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# Value Chain Optimization for Metal Recycling Processes Through Causal Modeling

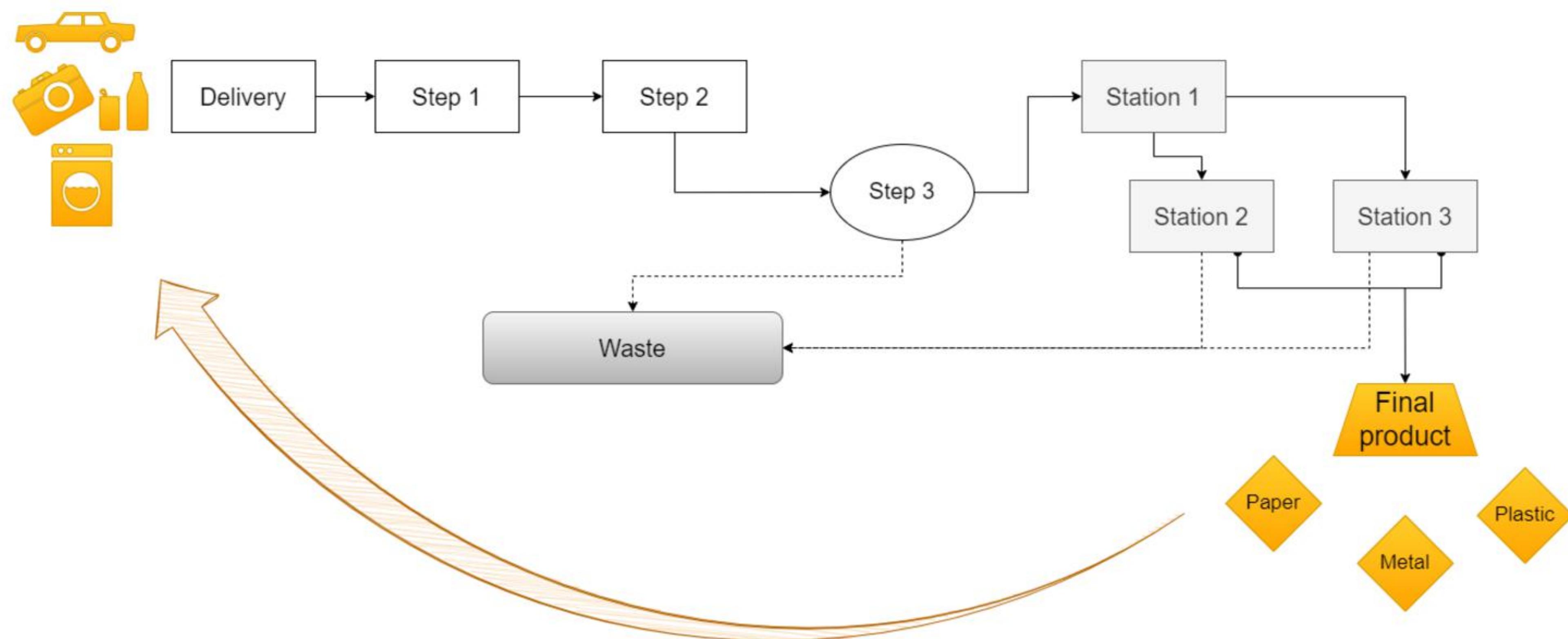
Software Competence Center Hagenberg

Valeria Fonseca Diaz - Recy & DepoTech 2024

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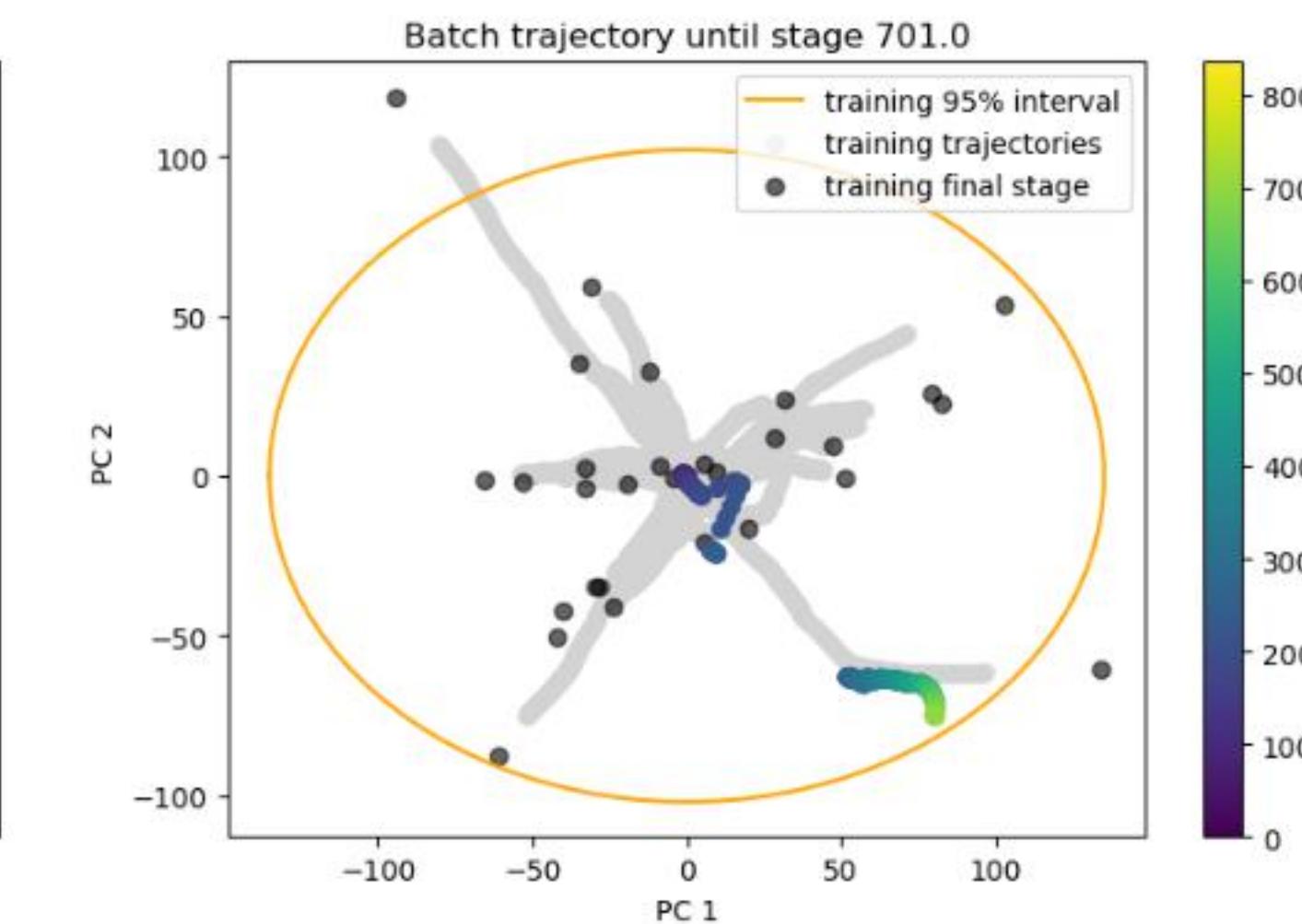
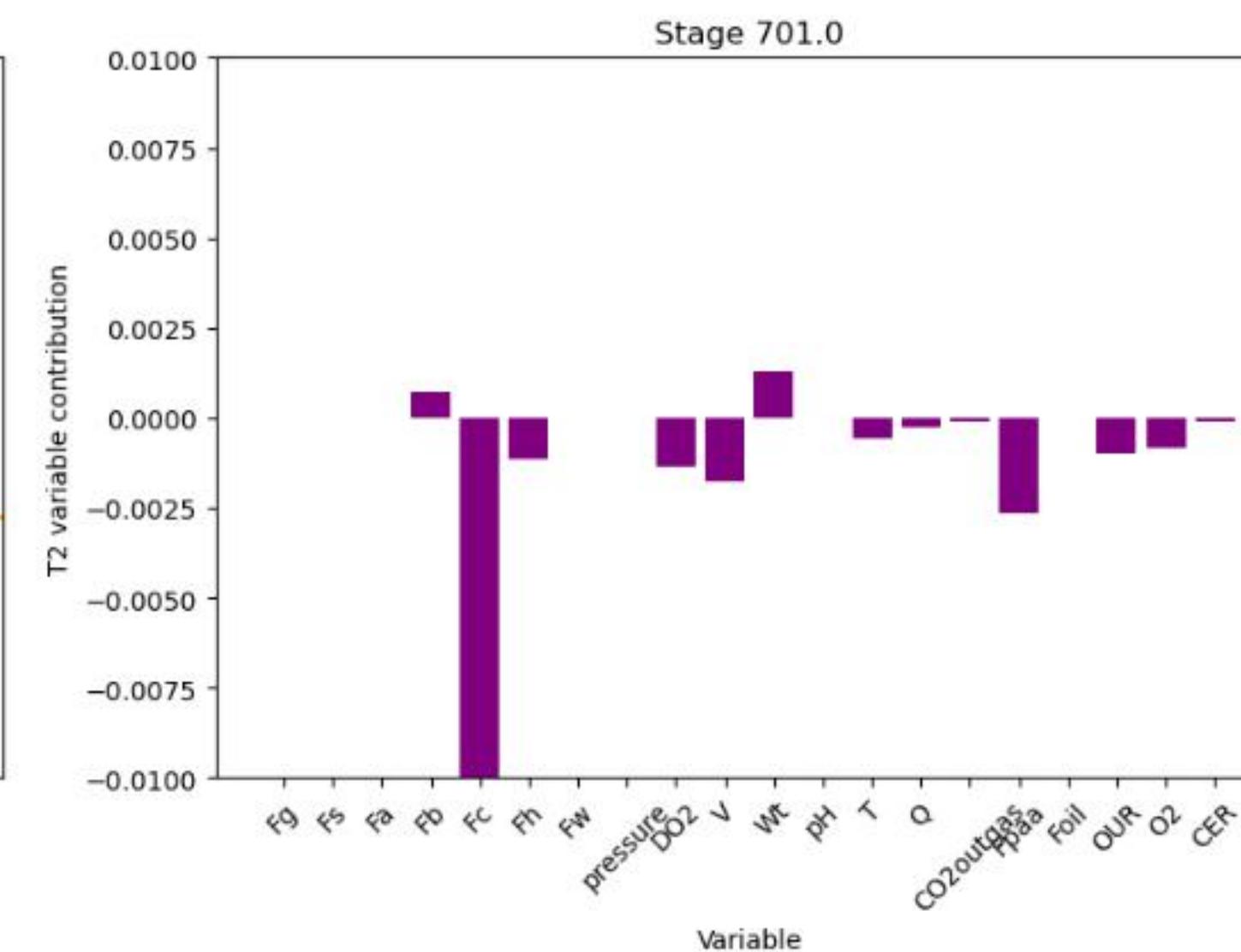
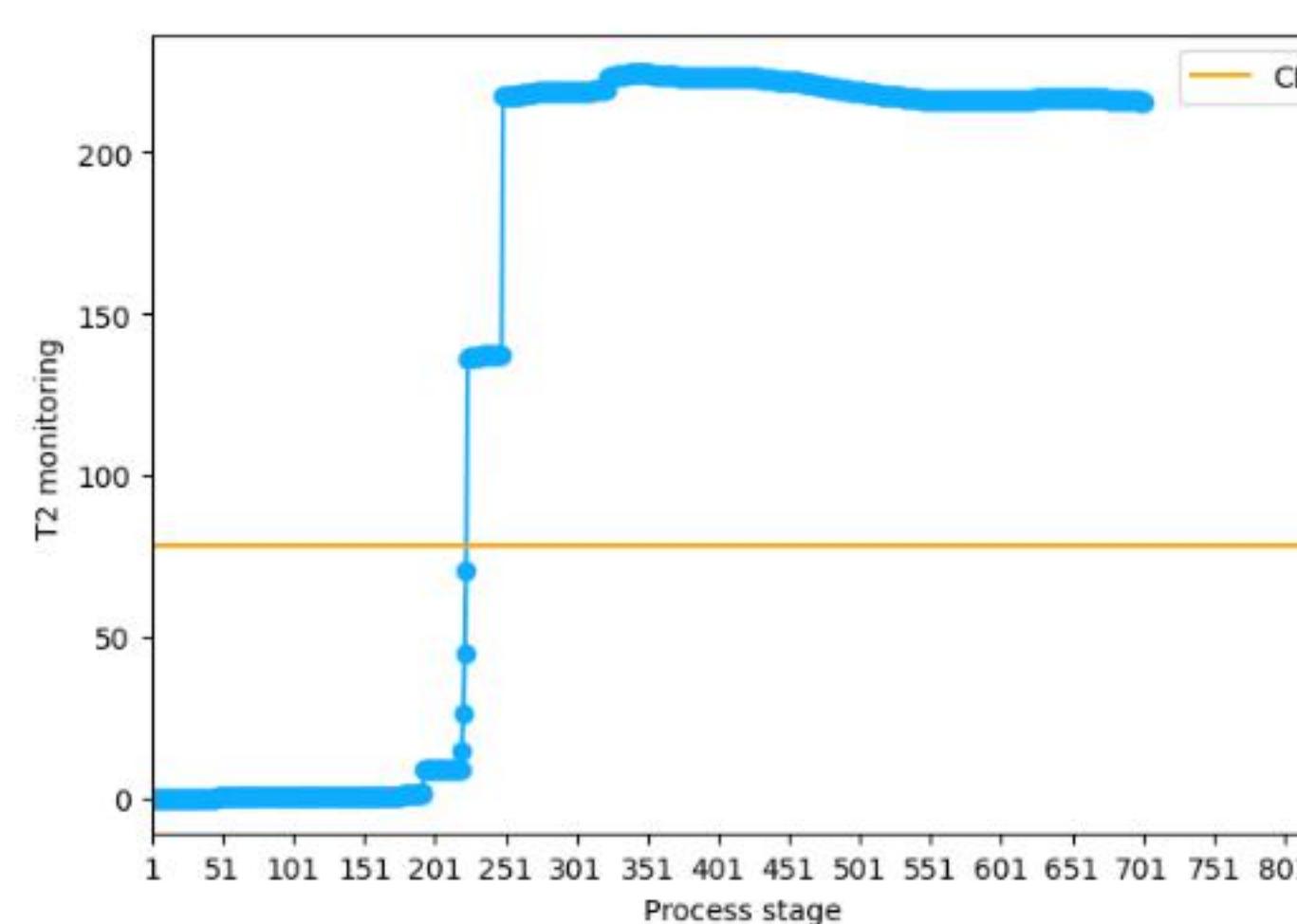
**Industrial state of the art when  
optimizing recycling processes**

# From input material to final products



# How to model these processes?

- State of the art: Multivariate analysis, MSPC
- A monitoring dashboard: Progress of one specific batch



J.M. Prats-Montalbán, A. de Juan, A. Ferrer, Multivariate image analysis: A review with applications, Chemometr Intell Lab Syst, 2011, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemolab.2011.03.002>

# Stepping forward

For industrial processes that are still not digitalized:

- Account for the conditional dependencies through the entire process
- Quantify the standard error of predictions
- Equip industrial solutions with explainability/interpretability for root cause analysis

# Our work

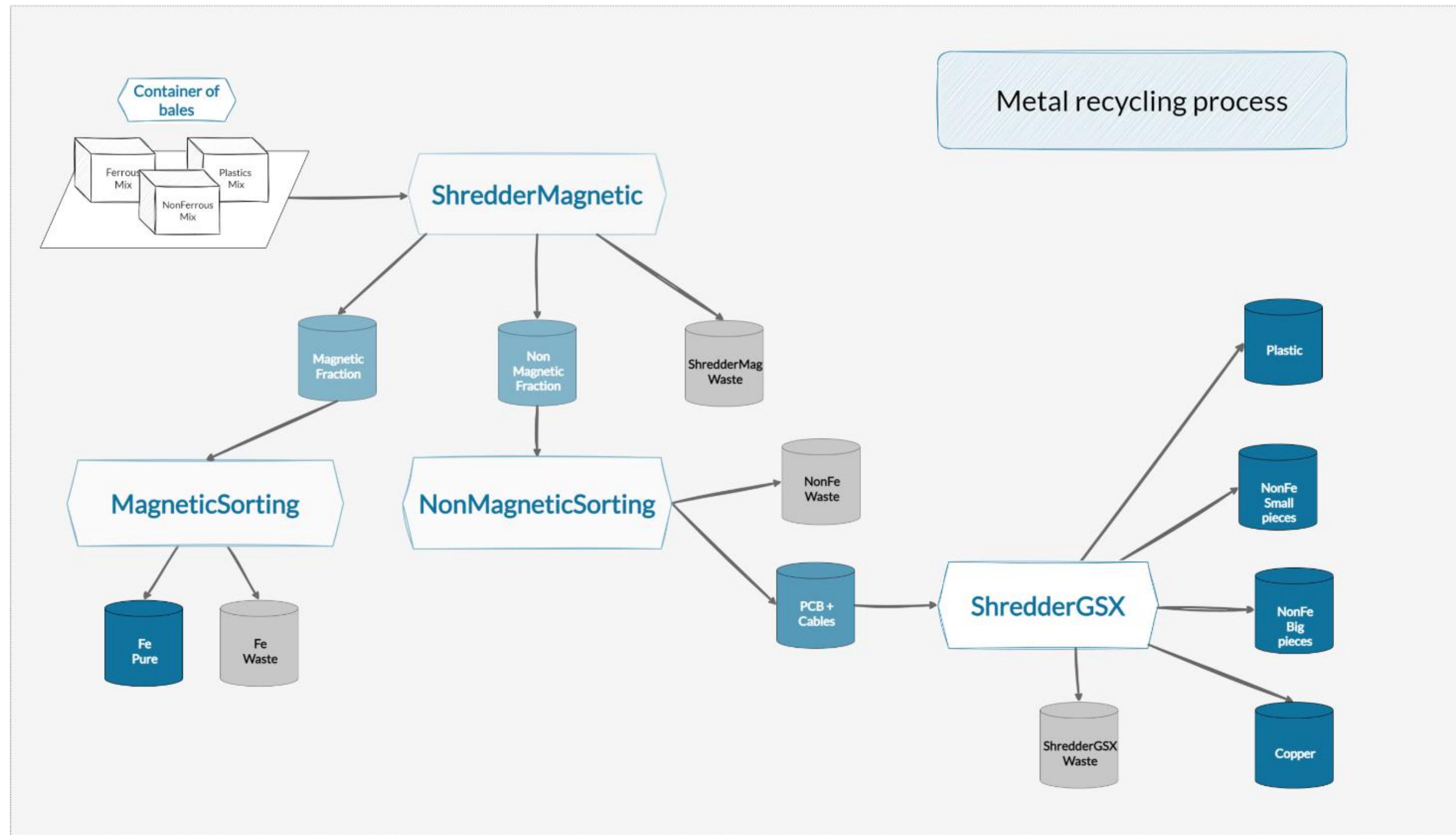
We are redefining the framework of process modeling for *the digital era*, so that:

- On a theoretical level:
  - The modeling framework is easily adjustable for complex and deep model architectures
  - We quantify also the uncertainty of a prediction
  - All the conditional dependencies through the real process are adequately considered in the model
  - We set a new basis for explainable artificial intelligence (XAI)
- On a practical level:
  - Obtain accurate predictions of the process performance
  - Find accurate and precise root causes when monitoring and analyzing the process behavior

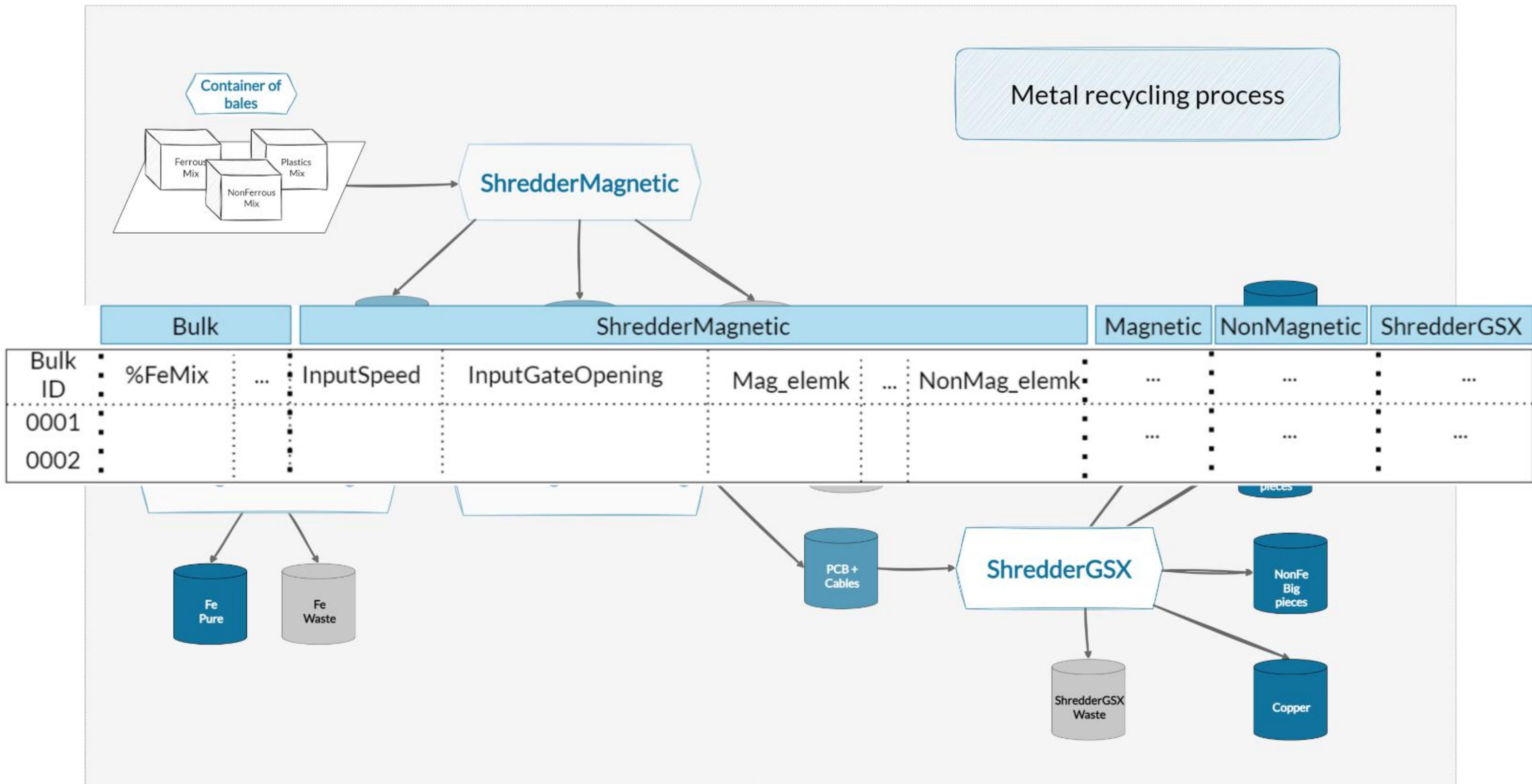
**Model process between input and final output in one step**

# Our case study

# Our case study



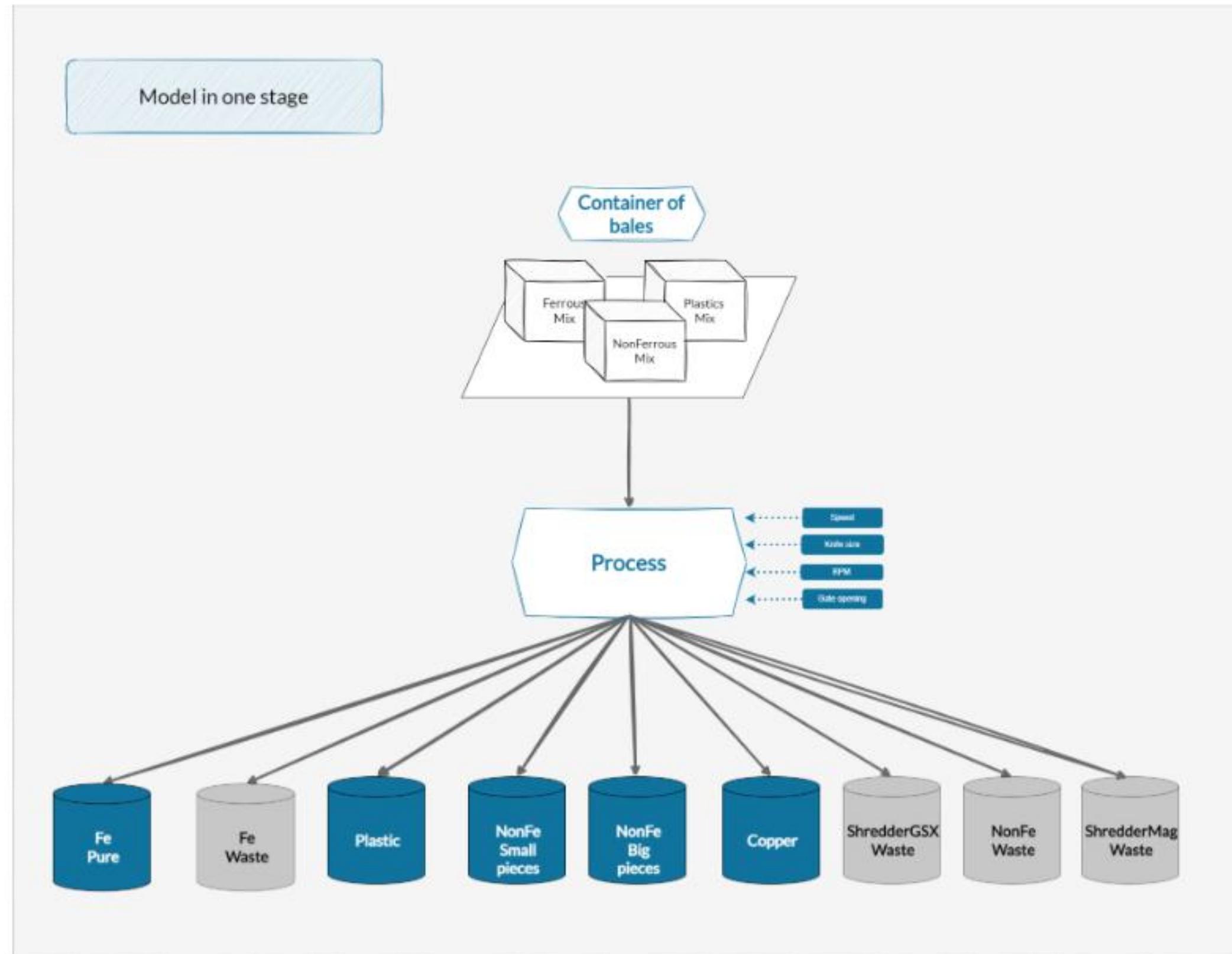
# Our case study



# Process conceptualization in one stage

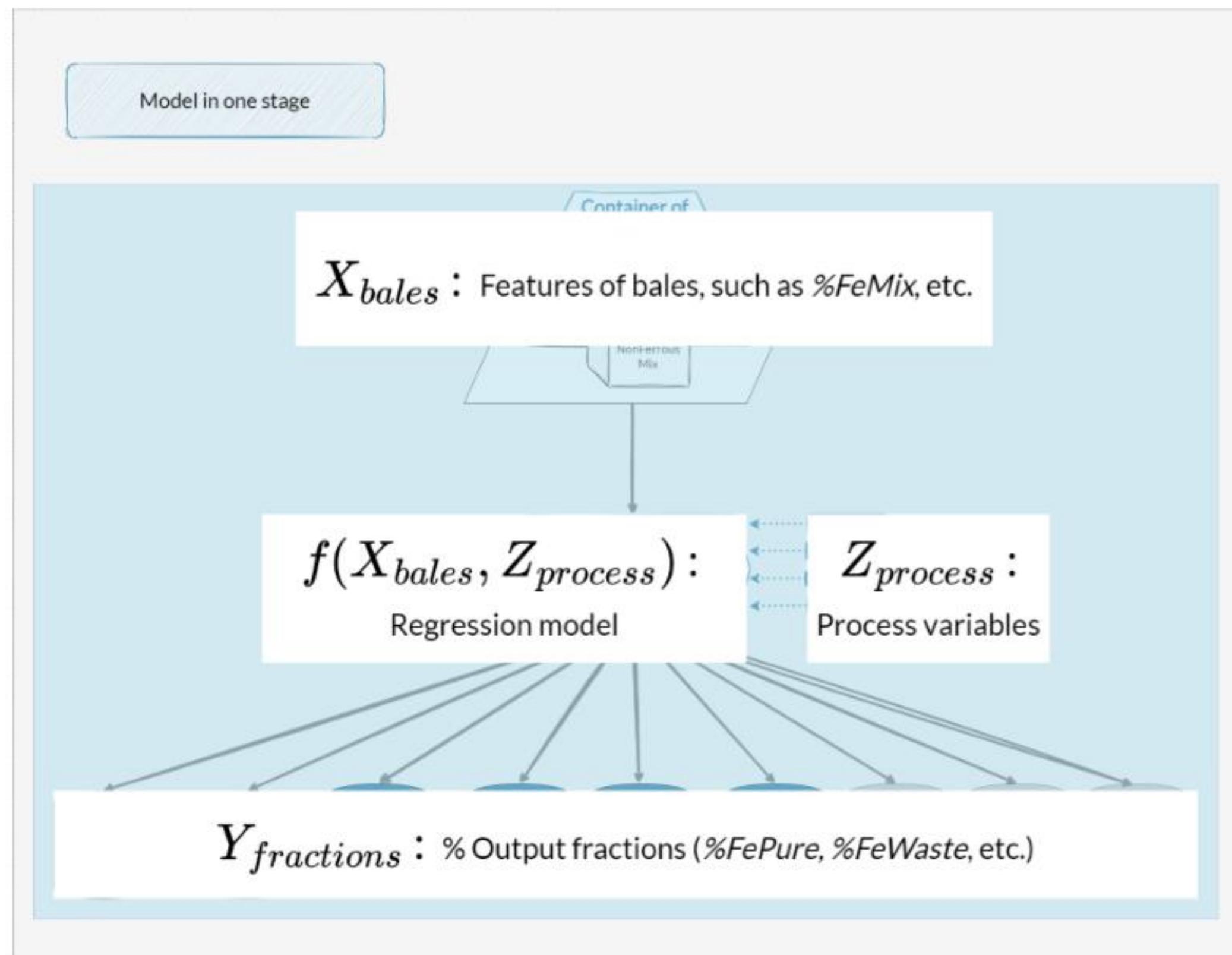
Marco Johannes Maier, Dirichlet Regression Models: Theory, Implementation and Applications, Doctoral thesis, Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt Fakultät für Kulturwissenschaften, June 2020.

# Process conceptualization in one stage



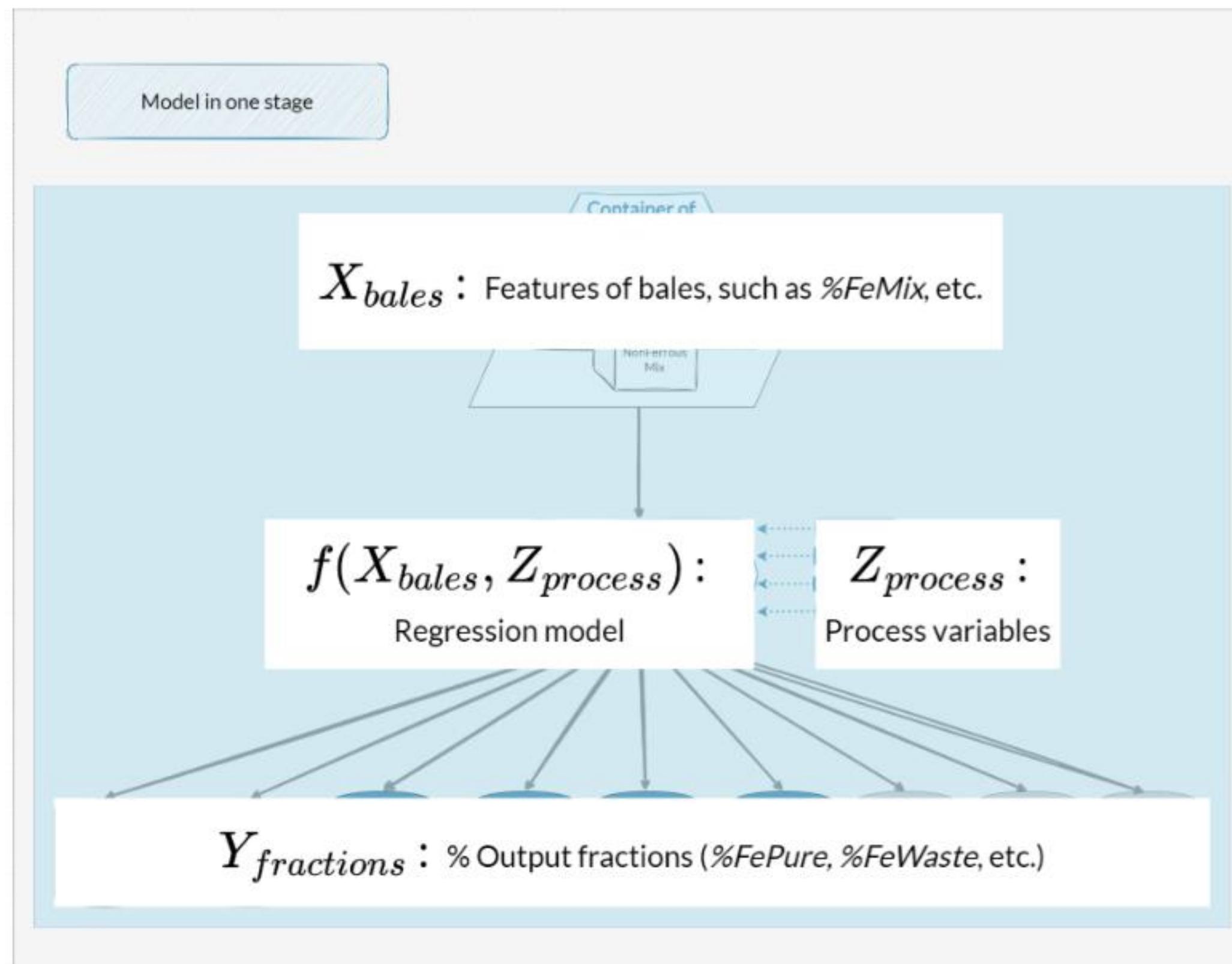
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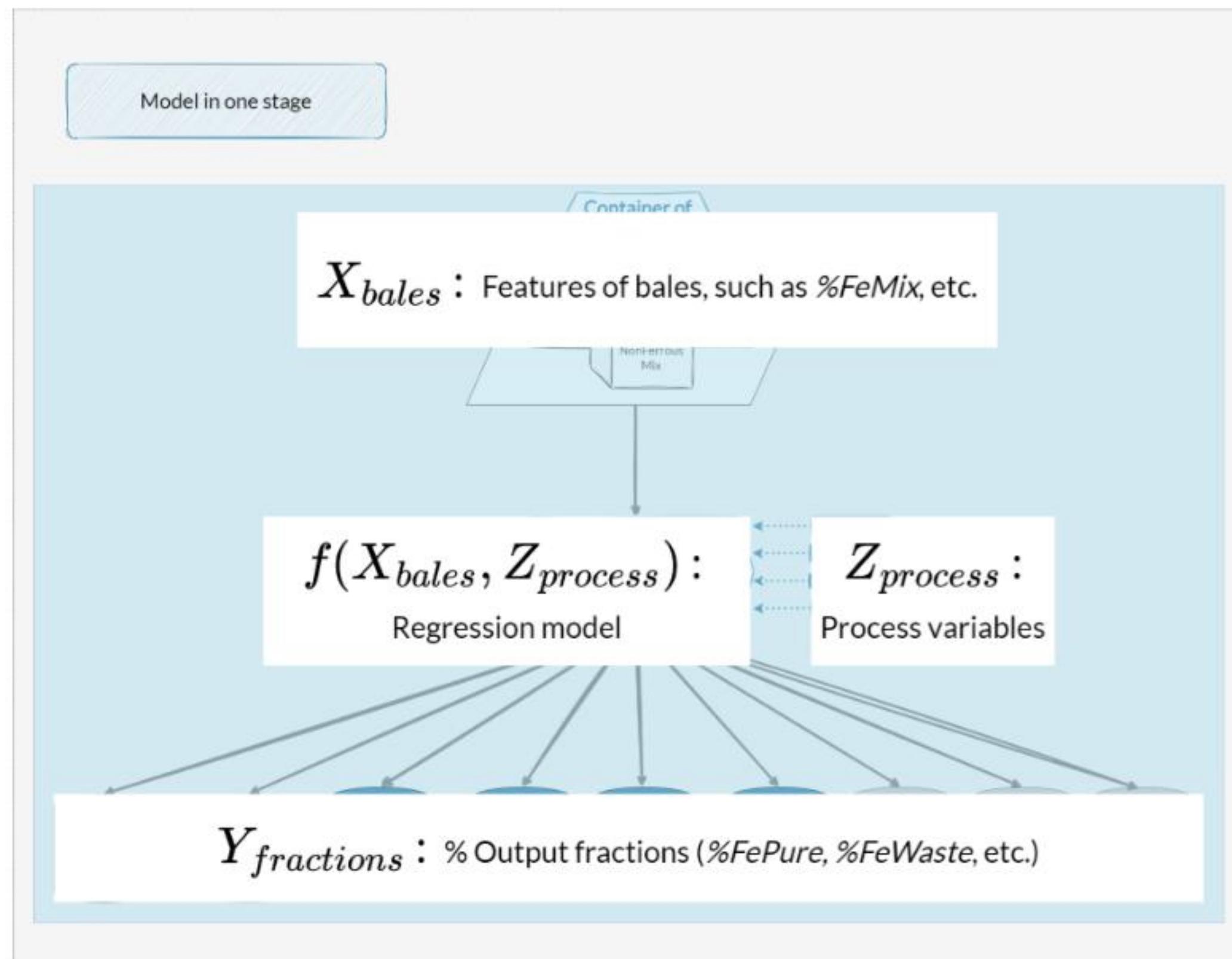
# Process conceptualization in one stage



Let's define a Bayesian model

- Priors:  $\beta_X, \beta_Z \sim Normal(0, \Sigma)$
- Regression model:  
$$Y \sim Dirichlet(X\beta_X + Z\beta_Z)$$

# Process conceptualization in one stage



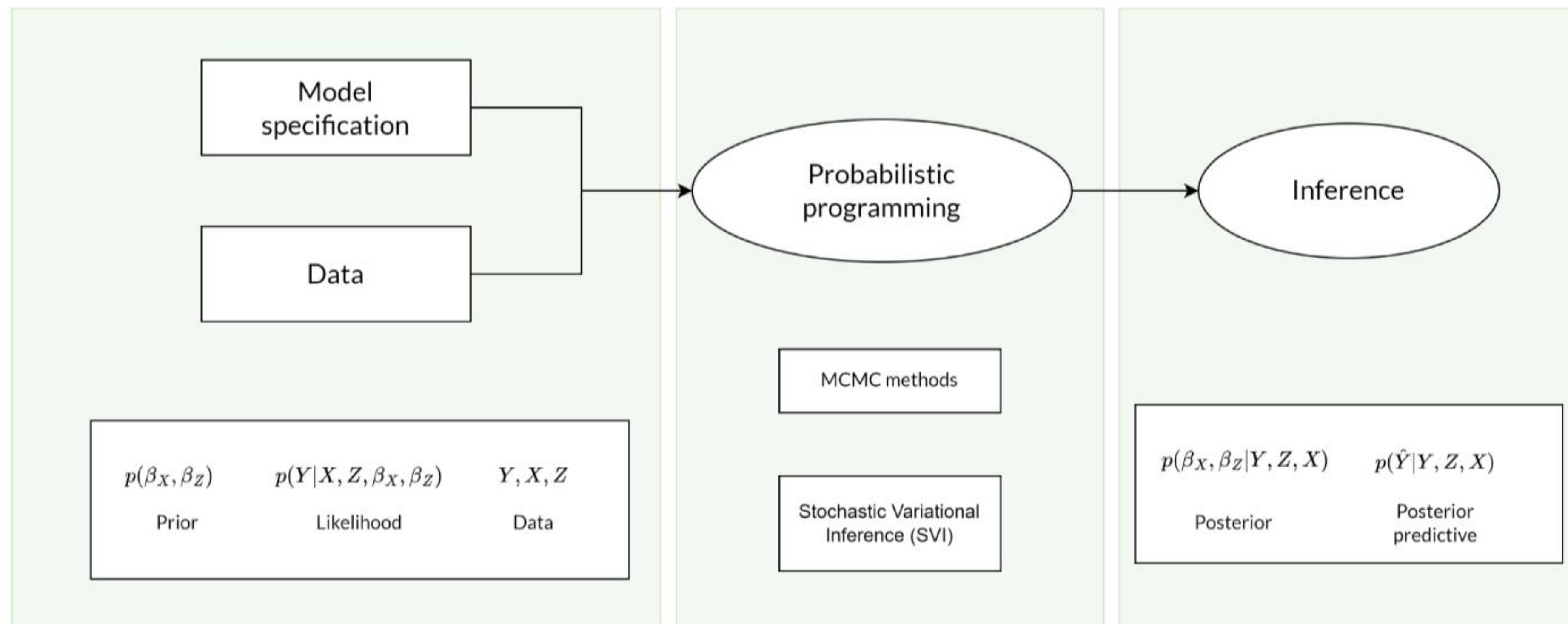
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With a probabilistic programming approach, we obtain posterior and posterior predictive distributions

# Probabilistic programming approach



M. Hoffman, D. M. Blei, C. Wang, J. Paisley, Stochastic Variational Inference, arXiv, 2013, <https://arxiv.org/abs/1206.7051>

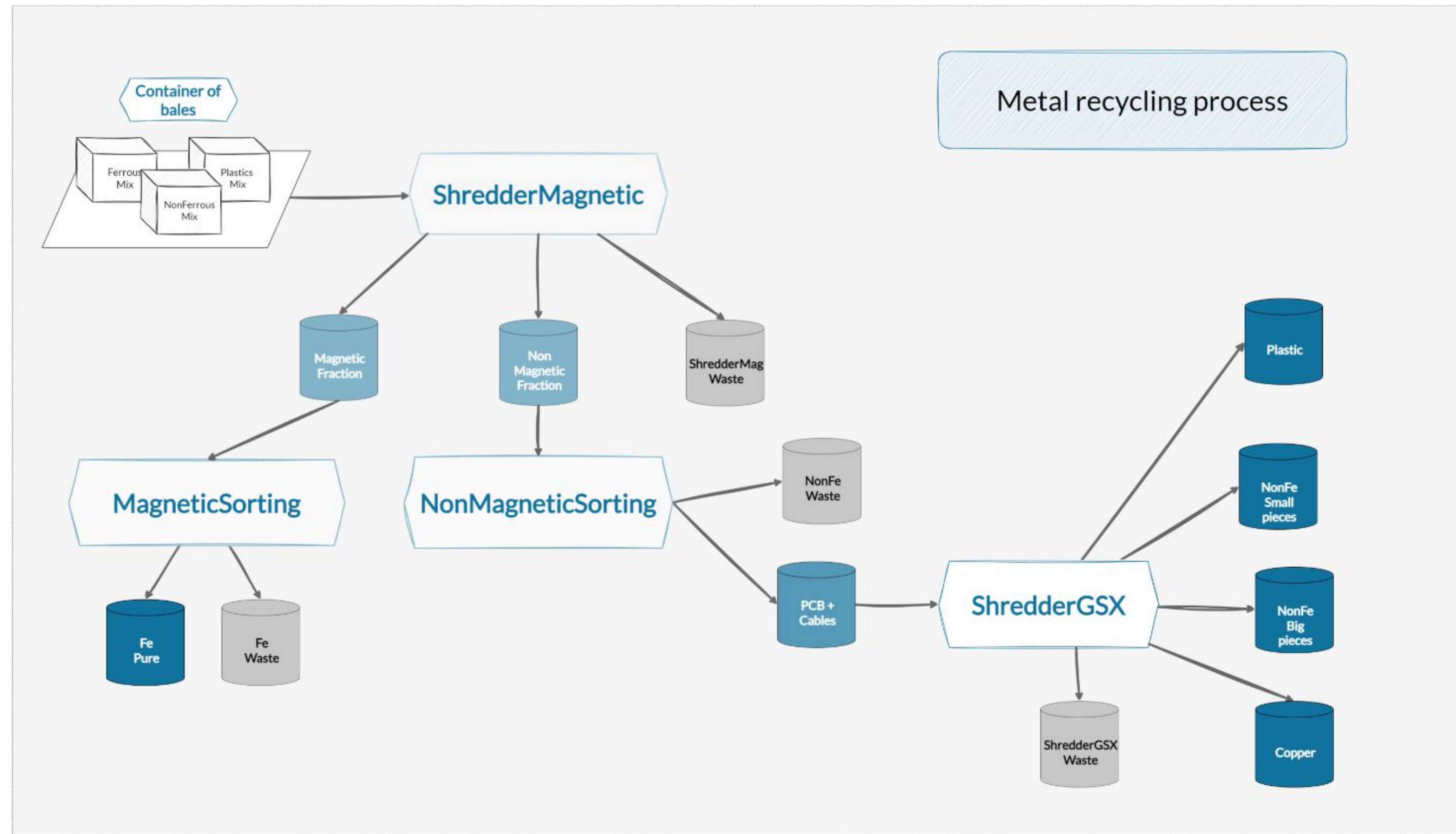
D. Wingate, T. Weber, Automated Variational Inference in Probabilistic Programming, arXiv, 2013, <https://arxiv.org/abs/1301.1299>

Pyro Programming Language <https://docs.pyro.ai/en/stable/>

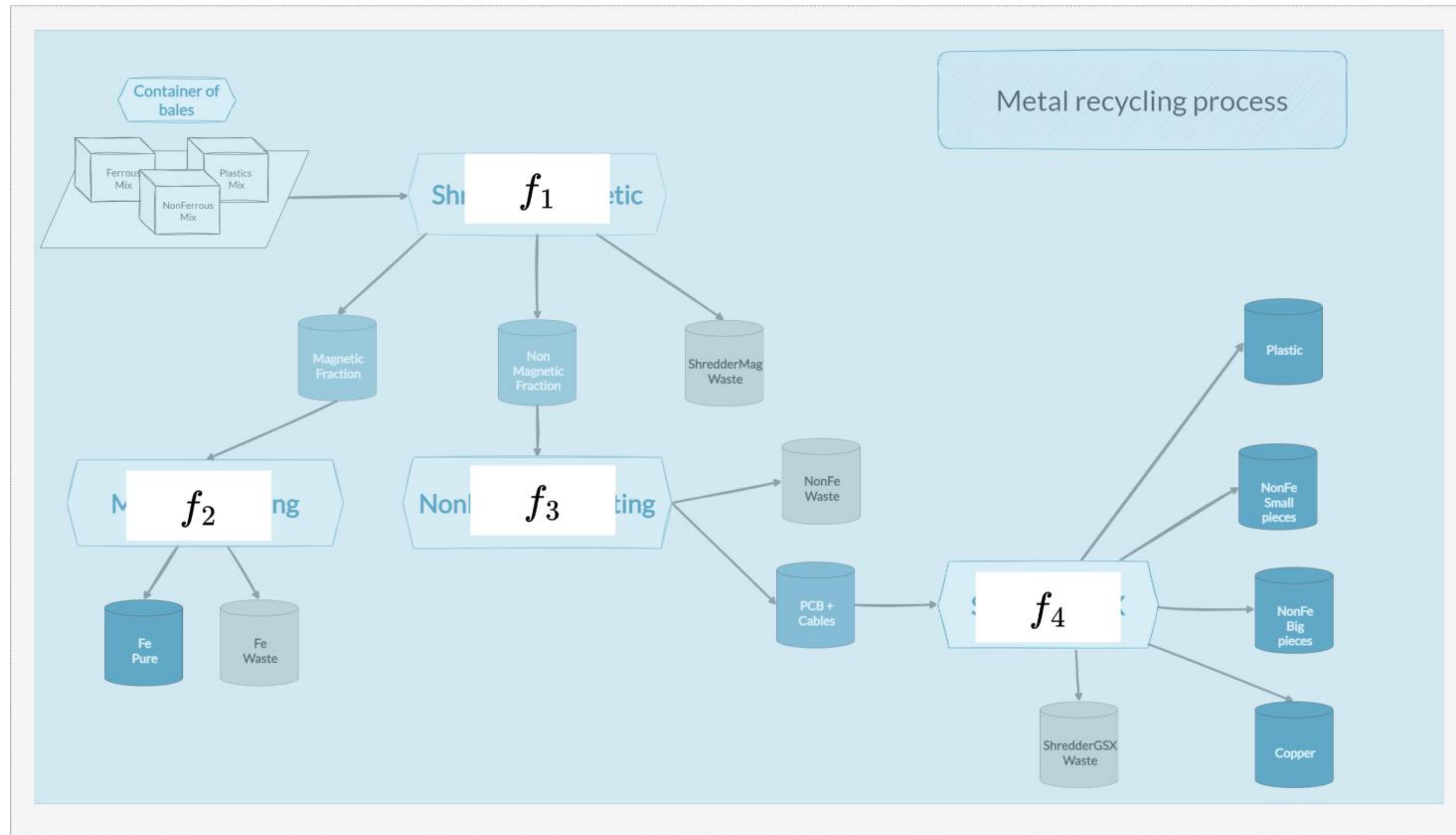
Exploiting the model of the entire process

# Process conceptualization

# Process conceptualization



# Process conceptualization



# (Deeper) Bayesian structural model

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- Priors for all parameters:  $\beta_{\mathbf{g}_1}, \beta_{\mathbf{g}_2}, \beta_{\mathbf{g}_3}, \beta_{\mathbf{g}_4}$
- $f_1 : [Y_{sh-m}, Y_{sh-nm}, Y_{sh-w}] \sim Dir(\mathbf{g}_1(X, Z_{sh}))$
- $f_2 : [Y_{m-fe}, Y_{m-w}] \sim Dir(\mathbf{g}_2(Y_{sh-m}))$
- $f_3 : [Y_{nm-pcbcab}, Y_{nm-w}] \sim Dir(\mathbf{g}_3(Y_{sh-nm}))$
- $f_4 : [Y_{gsx}, Y_{gsx-w}] \sim Dir(\mathbf{g}_4(Y_{nm-pcbcab}, Z_{gsx}))$

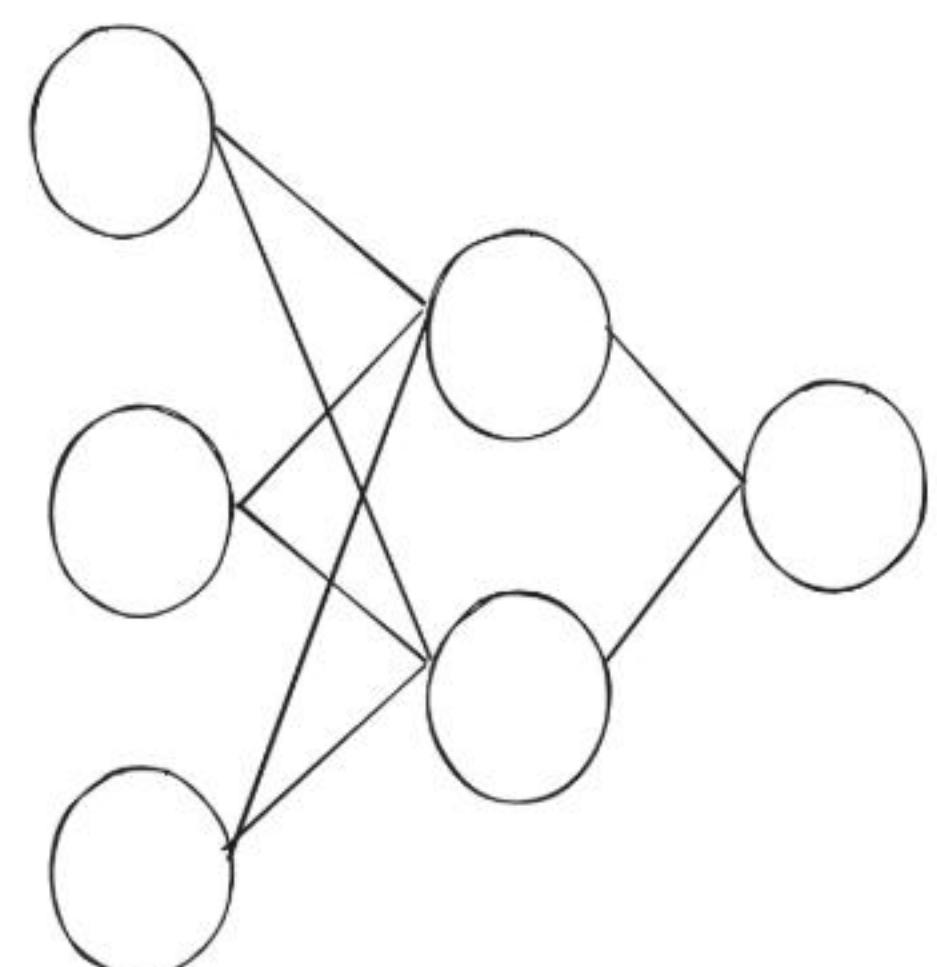
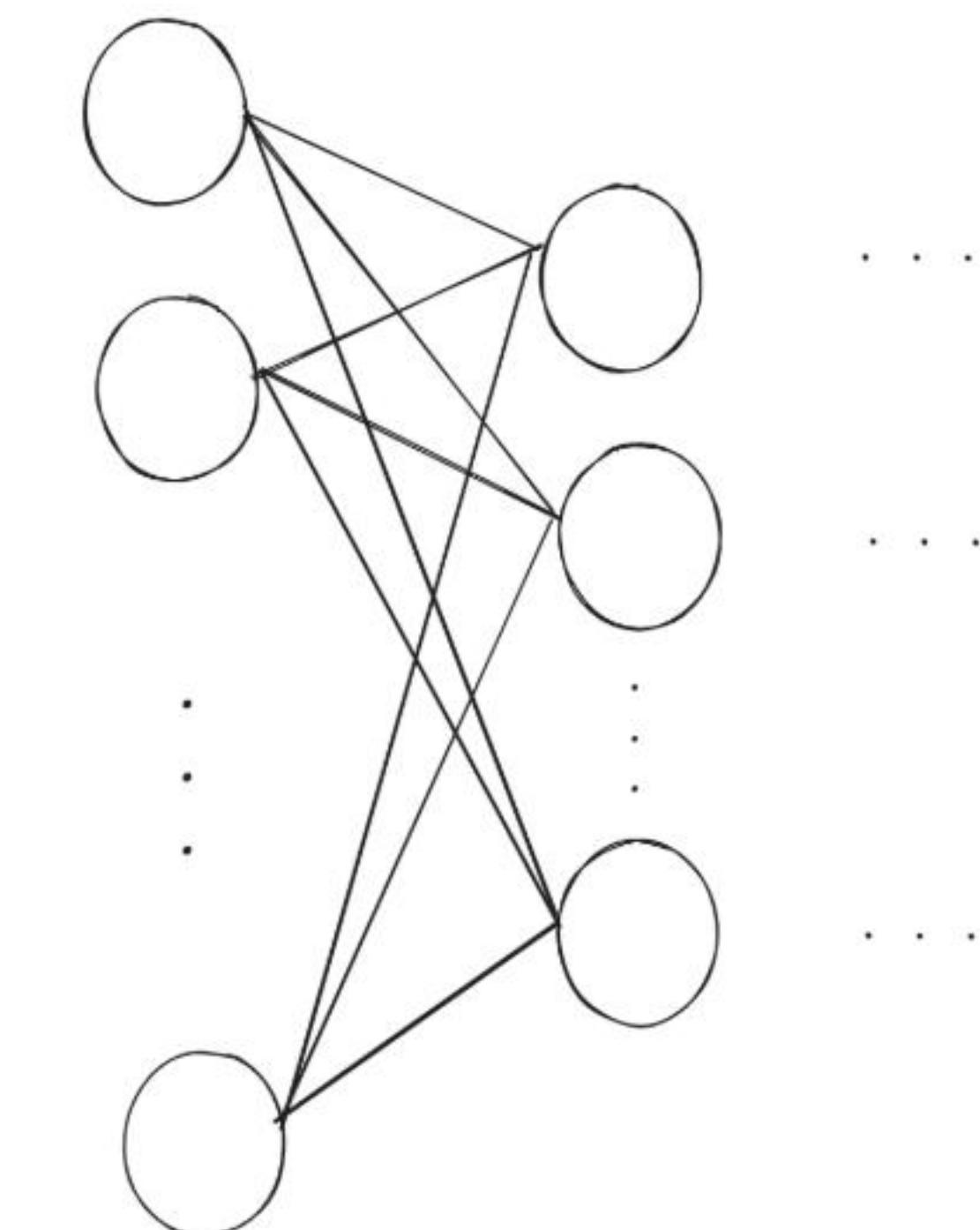
# (Deeper) Bayesian structural model

$$\mathbf{g}_j : g_k(\mathbf{W}_k \cdot \mathbf{Z}_{k-1} + \mathbf{b}_k)$$

$$\mathbf{Z}_{k-1} = g_{k-1}(\mathbf{W}_{k-1} \cdot \mathbf{Z}_{k-2} + \mathbf{b}_{k-1})$$

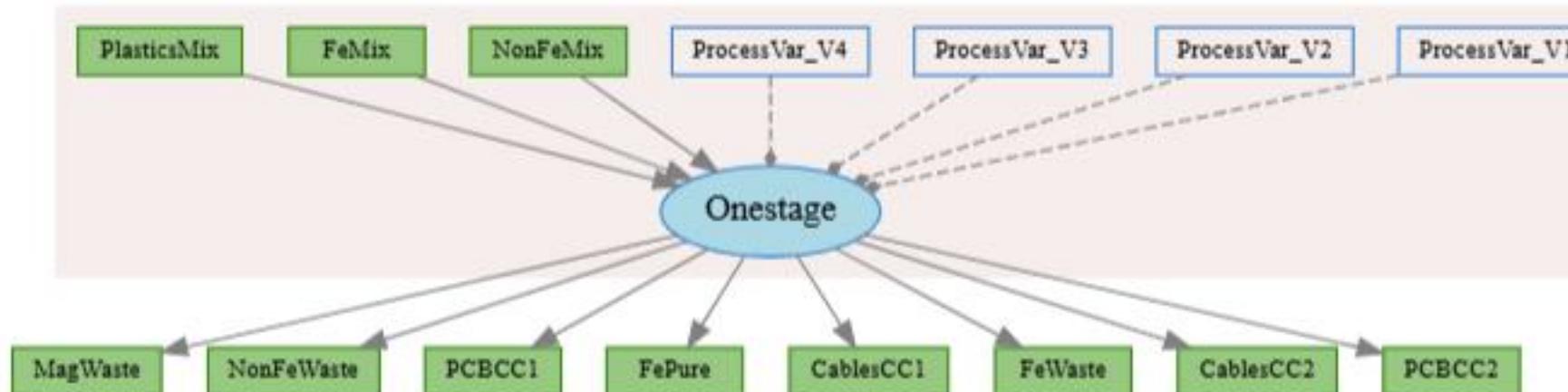
...

$$\mathbf{Z}_2 = g_1(\mathbf{W}_1 \cdot \mathbf{Z}_1 + \mathbf{b}_1)$$

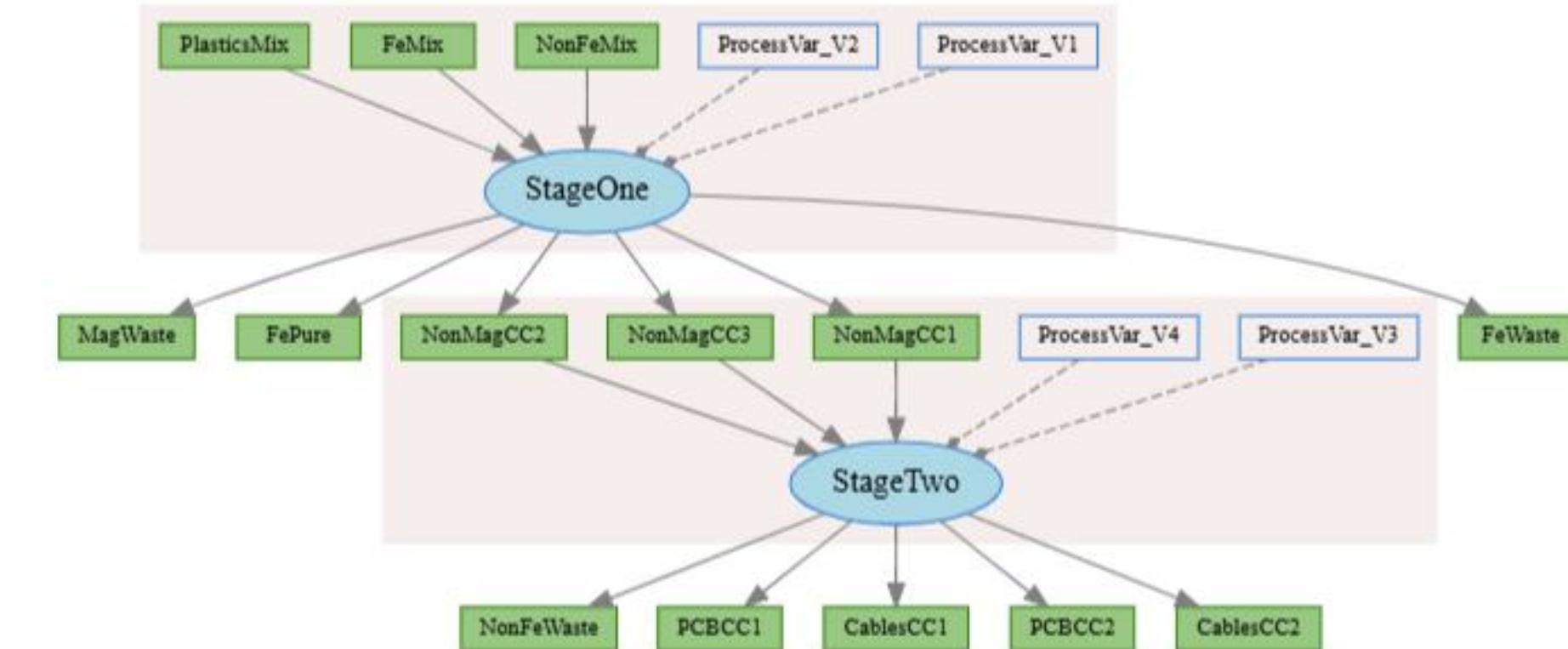


# Experimental

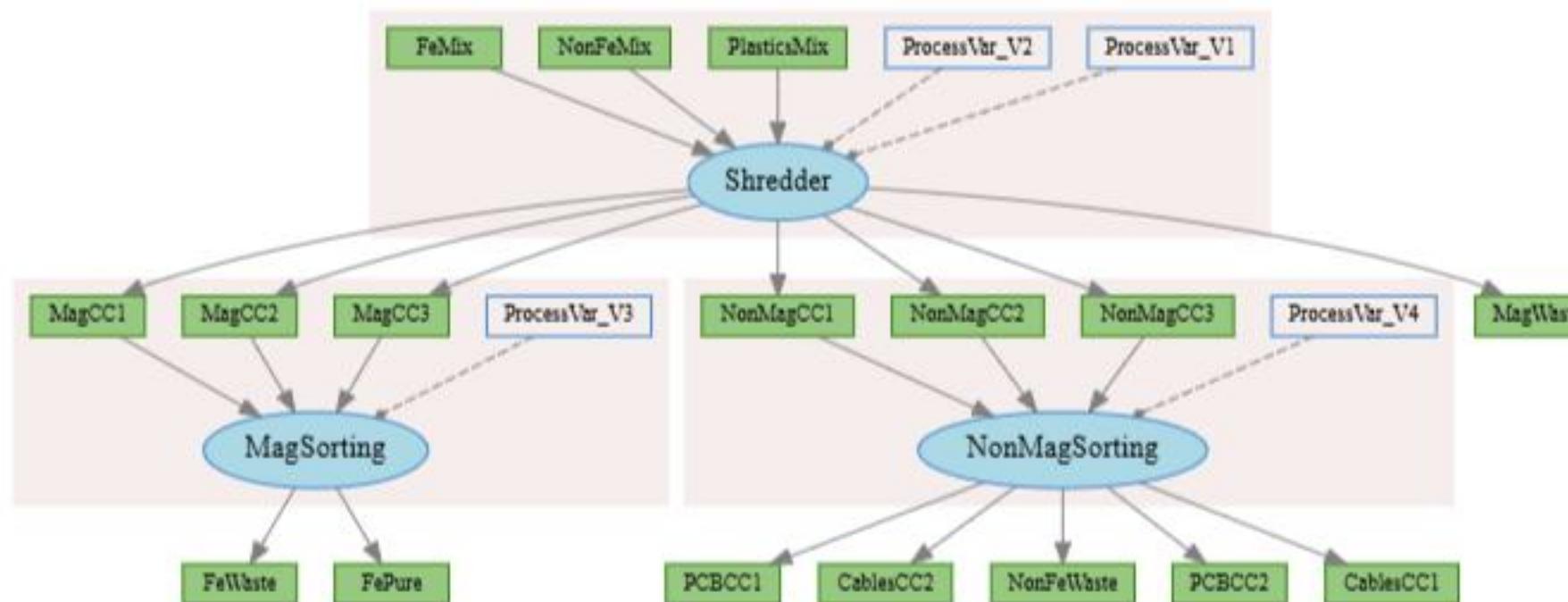
# Three models



Model 1

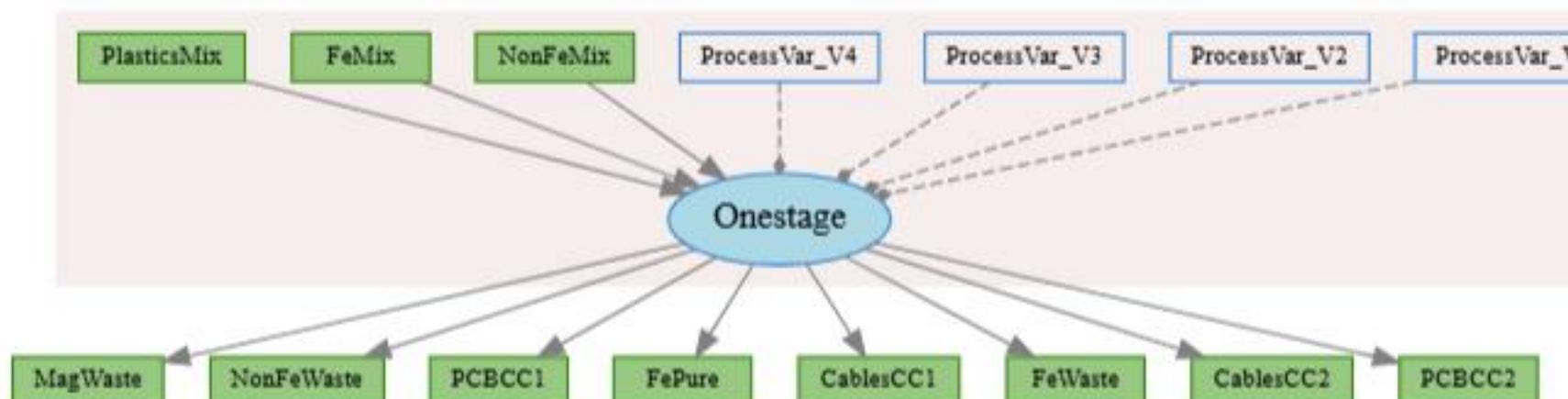


Model 2

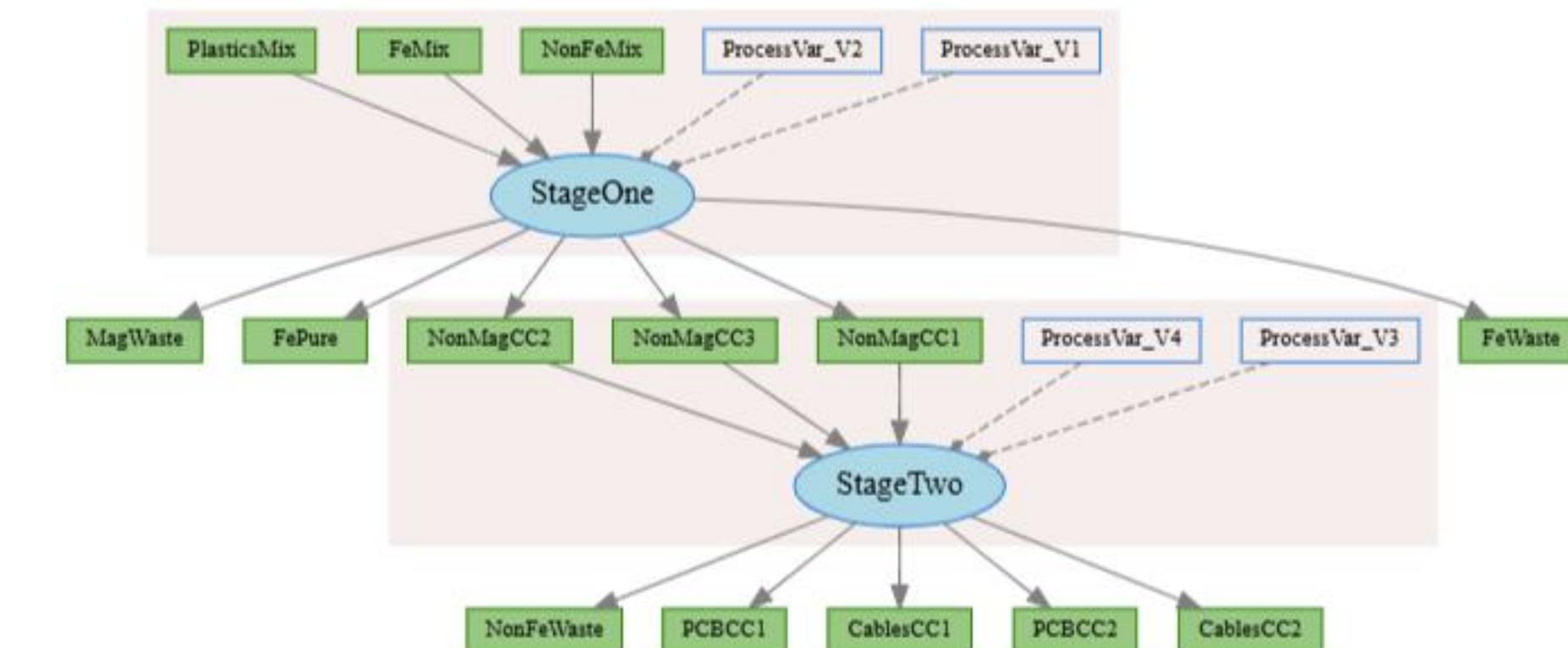


Model 3

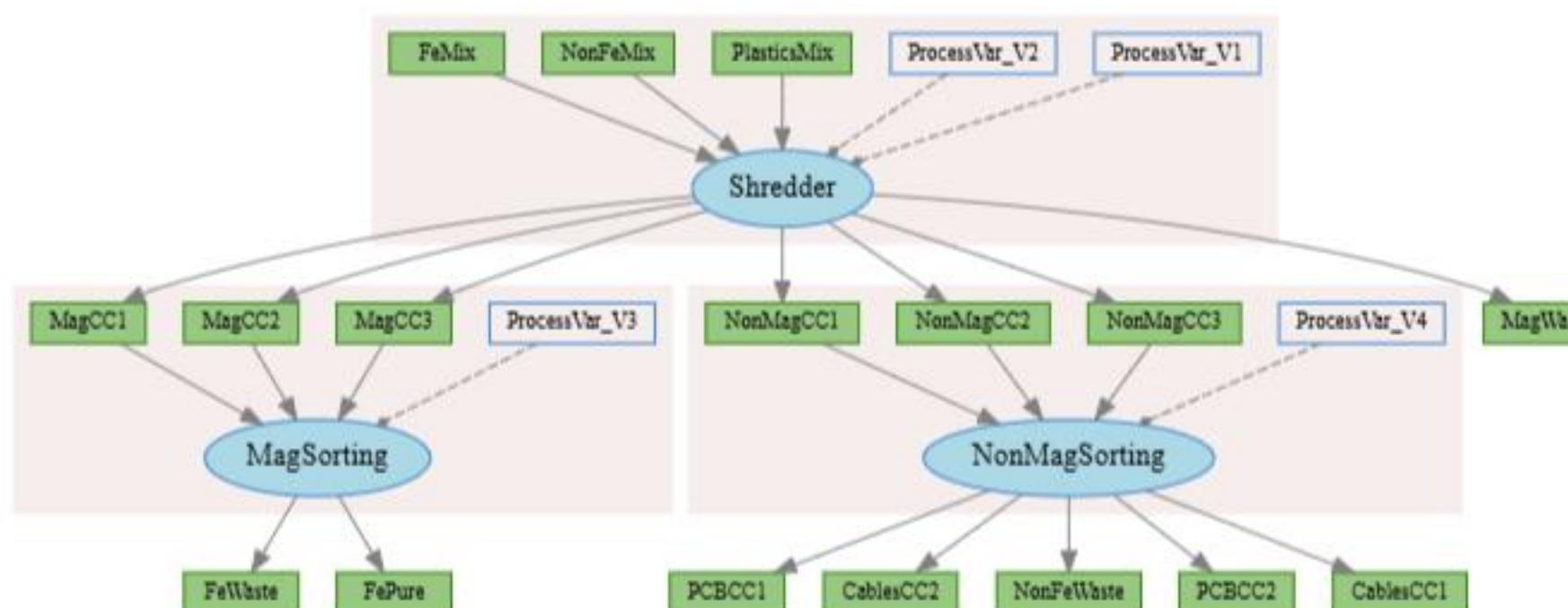
# Three models



Model 1



Model 2

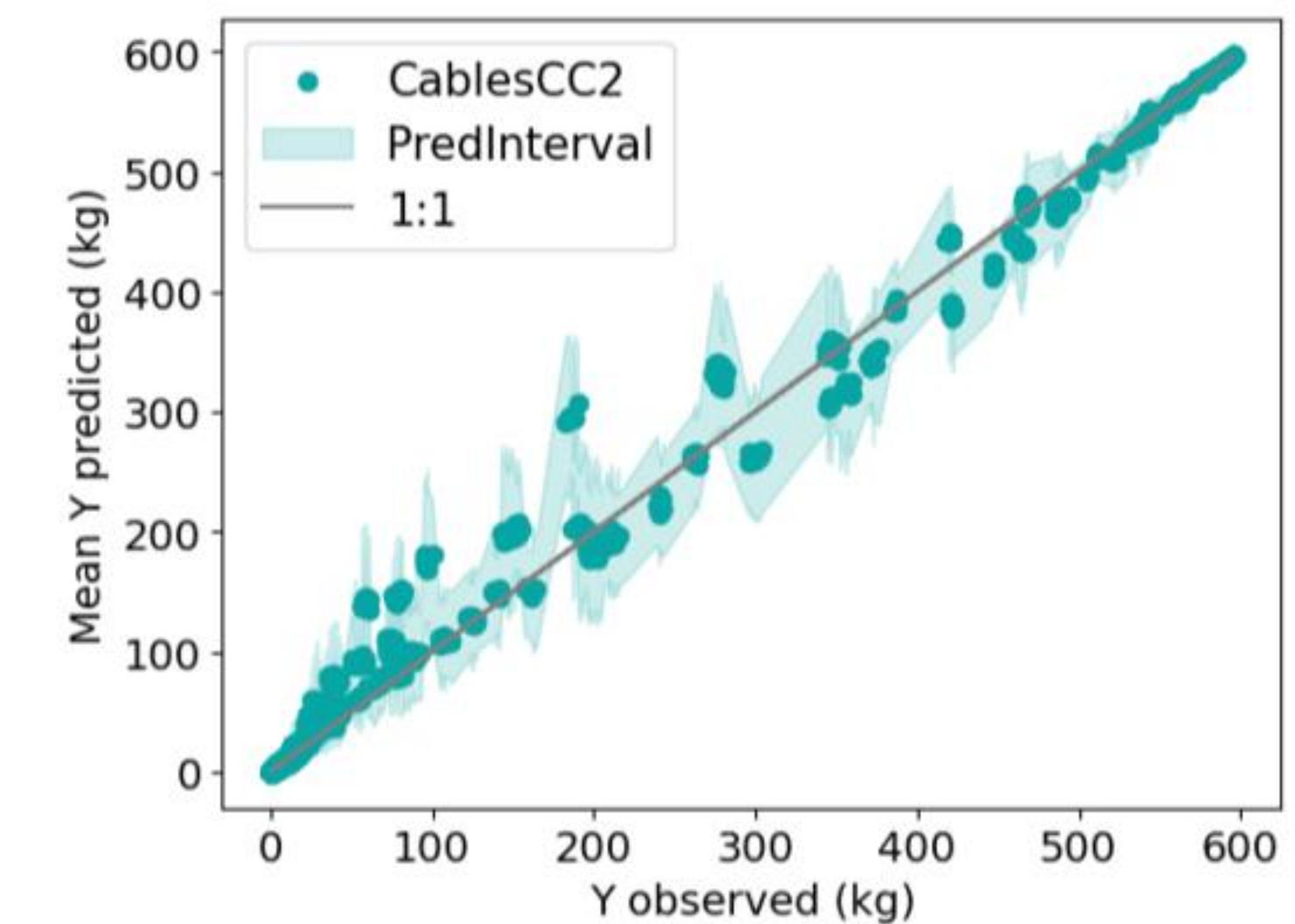
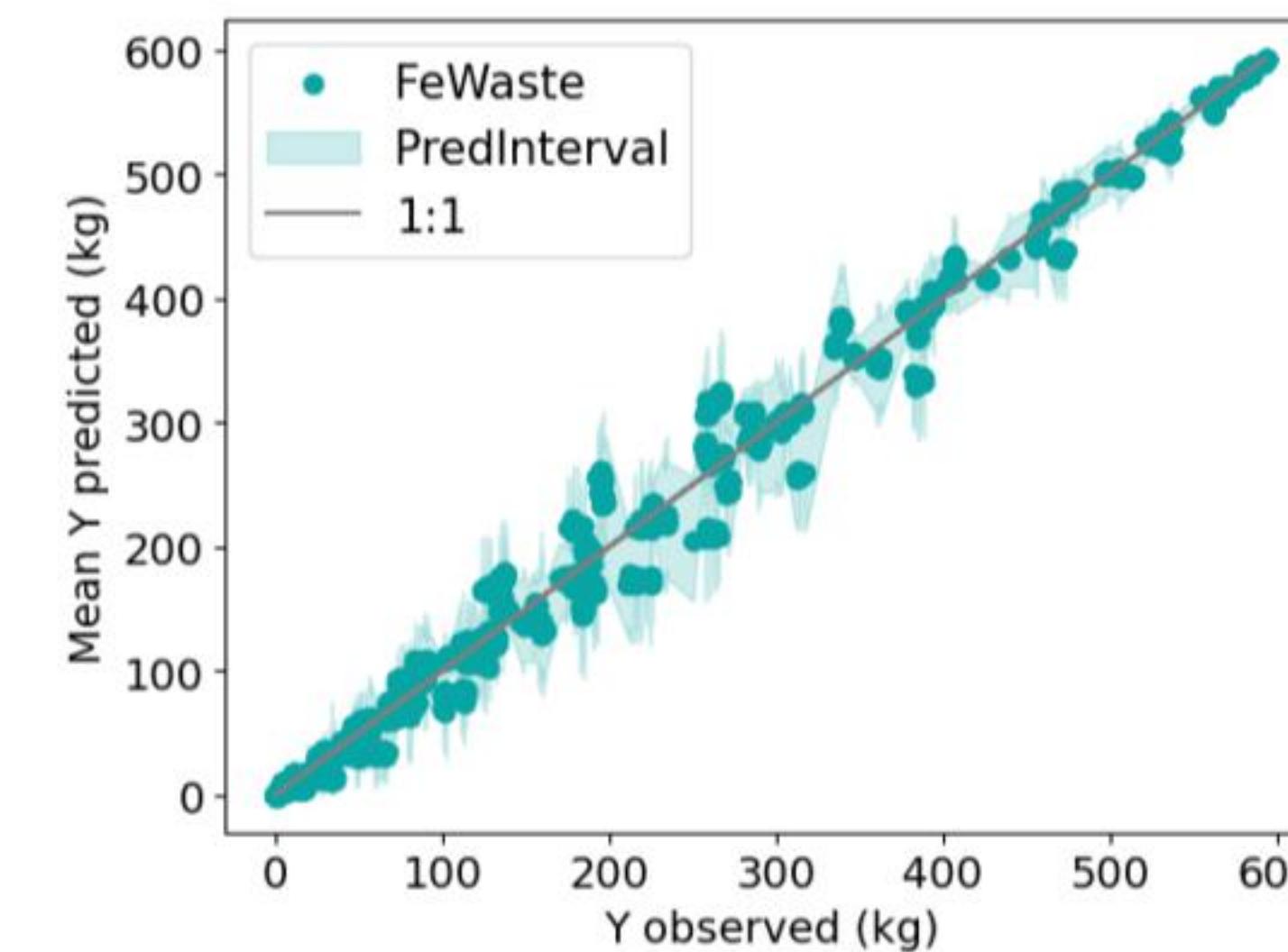
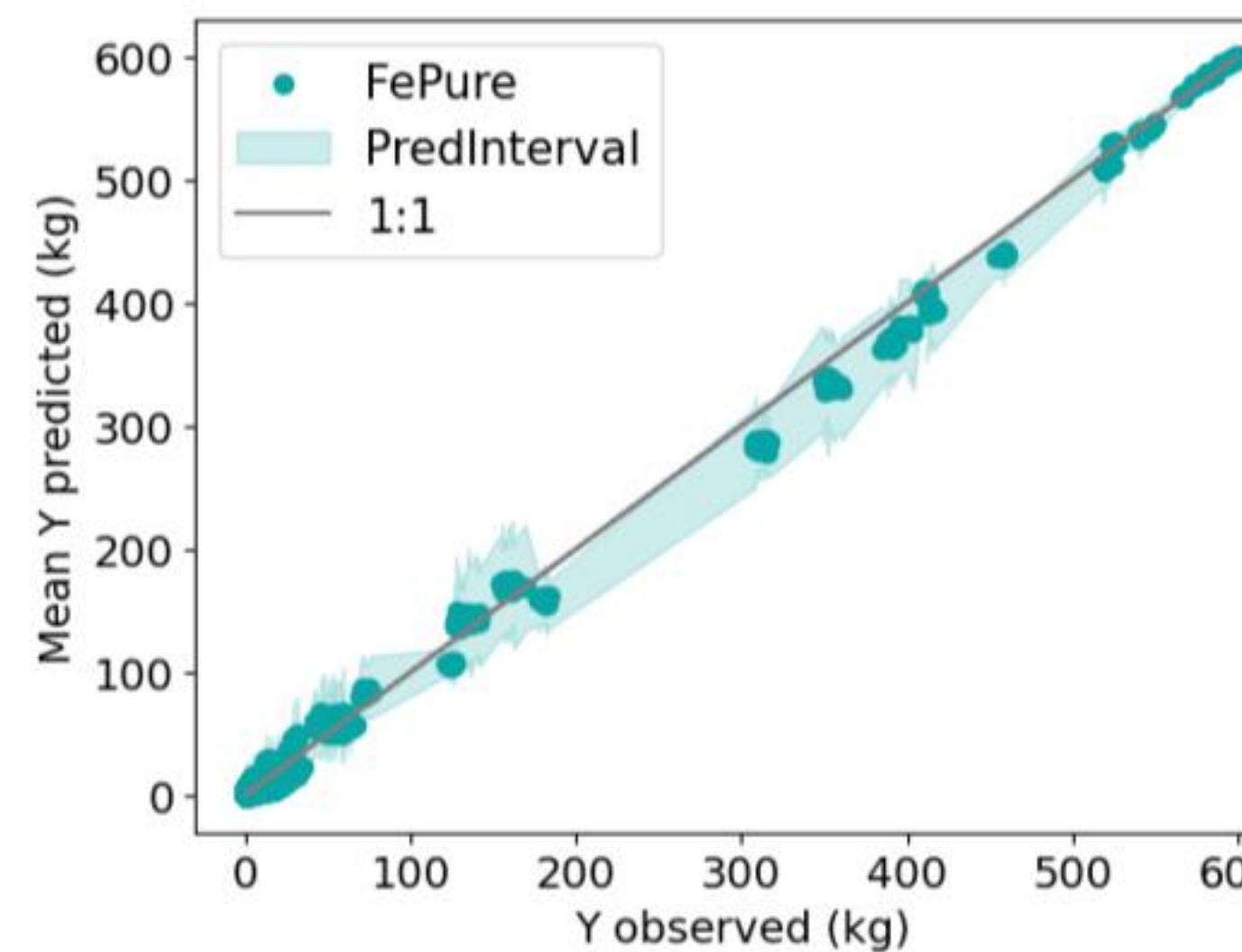


Model 3

For simplicity, we will focus on the performance of *FePure*, *FeWaste*, and *CablesCC2* which have the largest variance.

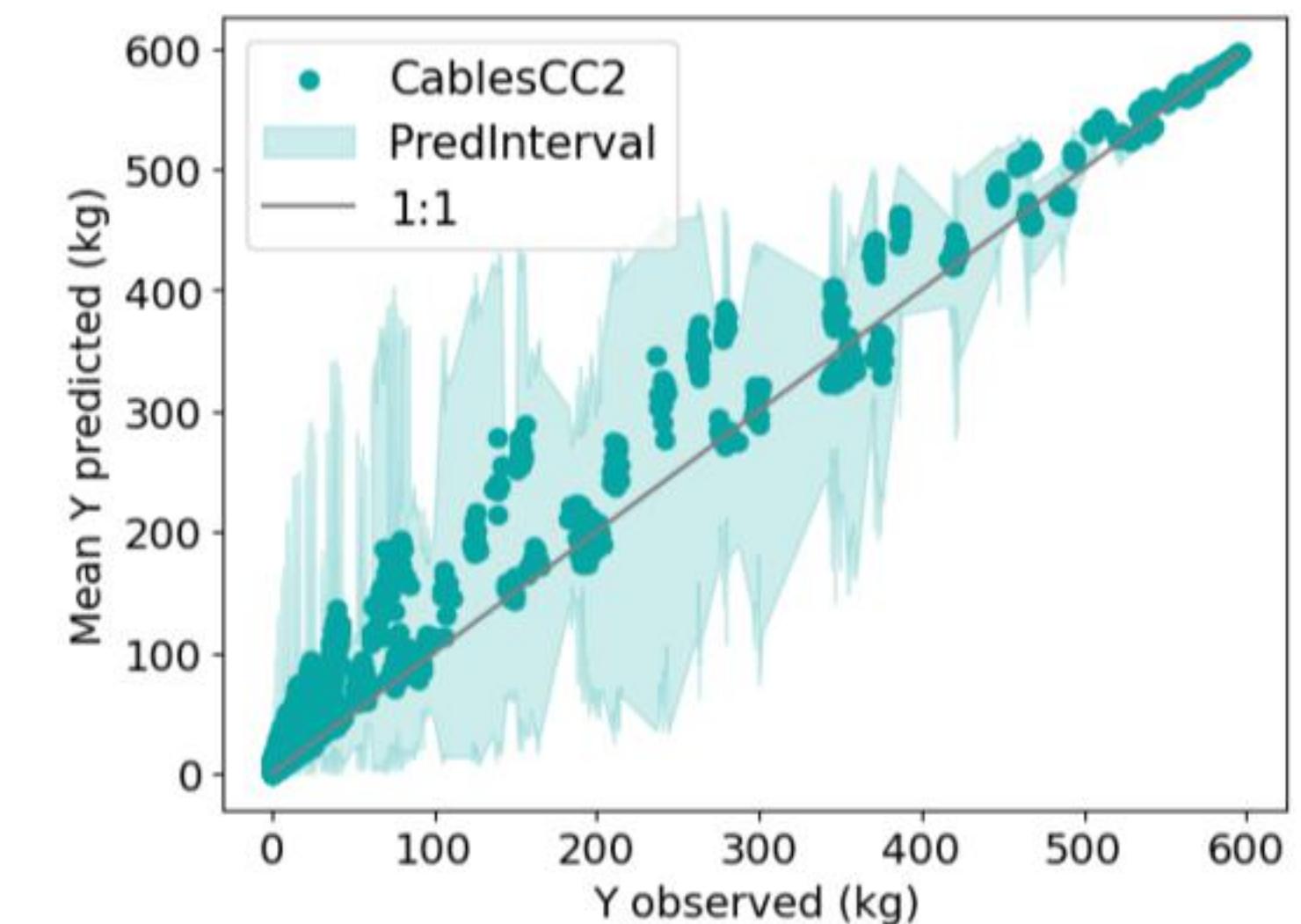
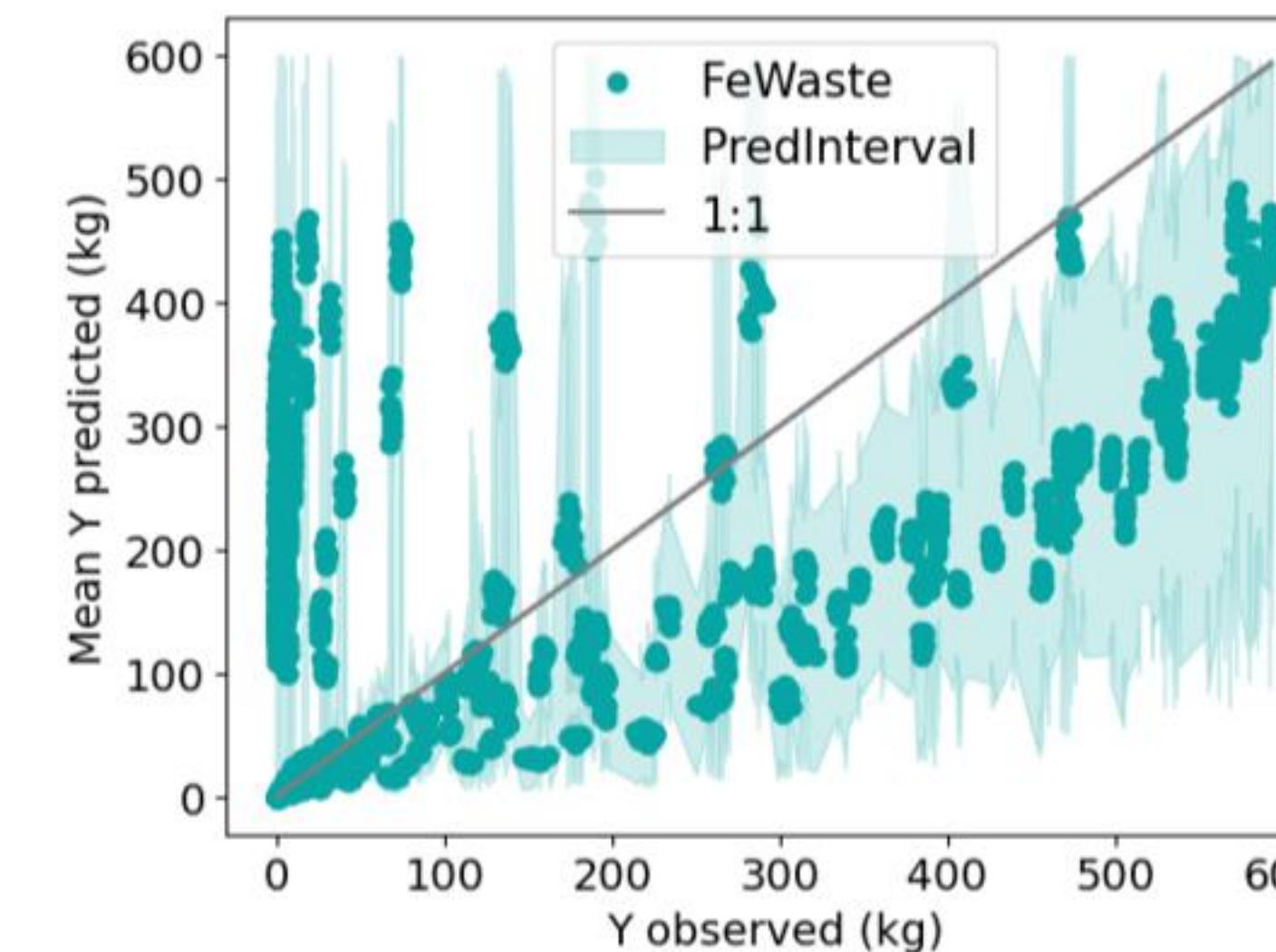
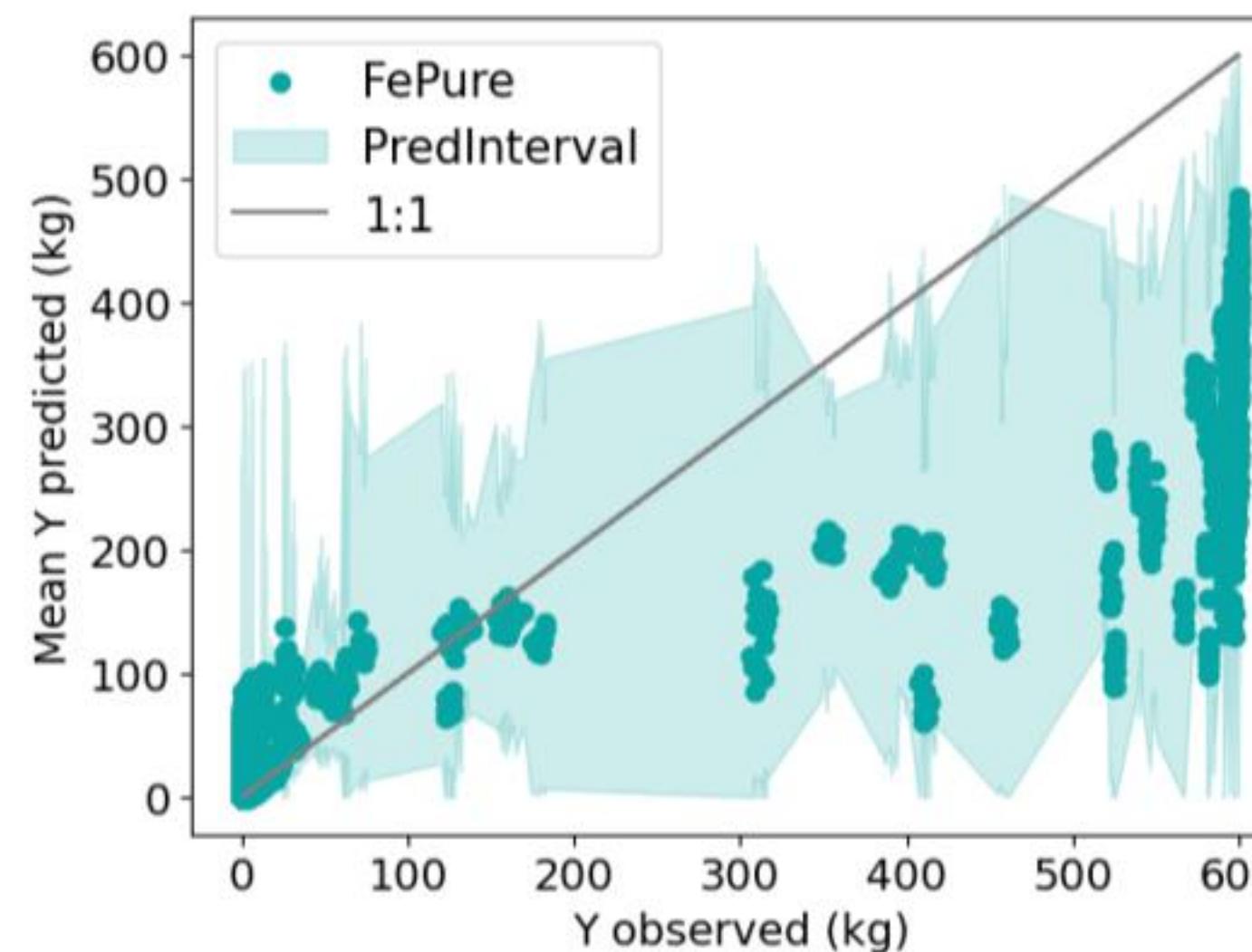
# Overview of prediction performance

Model 1: Neural network 2 hidden layers with 5 neurons each and sigmoid activation functions



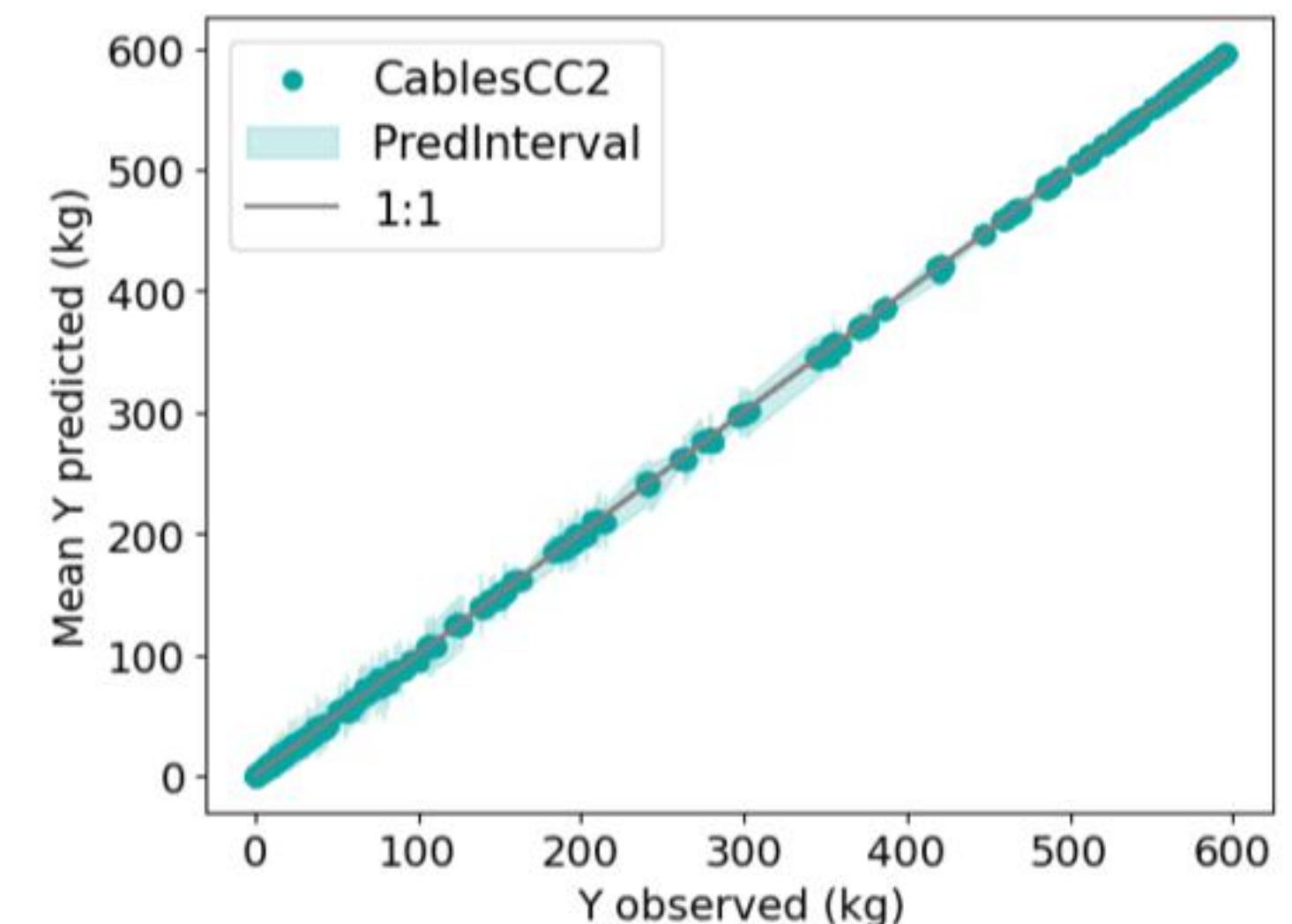
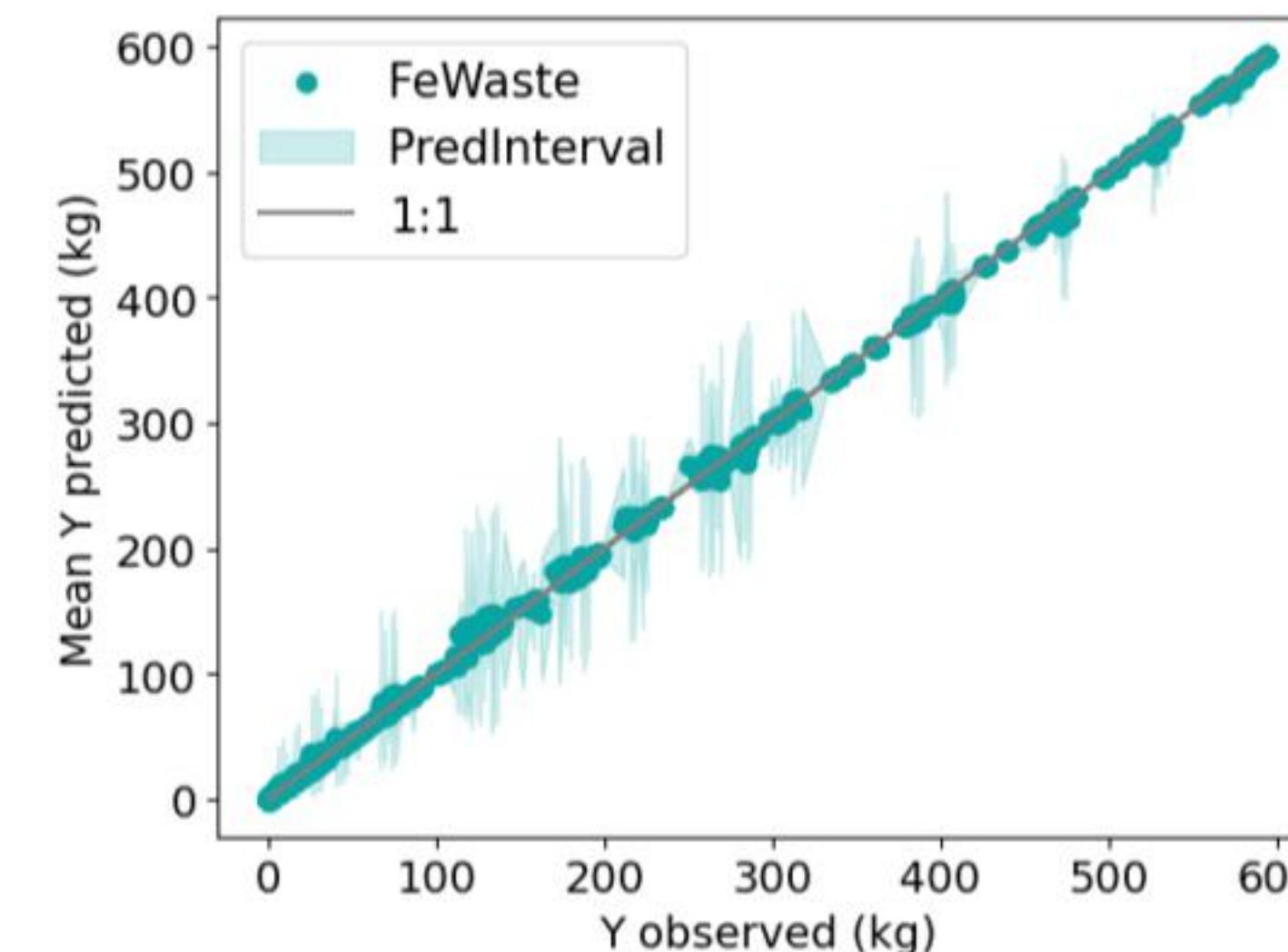
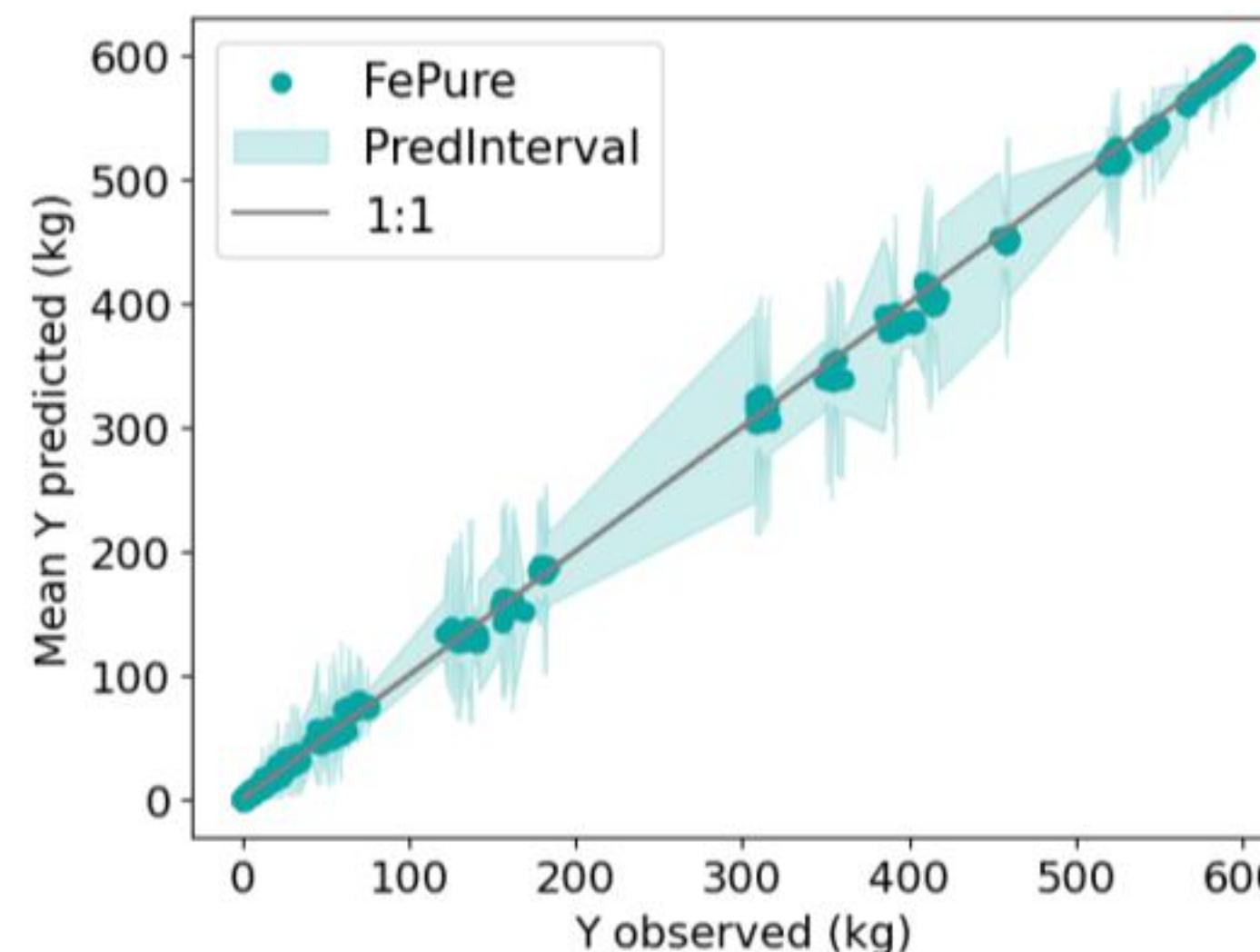
# Overview of prediction performance

Model 2: Linear functions and 1 conditional model



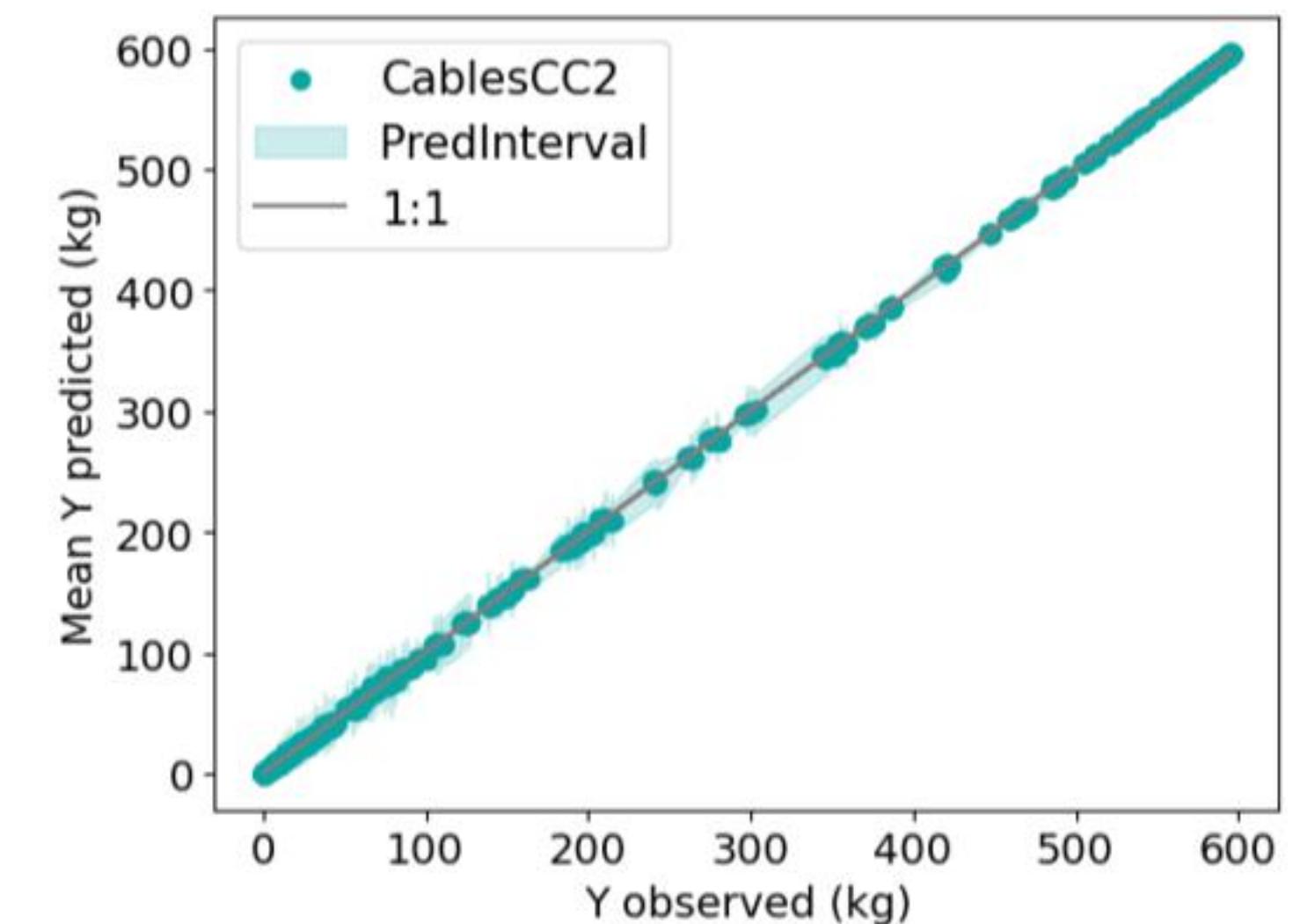
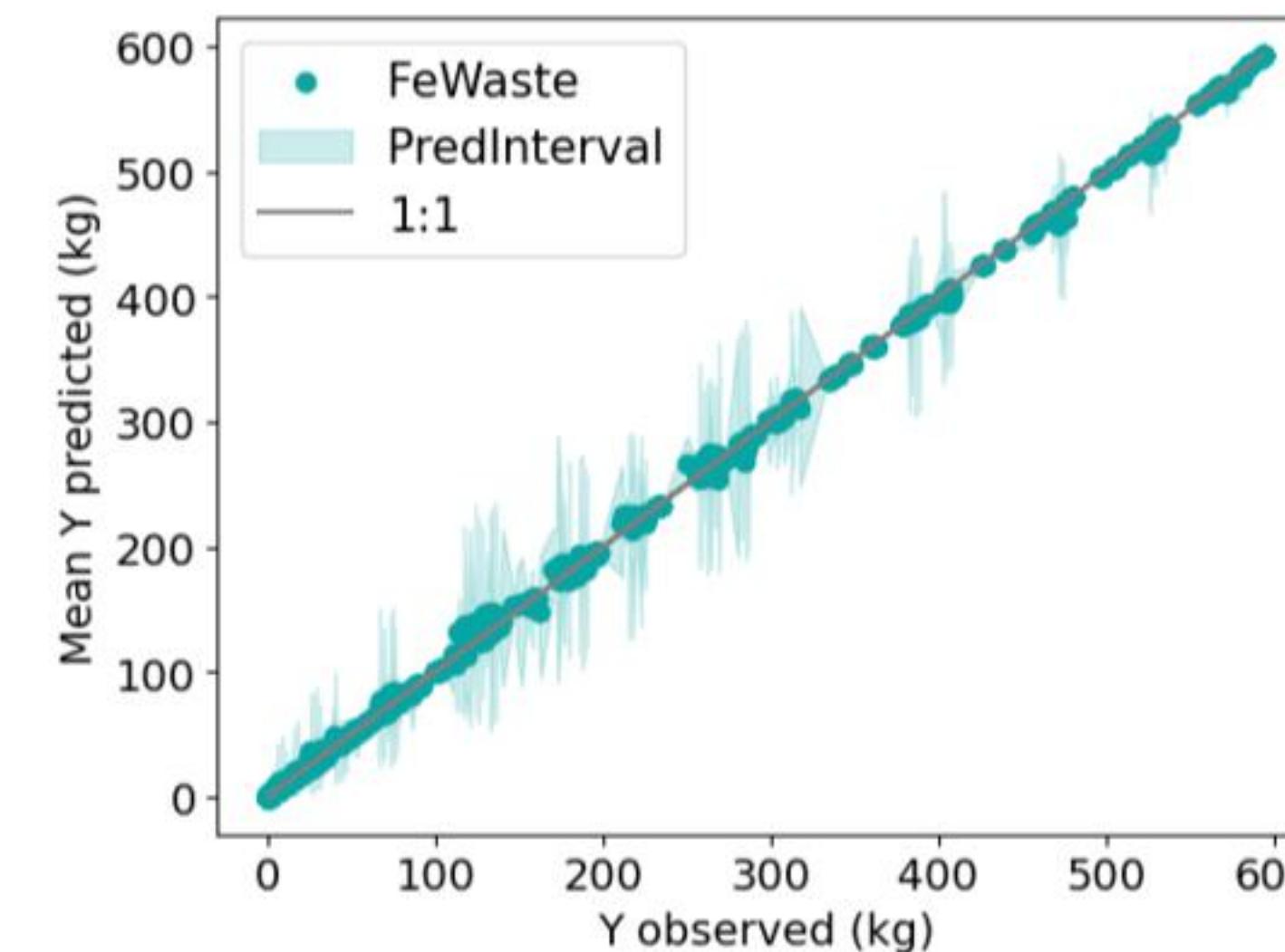
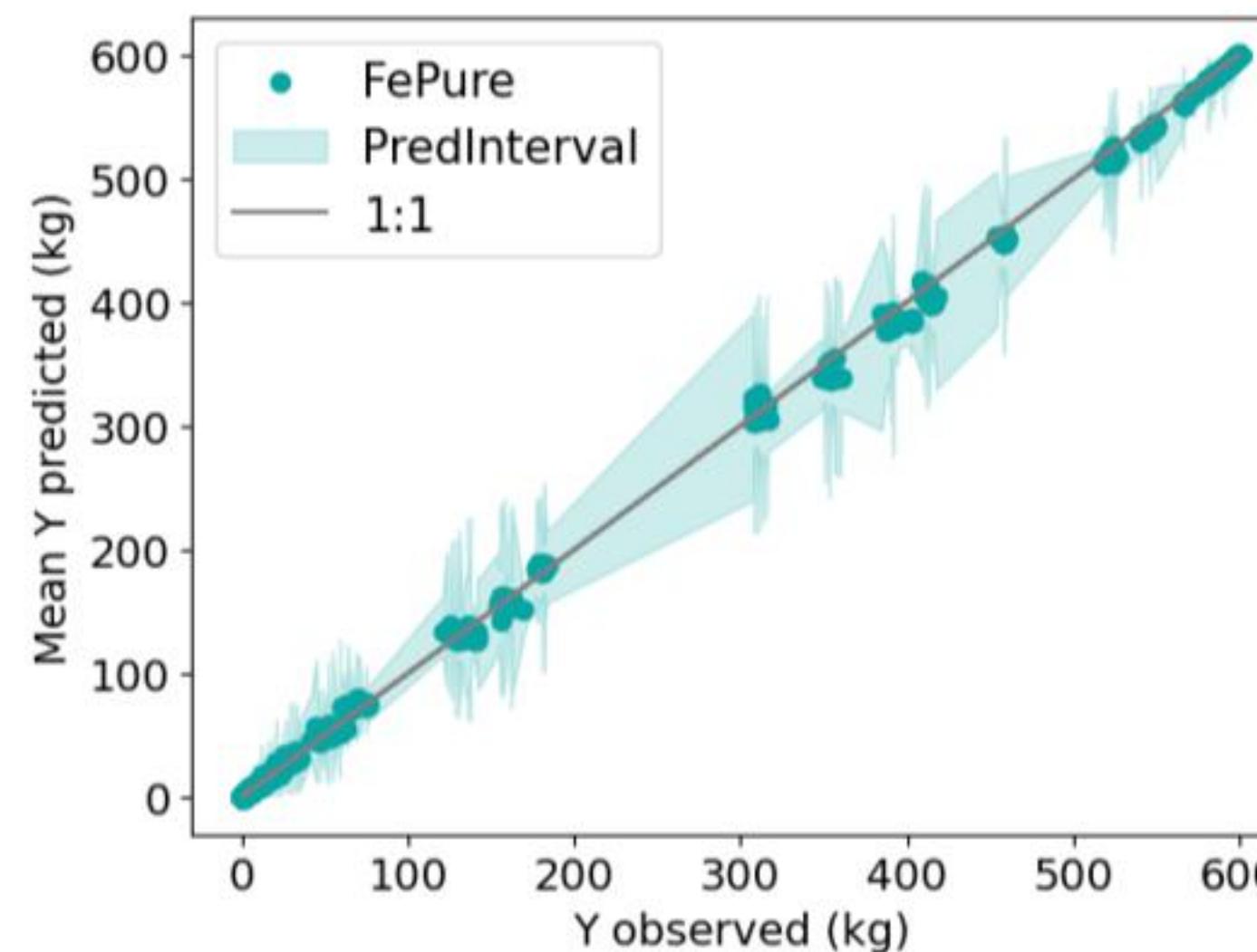
# Overview of prediction performance

Model 3: Linear functions and all conditional models



# Overview of prediction performance

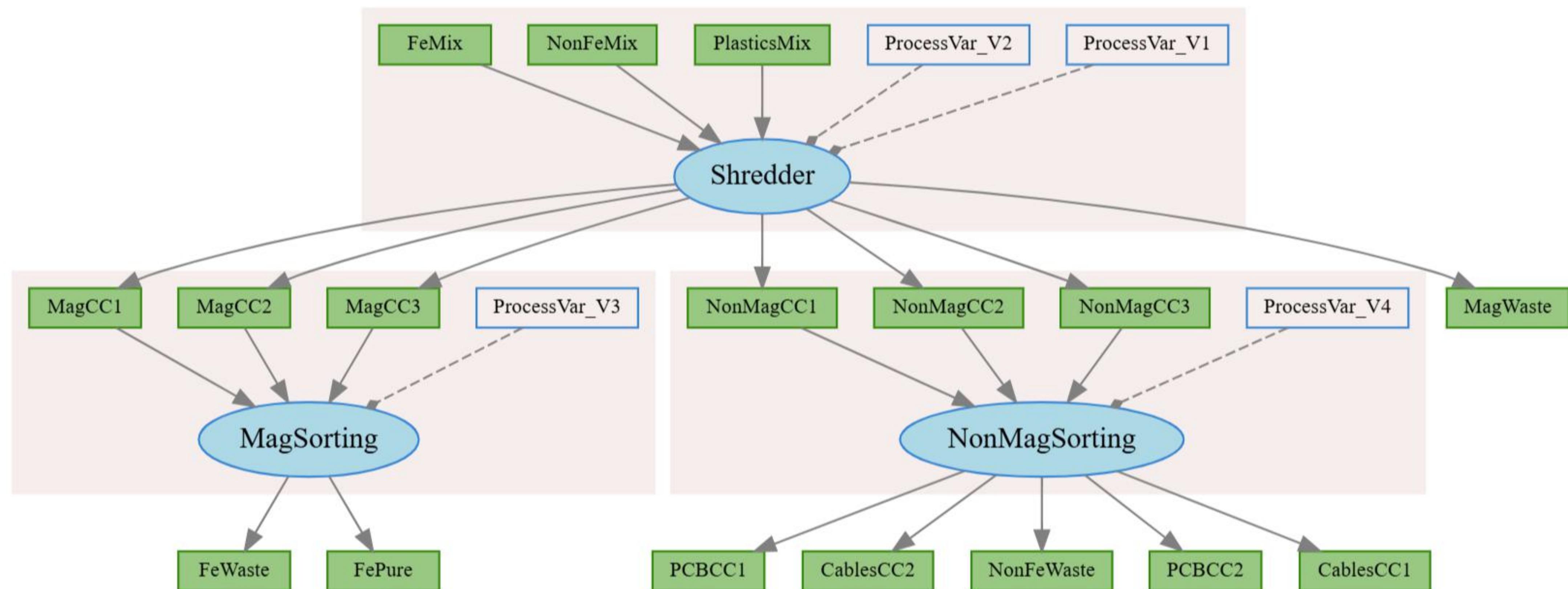
Model 3: Linear functions and all conditional models



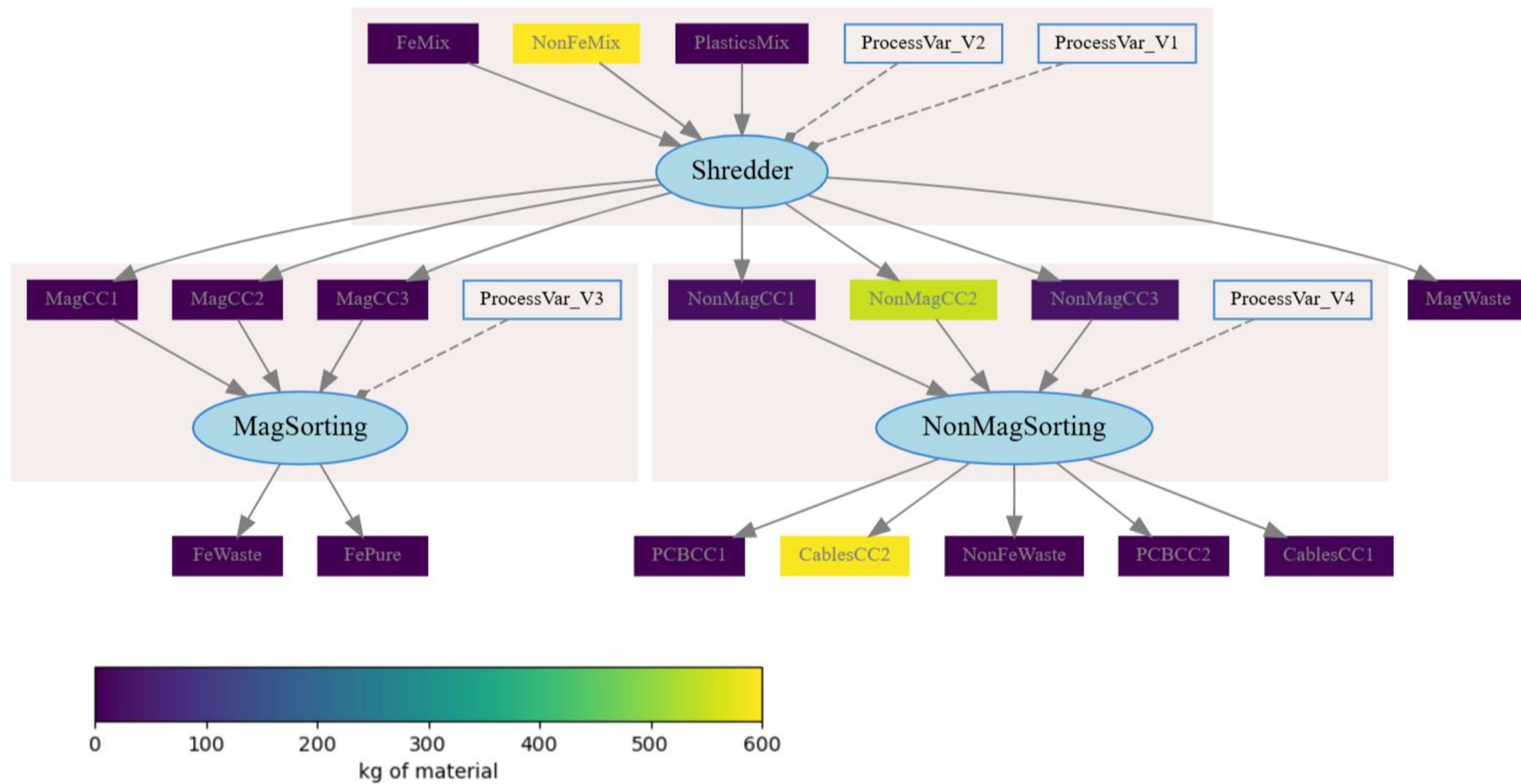
What can this model tell us that Model 1 does not?

# First steps in Explainable AI in this framework

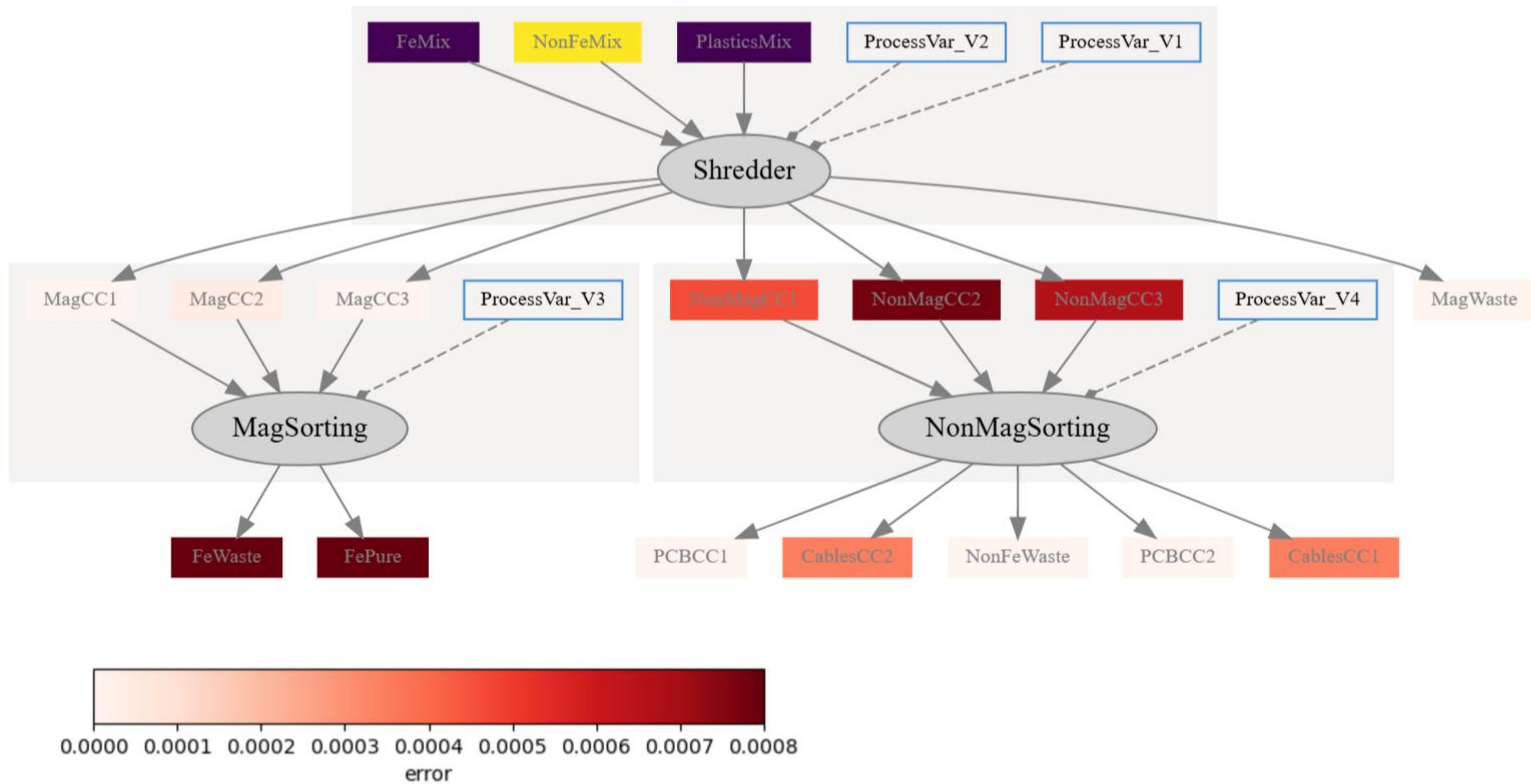
# Process model



# Material flow



# Error propagation



# Takeaways

# Conclusions

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- We have a general framework to model processes that contain conditional dependencies

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- We have a general framework to model processes that contain conditional dependencies
- It supports strong non-linear relationships from input to output stages
- We are able to quantify not only the predicted output of the process but also the prediction error, **at every process stage**
- Combining elements of conditional relationships and non-linear relationships sets a solid basis for XAI

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- Use this framework to fully exploit conditional deep models for XAI

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# What's next?

- Use this framework to fully exploit conditional deep models for XAI
- With this basis for XAI, we will be able to build systems where humans have full control and understanding of process behavior
- We need to implement process optimization in the framework, i.e., best process settings for optimal output
- In a further future, we would need to use this framework for optimal experimental design. There are still so many processes that need to be digitalized where data is completely absent.

**Thank you for your attention!**

Time for questions

# KIRAMET project FFG No.899661

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899661

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