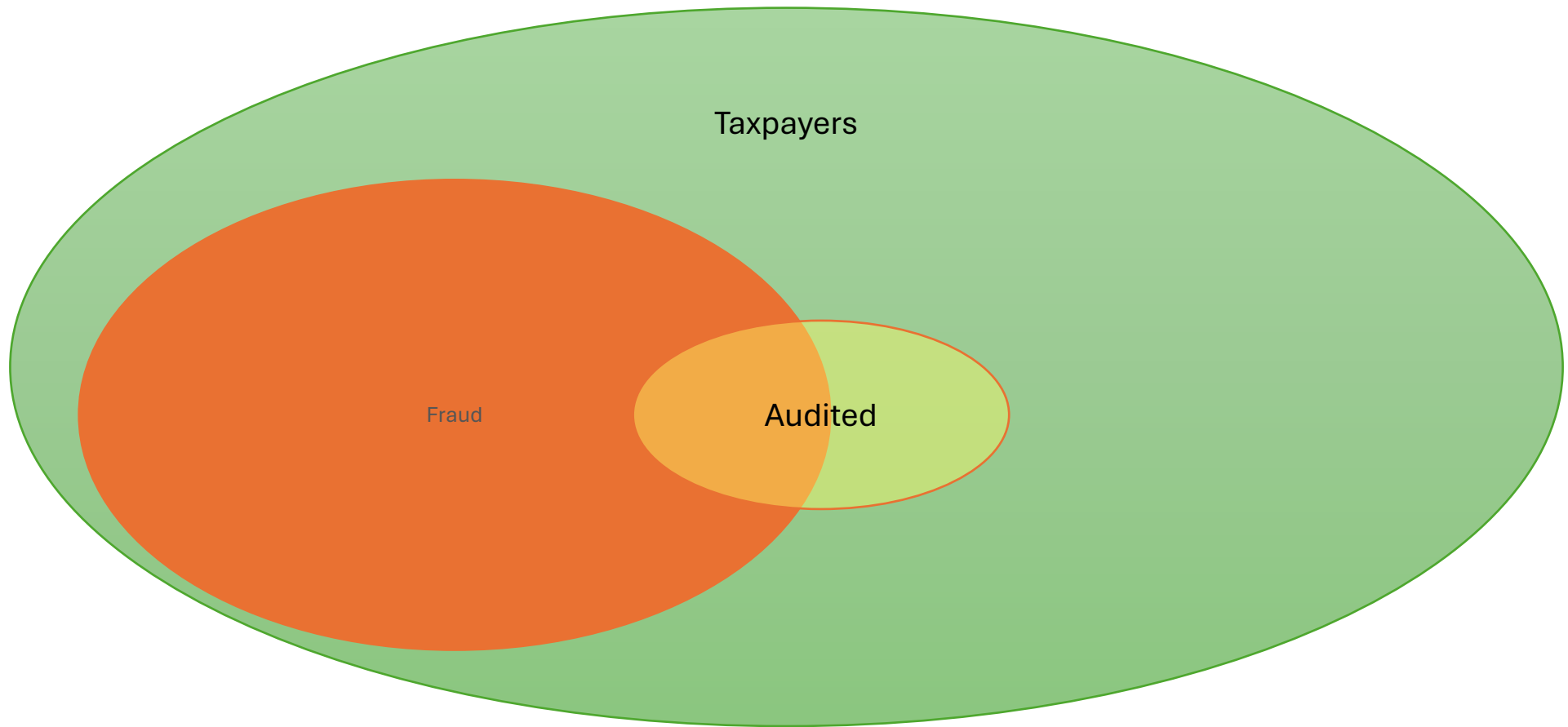
Advanced model for simultaneous temporal and static data analysis. Visualizes complex relationships and dependencies between variables and time steps.



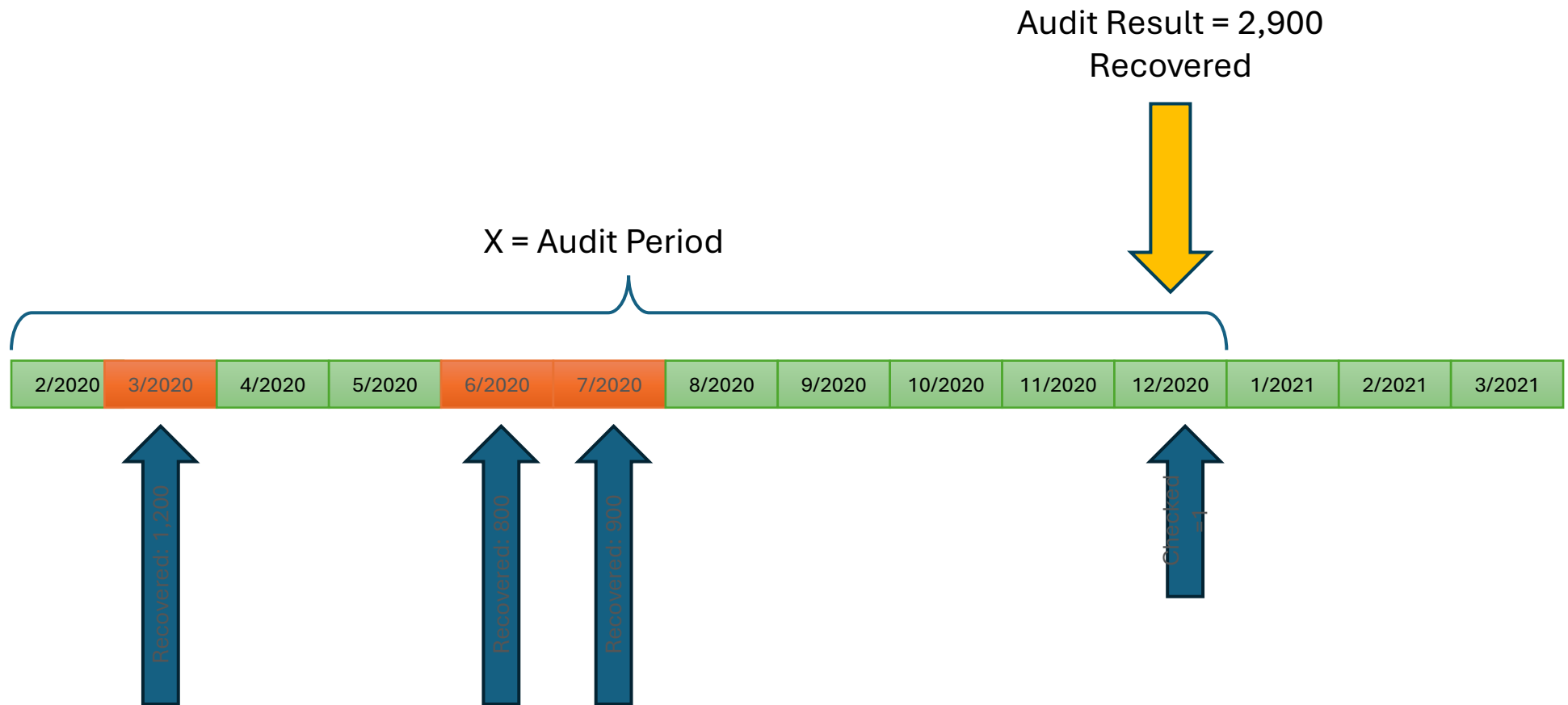
#### Logistic Regression (Class Baseline)

Fundamental linear model for binary classification. While useful for simple patterns, it has limited capability with complex, non-linear fraud structures.

# Labels: What does fraud look like?



# Fraud does not happen at the audit point



# A Useful Analogy



## **Go to the doctor and tell him:**

In the past 3 years I had high-blood pressure

In the past 3 years I had severe headaches

In the past 3 years I had pain in my stomach

In the past 3 years I had a fever

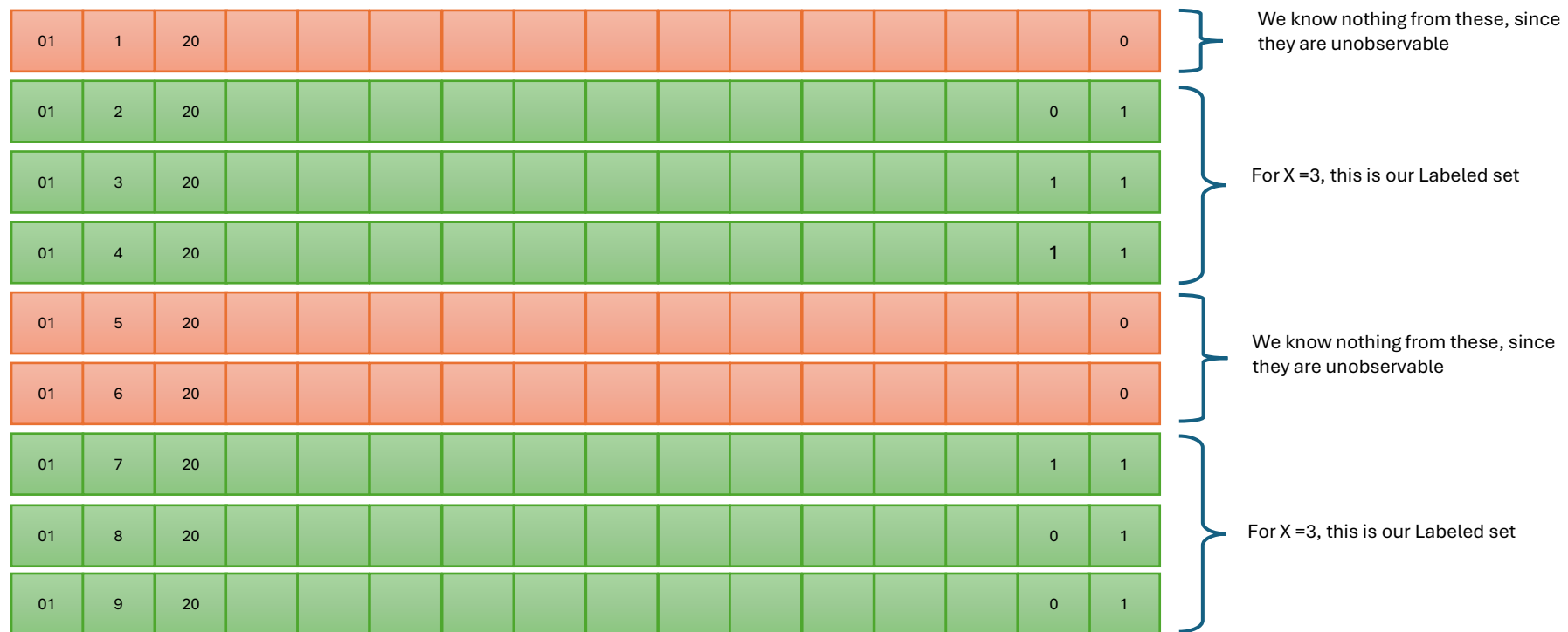
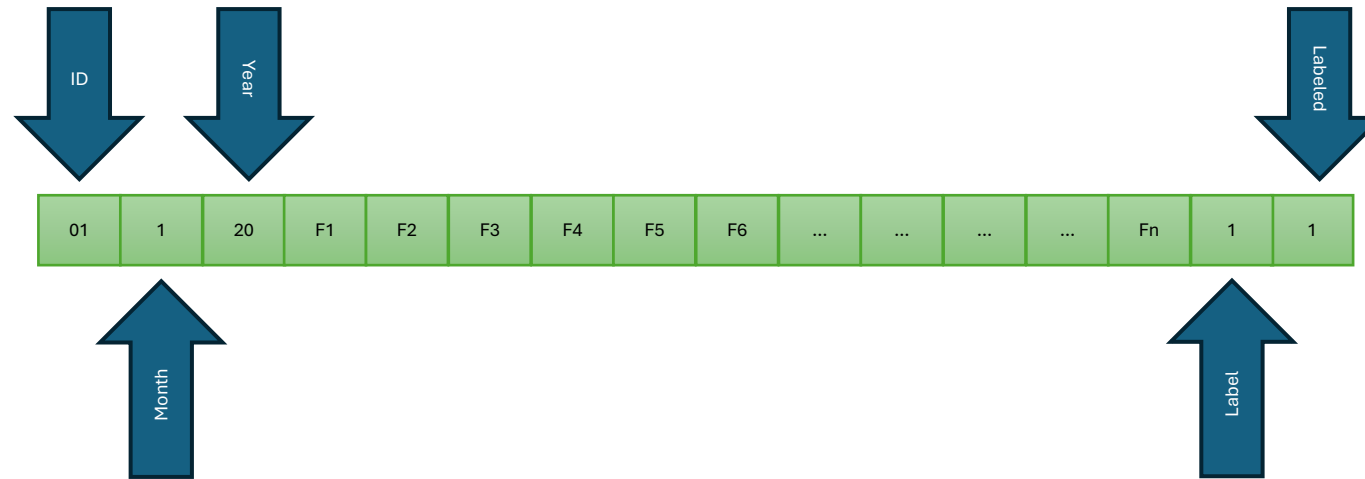
In the past 3 years I had normal blood work

In the past 3 years I had an infection



## **Audit reports are similar. When, and in what sequence matters.**

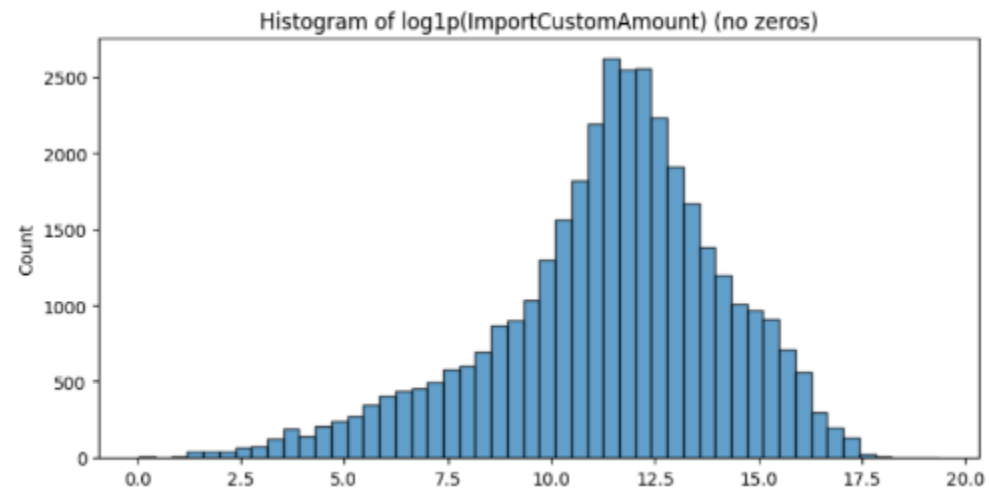
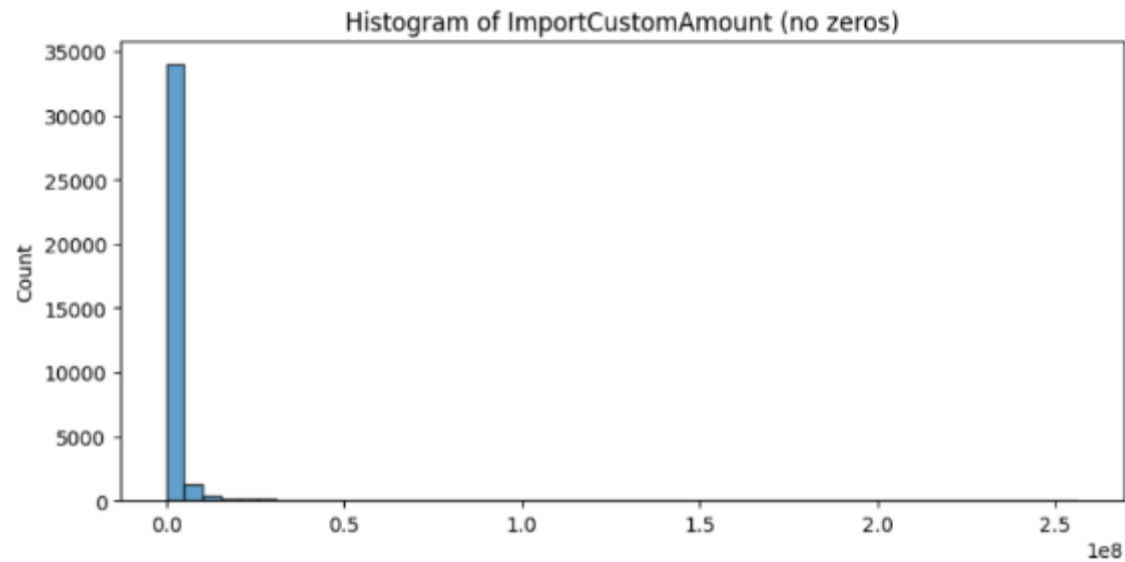
# Observable and unobservable data



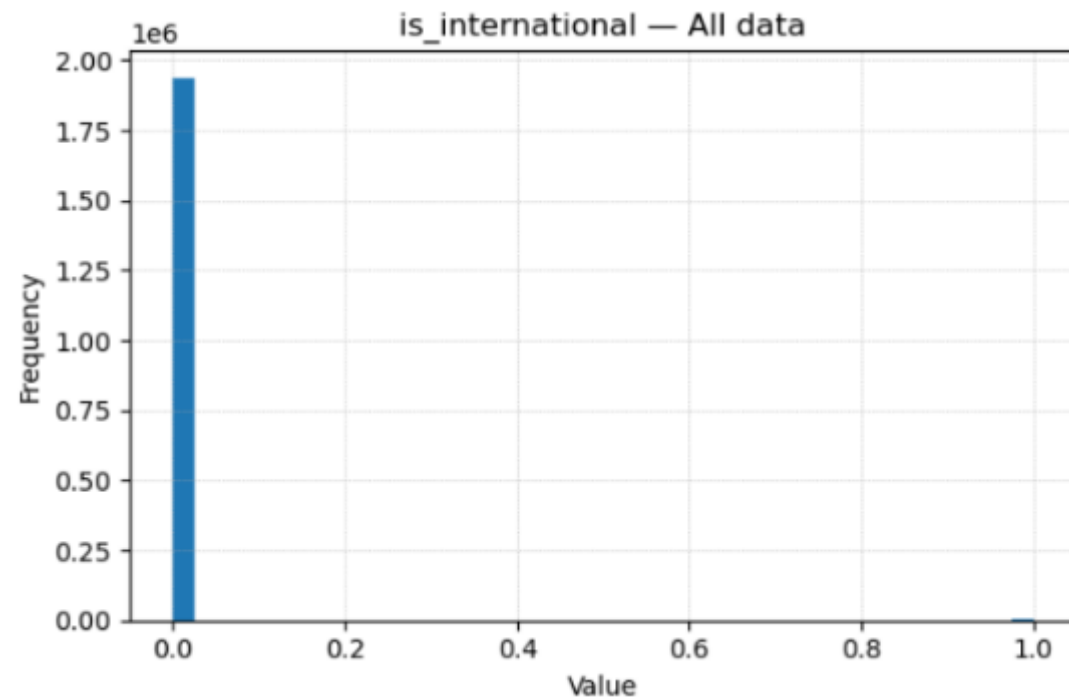
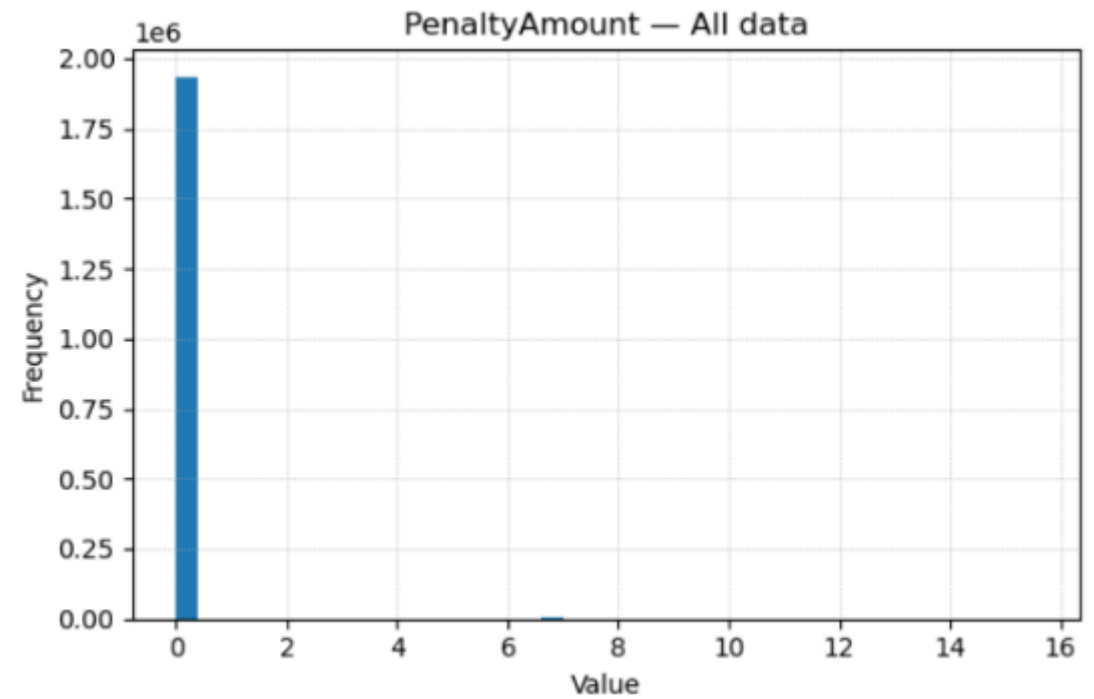


90+% of Effort is Data Cleaning

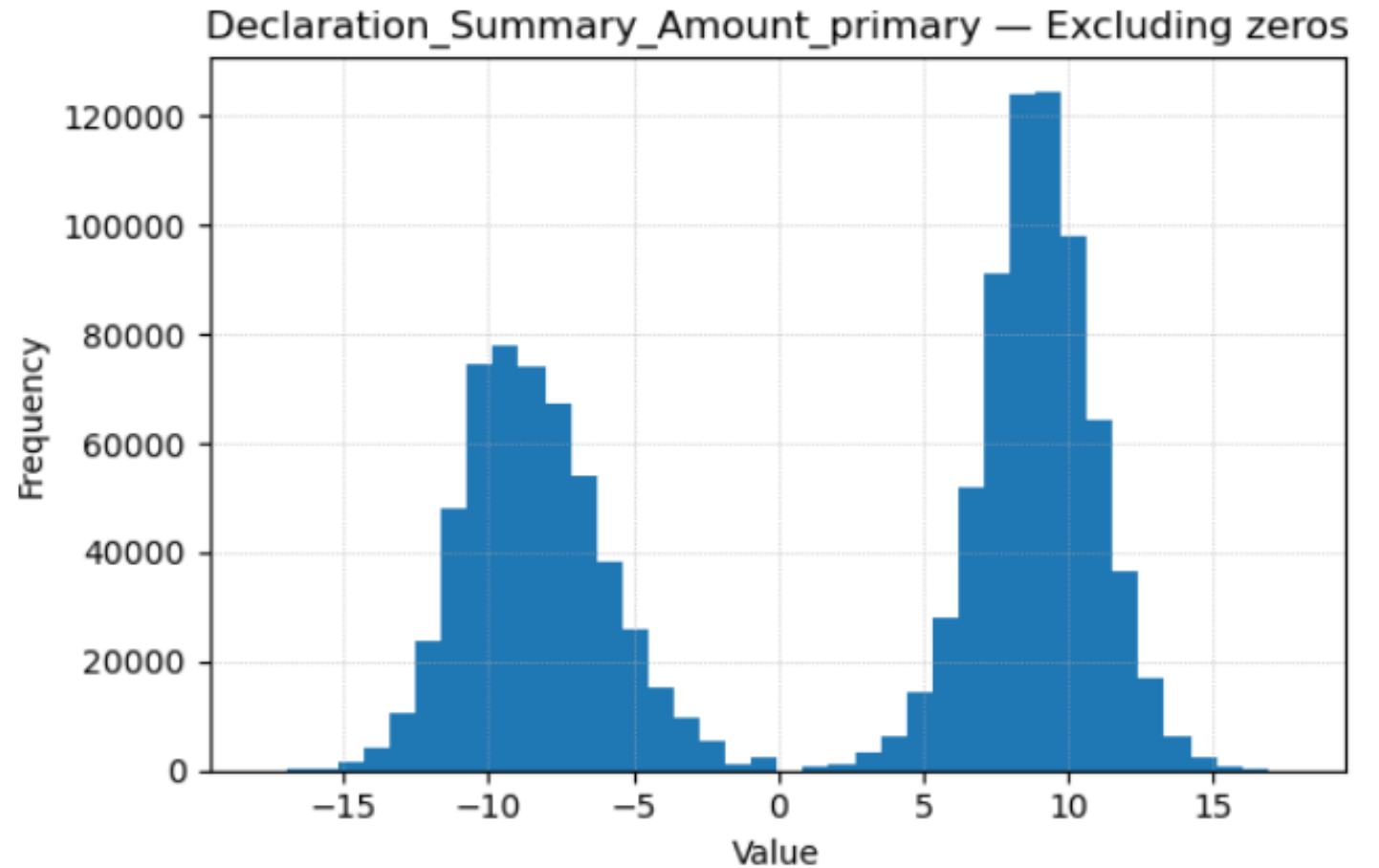
# Data Disparity



# Low Data Variability



# Strange Data

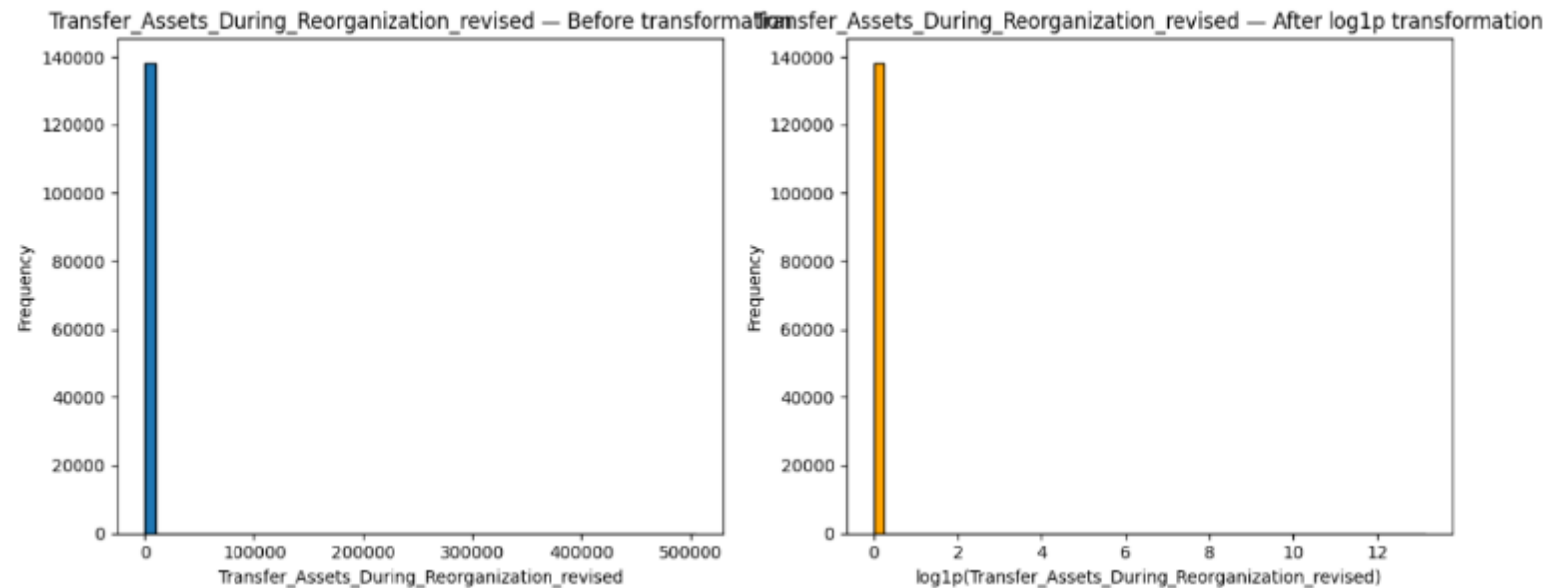


# Low Variability

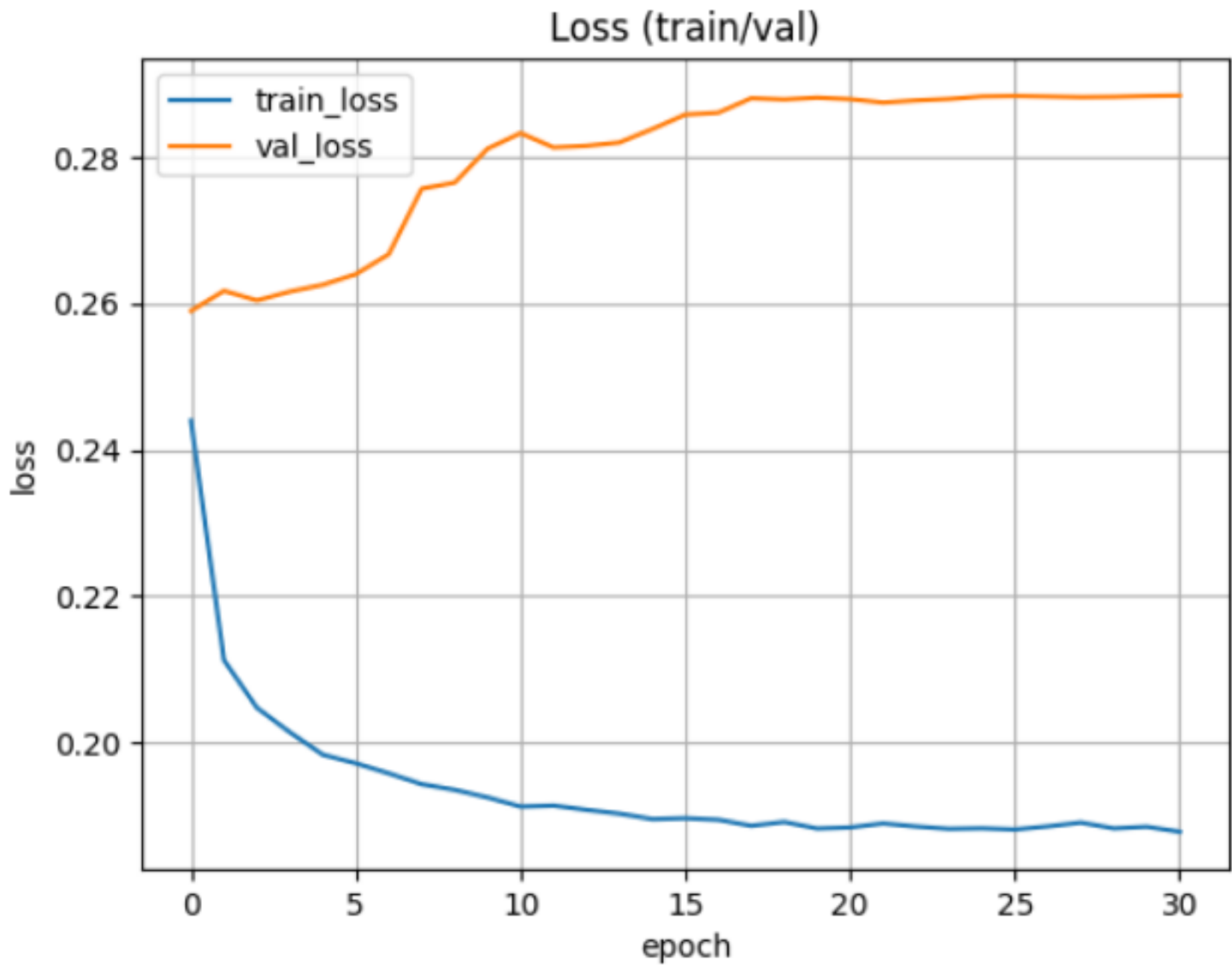
Low-variability boolean features (dominance > 0.98):

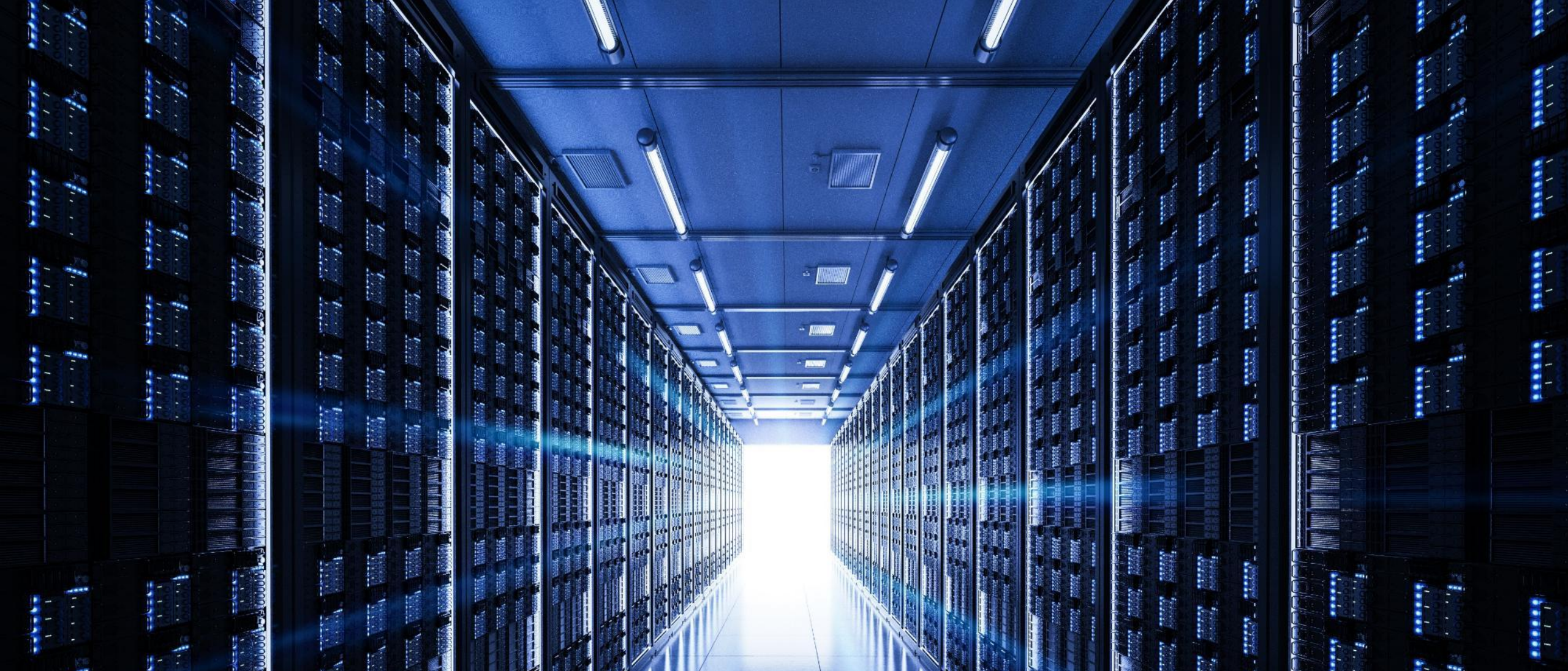
is_declared_paper	0.999964
owner_changed	0.999639
is_international	0.994366
nb_board_foreigners_missing	0.992581
delayed_custom_declarations	0.99191
is_address_changed	0.985654
imported_goods_62	0.985394
imported_goods_61	0.985221
imported_goods_33	0.984874
imported_goods_27	0.983993
imported_goods_87	0.983371
imported_goods_68	0.982584
imported_goods_38	0.981277
NACE_code_short_10	0.980338
imported_goods_63	0.980258

dtype: Float64



Patterns are  
Company  
Specific (Not  
Generalizable)





Limited Resources

# Training Advanced Models Requires Resources

## Hardware:

GPUs and Powerful Workstations with lots of RAM

## People:

Basic knowledge of Python Programming, Data Sciences, Data Analytics

## Time:

Experimentation, Iteration, Data Cleaning

## Discipline:

Meticulous tracing of data transformations, data cleaning for future replicability

# The Compliance Flywheel

**LEARN & IMPROVE**  
Feedback loop + risk signals

**SETTLE & PAY SEAMLESSLY**  
With confirmations and dispute options

**GUIDE THE TAXPAYER**  
Chat/agent advisor: benefits, credits, filing choices

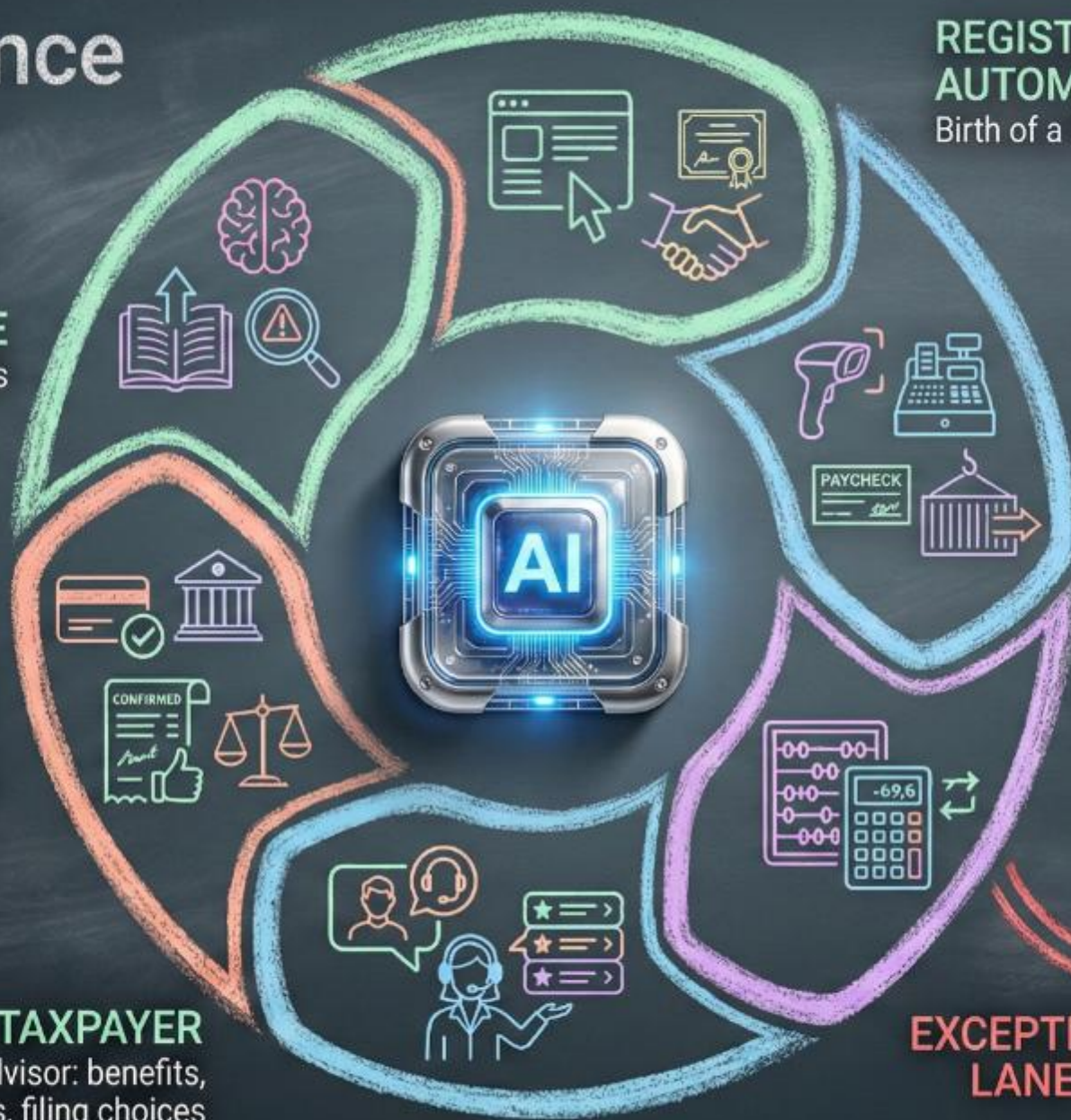
**REGISTER & UPDATE AUTOMATICALLY**  
Birth of a business, address change, VAT status

**CAPTURE TRANSACTIONS**  
E-invoicing, POS, payroll, customs

**COMPUTE OBLIGATIONS CONTINUOUSLY**  
Near-real-time liability estimates

**EXCEPTION LANE**

**HUMAN**  
Audits, fraud, litigation



# Thank you!

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