

# Self-driving Cars & Data Collection

Privacy Perceptions of  
Networked Autonomous  
Vehicles

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**Carnegie  
Mellon  
University**





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Why networked  
autonomous  
vehicle (AV)  
privacy?



# Why networked AV privacy?

1. Data collection capabilities



# Why networked AV privacy?

1. Data collection capabilities
2. Operated by a private company



# Why networked AV privacy?

1. Data collection capabilities
2. Operated by a private company
3. Collection of physical information in public





# Research Goal

Discover what is 'reasonable' data collection and use for autonomous vehicle (AV) fleets



# Research Goal

1. What do people think AV fleets are capable of?



# Research Goal

1. What do people think AV fleets are capable of?
2. How comfortable are people with AV fleet capabilities?



# Research Goal

1. What do people think AV fleets are capable of?
2. How comfortable are people with AV fleet capabilities?
3. How much effort would people expend to opt out?



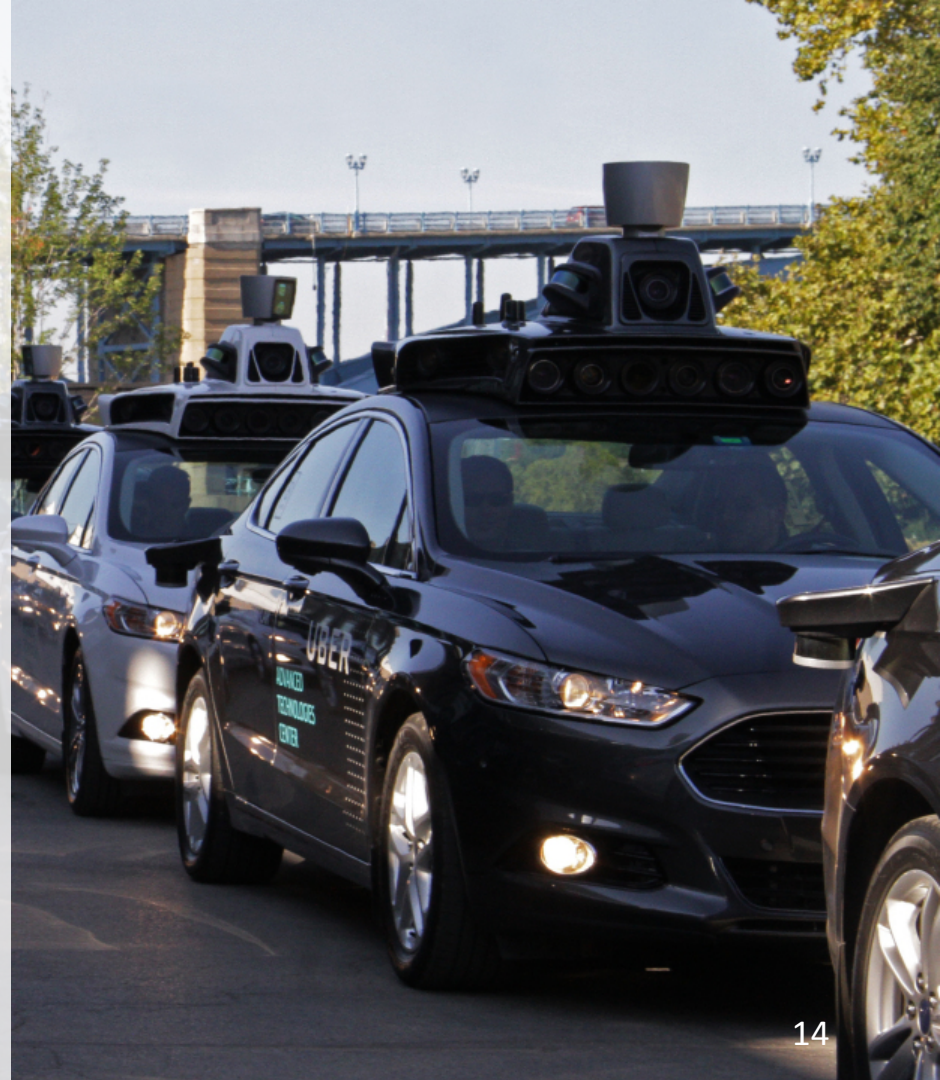
# Up Next

1. Study Design
2. Findings
3. Policy Applications



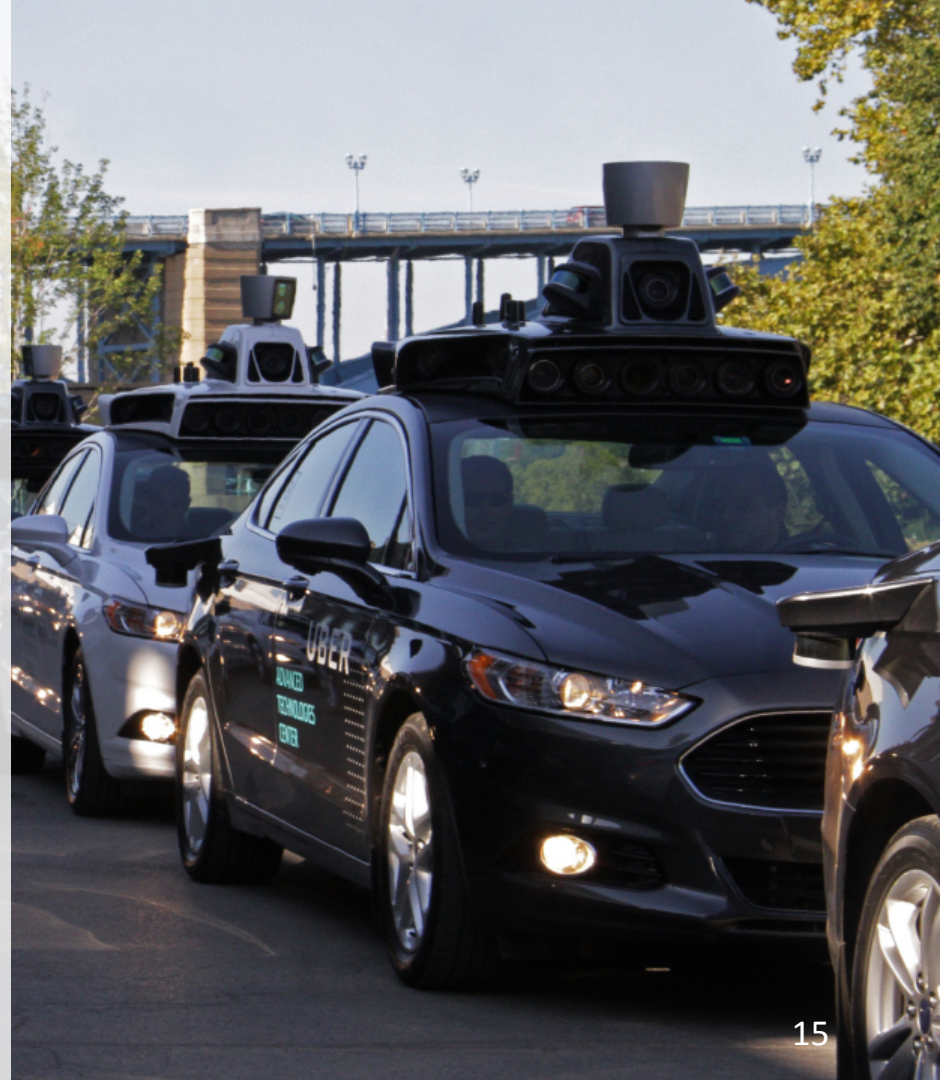
# Study Design

- Exploratory online survey



# Study Design

- Exploratory online survey
- Privacy primed & unprimed groups



# Privacy Priming Scenarios

Primary  
Uses

Secondary  
Uses



# Privacy Priming Scenarios

Primary  
Uses

Necessary for autonomous navigation

Secondary  
Uses

# Privacy Priming Scenarios

Primary  
Uses

Image  
Capture

Aggregation  
&  
Storage

Specific  
Incident  
Analysis

Continuous  
Analysis

Secondary  
Uses

# Privacy Priming Scenarios

## Primary Uses

Image  
Capture

Aggregation  
&  
Storage

Specific  
Incident  
Analysis

Continuous  
Analysis

## Secondary Uses

Non-necessary. Can be achieved with same sensors.

# Privacy Priming Scenarios

Primary  
Uses

Image  
Capture

Aggregation  
&  
Storage

Specific  
Incident  
Analysis

Continuous  
Analysis

Secondary  
Uses

Perceiving  
People

Recognition

Identification

Tracking

# Privacy Priming Scenarios

Primary  
Uses

Image  
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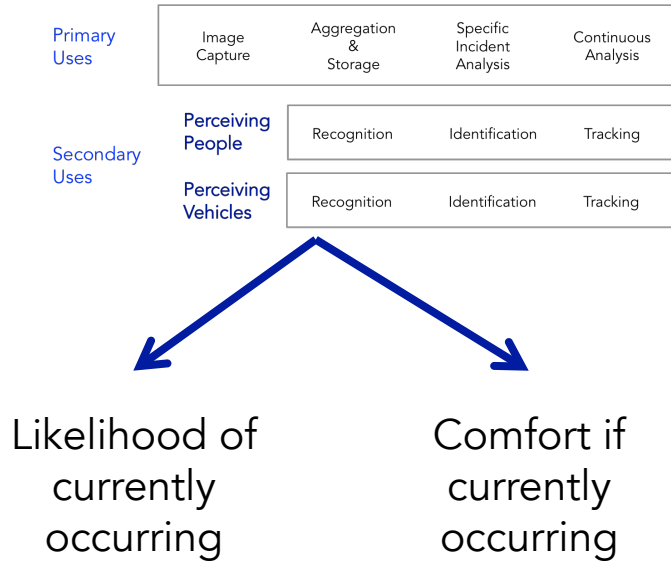
Perceiving  
Vehicles

Recognition

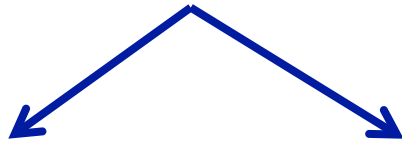
Identification

Tracking

# Survey Questionnaire



# Survey Questionnaire



Likelihood of currently occurring

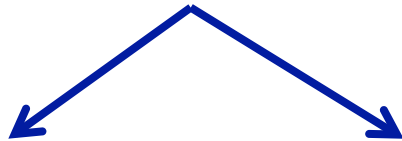
Comfort if currently occurring

General AV questions

Effort to opt out

Bias against Uber & demographics

# Survey Questionnaire



Likelihood of currently occurring

Comfort if currently occurring

General AV questions

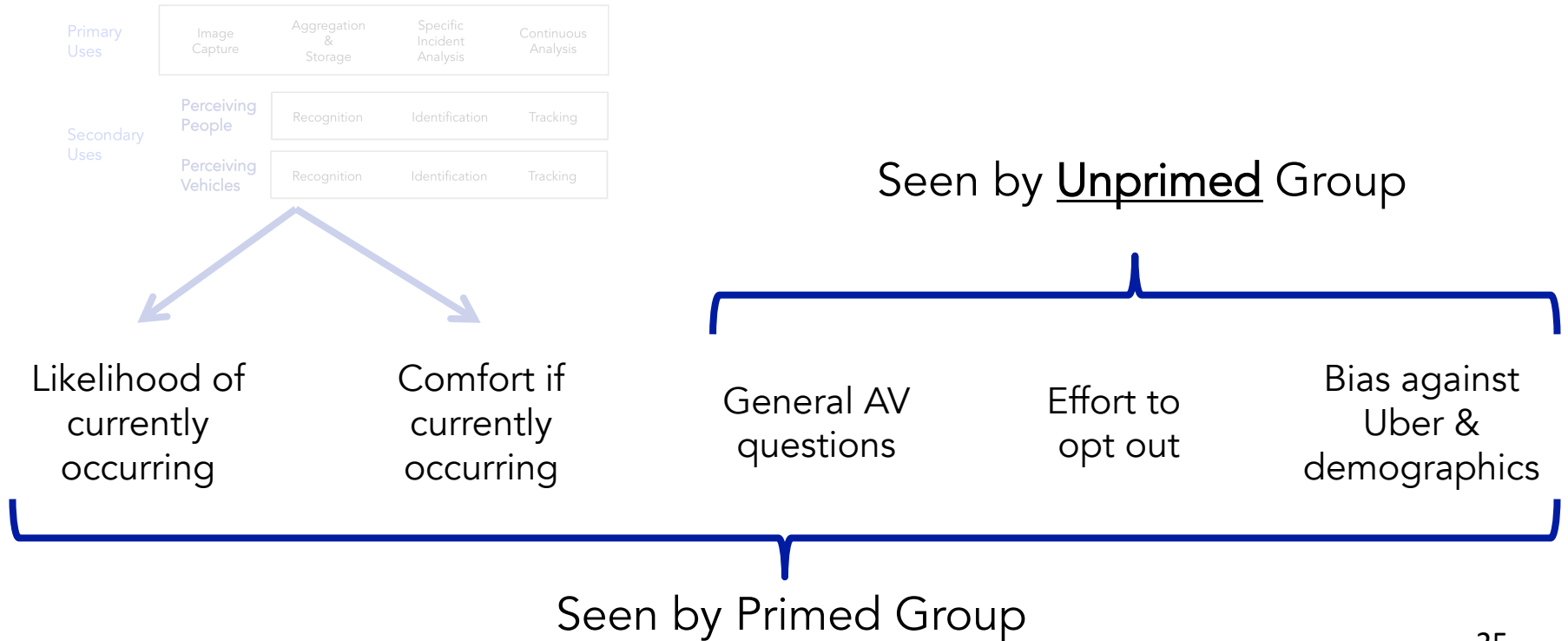
Effort to opt out

Bias against Uber & demographics

Seen by Primed Group

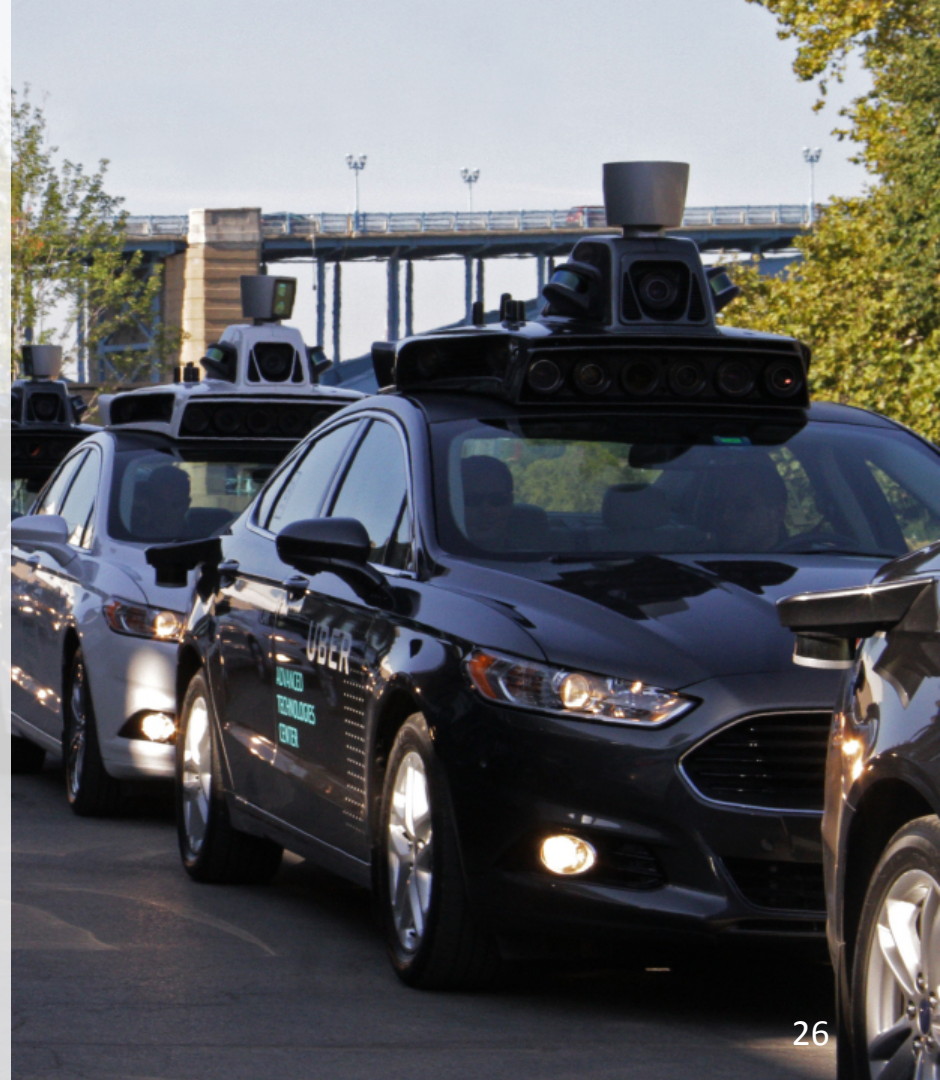


# Survey Questionnaire



# Study Design

- Exploratory online survey
- Privacy primed & unprimed groups
- Pittsburgh & four similar cities



# Recruitment

- Ads on Craigslist
- Posts on city Subreddits
- Posters *Pittsburgh only*



# 302 Participants

- 60% male
- 25% in tech fields
- Avg. age 34 [18, 79]



# Question:

What do people think networked fleets of autonomous vehicles are capable of?



# Privacy Questions

Primary  
Uses

Image  
Capture

Aggregation  
&  
Storage

Specific  
Incident  
Analysis

Continuous  
Analysis

Secondary  
Uses

Perceiving  
People

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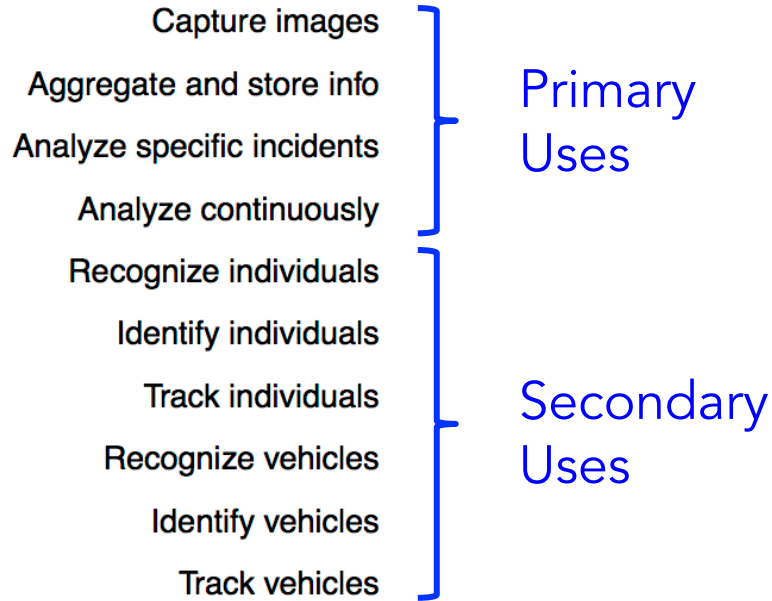
Perceiving  
Vehicles

Recognition

Identification

Tracking

# Likelihood of Technical Capability



# Likelihood of Technical Capability

- Capture images
- Aggregate and store info
- Analyze specific incidents
- Analyze continuously
- Recognize individuals
- Identify individuals
- Track individuals
- Recognize vehicles**
- Identify vehicles
- Track vehicles

How likely do you think this scenario is to be happening now?



# Likelihood of Technical Capability

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- Recognize vehicles**
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How likely do you think this scenario is to be happening now?

Q13. A self-driving car recognizes a vehicle that has been seen by another self-driving car in the fleet

# Likelihood of Technical Capability

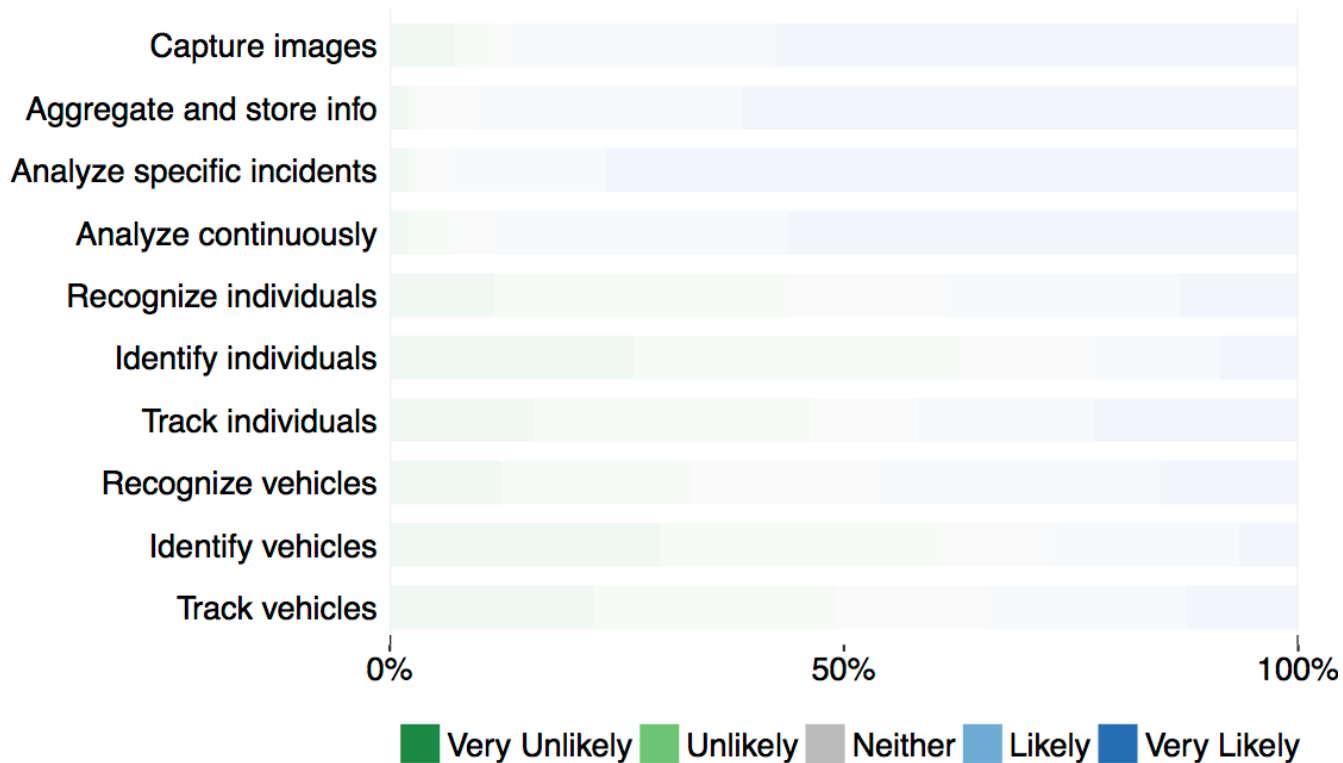
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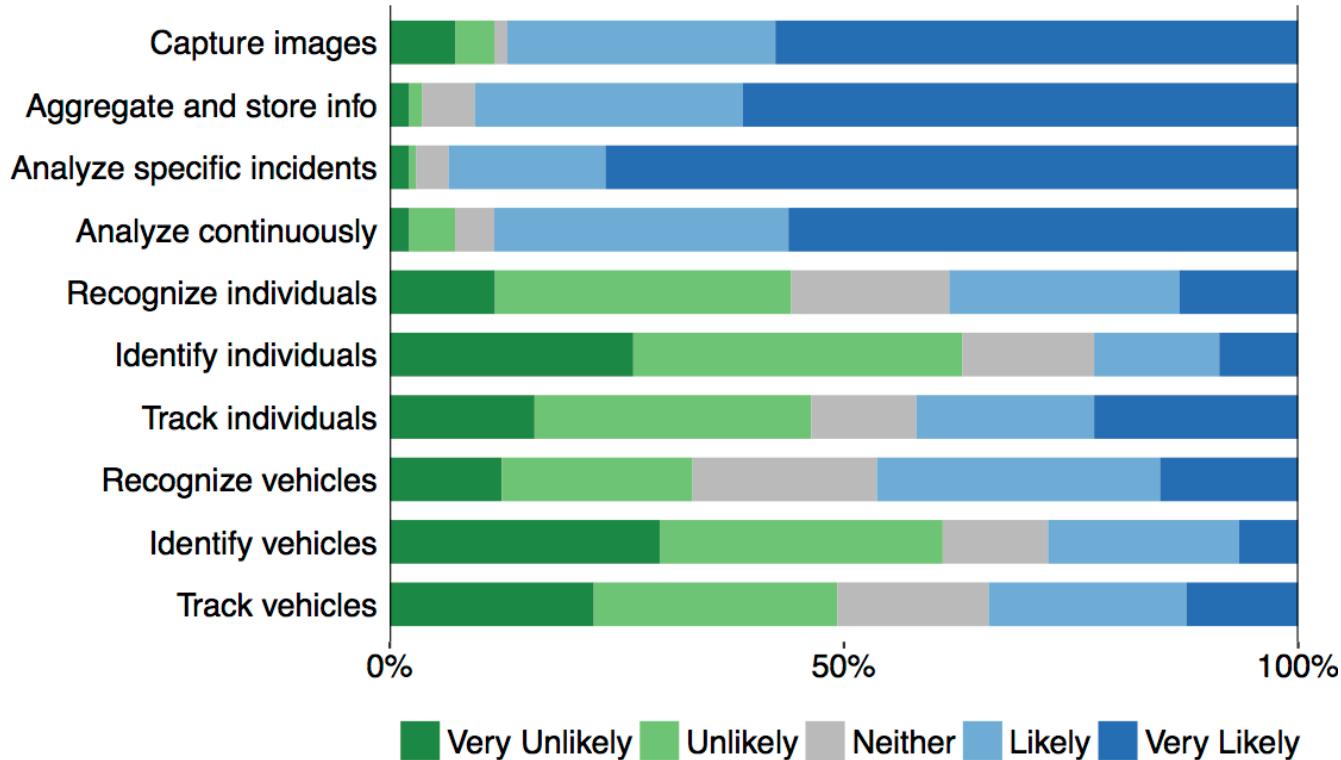
Q13. A self-driving car recognizes a vehicle that has been seen by another self-driving car in the fleet

For example: Uber knows that different self-driving cars encountered the same vehicle on different days, but does not know who owns the vehicle

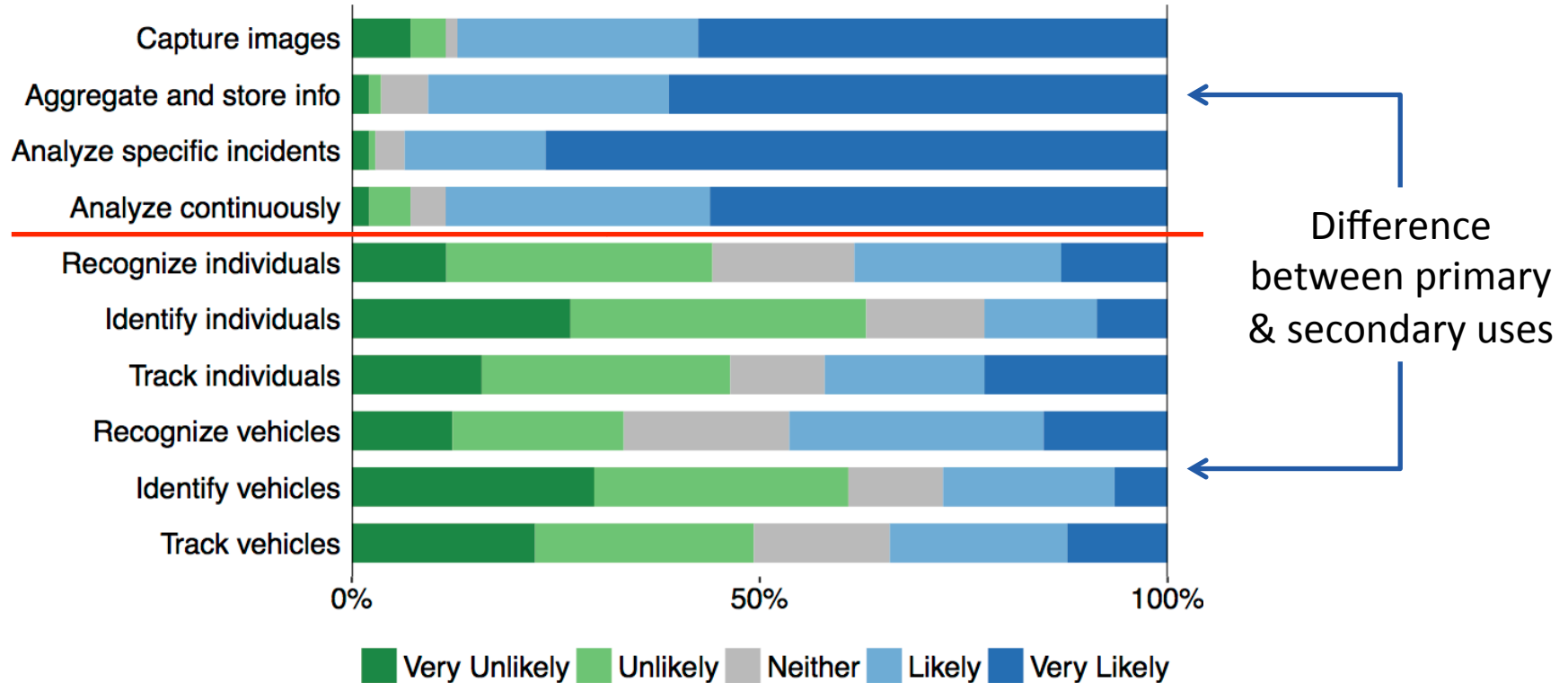
# Likelihood of Technical Capability



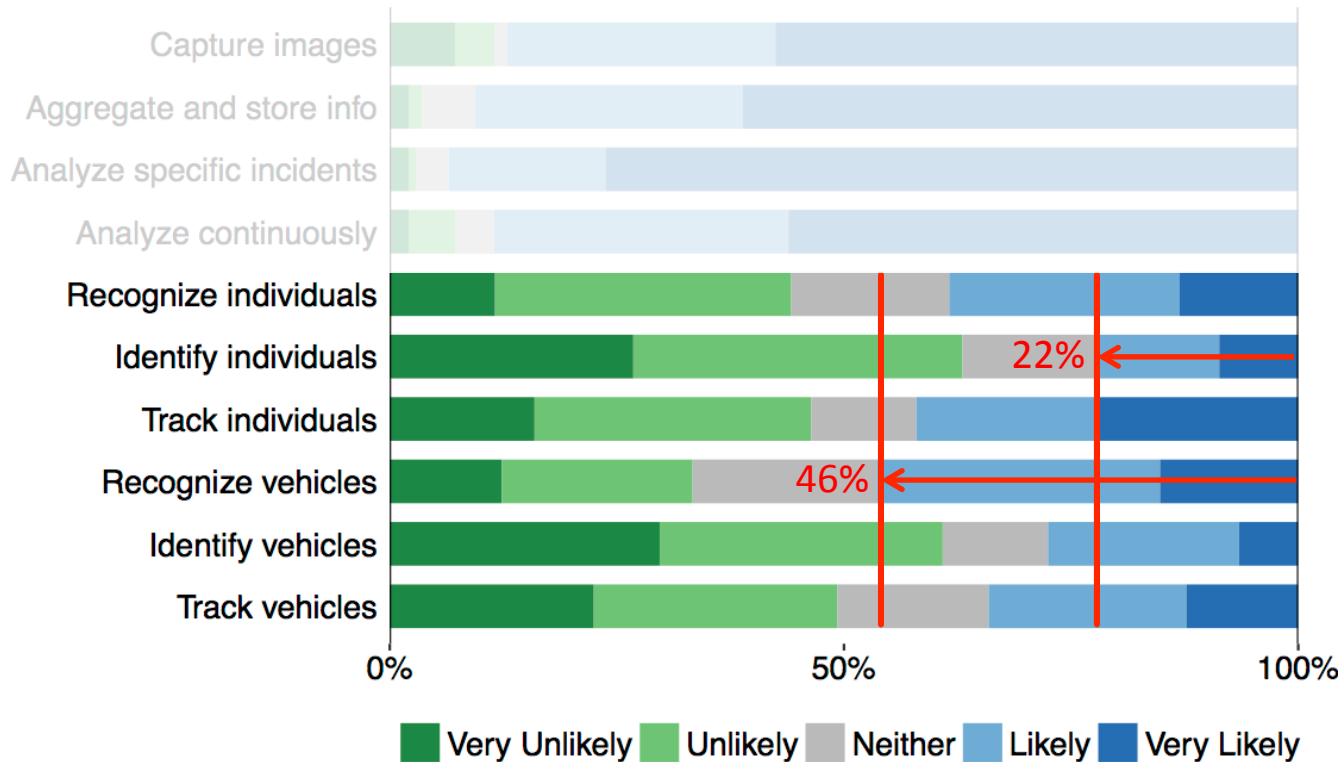
# Likelihood of Technical Capability



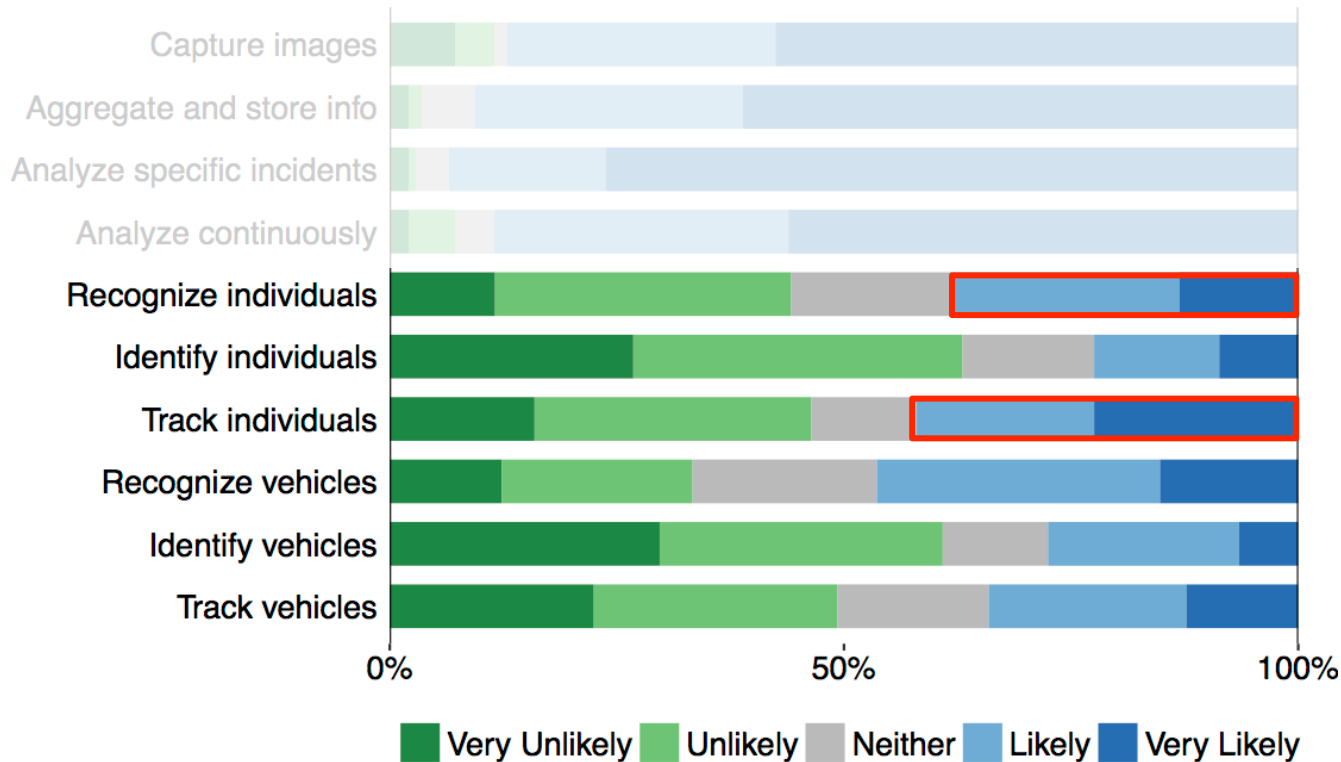
# Likelihood of Technical Capability



# Likelihood of Technical Capability

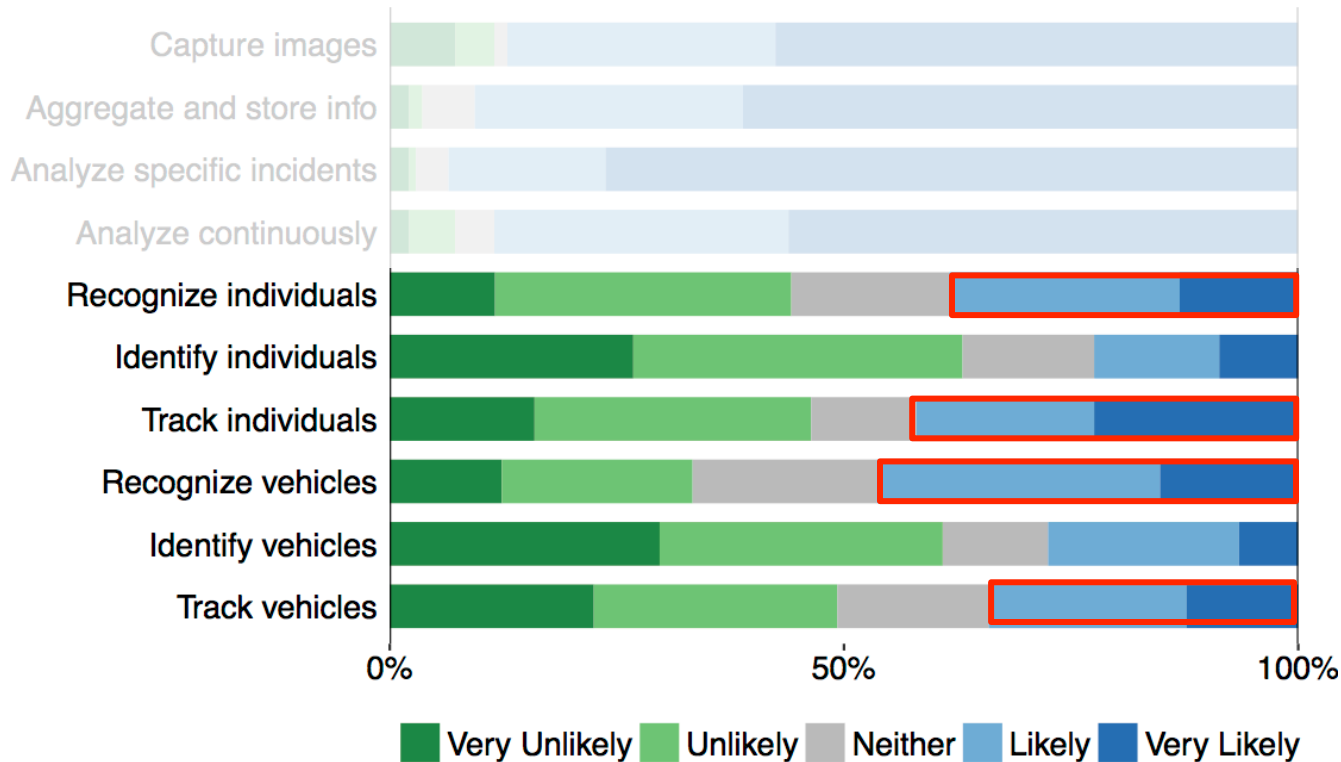


# Likelihood of Technical Capability



Participant  
misconceptions

# Likelihood of Technical Capability



Participant  
misconceptions



# Question:

How comfortable are people with these potential capabilities?



# Comfort with Capability Scenarios

Primary  
Uses

Image  
Capture

Aggregation  
&  
Storage

Specific  
Incident  
Analysis

Continuous  
Analysis

Secondary  
Uses

Perceiving  
People

Recognition

Identification

Tracking

Perceiving  
Vehicles

Recognition

Identification

Tracking

# Comfort with Capability Scenarios

Capture images

Aggregate and store info

Analyze specific incidents

Analyze continuously

Recognize individuals

Identify individuals

Track individuals

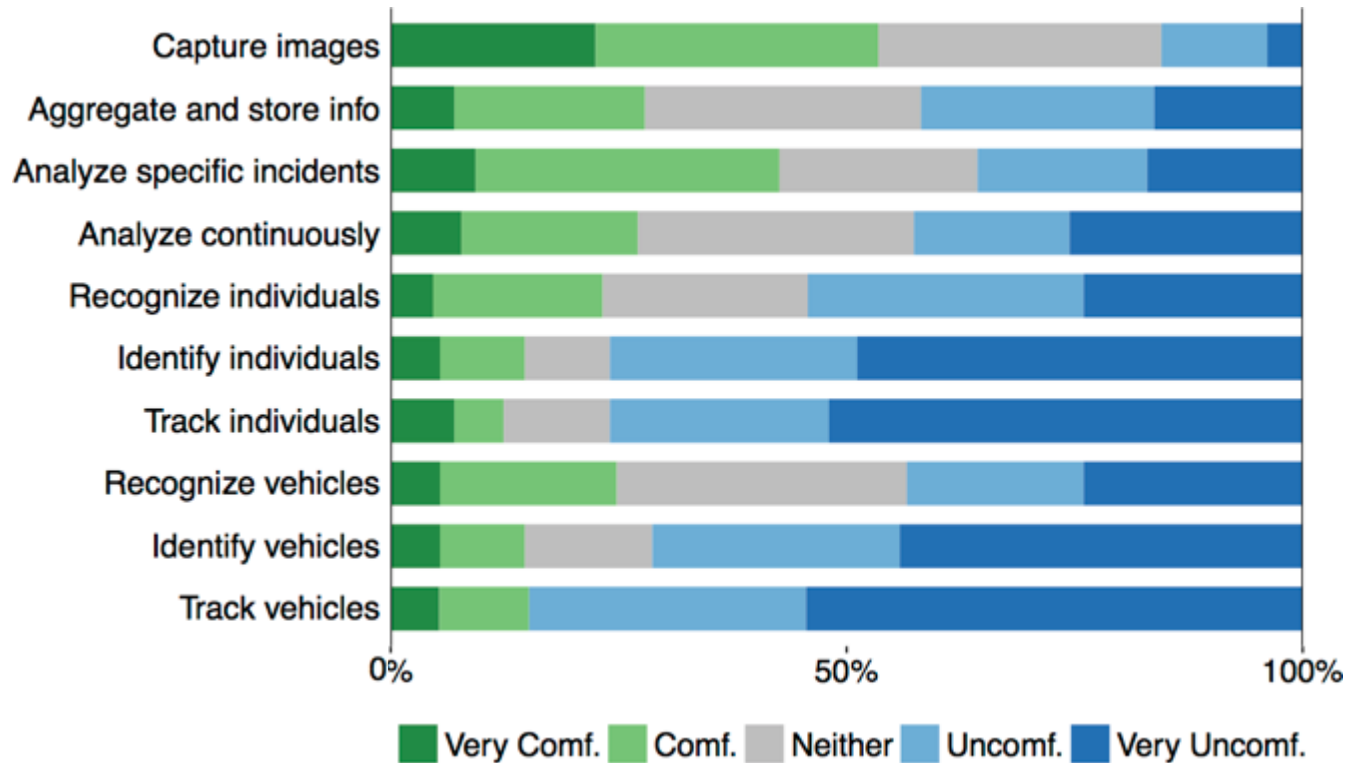
Recognize vehicles

Identify vehicles

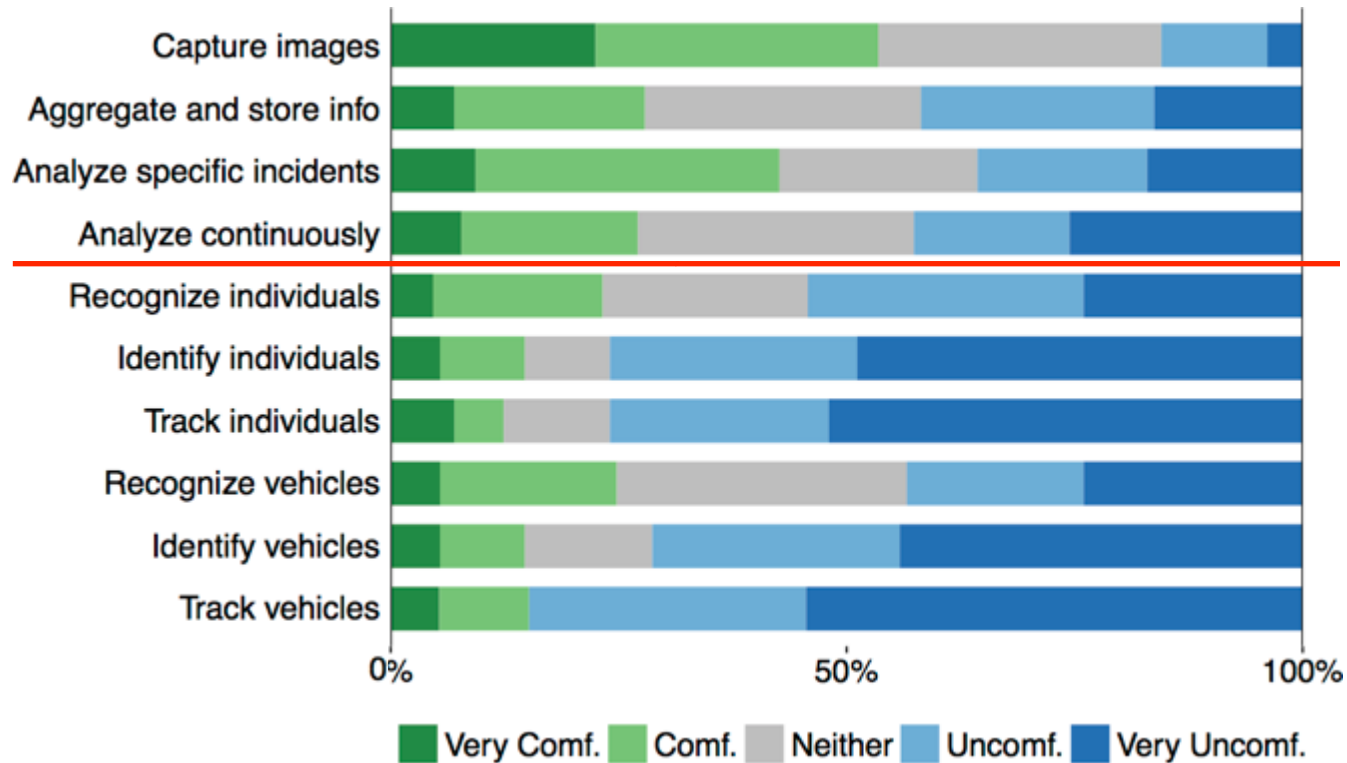
Track vehicles

How comfortable are you with the scenario?

# Comfort with Capability Scenarios

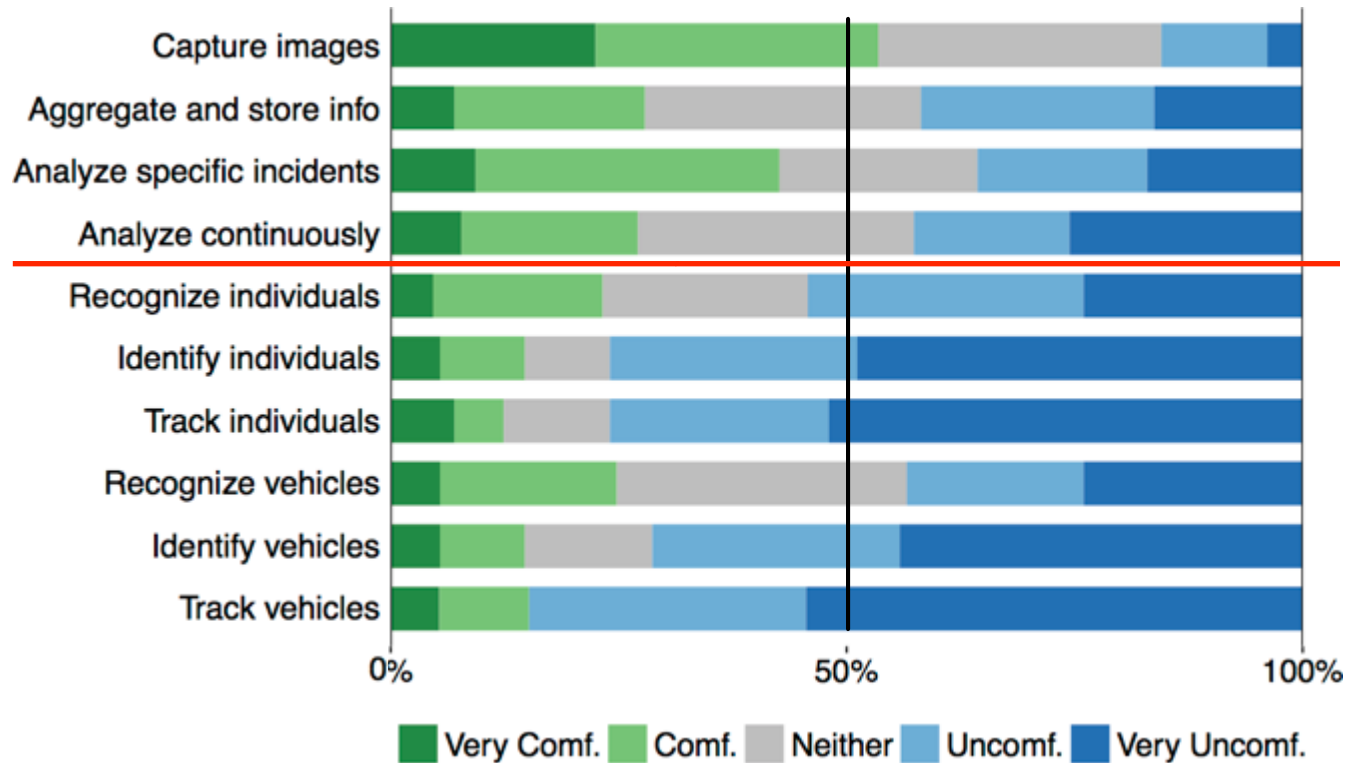


# Comfort with Capability Scenarios



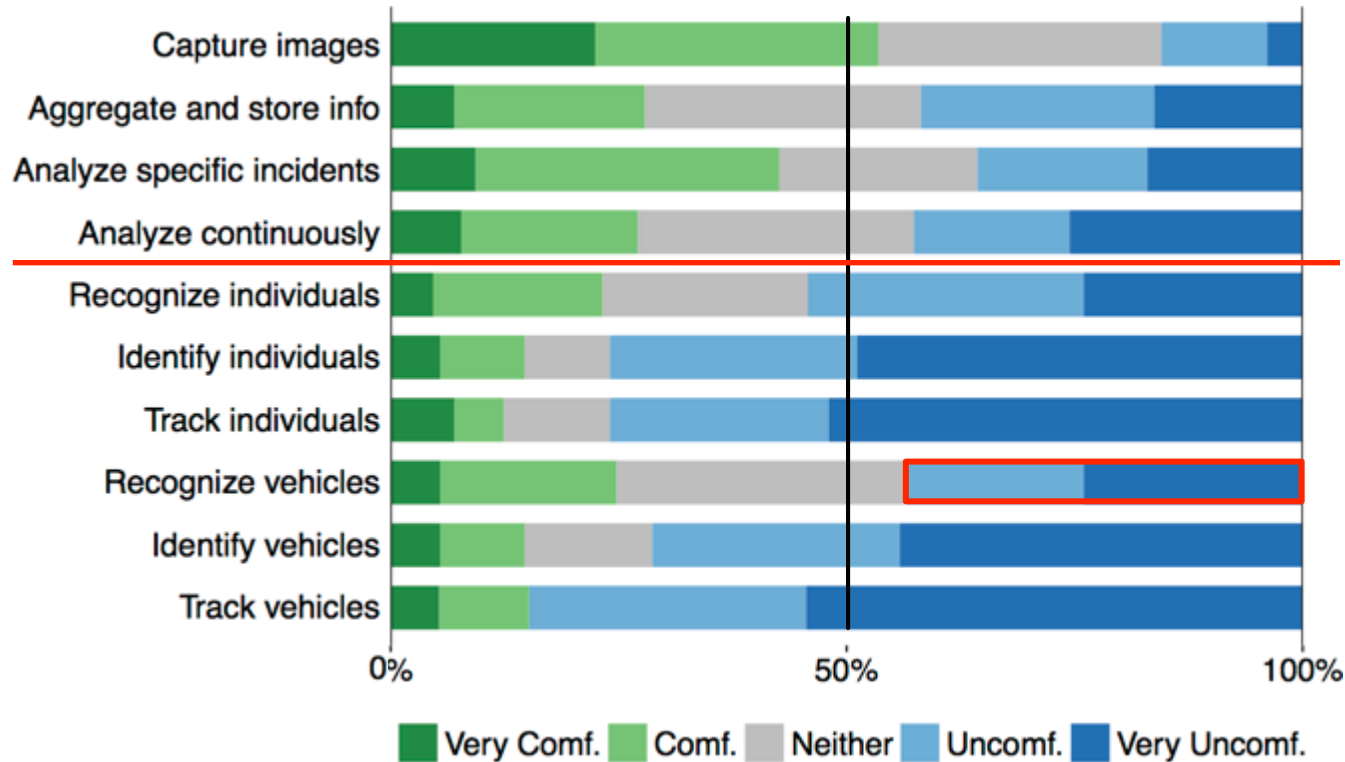
Differentiation is less clear than for likelihood questions

# Comfort with Capability Scenarios



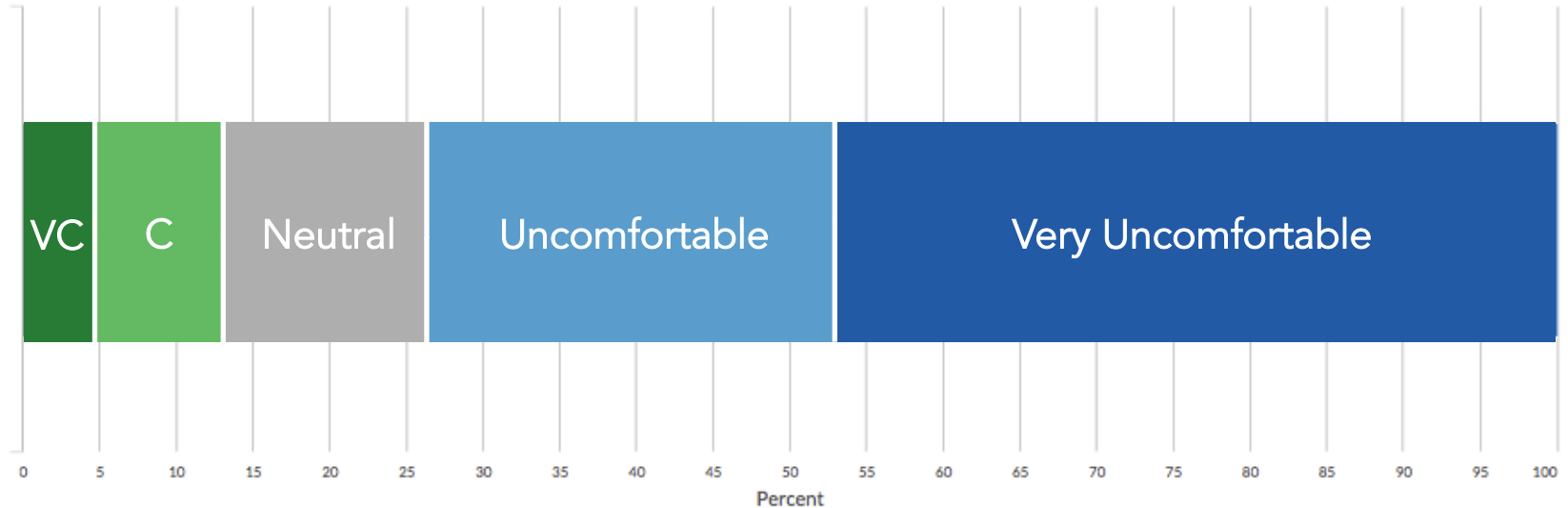
Differentiation is less clear than for likelihood questions

# Comfort with Capability Scenarios



Exception:  
recognition of  
vehicles

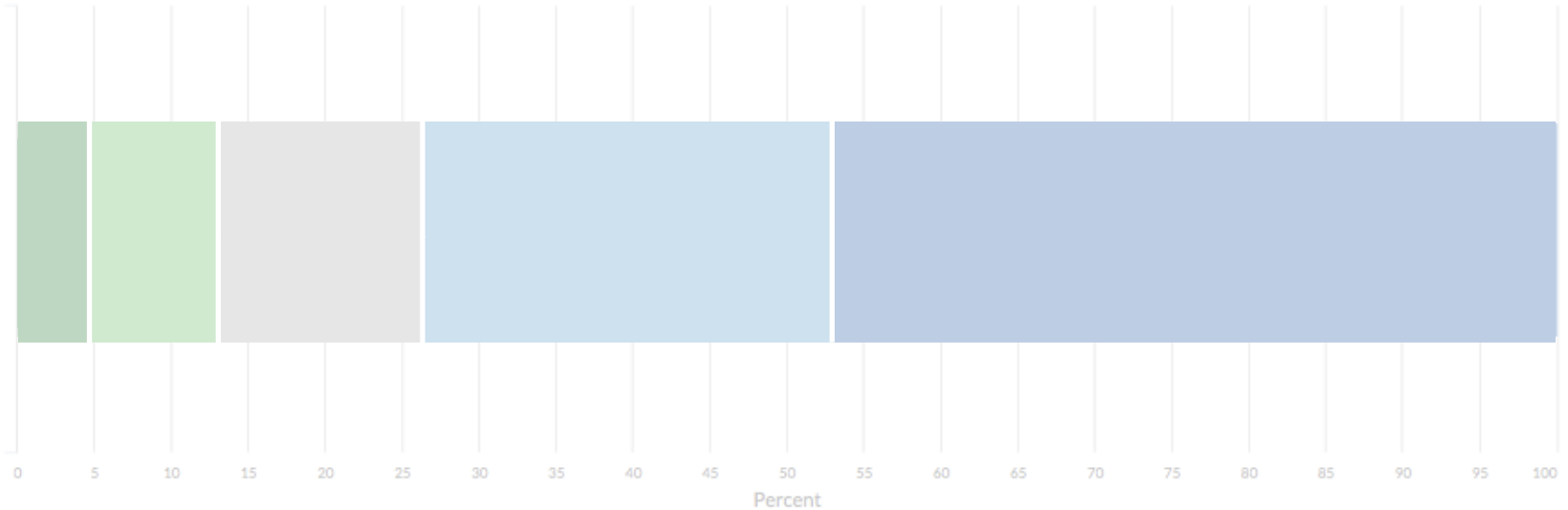
# Why are people (un)comfortable?



Q25. I would feel \_\_\_\_\_ if my car was tracked each time it encountered a self-driving car.

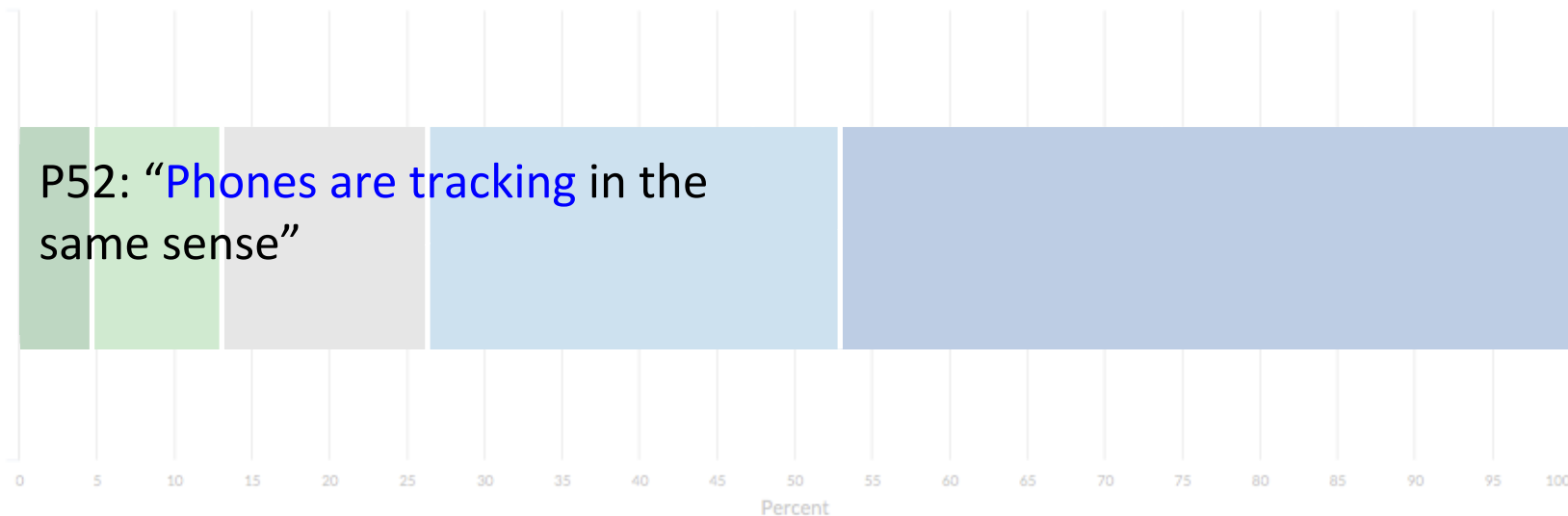


# Why are people comfortable?



Reasonable benefit

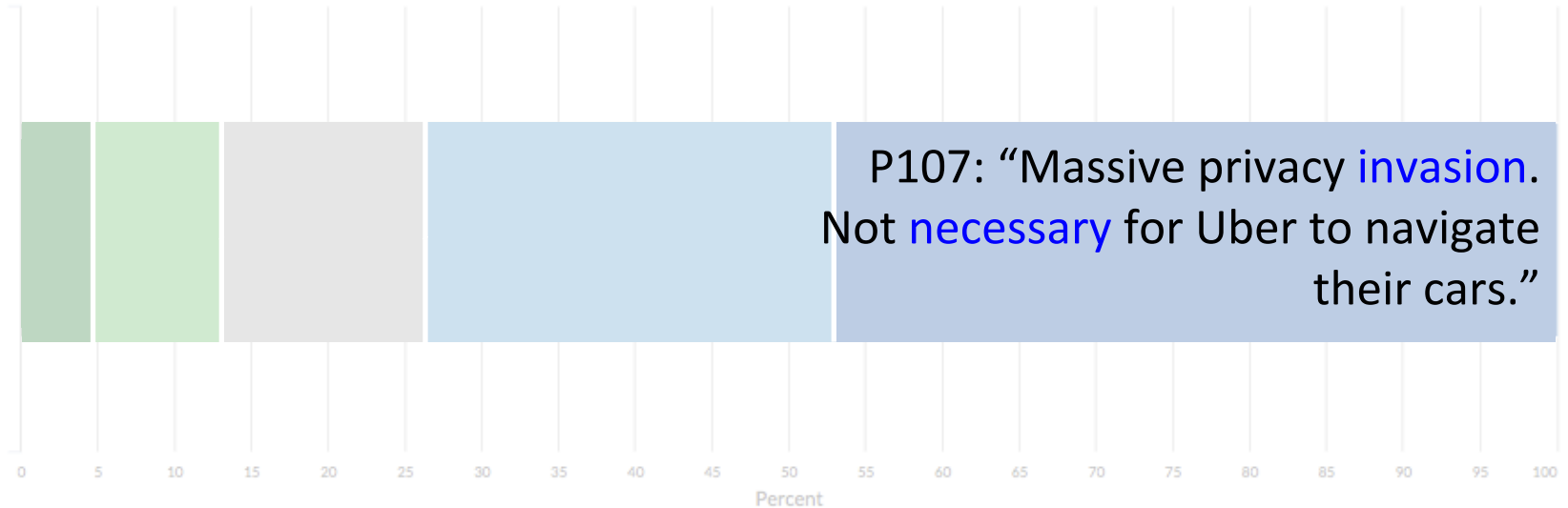
# Why are people comfortable?



Reasonable benefit

Ubiquity

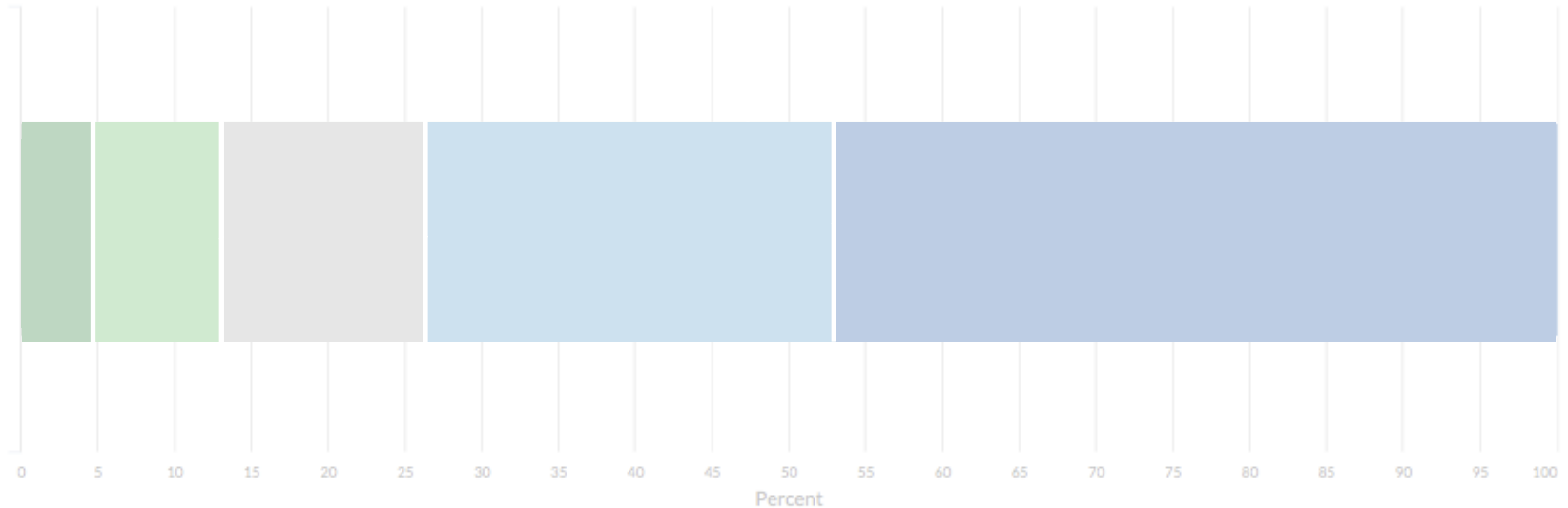
# Why are people uncomfortable?



Ubiquity  
Reasonable benefit

Necessary for AVs

# Why are people uncomfortable?



Ubiquity

Reasonable benefit

Necessity for AVs

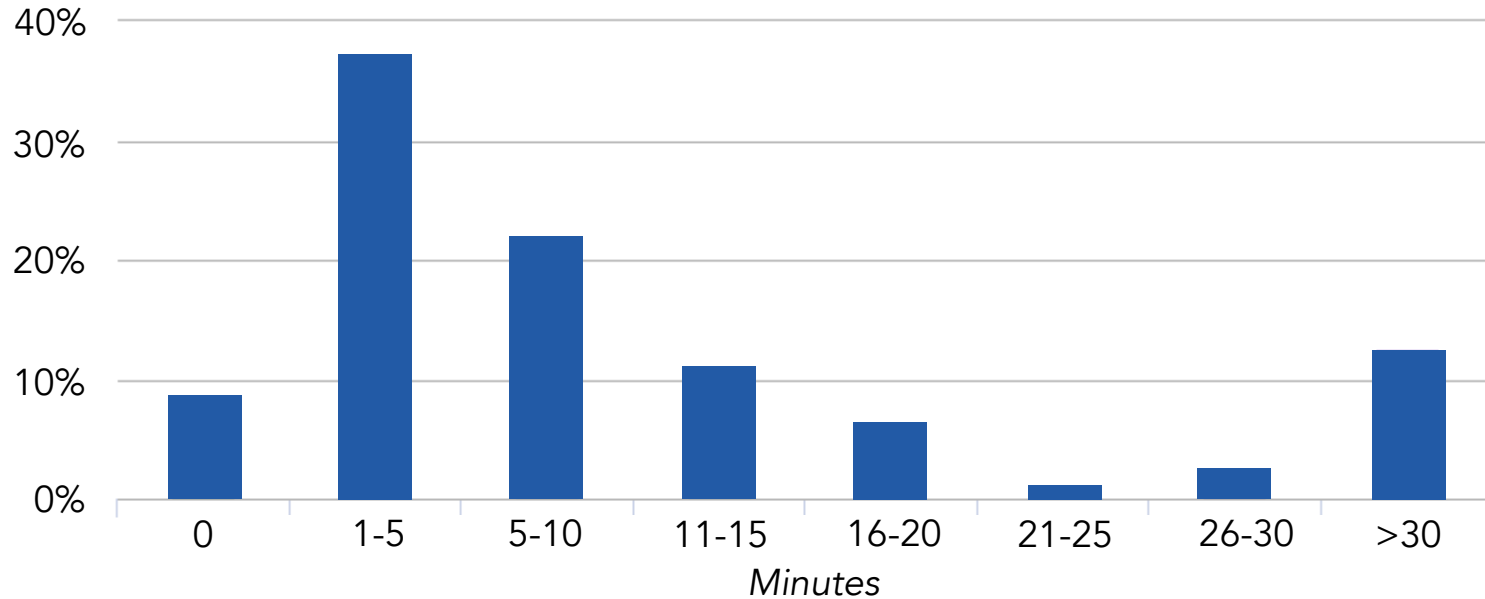
**Consent**

# Question:

How much effort  
would people expend  
to opt out?

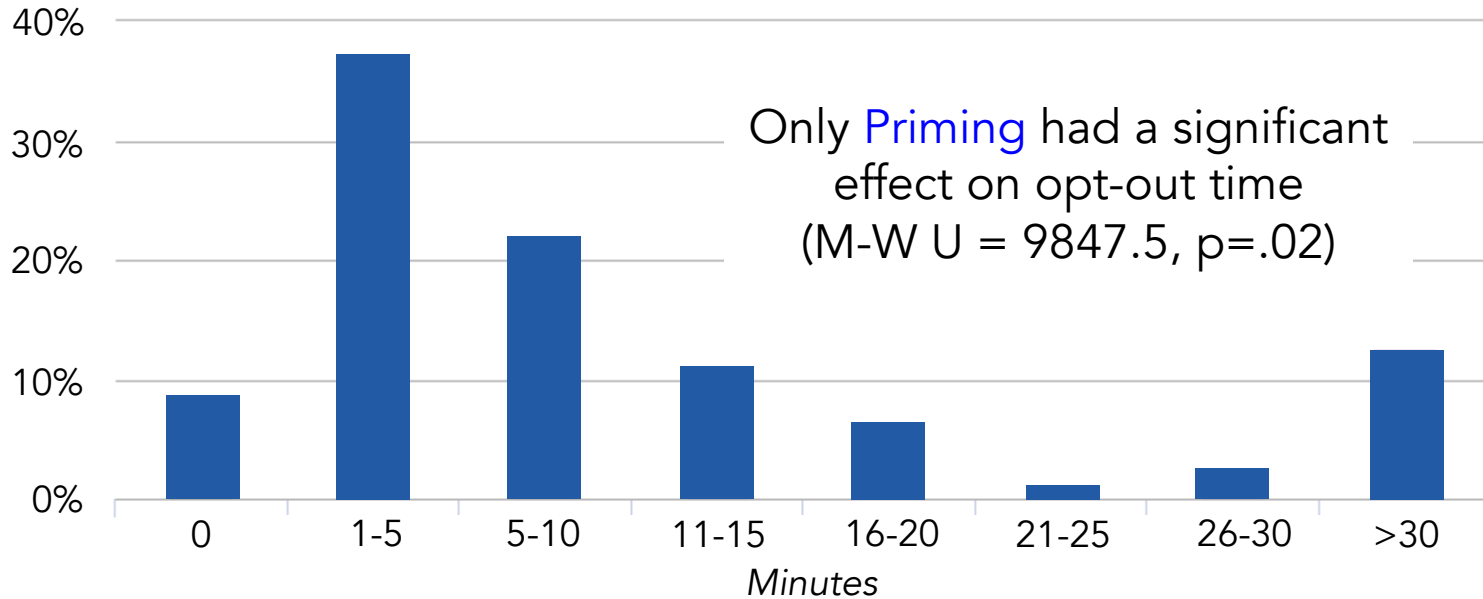


# Effort to Opt Out



Q36. How many minutes would you spend in the system to successfully opt out?

# Effort to Opt Out



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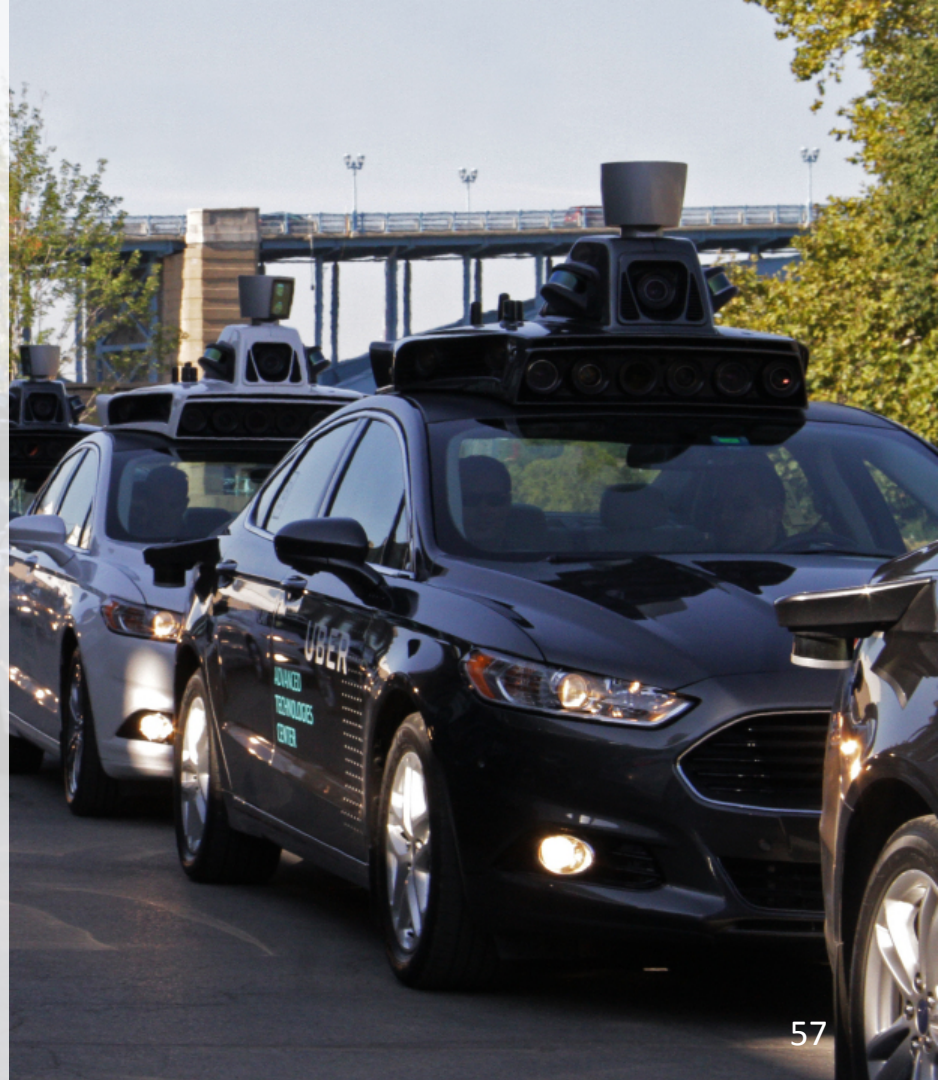
# In the Paper:

- More correlation tests
- Comparison of privacy and safety comfort
- Uber-related exposure and bias



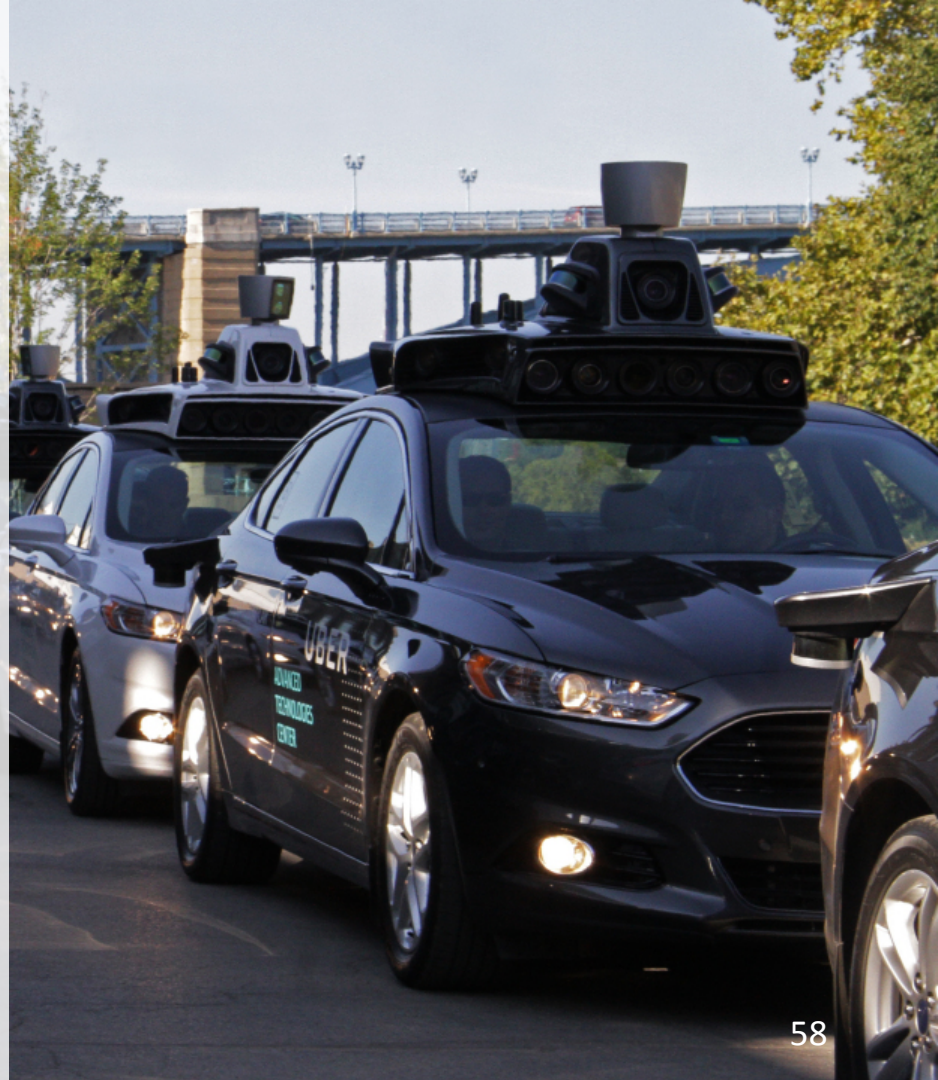


# Takeaways



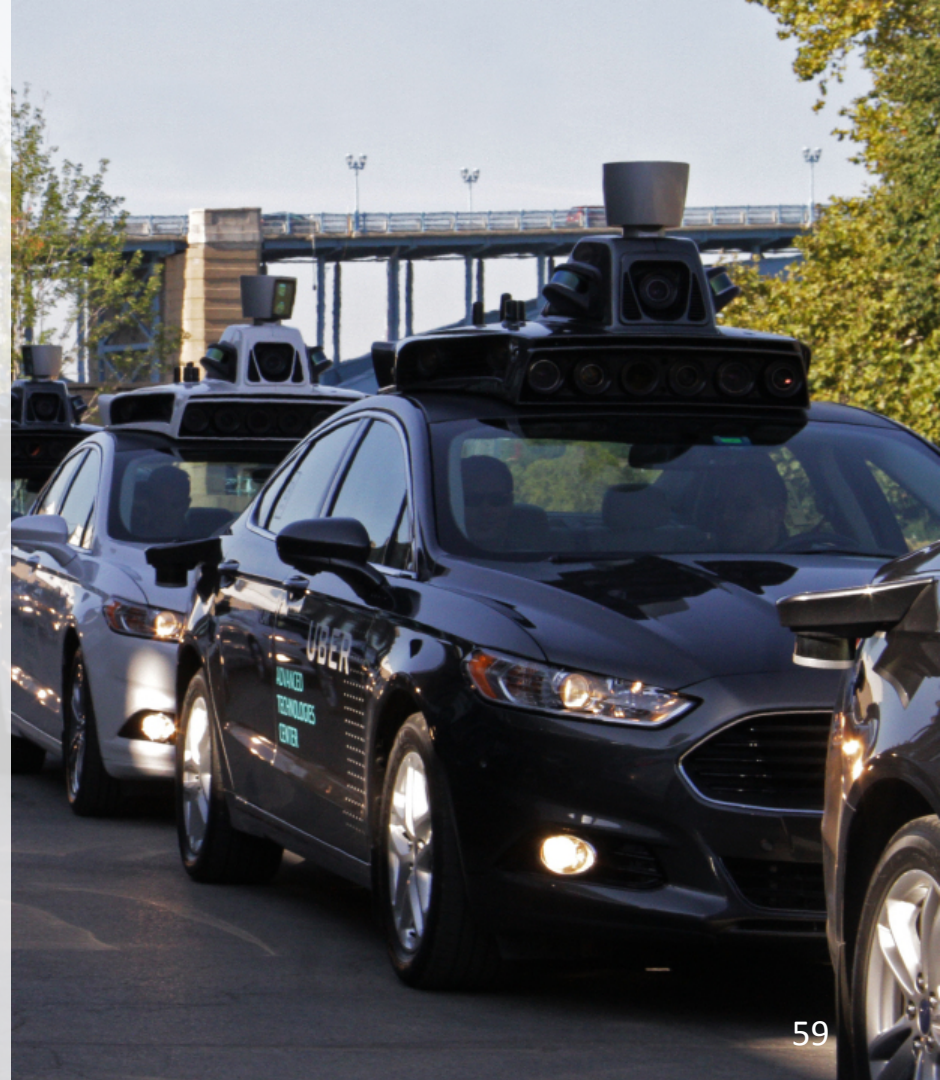
# Takeaways

1. People differentiate between primary and secondary data uses



# Takeaways

1. People differentiate between primary and secondary uses
2. Justifications focused on necessity, consent, and ubiquity



# Takeaways 1-2: Policy Application



# Takeaways 1-2: Policy Application

Primary uses are reasonable, while secondary uses are not



# Takeaways 1-2: Policy Application

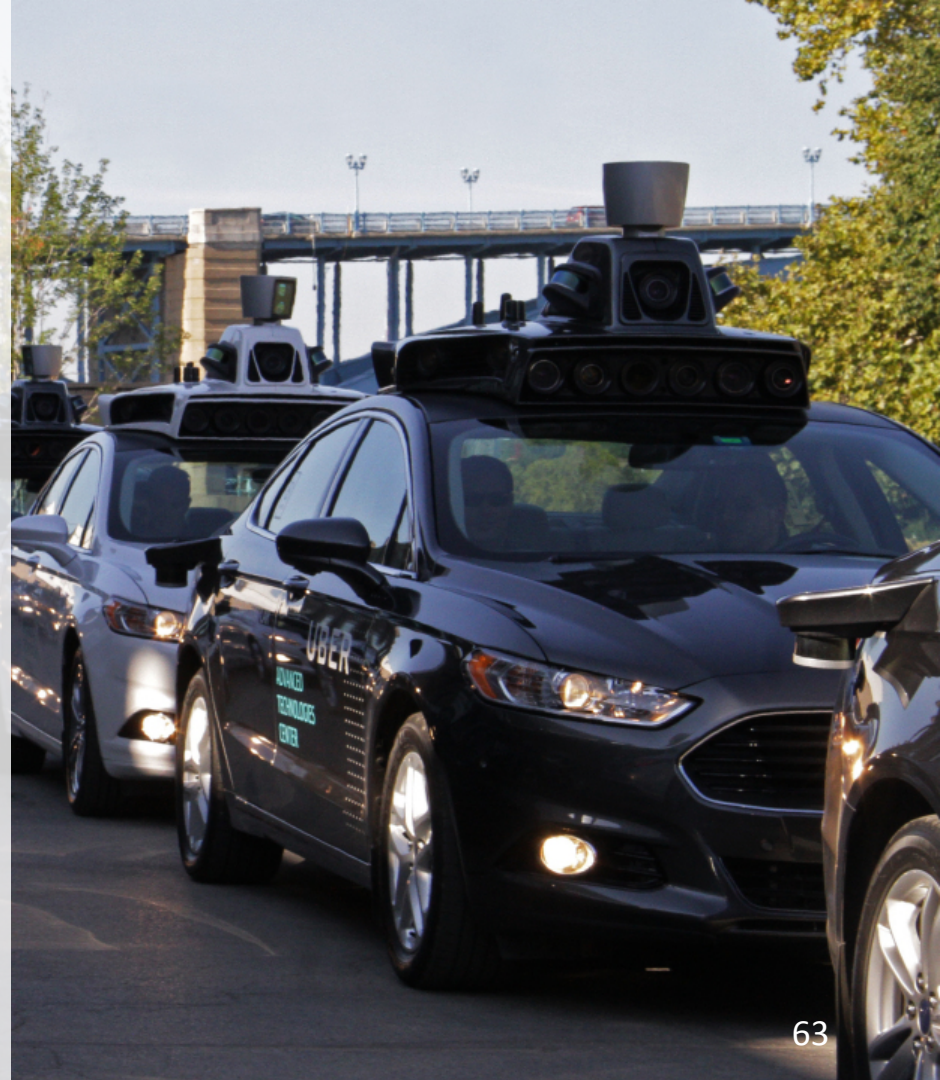
Primary uses are reasonable, while secondary uses are not

*Possible Exception:*  
Recognition of vehicles



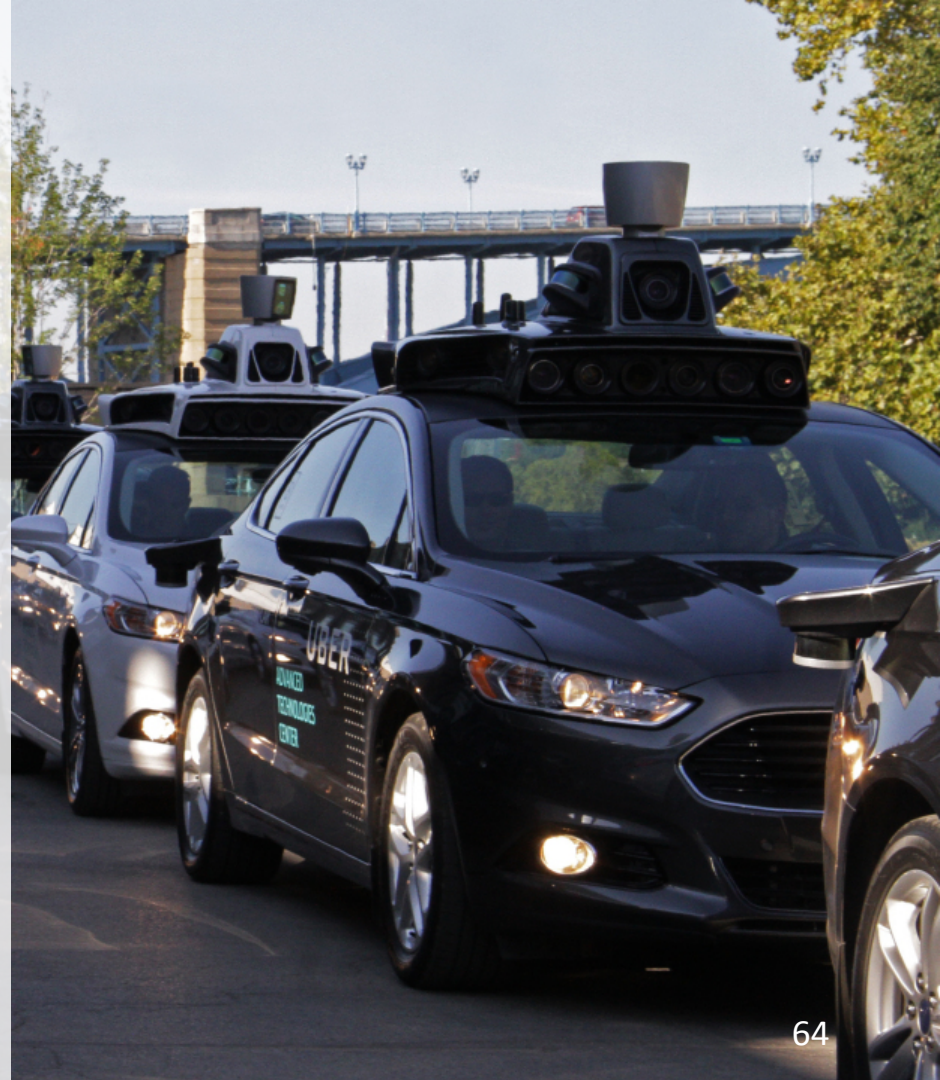
# Takeaways

3. Misconceptions about new information



# Takeaways

3. Misconceptions about new information
4. Priming had the only significant effect on effort to opt-out





# Takeaways 3-4: Policy Application

People will likely react strongly to conversations about autonomous vehicle privacy



# Takeaways 3-4: Policy Application

People will likely react strongly to conversations about autonomous vehicle privacy

And, it may be difficult to relay accurate information



# The Big Picture

- Companies should self-regulate



# The Big Picture

- Companies should self-regulate
  - .. to get ahead of the narrative
  - .. to fulfill reasonable expectations



# The Big Picture

- Companies should self-regulate
- Policy should restrict secondary uses of AV-collected information



# Self-driving Cars & Data Collection

## The Big Picture

- Companies should self-regulate
- Policy should restrict secondary uses of AV-collected information

Privacy Perceptions of Networked Autonomous Vehicles

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Mellon  
University**

**10. A self-driving car recognizes a person that has been encountered before by a different self-driving car in the fleet**

- Very Unlikely
- Unlikely
- Neither Unlikely nor Likely
- Likely
- Very Likely

**11. Individuals are identified by name when they encounter one of the self-driving cars in the fleet**

*For example: Uber knows that the pedestrian next to one of its self-driving cars is Alice*

- Very Unlikely
- Unlikely
- Neither Unlikely nor Likely
- Likely
- Very Likely

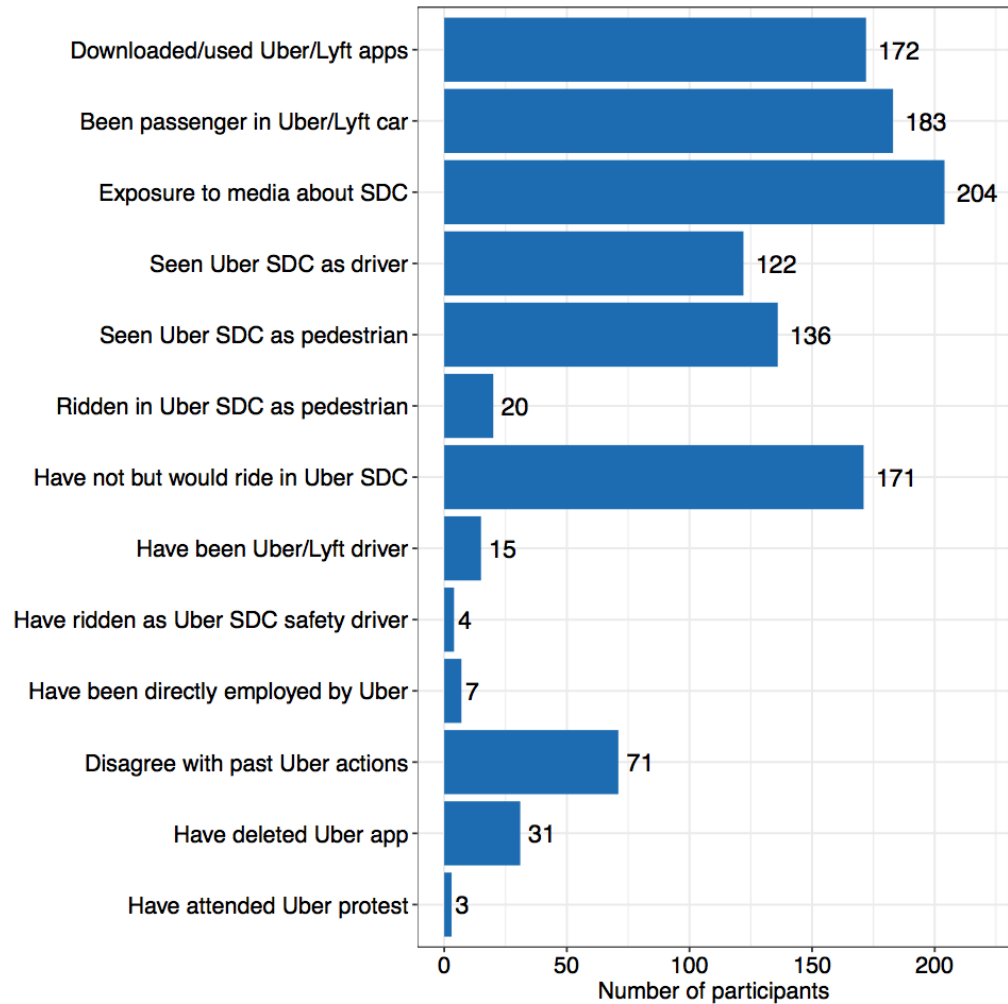
**12. Individuals are tracked using each time they encounter one of its self-driving cars in the fleet**

- Very Unlikely
- Unlikely
- Neither Unlikely nor Likely
- Likely
- Very Likely

Scenario	Overall	PGH	Non-PGH
Capture images	16% (20)	14% (13)	19% (7)
Aggregate and store info	42% (54)	43% (40)	38% (14)
Analyze specific incidents	36% (46)	36% (33)	35% (13)
Analyze continuously	43% (55)	39% (36)	51% (19)
Recognize individuals	54% (70)	57% (52)	49% (18)
Identify individuals	76% (98)	75% (69)	78% (29)
Track individuals	76% (98)	78% (72)	70% (26)
Recognize vehicles	43% (56)	46% (42)	38% (14)
Identify vehicles	71% (92)	68% (63)	78% (29)
Track vehicles	85% (95)	84% (67)	88% (28)

**Table 2: Discomfort with technological capabilities in different scenarios, overall and by whether participants lived in Pittsburgh. The percentage (count) of participants that were uncomfortable or very uncomfortable with a scenario are shown.**



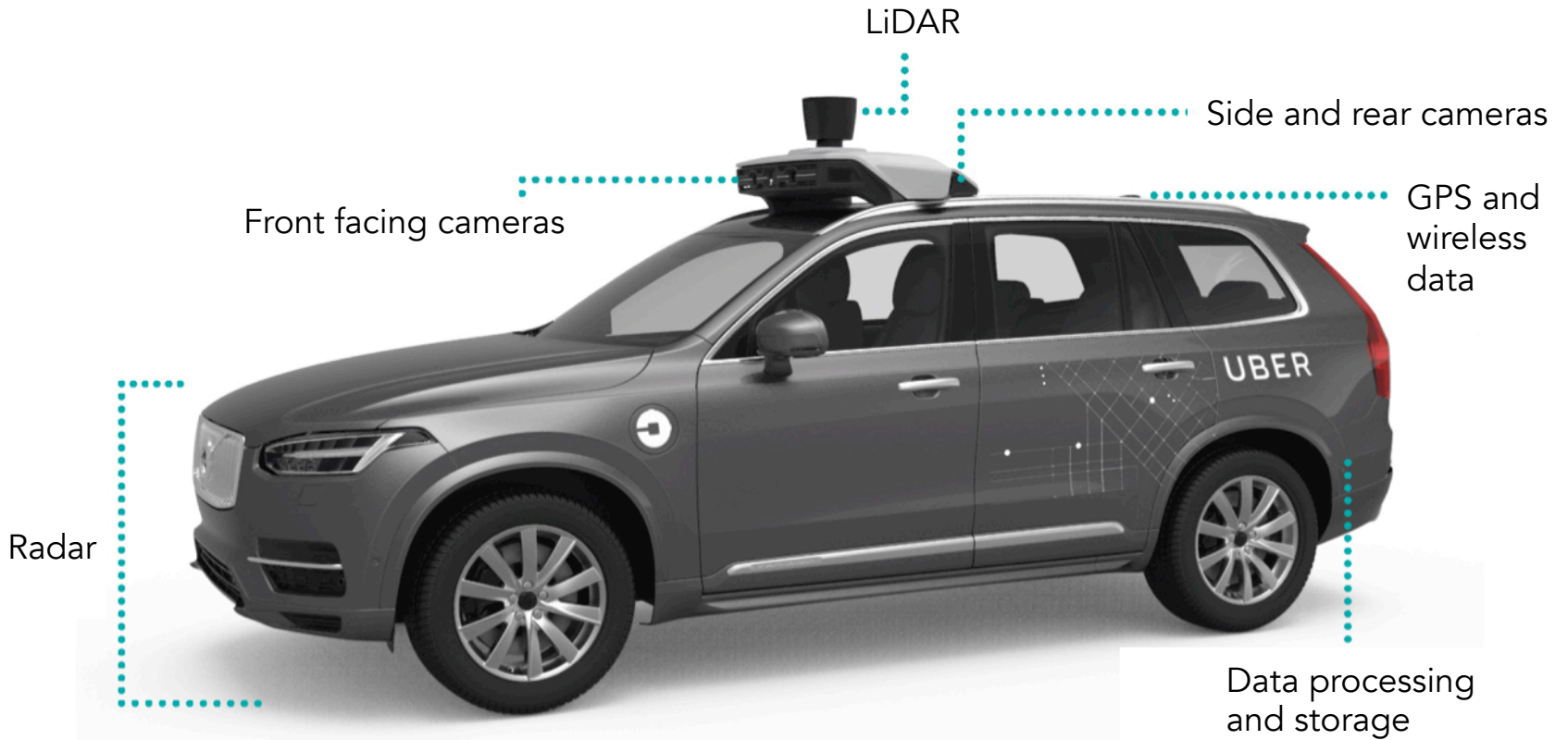


## Exposure to Uber & AV technology

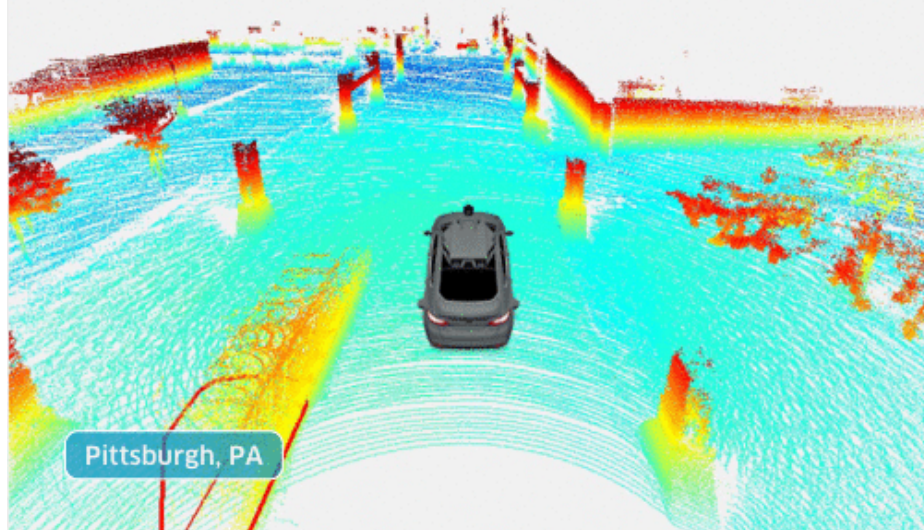
- 78% Pgh and 42% non-Pgh were exposed to media
- 64% Pgh and 3% non-Pgh had seen one as a pedestrian

## Bias against Uber

- 17% would have answered differently if Uber hadn't been the example
- 18% would trust a different AV company over Uber to have their best interests in mind



**UBER**  
Self-driving



Pittsburgh, PA

# Progression of General Scenarios

## General Proximity

Walking  
Near  
**24%**

Driving  
Near  
**25%**

Cycling  
Near

Being Near  
in Snow  
**61%**

Riding In

## General Privacy

Changes in  
Job Market

Image  
Capture  
**85%**

Aggregation  
& Analysis  
**77%**

Accident  
Liability

Becoming  
More Common  
**30%**