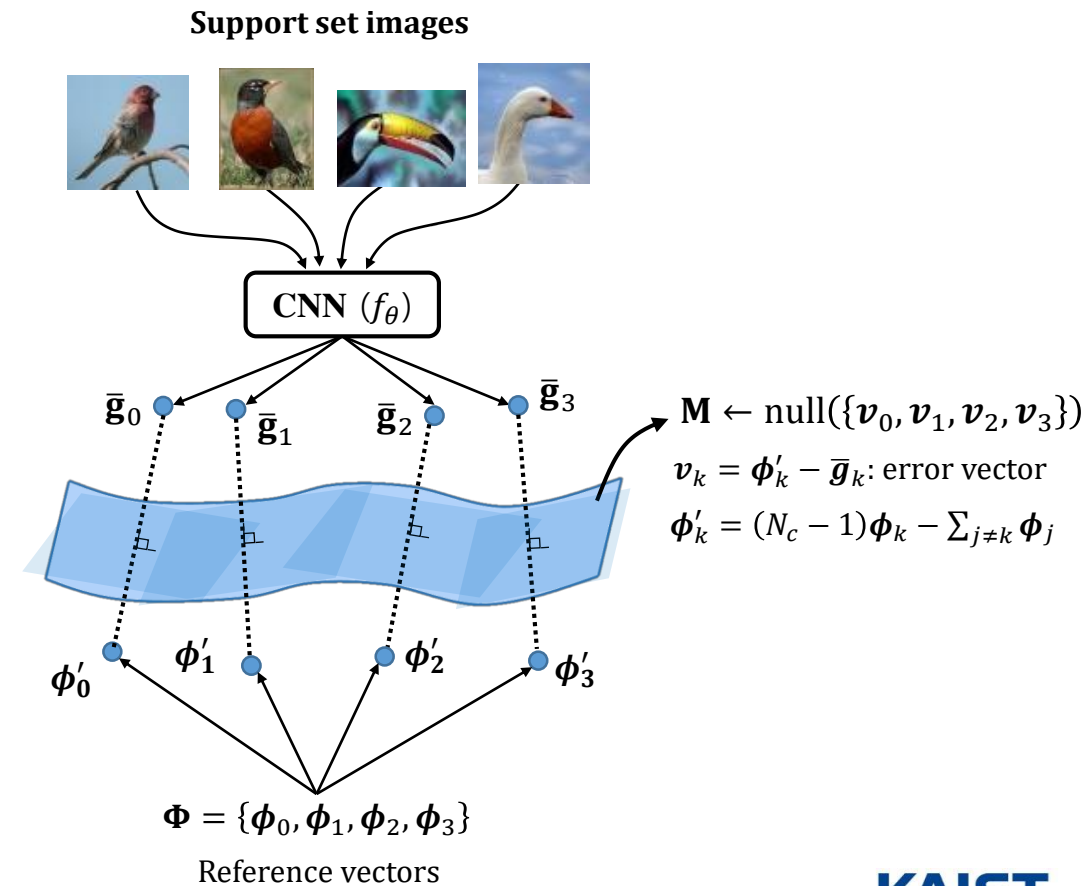
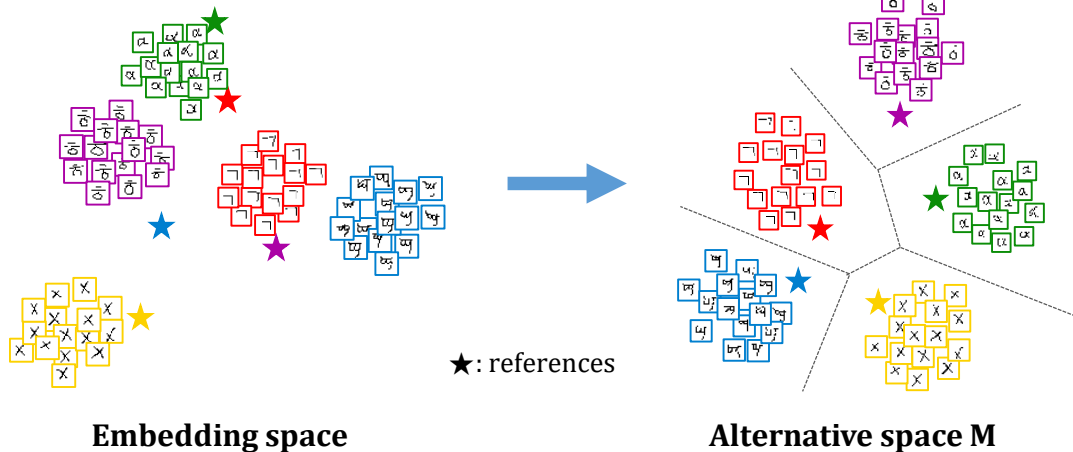
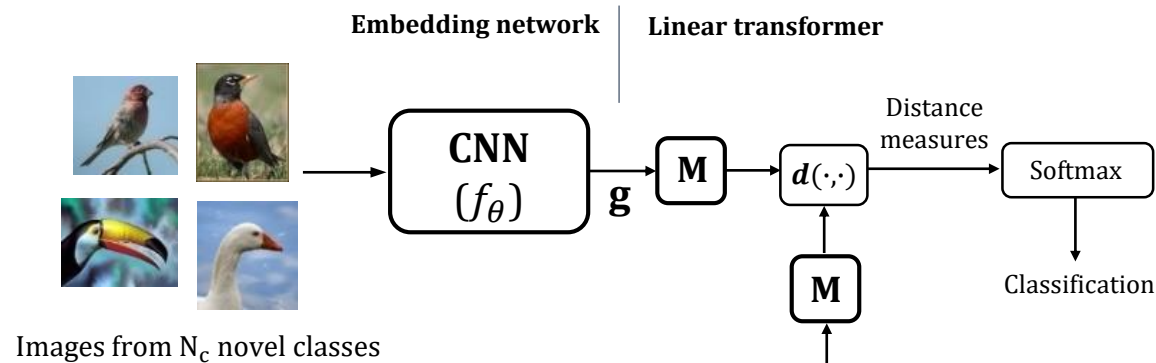


# Meta-Learner with Linear Nulling

- An embedding network is combined with a linear transformer.
- The linear transformer carries out null-space projection on an alternative classification space.
- The projection space  $M$  is constructed to match the network output with a special set of reference vectors.



# OBOE: Collaborative Filtering for AutoML Initialization

Chengrun Yang, Yuji Akimoto, Dae Won Kim, Madeleine Udell  
Cornell University

**Goal:** Select models for a new dataset within time budget.

**Given:** Model performance and runtime on previous datasets.

**Approach:**

- ▶ **low rank** dataset-by-model collaborative filtering matrix
- ▶ **predict model runtime** using polynomials
- ▶ **classical experiment design** for cold-start
- ▶ missing entry imputation for model performance prediction

**Performance:**

- ▶ cold-start: high accuracy
- ▶ model selection: fast and perform well

# Backpropamine: meta-learning with neuromodulated Hebbian plasticity

- **Differentiable plasticity**: meta-learning with Hebbian **plastic** connections
  - Meta-train both the baseline **weight** and **plasticity** of each connection to support efficient learning in any episode
- In nature, plasticity is under real-time control through **neuromodulators**
  - The brain can decide **when** and **where** to be plastic
- **Backpropamine = Differentiable plasticity + neuromodulation**
  - Make the **rate** of plasticity a real-time **output** of the network
  - During each episode, the network effectively learns by self-modification
- Results:
  - Solves tasks that non-modulated networks cannot
  - Improves LSTM performance on PTB language modeling task

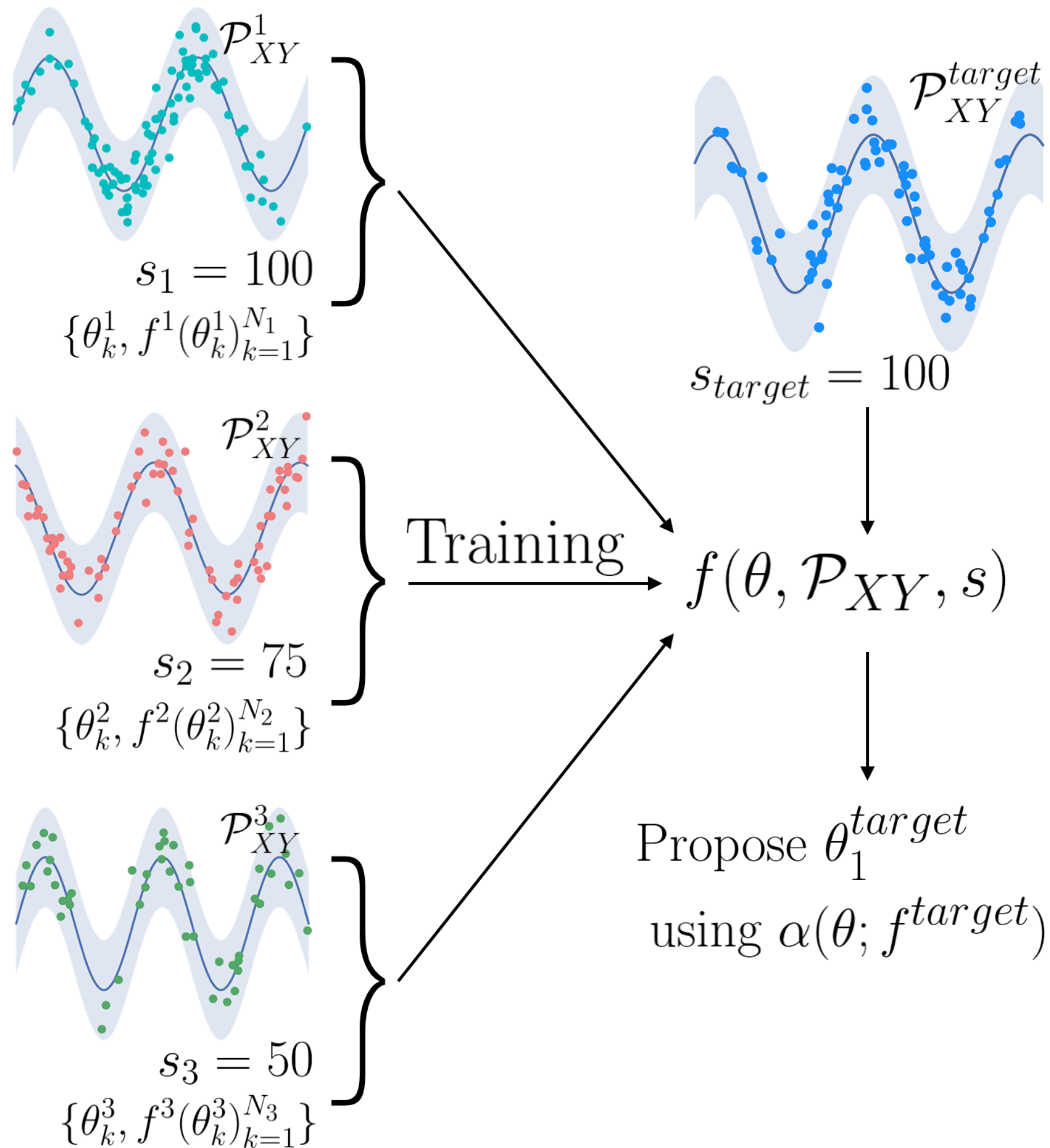




# Hyperparameter Learning via Distributional Transfer

Ho Chung Leon Law<sup>1</sup>, Peilin Zhao<sup>2</sup>, Junzhou Huang<sup>2</sup> and Dino Sejdinovic<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Oxford and <sup>2</sup>Tencent AI Lab



## Goal (hyperparameter selection):

Optimise  $f^{target}$  (target objective) w.r.t  $\theta$ :

$$\theta_{target}^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta \in \Theta} f^{target}(\theta)$$

## Scenario:

- We have  $n$  potentially related tasks  $f^i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$
- For these tasks, we have  $\{\theta_k^i, f^i(\theta_k^i)\}_{k=1}^{N_i}$  from past runs

## Method:

- Assume training data  $D_i$  comes from distribution  $\mathcal{P}_{XY}^i$
- Transfer information using embeddings of  $\mathcal{P}_{XY}^i$
- Jointly model  $\theta$ ,  $\mathcal{P}_{XY}$  and sample size  $s$



# Toward Multimodal Model-Agnostic Meta-Learning

Risto Vuorio<sup>1</sup>, Shao-Hua Sun<sup>2</sup>, Hexiang Hu<sup>2</sup> & Joseph J. Lim<sup>2</sup>

University of Michigan<sup>1</sup>

University of Southern California<sup>2</sup>

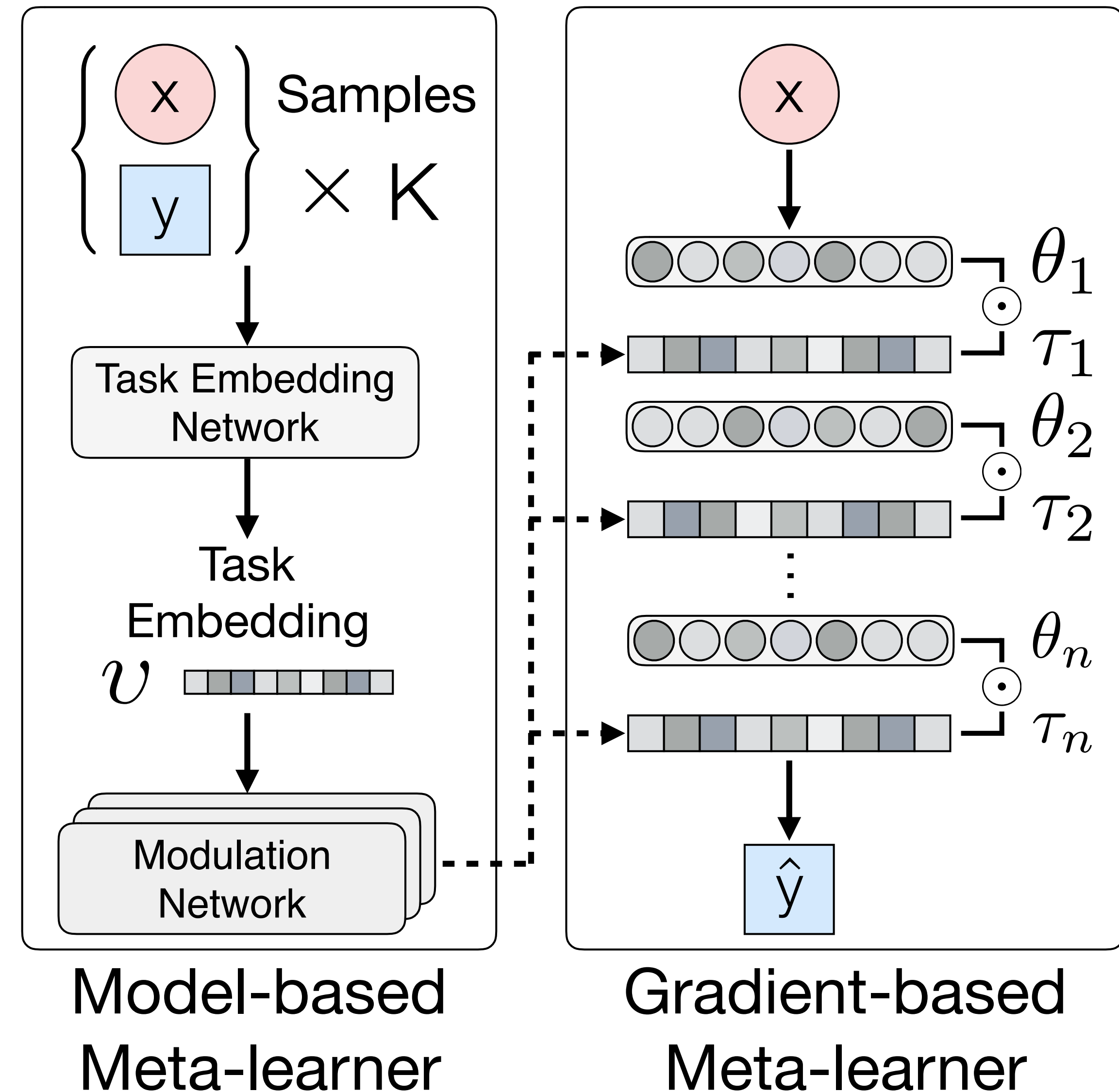


## The limitation of the MAML family

- One initialization can be suboptimal for multimodal task distributions.

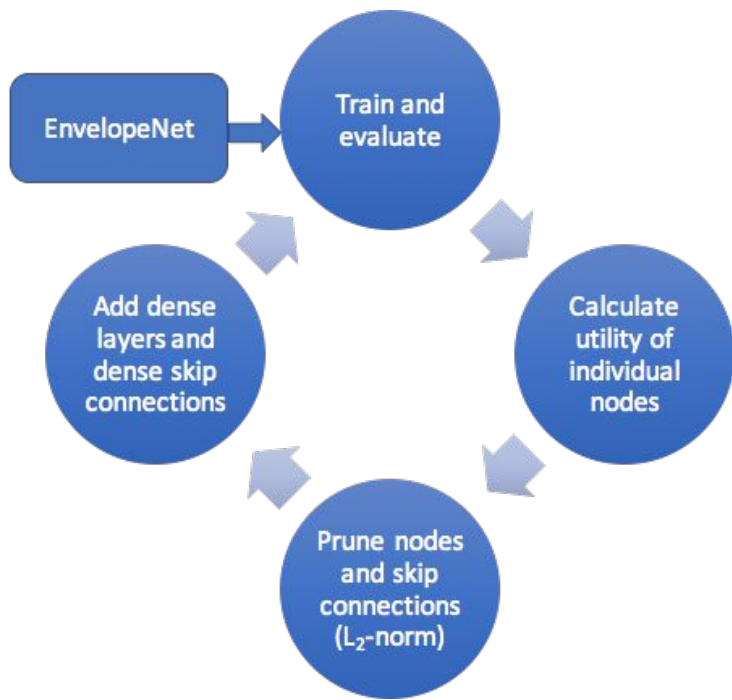
## Multi-Modal MAML

1. Model-based meta-learner computes task embeddings
2. Task embeddings are used to modulate gradient-based meta-learner
3. Gradient-based meta-learner adapts via gradient steps





# Fast Neural Architecture Construction using EnvelopeNets

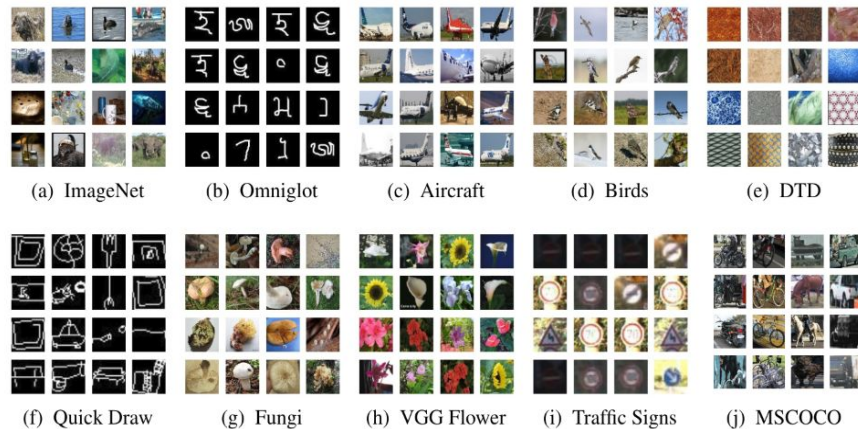


1. Finds architecture for CNNs in ~0.25 days
2. Based on the idea of utility of individual nodes.
3. Closely aligns with a theory of human brain ontogenesis.

# Meta-Dataset: A Dataset of Datasets for Learning to Learn from Few Examples

Eleni Triantafillou, Tyler Zhu, Vincent Dumoulin, Pascal Lamblin, Kelvin Xu, Ross Goroshin, Carles Gelada, Kevin Swersky, Pierre-Antoine Manzagol, Hugo Larochelle

- New benchmark for **few-shot classification**
- Two-fold approach:
  1. **Change the data**
    - Large-scale
    - Diverse
  2. **Change the task creation**
    - Introduce imbalance
    - Utilize class hierarchy for ImageNet

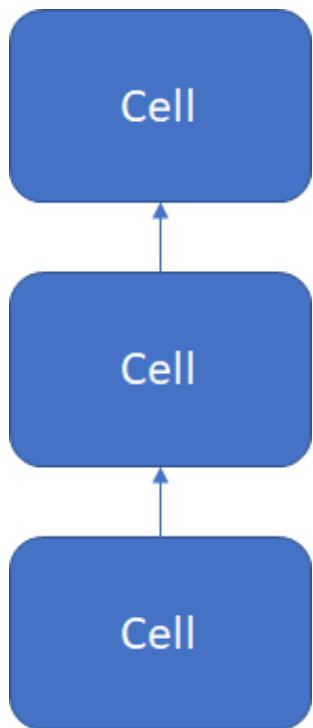


- Preliminary results on: baselines, Prototypical Networks, Matching Networks, and MAML.
- Leveraging data of multiple sources remains an open and interesting research direction!

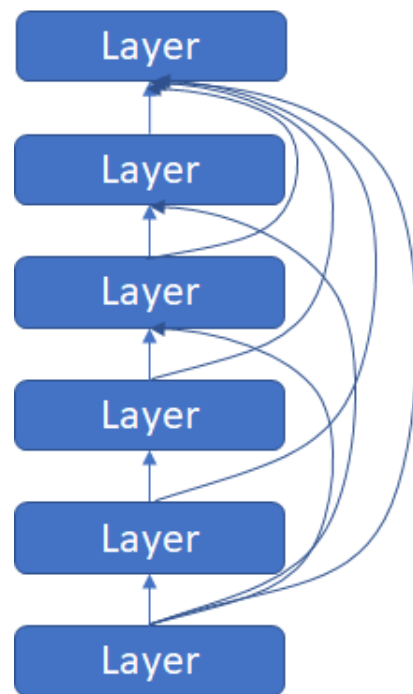
# Macro Neural Architecture Search Revisited

Hanzhang Hu<sup>1</sup>, John Langford<sup>2</sup>, Rich Caruana<sup>2</sup>, Eric Horvitz<sup>2</sup>, Debadeepta Dey<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Carnegie Mellon University, <sup>2</sup>Microsoft Research



**Cell Search:** applies the found template on predefined skeleton.



**Macro Search:** learns all connections and layer types.

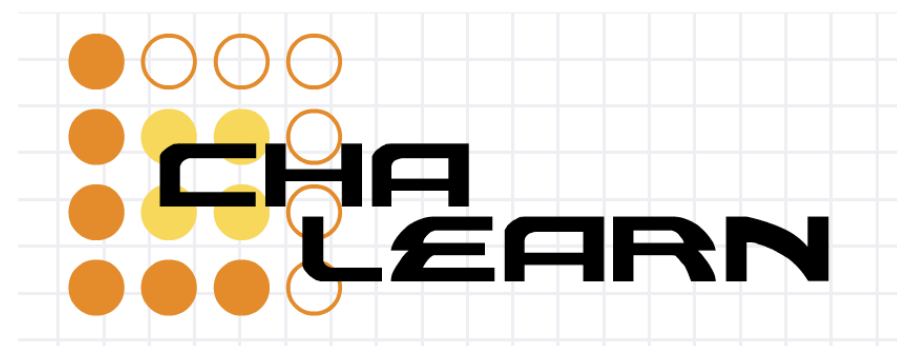
**Cell Search:** the predefined skeleton ensures the simplest cell search can achieve 4.6% error with 0.4M params on CIFAR 10.

**Key take-away:** macro search can be competitive against cell search, even with simple random growing strategies, if the initial model is the same as cell search.



# AutoDL 2019

Help Automating Deep Learning



**Join the AutoDL challenge!**

<https://autodl.chalearn.org>

## AutoDL challenge design and beta tests

Zhengying Liu\*, Olivier Bousquet, André Elisseeff, Sergio Escalera, Isabelle Guyon,  
Julio Jacques Jr., Albert Clapés, Adrien Pavao, Michèle Sebag, Danny Silver,  
Lisheng Sun-Hosoya, Sébastien Tréguer, Wei-Wei Tu, Yiqi Hu, Jingsong Wang, Quanming Yao

# Modular meta-learning in abstract graph networks for combinatorial generalization



Ferran Alet, Maria Bauza, A. Rodriguez, T. Lozano-Perez, L. Kaelbling

code&pdf: [alet-etal.com](https://alet-etal.com)

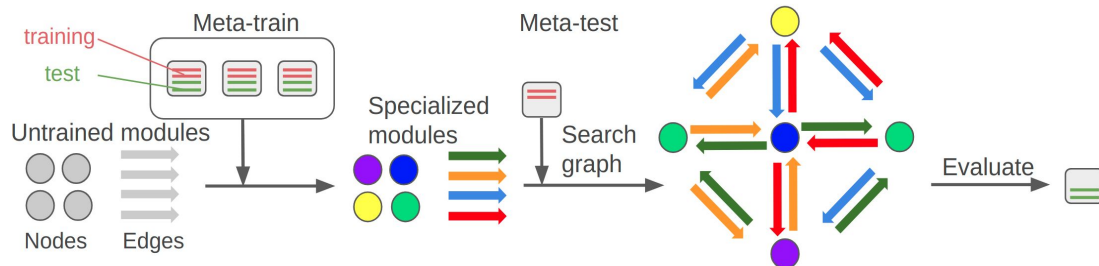
Combinatorial generalization: generalizing by reusing neural modules

## Graph Neural Networks

Nodes tied to entities



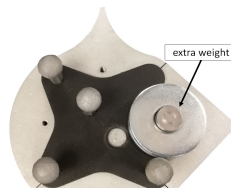
## Modular meta-learning



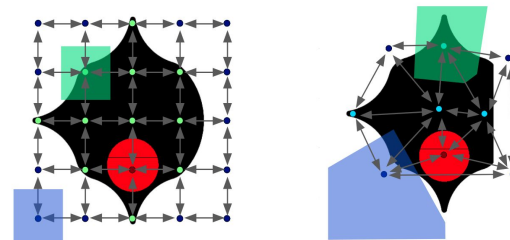
We introduce: **Abstract Graph Networks**

nodes are not tied to concrete entities

OmniPush dataset



## Graph Element Networks



# Cross-Modulation Networks For Few-Shot Learning

Hugo Prol<sup>†</sup>, Vincent Dumoulin<sup>‡</sup>,  
and Luis Herranz<sup>†</sup>

<sup>†</sup> Computer Vision Center, Univ. Autònoma de Barcelona

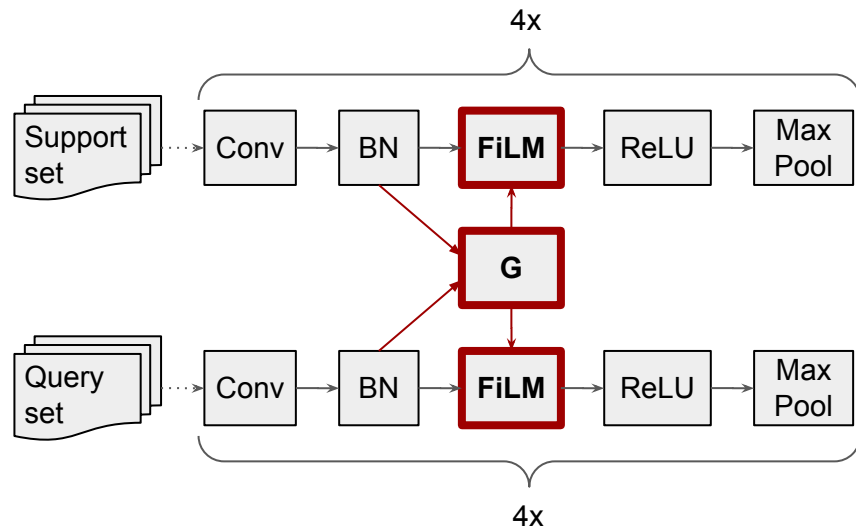
<sup>‡</sup> Google Brain

**Key idea:** allow support and query examples to interact at each level of abstraction.

Extending the feature extraction pipeline of Matching Networks:

☆ Channel-wise affine transformations:  $\text{FiLM}(\mathbf{x}) = (1 + \gamma) \odot \mathbf{x} + \beta$

☆ Subnetwork G predicts the affine parameters  $\gamma$  and  $\beta$





# Large Margin Meta-Learning for Few-Shot Classification

The University of Hong Kong<sup>1</sup>, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University<sup>2</sup>

Yong Wang<sup>1</sup>, Xiao-Ming Wu<sup>2</sup>, Qimai Li<sup>2</sup>, Jiatao Gu<sup>1</sup>, Wangmeng Xiang<sup>2</sup>, Lei Zhang<sup>2</sup>, Victor O.K. Li<sup>1</sup>



## Large Margin Principle

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{softmax}} + \lambda * \mathcal{L}_{\text{large-margin}}$$

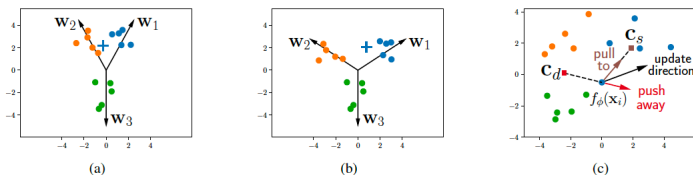


Fig. 1: Large margin meta-learning. (a) Classifier trained without the large margin constraint. (b) Classifier trained with the large margin constraint. (c) Gradient of the triplet loss.

## One Implementation: Triplet Loss

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{large-margin}} = \frac{1}{N_t} \sum_{i=1}^{N_t} [\|f_\phi(\mathbf{x}_i^a) - f_\phi(\mathbf{x}_i^p)\|_2^2 - \|f_\phi(\mathbf{x}_i^a) - f_\phi(\mathbf{x}_i^n)\|_2^2 + m]_+.$$

## Case study

- Graph Neural Network (GNN)
- Prototypical Network (PN)

## Analysis

After rearrangement:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{large-margin}} = \frac{1}{N_t} \left( \sum_{\mathbf{x}_s \in S_s} \|f_\phi(\mathbf{x}_i) - f_\phi(\mathbf{x}_s)\|_2^2 - \sum_{\mathbf{x}_d \in S_d} \|f_\phi(\mathbf{x}_i) - f_\phi(\mathbf{x}_d)\|_2^2 \right) + \text{const.}$$

The gradient:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{\text{large-margin}}}{\partial f_\phi(\mathbf{x}_i)} &= \frac{2}{N_t} \left( \sum_{\mathbf{x}_s \in S_s} (f_\phi(\mathbf{x}_i) - f_\phi(\mathbf{x}_s)) - \sum_{\mathbf{x}_d \in S_d} (f_\phi(\mathbf{x}_i) - f_\phi(\mathbf{x}_d)) \right) \\ &= -\frac{2|S_s|}{N_t} \left( \frac{1}{|S_s|} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_s \in S_s} f_\phi(\mathbf{x}_s) - f_\phi(\mathbf{x}_i) \right) - \frac{2|S_d|}{N_t} \left( f_\phi(\mathbf{x}_i) - \frac{1}{|S_d|} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_d \in S_d} f_\phi(\mathbf{x}_d) \right) \\ &= -\underbrace{\frac{2|S_s|}{N_t} (\mathbf{c}_s - f_\phi(\mathbf{x}_i))}_{\text{pull towards its own class}} - \underbrace{\frac{2|S_d|}{N_t} (f_\phi(\mathbf{x}_i) - \mathbf{c}_d)}_{\text{push away from other classes}}. \end{aligned}$$

## Features

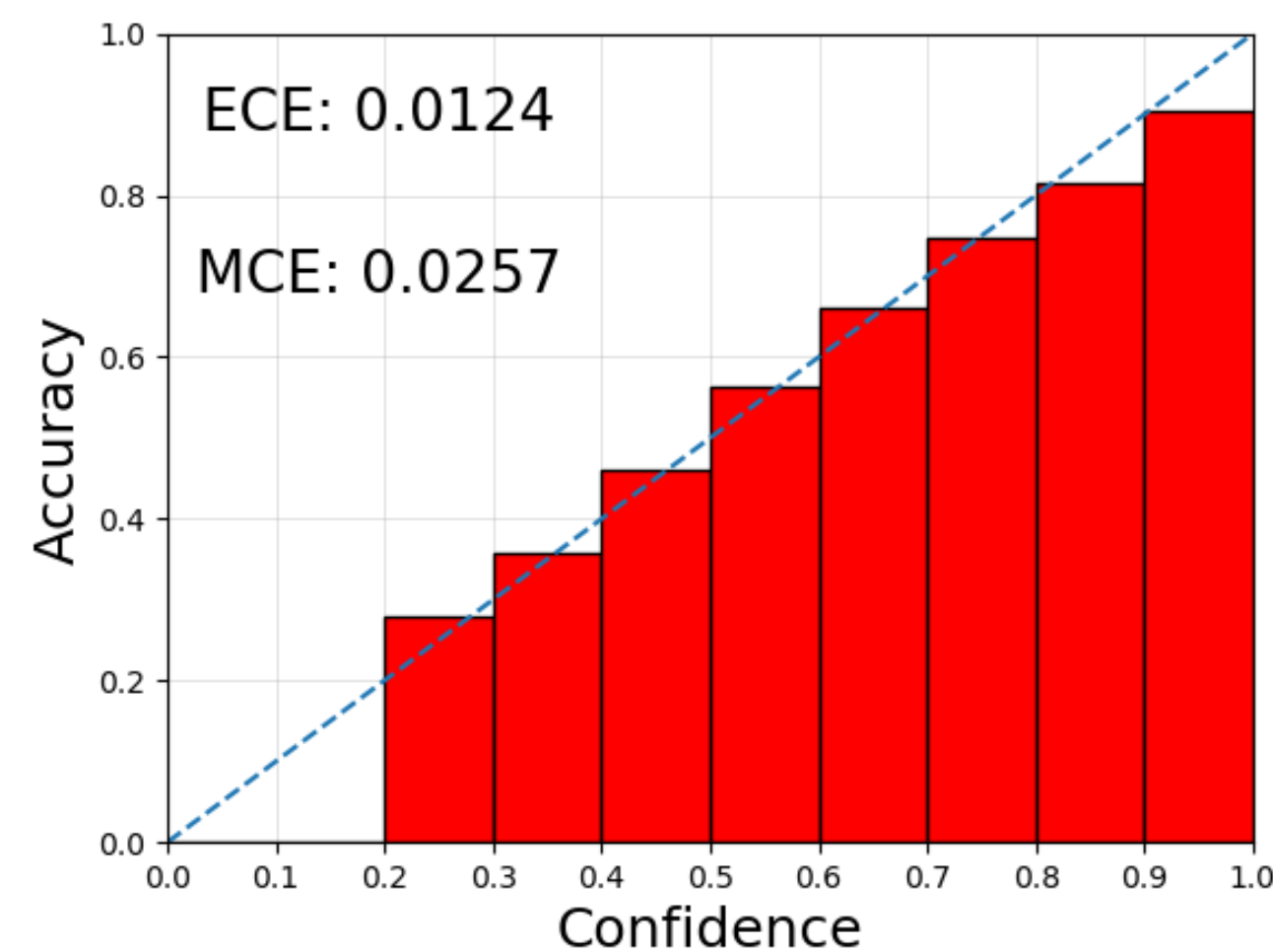
- We implement and compare several of other large margin methods for few-shot learning.
- Our framework is simple, efficient, and can be applied to improve existing and new meta-learning methods with very little overhead.

# Amortized Bayesian Meta-Learning

Sachin Ravi & Alex Beatson  
Department of Computer Science, Princeton University



- ▶ Lot of progress in few-shot learning but under controlled settings
- ▶ In real world, relationship between training and testing tasks can be tenuous
  - ▶ Task-specific predictive uncertainty is crucial
- ▶ We present gradient-based meta-learning method for computing task-specific approximate posterior
- ▶ Show that method displays good predictive uncertainty on contextual-bandit and few-shot learning tasks





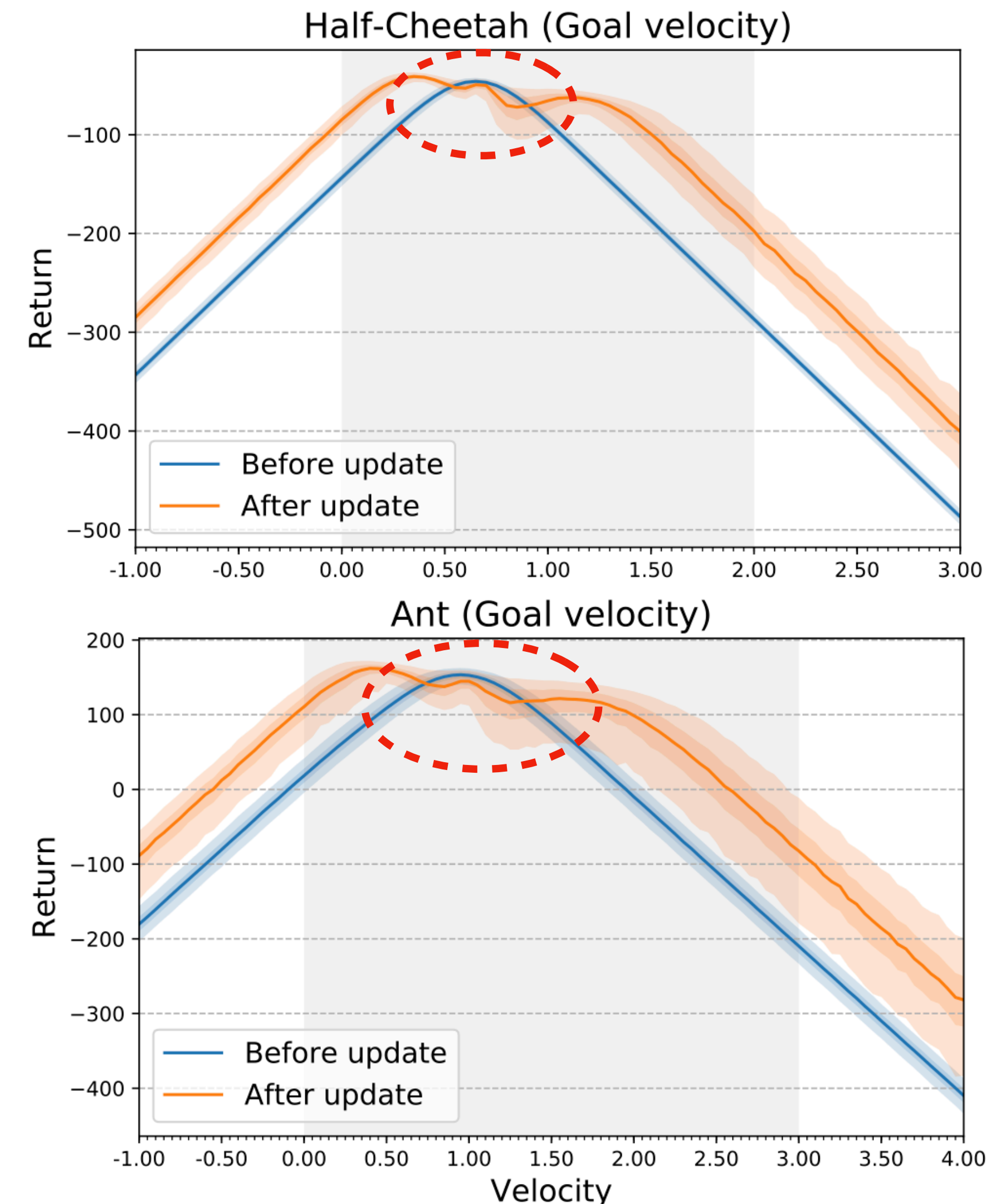
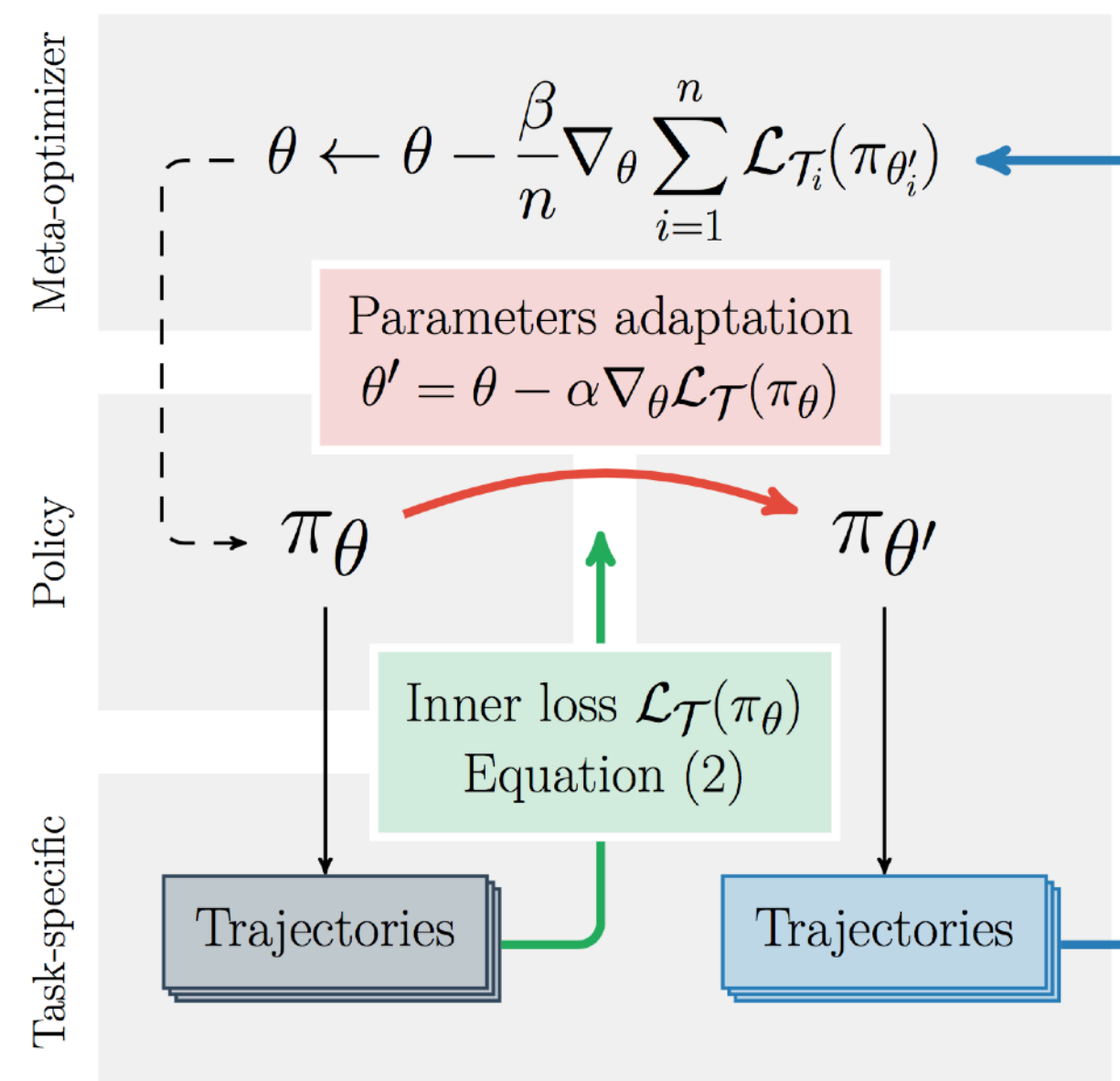
# The effects of negative adaptation in Model-Agnostic Meta-Learning

Tristan Deleu, Yoshua Bengio

- The advantage of meta-learning is well-founded under the assumption that **the adaptation phase does improve the performance** of the model on the task of interest
- Optimization: maximize the performance after adaptation, **performance improvement is not explicitly enforced**

$$\min_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{T} \sim p(\mathcal{T})} [\mathcal{L}(\theta'_{\mathcal{T}}; \mathcal{D}'_{\mathcal{T}})]$$

- We show empirically that performance **can decrease** after adaptation in MAML. We call this **negative adaptation**
- How to fix this issue? Ideas from **Safe Reinforcement Learning**



# Mitigating Architectural Mismatch During the Evolutionary Synthesis of Deep Neural Networks

Audrey G. Chung, Paul Fieguth, Alexander Wong

- *Evolutionary deep intelligence* for increasingly efficient networks
- Preliminary study into the effects of architectural alignment
- Like-with-like mating policy via gene tagging system
- Resulting networks are comparable:
  - Restricts search space exploration?
  - Compensated with training epochs?
  - ???



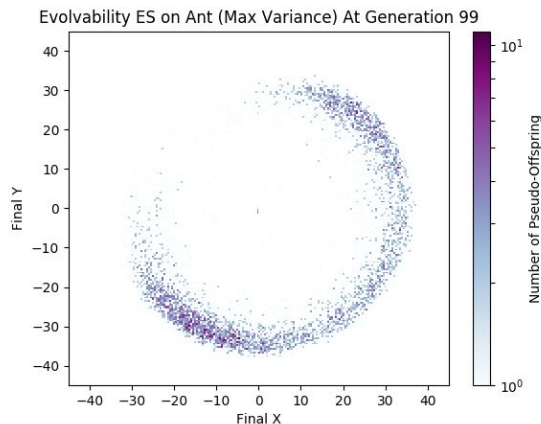
# Evolvability ES: Scalable Evolutionary Meta-Learning



Uber AI Labs

By Alexander Gajewski, Jeff Clune, Kenneth O. Stanley, and Joel Lehman

- Evolvability ES is a meta-learning algorithm inspired by Evolution Strategies [1]
- Surprisingly, Evolvability ES finds parameters such that at test time, **random** perturbations result in diverse behaviors
- In a simulated Ant locomotion domain, adding Gaussian noise to the parameters results in policies which move in many different directions

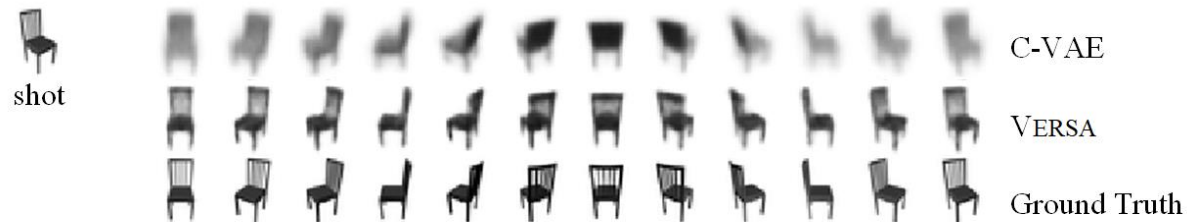


[1] Salimans et al., Evolution Strategies as a Scalable Alternative to Reinforcement Learning, 2017.

# Consolidating the Meta-Learning Zoo

## A Unifying Perspective as Posterior Predictive Inference

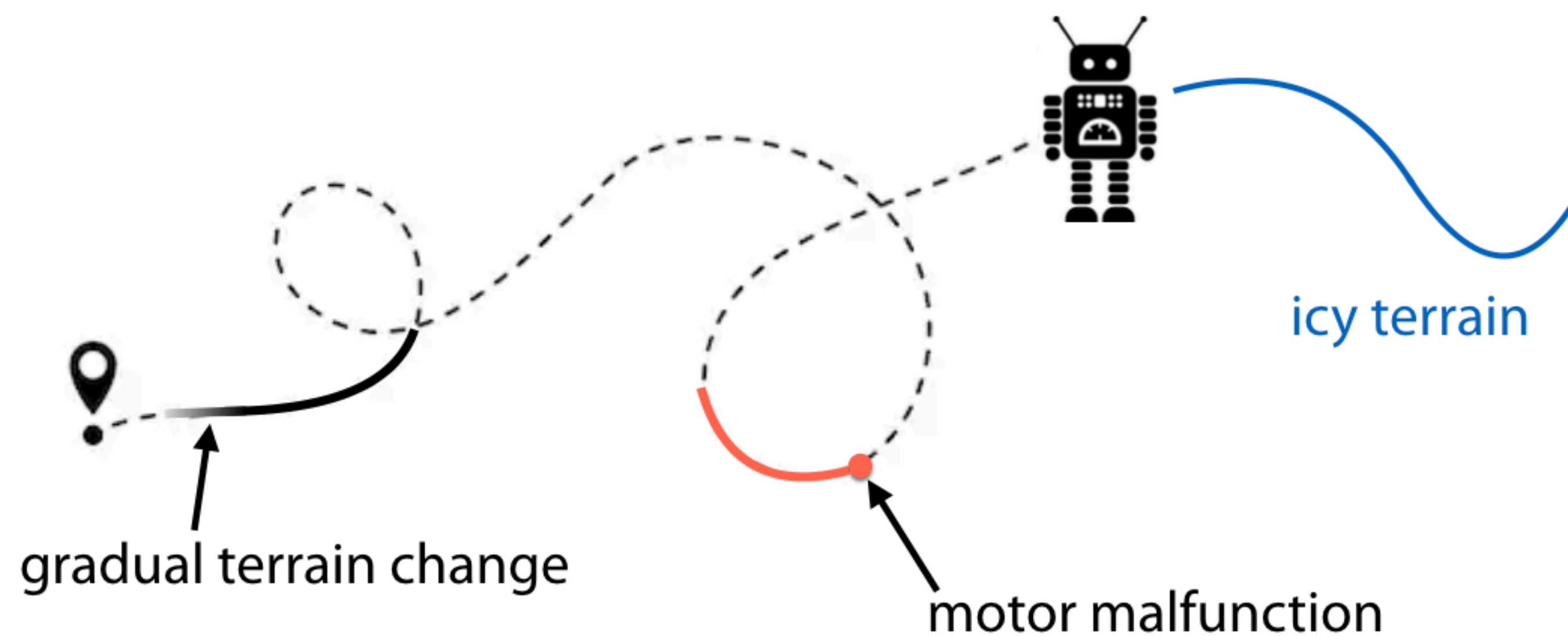
- **Novel:** Probabilistic, amortized, multi-task, meta-learning framework.
- **Meta-learning:** Learns how to learn a classifier or regressor for each new task.
- **Unifies:** MAML, Meta-LSTM, Prototypical networks, and Conditional Neural Processes are special cases.
- **State of the art:** Leading classification accuracy on 5 of 6 Omniglot & *mini*ImageNet tasks.
- **Efficient:** Test-time requires only forward passes, no gradient steps are needed.
- **Versatile:** Robust classification accuracy as shot and way are varied at *test*-time.
- **High quality 1-shot view reconstruction:**



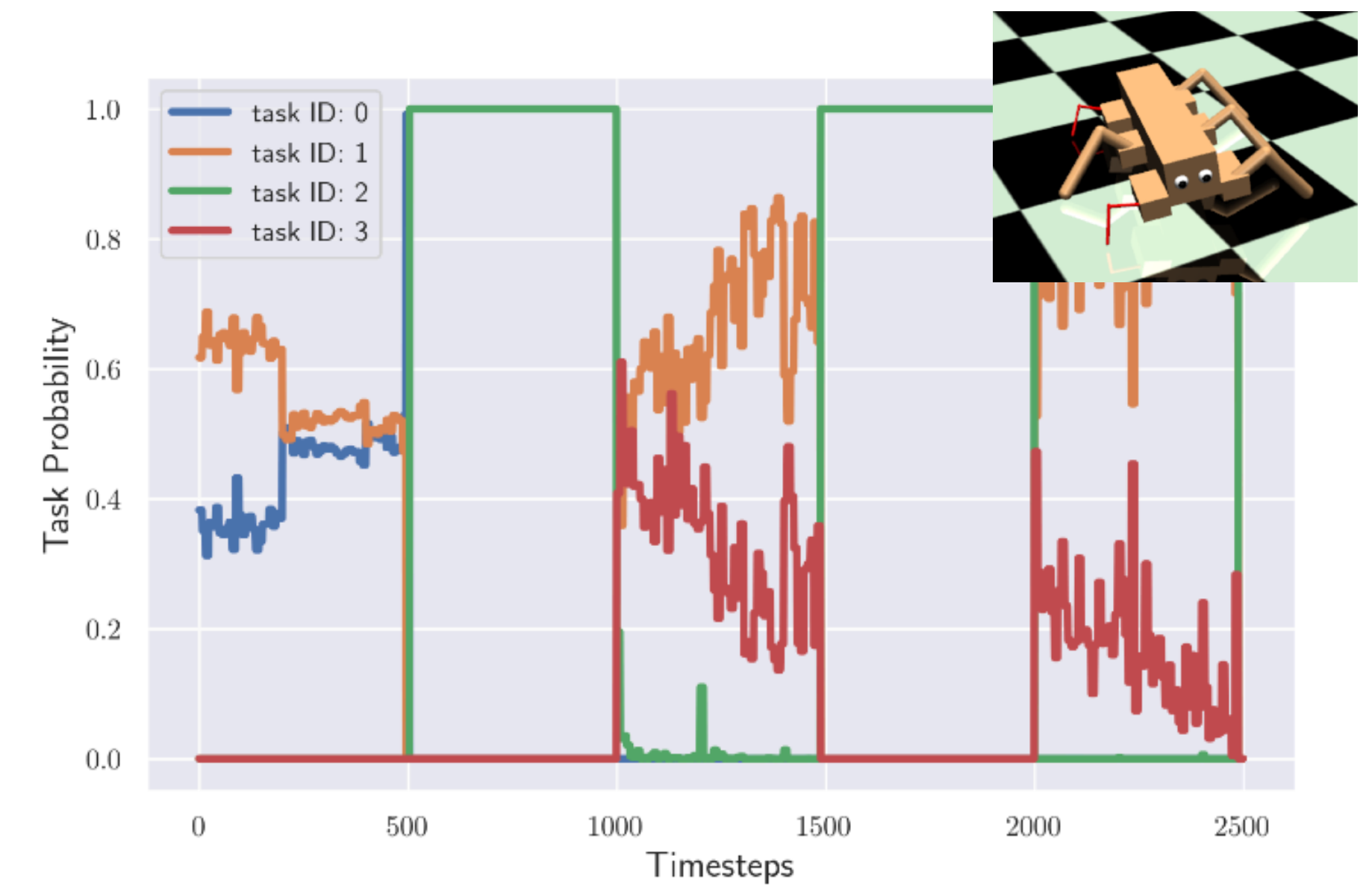


# Deep Online Learning via Meta-Learning: Continual Adaptation for Model-Based RL

Anusha Nagabandi, Chelsea Finn, Sergey Levine



Can we use meta-learning for effective online learning?



Our method can:

- Reason about non-stationary latent distributions over tasks.
- Recall past tasks