

Subject: NIST Draft on Explainability

Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 1:05:32 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Robert Hoffman

To: NIST Explainable AI

Dear NIST:

I fear that your literature review is out of date, conceptually.

Each of the “four principles” is a myth.

The paper falls prey to a number of traps and weak distinctions that have been floating around in the literature.

It fails to fully embrace some highly pertinent ideas, chunks of literature, and research results.

Good luck.

Cheers!

R.

[Blog Episode 4 has been posted!](#)

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The first step is to measure whatever can be easily measured.

This is OK as far as it goes.

The second step is to disregard that which can't be easily measured or to give it an arbitrary quantitative value.

This is artificial and misleading.

The third step is to presume that what can't be measured easily isn't really important.

This is blindness.

The fourth step is to say that what can't be easily measured doesn't really exist.

This is suicide.

Daniel Yankelovich
Corporate Priorities (1972)