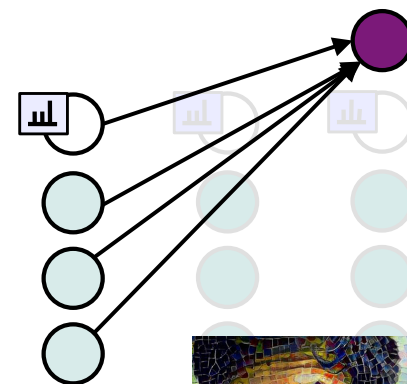
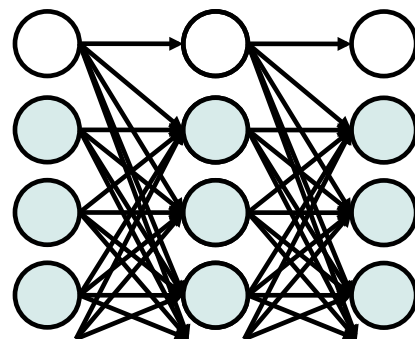


# Predicting intervention onset in the ICU with switching state space models



Marzyeh Ghassemi, Mike Wu,



**Michael C. Hughes**, Peter Szolovits,  
and Finale Doshi-Velez



MIT, Yale University, and Harvard University

# Problem: When will ICU patient need *intervention*?

e.g.

mechanical ventilation

vasopressor (blood pressure drug)

or fluid transfusion

Early prediction helps:

prepare patient

plan staffing

try less aggressive options early



# Possible Approaches

## What to predict?

- lots of work on general risk scores
  - mortality, SAPS, APACHE
- less work on **actionable interventions**

## How to represent patient state?

hand-engineered features

continuous-state temporal models

**discrete switching-state** temporal models

*Lehman et al. 2015*

*Caballero Barajas et al. 2014*

# Contribution

We show that an

**unsupervised** auto-regressive Markov model  
trained on

**large cohort** of 36,000 patients

can improve predictions for

**5 interventions several hours ahead**

*mechanical ventilation*

*vasopressor*

*red blood cell transfusion*

*plasma transfusion*

*platelet transfusion*

# Cohort from MIMIC-III dataset

[mimic.physionet.org](http://mimic.physionet.org)

*(Johnson et al. Sci. Data 2016)*

36,050 patients

recorded at Beth-Israel Deaconess in Boston  
between 2001-2012

kept all adults with record within 6-360 hours

Intervention	Training Num Positive	Training Num Control	Heldout Num Positive	Heldout Num Control
Vasopressor	6987	21865	1737	5461
Red blood cell transfusion	19171	9681	4776	2422
Fresh frozen plasma transfusion	2759	26093	620	6578
Platelet transfusion	27818	1034	6944	254
Mechanical Ventilation	13710	15142	3393	3805

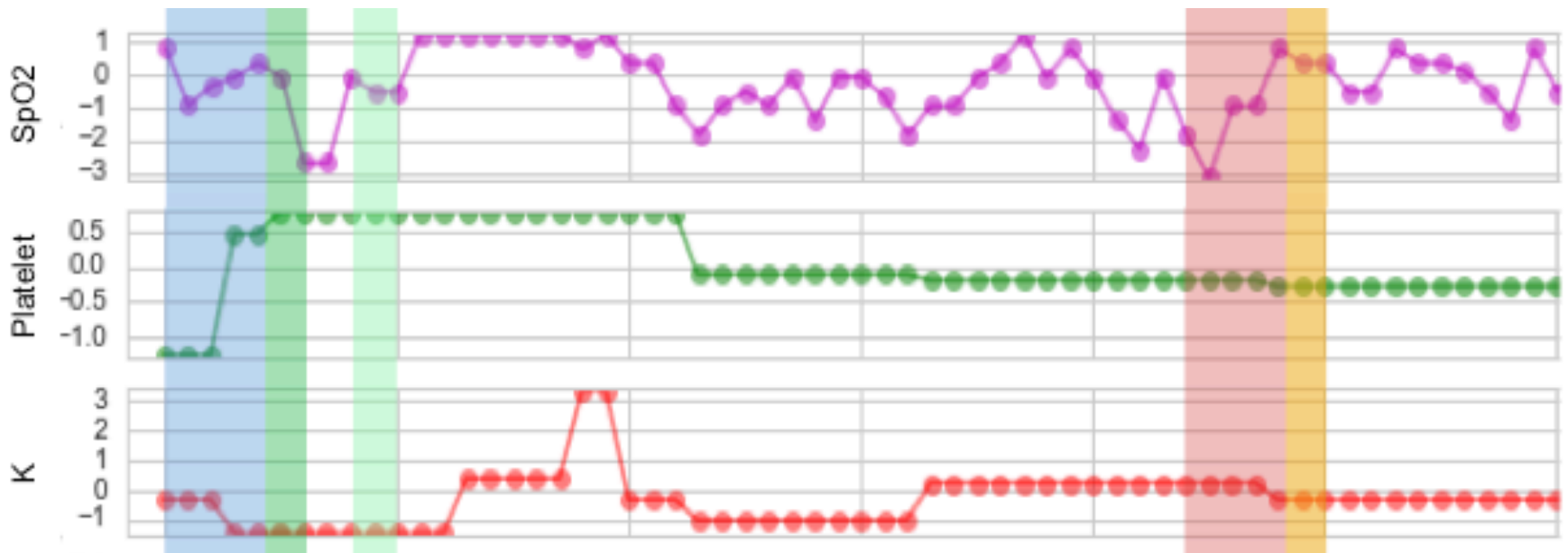
# Observed data

7 nurse-validated vital signs (hourly)

heart rate, blood pressure, temp., SpO2, ...

11 lab measurements (much less than hourly)

hematocrit, lactate, ...

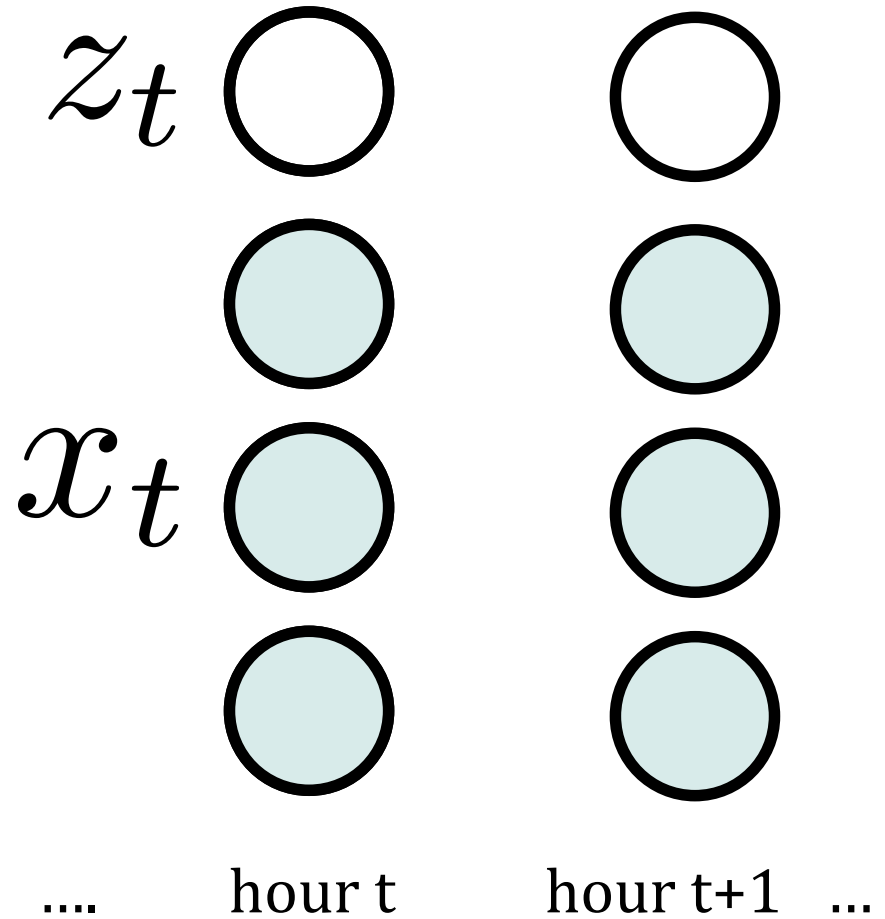


each channel standardized to mean=0, var=1 with carry-and-hold for missing data

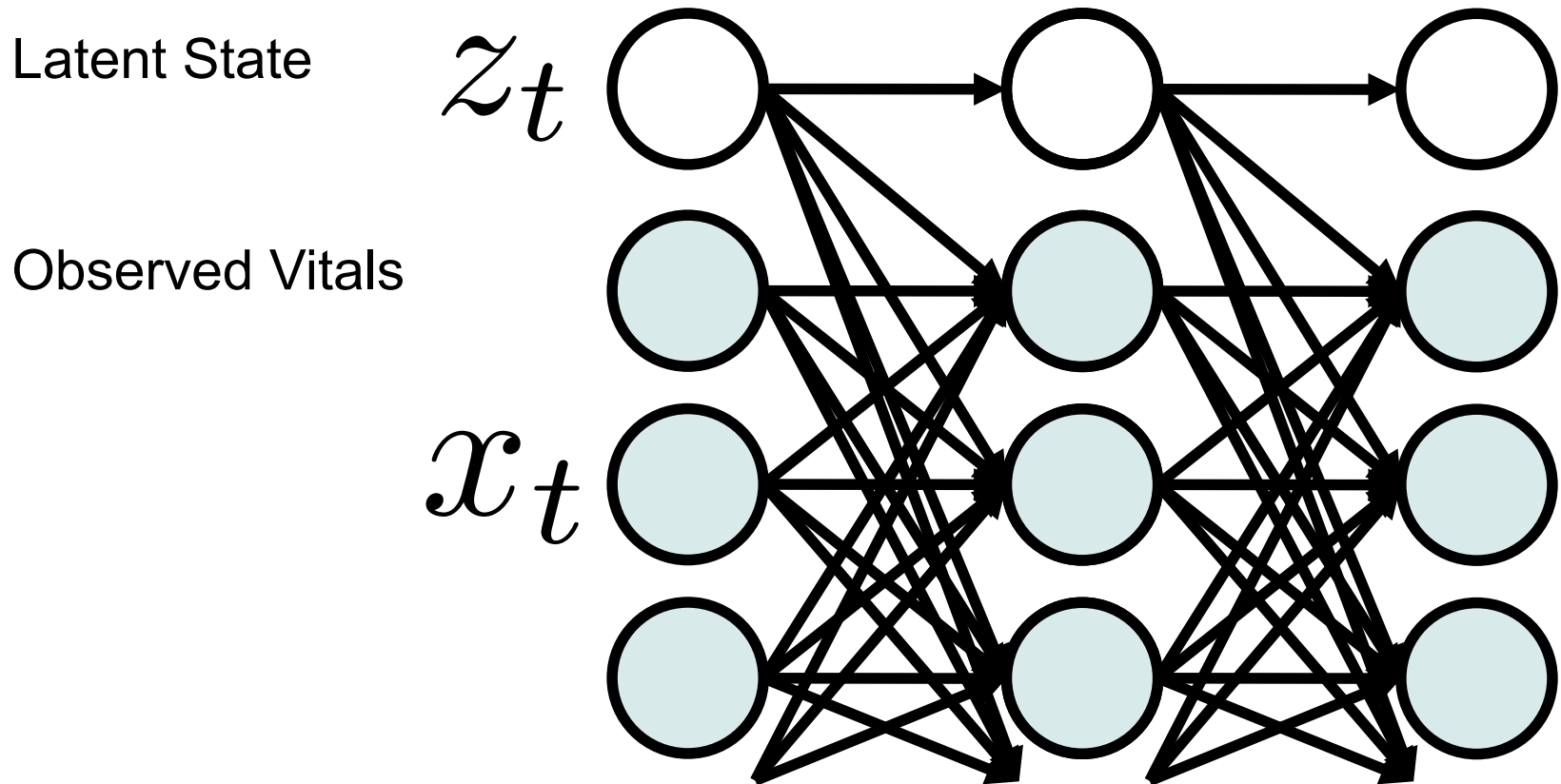
# Switching Autoregressive Model

Latent State

*one of  $K$  possible values*



# Switching Autoregressive Model



$$x_t | z_t = k \sim \mathcal{N}(A_k x_{t-1} + \mu_k, \Sigma_k)$$

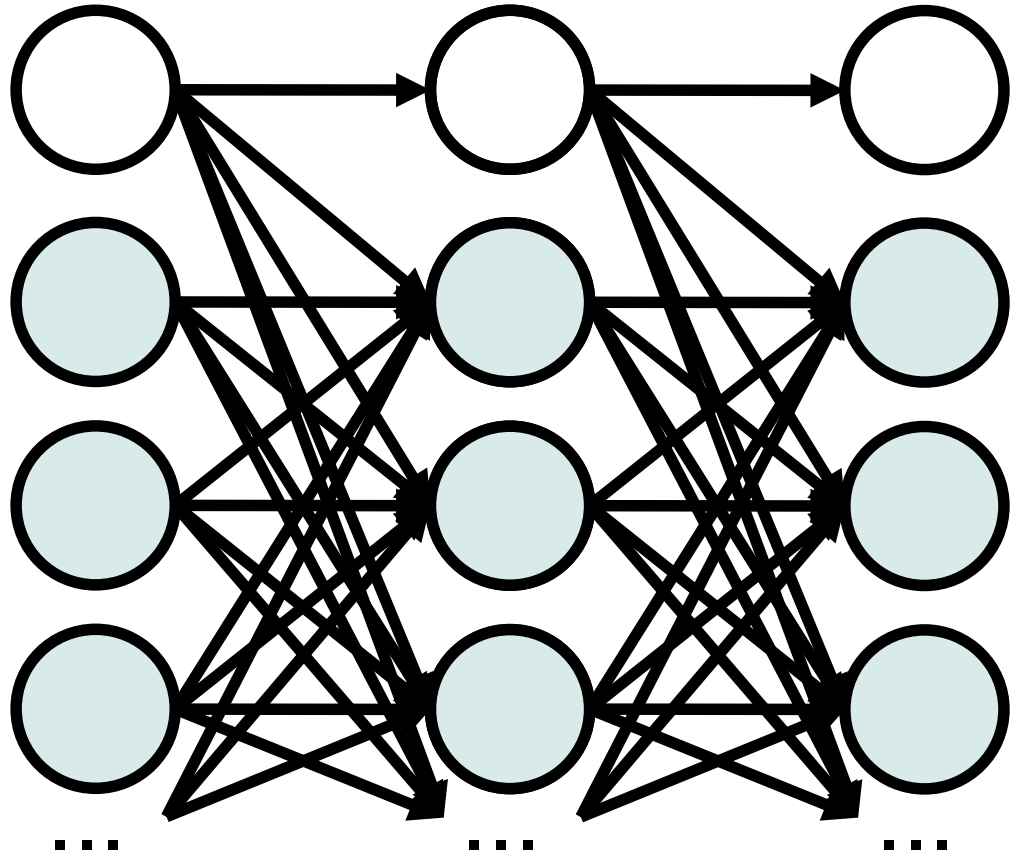
autoregressive Gaussian allows modeling trajectories/trends in vitals



# Training Phase

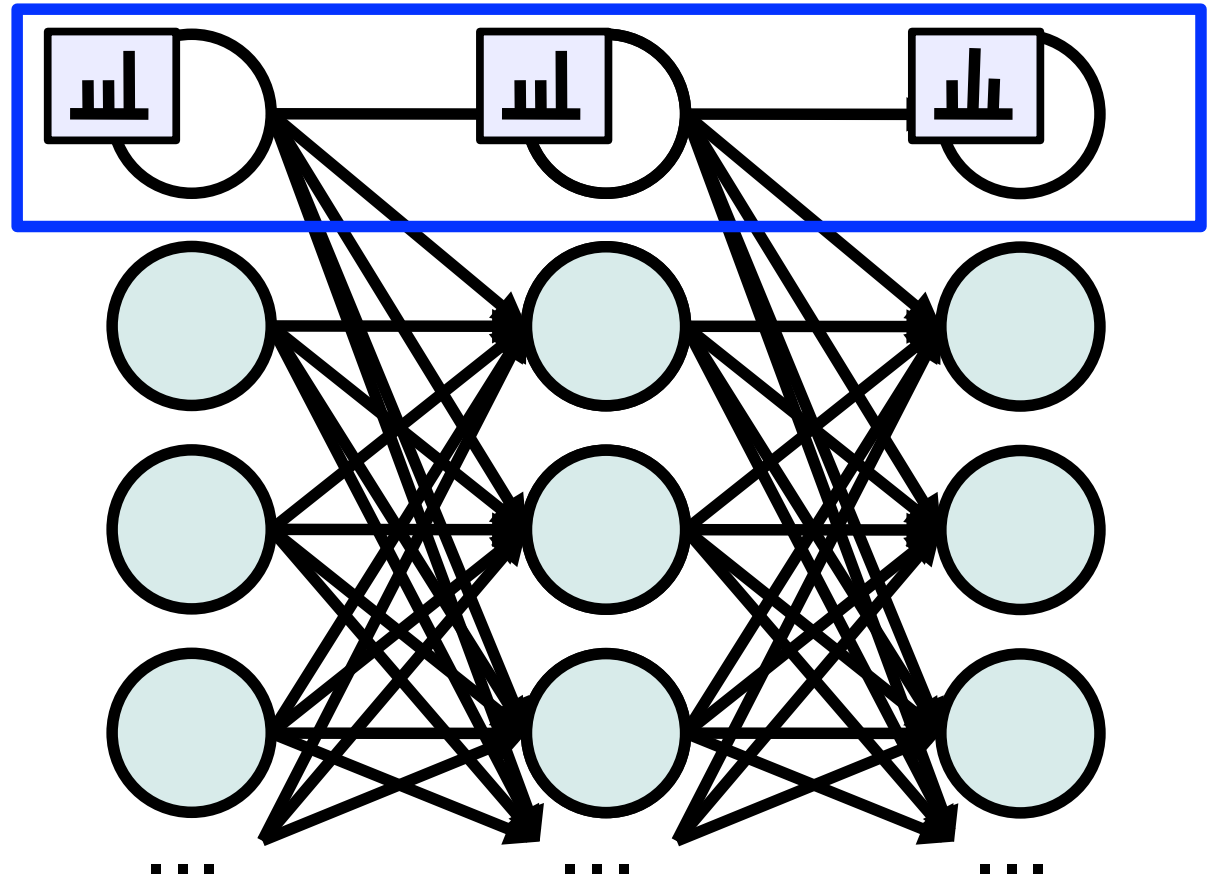
Learn model  
parameters  
from many  
patients

*variational  
EM algorithm*



# Prediction Step 1: Belief features

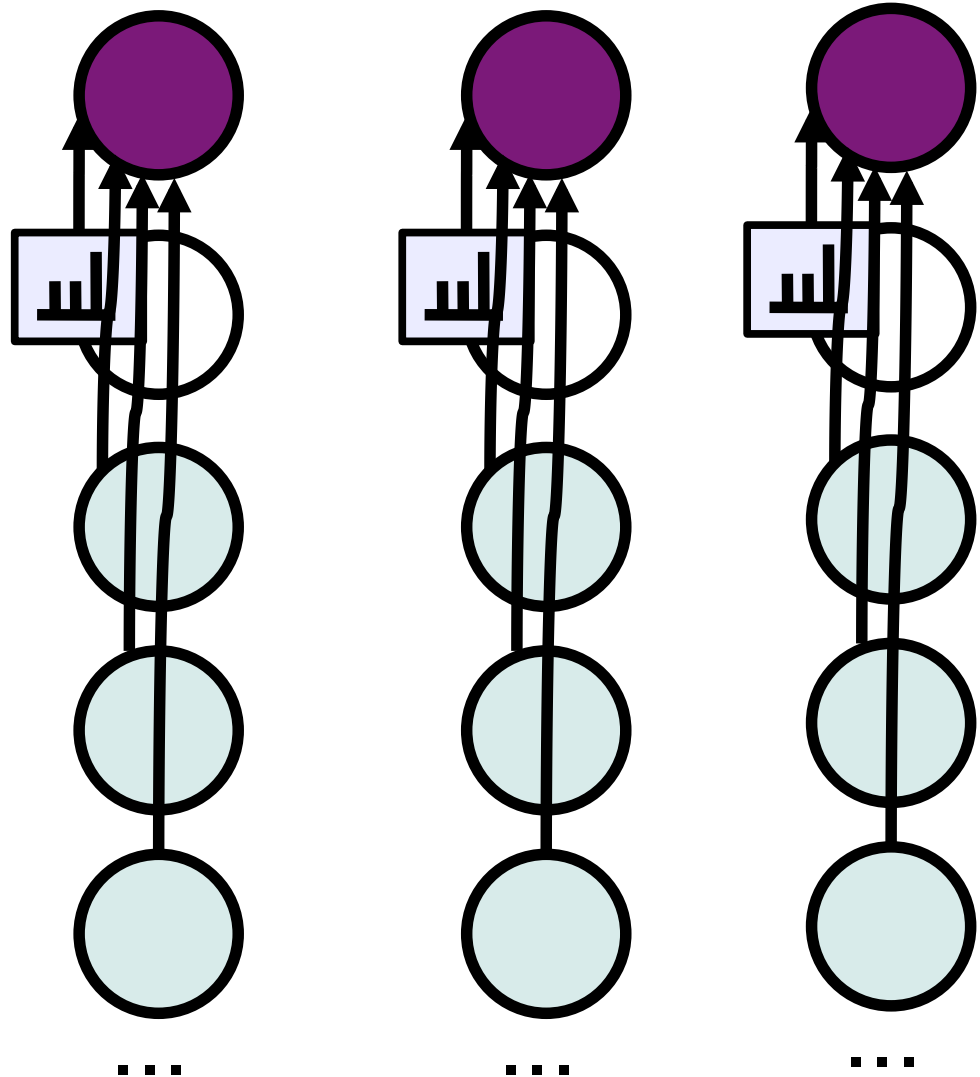
Infer distribution over hidden states at each timestep



*HMM dynamic programming (forward alg.)*

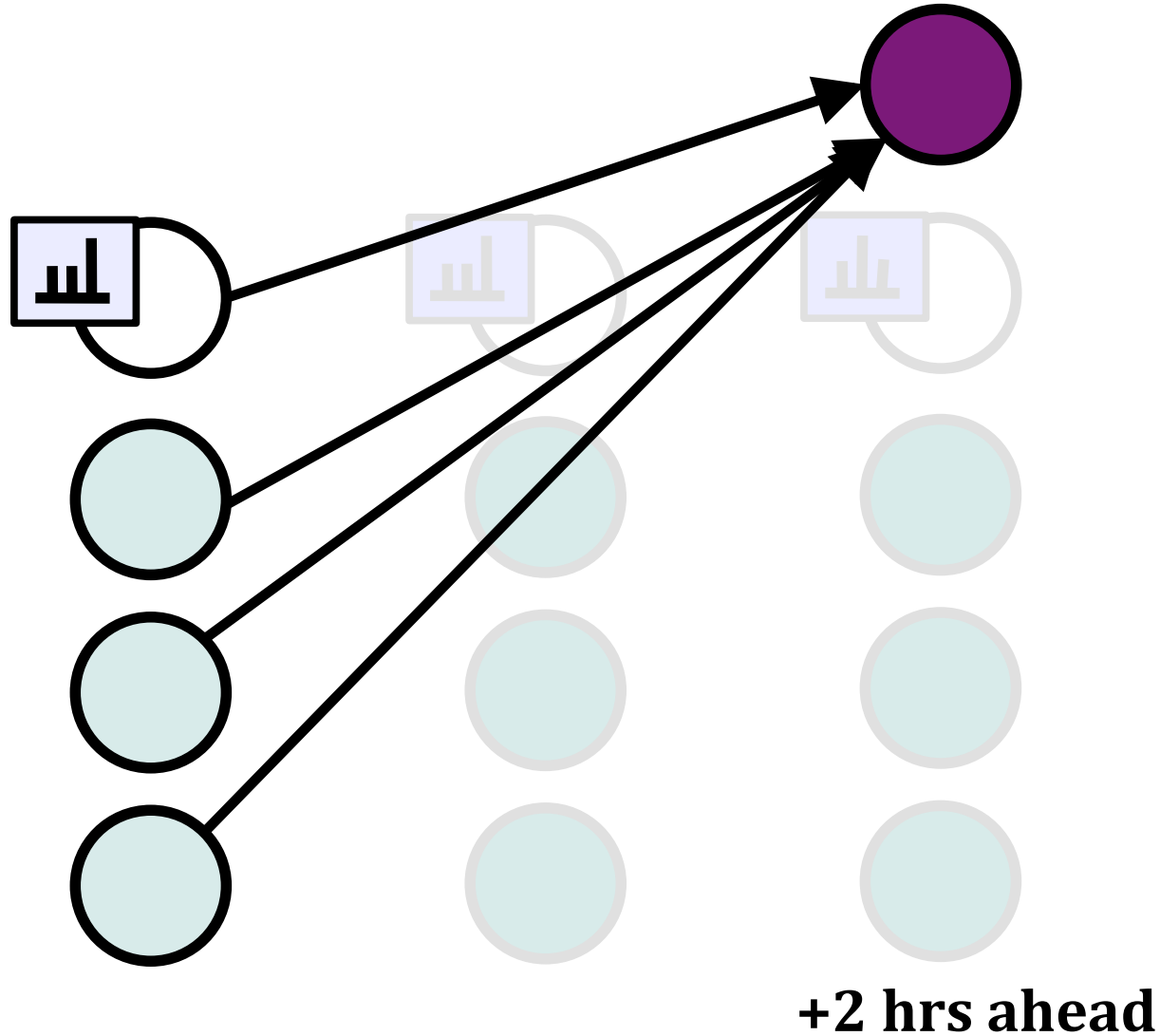
# Step 2: Classify given features

Binary Intervention  
(did ventilate at hour  $t$ )

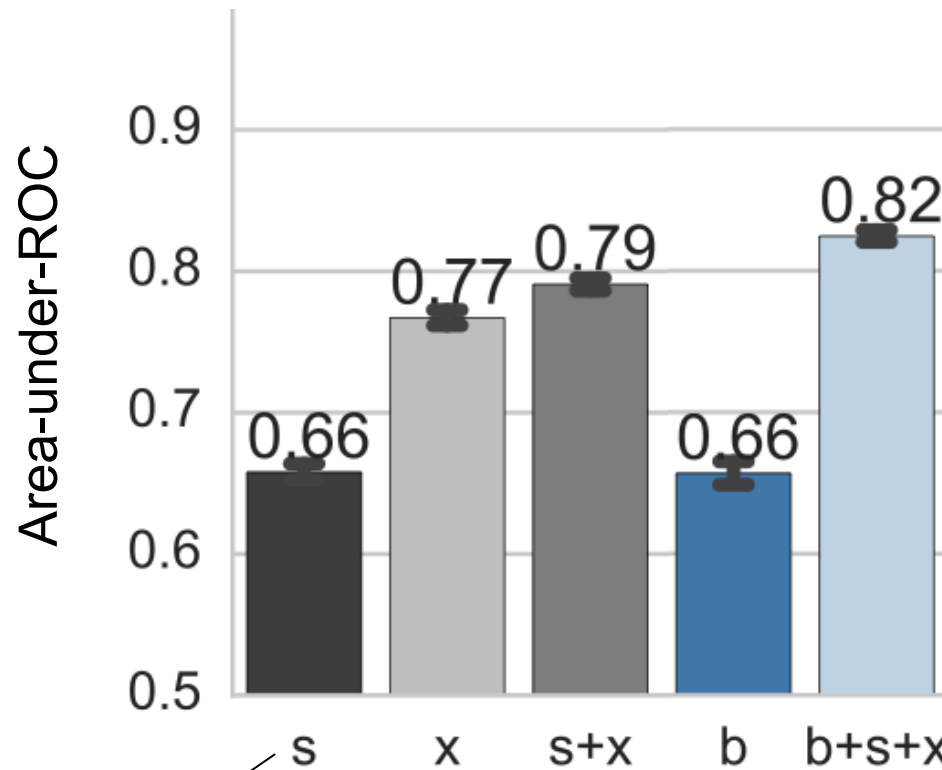


*Logistic  
regression  
(with label-balanced  
cost function)*

# Task: predict onset in advance



# Vasopressor prediction : 1 hr ahead



static demographics

s

x

s+x

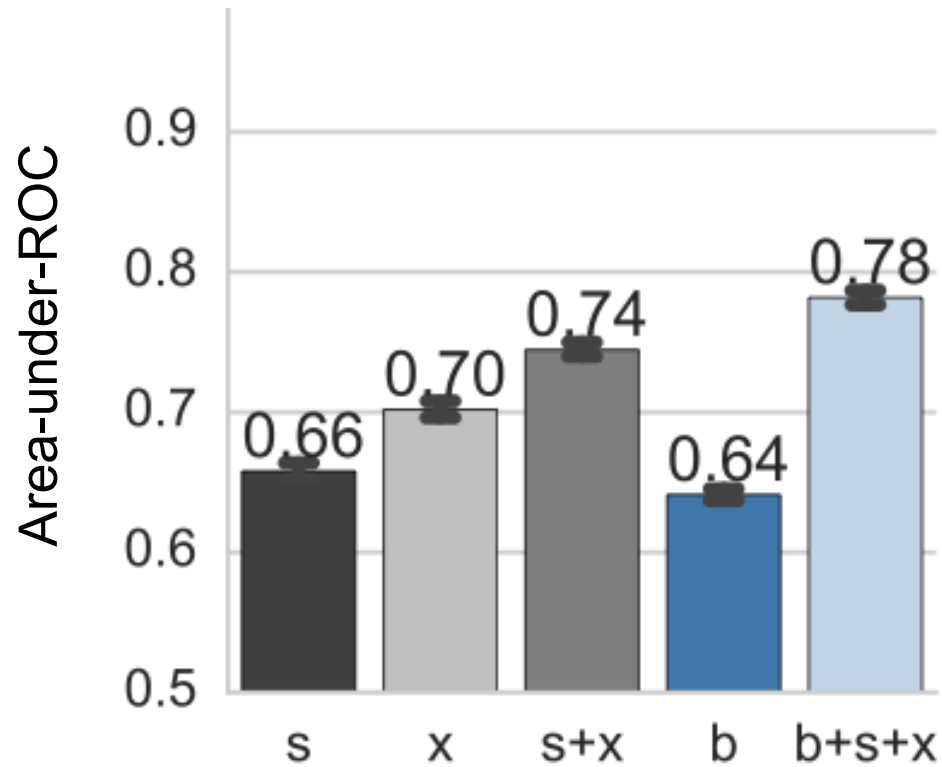
b

b+s+x

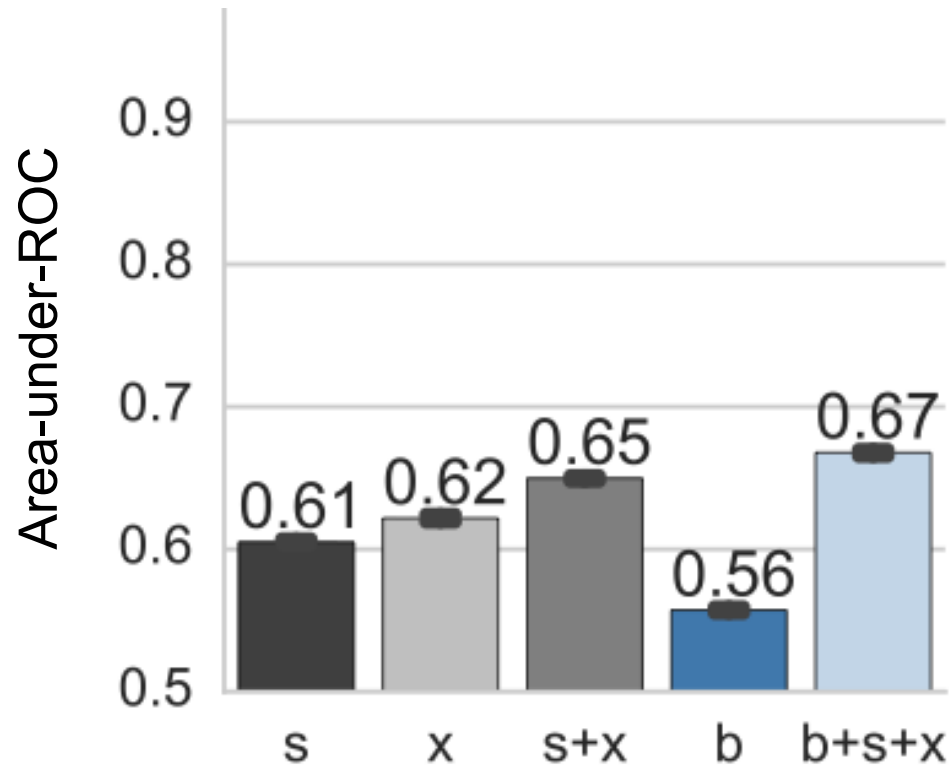
dynamic patient vitals at time t

SSAM belief vector at time t  
using 10 states

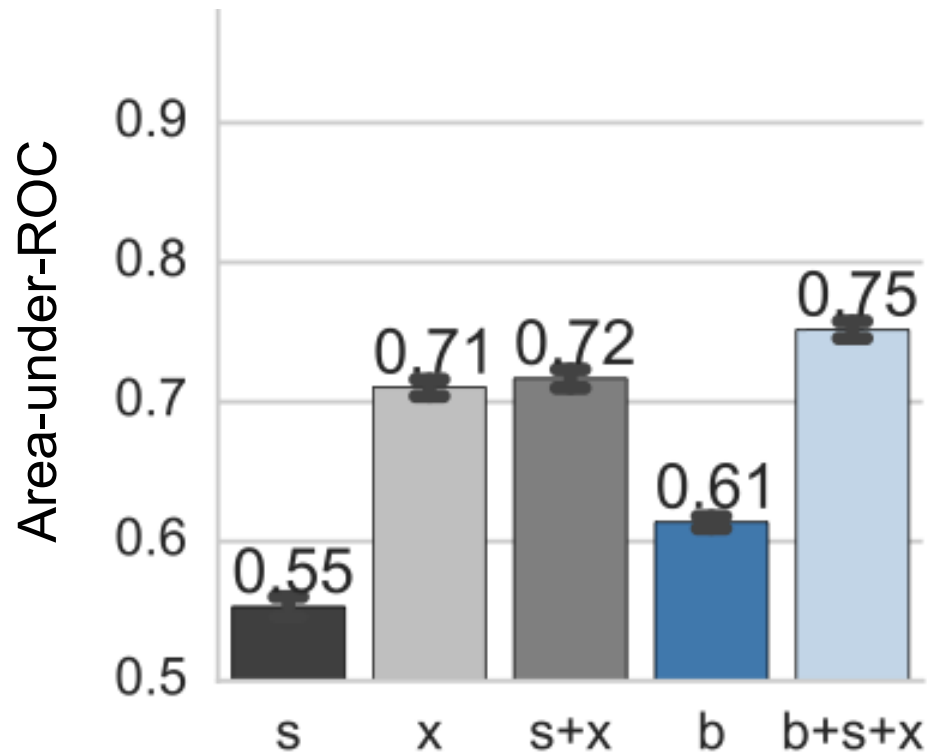
# Vasopressor prediction : 4 hr ahead



# Ventilator : 4 hr ahead



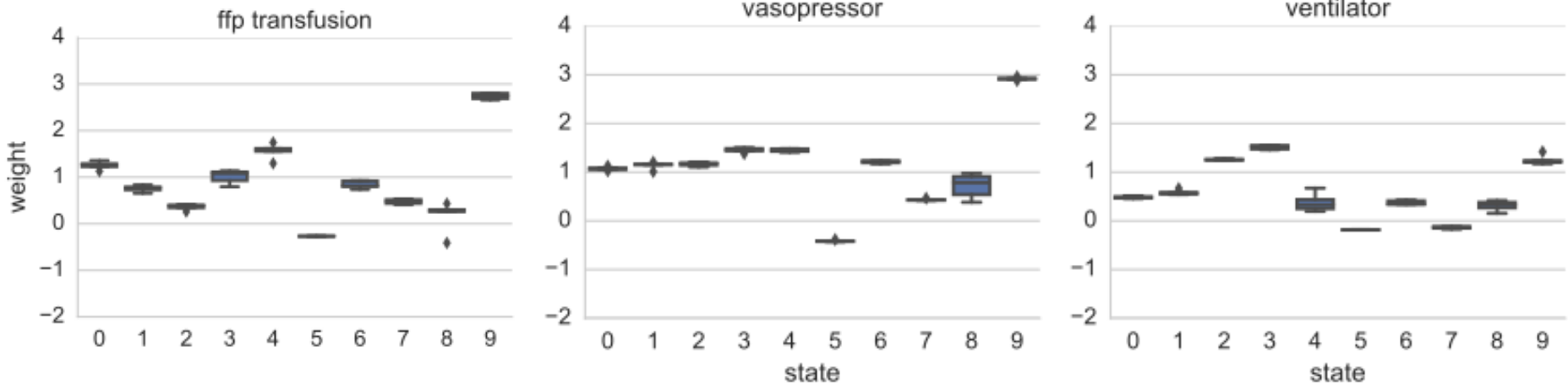
# Fresh Frozen Plasma : 4 hr ahead





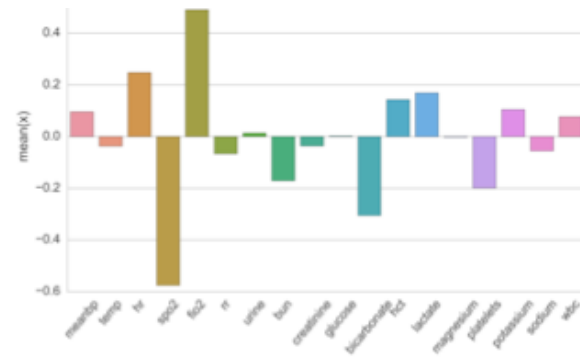
# Interpreting Latent States

Inspect classifier weights across all 10 states



Inspect data associated with belief state 9

increased lactate,  
lowered SpO2 and bicarbonate



*Conclusion: state 9 seems to capture general physiological decline*

# Future Directions

Can we optimize generative models for particular downstream tasks without losing (too much) generalization?

Compare to alternative representation learning

auto-encoders

RNNs, LSTMs, etc

Move towards **reinforcement learning** approach

# Predicting intervention onset in the ICU with switching state space models

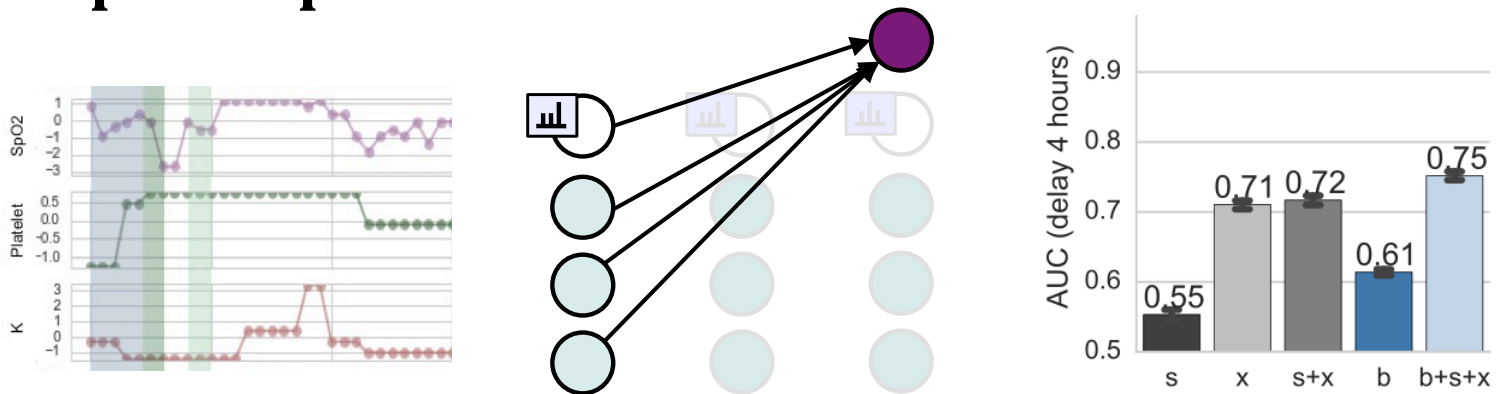
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## Summary

**unsupervised** auto-regressive Markov model

**large cohort** of 36,000 patients

**improves prediction** on 5 interventions **several hours ahead**



## Acknowledgments

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