
THE DATA CARDS PLAYBOOK • RESOURCE

Agent Information Journeys

Participatory activities for purposeful, transparent,
and people-centric dataset documentation

pair-code.github.io/datacardsplaybook ↗

#datacardsplaybook



01 ASK • CONCEPT

#datacardsplaybook

Agent Information Journeys

It's important that we understand:

1.

-

The **tasks** agents might want a dataset for.

2.

-

The **information** agents need for these tasks.

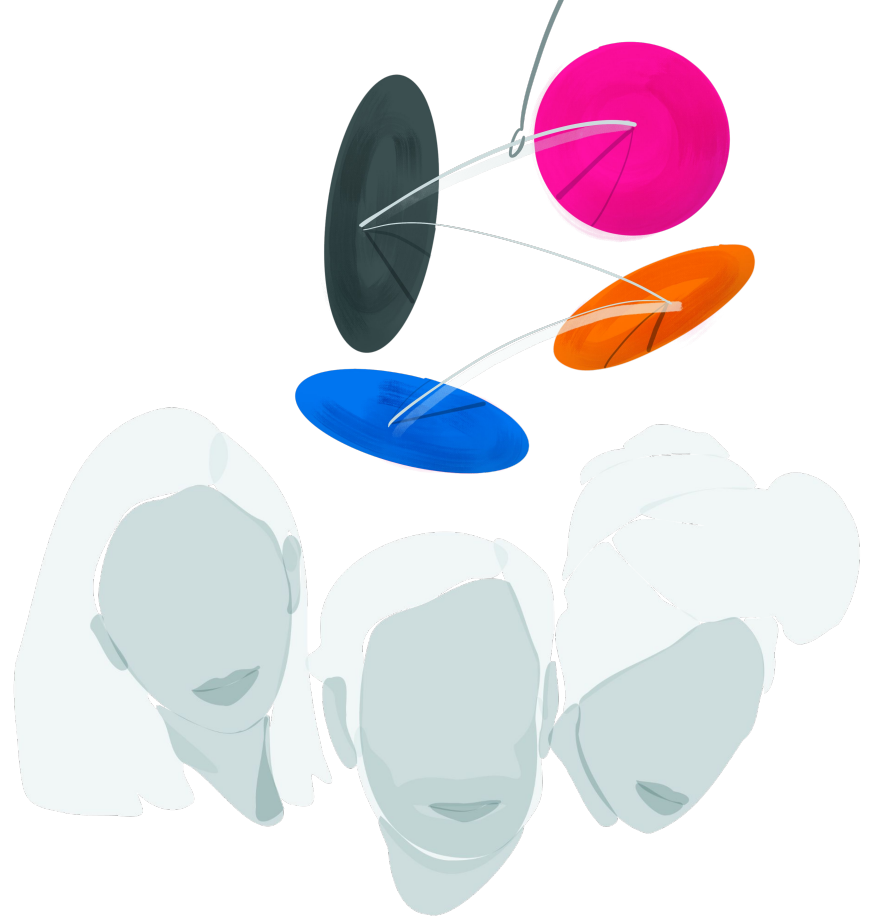
3.

-

The **process** of deducing this information.



An Agent Information Journey (AIJ) is the combination of what an agent needs to know about a dataset to make a decision, and questions asked to arrive at an understanding of the dataset for that decision.



Agent Information Journeys =

Perspective

An agent's unique role that frames how they read Data Cards and other documentation.

Think about:

Behavioral archetypes based on roles, agendas, foundations, and frameworks in domains.

Lens

Statements that articulate what agents want to learn from a Data Card and other documentation.

Think about:

Information needed to complete tasks and make decisions about the dataset and its use.

Scope

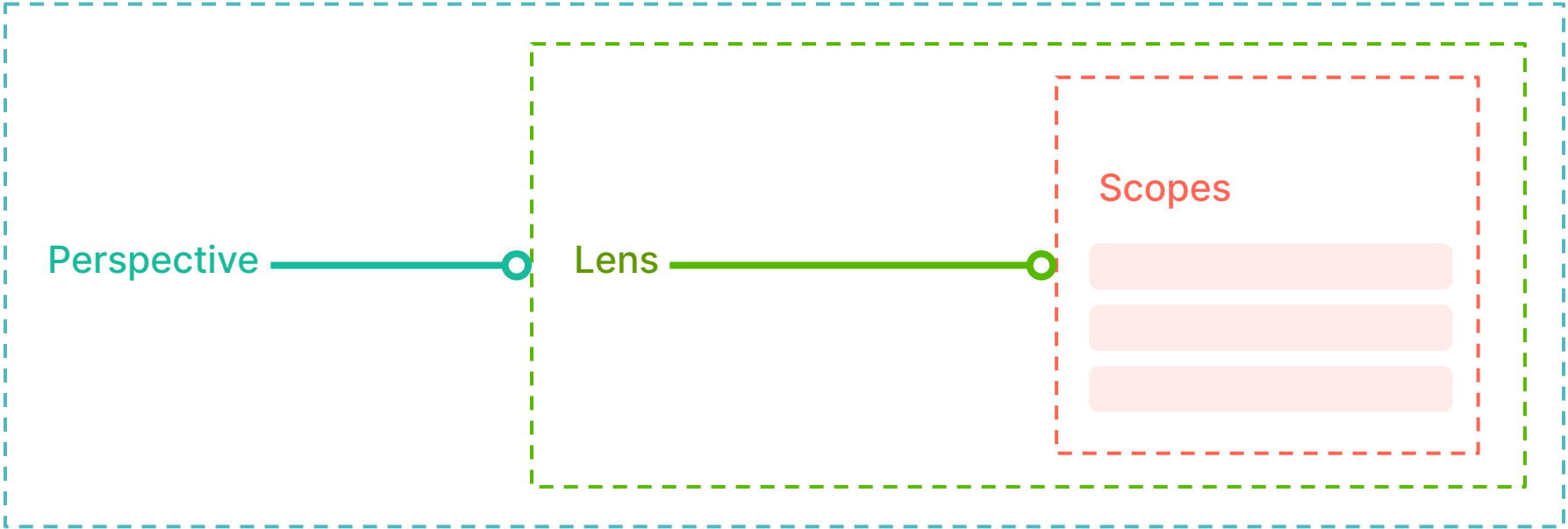
Questions framed around a lens, which agents ask to get answers that help them make decisions.

Think about:

Probing specifics about a dataset from multiple angles, such as a root cause analysis.



Agent Information Journeys =



perspective

As a data scientist, I want to know the structure of the dataset, so I ask...

lens

- ... what is the data format?
- ... what is modality of the dataset?
- ... how many features are there in the dataset?
- ... how many features are engineered?
- ... which features are strongly correlated?
- ... if there are any dependencies in the structure?

scopes

perspective

As an AI designer, I want to know about the representation in the dataset, so I ask...

lens

- ... is this data about target users?
- ... does it contain demographic information?
- ... which population groups are represented in the dataset?
- ... what are the most common represented groups?
- ... which groups are minorities in this dataset?
- ... does this data represent users of my product?

scopes



perspective

As a policy aide, I want to know how the data might be misused, so I ask...

lens

- ... what was the intended use of the dataset?
- ... what application prompted the dataset creation?
- ... what are known dangerous or risky applications of the dataset?
- ... what is the risk to specific groups?
- ... how do intended uses of this dataset impact constituencies?
- ... how can one ask for recourse?

scopes

Try it yourself

As a _____,
I want to know _____
so I ask...

perspective

lenses

?

?

?

scopes





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