



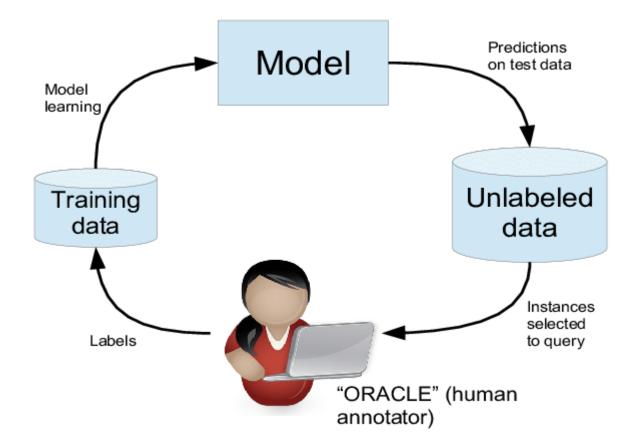
## SIMILAR Submodular Information Measures Based Active Learning In Realistic Scenarios

Suraj Kothawade\*, Nathan Beck, Krishnateja Killamsetty, Rishabh Iyer

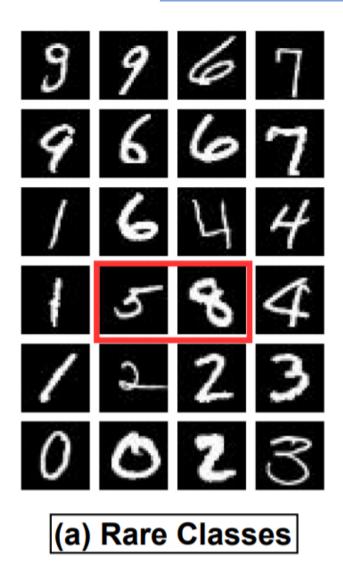
\*suraj.kothawade@utdallas.edu

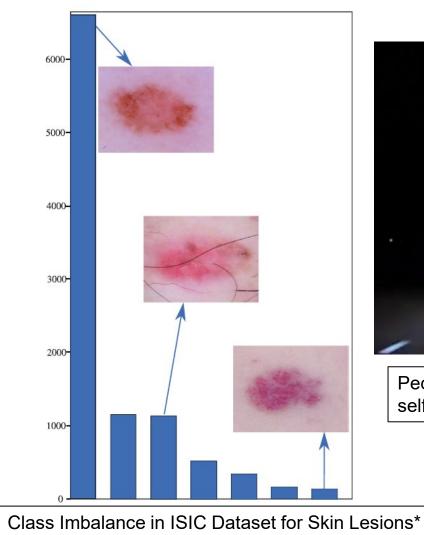
NeurIPS 2021

#### **Active Learning**



## **Realistic Active Learning Scenarios**



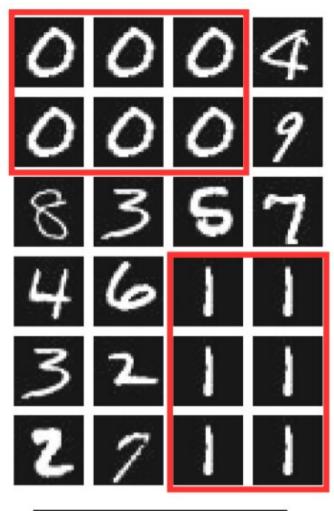


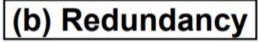


Pedestrian in the dark snapshot from a self-driving car\*\*

\*Marrakchi et al. MICCAI 2021 \*\*Uber self-driving car crash in Tempe, Arizona.

## **Realistic Active Learning Scenarios**





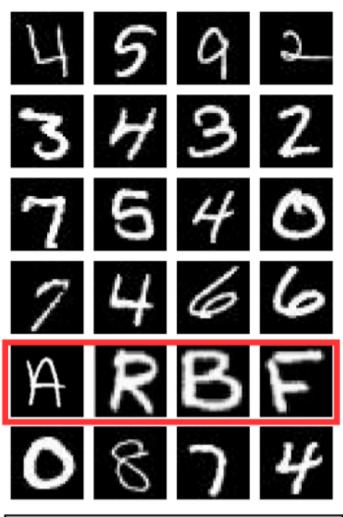




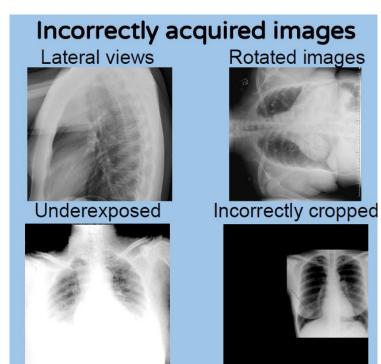


Frames samples from a footage from a selfdriving car\*

## **Realistic Active Learning Scenarios**



(c) Out-of-distribution



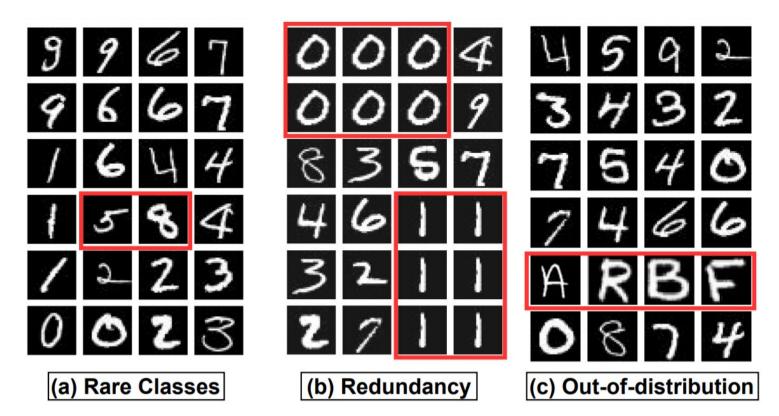


Unfavorable Out-of-distribution data points\*

Favorable In-distribution data point\*

> \*Cao et al. A Benchmark of Medical Out of Distribution Detection

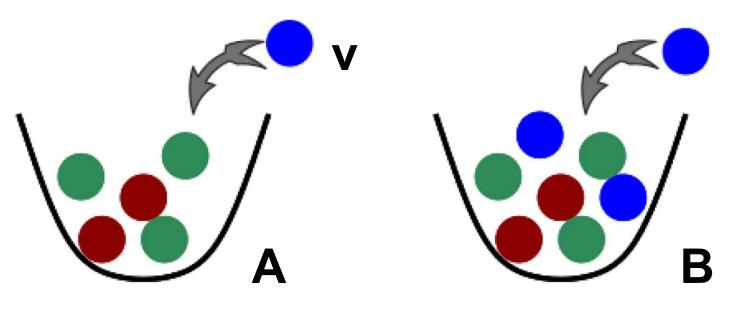
## The Question



Can a machine learning model be trained using a single unified active learning framework that works for a broad spectrum of realistic scenarios?

#### **Submodular Functions**

#### $f(A \cup v) - f(A) \ge f(B \cup v) - f(B)$ , if $A \subseteq B$



f = # of distinct colors of balls in the urn.

**Entropy:** Given a set of random variables  $X_1 \cdots X_n$ , the Entropy of a **subset** of random variables:  $H(X_A) = -\sum_{X_A} P(X_A) \log P(X_A)$ . Note that entropy is **submodular.** 

- **Entropy:** Given a set of random variables  $X_1 \cdots X_n$ , the Entropy of a **subset** of random variables:  $H(X_A) = -\sum_{X_A} P(X_A) \log P(X_A)$ . Note that entropy is **submodular.**
- ➤ Mutual Information: Given a set of random variables,  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  and sets  $A, B \subseteq V$ , the Mutual Information  $I(X_A; X_B) = H(X_A) + H(X_B) H(X_{A \cup B})$

- **Entropy:** Given a set of random variables  $X_1 \cdots X_n$ , the Entropy of a **subset** of random variables:  $H(X_A) = -\sum_{X_A} P(X_A) \log P(X_A)$ . Note that entropy is **submodular.**
- ➤ Mutual Information: Given a set of random variables,  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  and sets  $A, B \subseteq V$ , the Mutual Information  $I(X_A; X_B) = H(X_A) + H(X_B) H(X_{A \cup B})$
- ➤ Conditional Entropy: Given a set of random variables,  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  and sets  $A, B \subseteq V$ , the Conditional Entropy  $H(X_A|X_B) = H(X_{A\cup B}) H(X_B)$

- **Entropy:** Given a set of random variables  $X_1 \cdots X_n$ , the Entropy of a **subset** of random variables:  $H(X_A) = -\sum_{X_A} P(X_A) \log P(X_A)$ . Note that entropy is **submodular.**
- ➤ Mutual Information: Given a set of random variables,  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  and sets  $A, B \subseteq V$ , the Mutual Information  $I(X_A; X_B) = H(X_A) + H(X_B) H(X_{A \cup B})$
- ➤ Conditional Entropy: Given a set of random variables,  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  and sets  $A, B \subseteq V$ , the Conditional Entropy  $H(X_A|X_B) = H(X_{A\cup B}) H(X_B)$
- ➤ Conditional Mutual Information: Given a set of random variables,  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  and sets  $A, B, C \subseteq V$ , the Conditional Mutual Information  $I(X_A; X_B | X_C) = H(X_A | X_C) + H(X_B | X_C) H(X_{A \cup B} | X_C)$

## Can we replace *H* with any submodular function?

## Can we replace *H* with any submodular function?

YES!

#### This gives us the Submodular Information Measures!

• Footer information

Solution  $F(A) \subseteq V$  of data points  $V = \{1, \dots, n\}$ , and sets  $A, Q \subseteq U$ , the Submodular Mutual Information (SMI)  $I_F(A; Q) = F(A) + F(Q) - F(A \cup Q)$ , where the information of a set of points is F(A) and F is a submodular function.

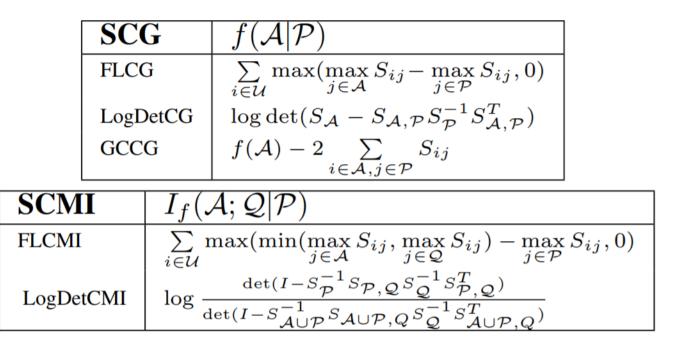
- Solution  $F(A) \subseteq V$  of data points  $V = \{1, \dots, n\}$ , and sets  $A, Q \subseteq U$ , the Submodular Mutual Information (SMI)  $I_F(A; Q) = F(A) + F(Q) F(A \cup Q)$ , where the information of a set of points is F(A) and F is a submodular function.
- Solution is Given a set of data points  $V = \{1, \dots, n\}$ , and sets  $A, P \subseteq U$ , the Submodular Conditional Gain (SCG) is  $F(A|P) = F(A \cup P) F(P)$ .

- Given a set of data points  $V = \{1, \dots, n\}$ , and sets  $A, Q \subseteq U$ , the **Submodular Mutual Information (SMI)**  $I_F(A; Q) = F(A) + F(Q) - F(A \cup Q)$ , where the information of a **set** of points is F(A) and F is a submodular function.
- Solution of Given a set of data points  $V = \{1, \dots, n\}$ , and sets  $A, P \subseteq U$ , the **Submodular** Conditional Gain (SCG) is  $F(A|P) = F(A \cup P) - F(P)$ .
- Solution  $V = \{1, \dots, n\}$ , and sets  $A, Q, P \subseteq U$ , the Submodular Conditional Mutual Information (SCMI) is  $I_F(A; Q|P) = F(A \cup P) + F(Q \cup P) - F(A \cup Q \cup P) - F(P)$ .

(a) Instantiations of SMI functions.

SMI	$I_f(\mathcal{A}; \mathcal{Q})$
FLVMI	$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{U}} \min(\max_{j \in \mathcal{A}} S_{ij}, \max_{j \in \mathcal{Q}} S_{ij})$
FLQMI	$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{Q}} \max_{j \in \mathcal{A}} S_{ij} + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}} \max_{j \in \mathcal{Q}} S_{ij}$
GCMI	$2\sum_{i\in\mathcal{A}}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{Q}}S_{ij}$
LOGDETMI	$\log \det(S_{\mathcal{A}}) - \log \det(S_{\mathcal{A}} -$
	$S_{\mathcal{A},\mathcal{Q}}S_{\mathcal{Q}}^{-1}S_{\mathcal{A},\mathcal{Q}}^{T})$

(b) Instantiations of SCG and SCMI functions.



## Submodular Mutual Information (SMI)

SMI	$I_f(\mathcal{A}; \mathcal{Q})$
FLVMI	$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{U}} \min(\max_{j \in \mathcal{A}} S_{ij}, \max_{j \in \mathcal{Q}} S_{ij})$
FLQMI	$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{Q}} \max_{j \in \mathcal{A}} S_{ij} + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}} \max_{j \in \mathcal{Q}} S_{ij}$
GCMI	$2\sum_{i\in\mathcal{A}}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{Q}}S_{ij}$
LOGDETMI	$\log \det(S_{\mathcal{A}}) - \log \det(S_{\mathcal{A}} -$
	$S_{\mathcal{A},\mathcal{Q}}S_{\mathcal{Q}}^{-1}S_{\mathcal{A},\mathcal{Q}}^{T})$

## Submodular Conditional Gain (SCG)

SCG	$f(\mathcal{A} \mathcal{P})$
FLCG	$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{U}} \max(\max_{j \in \mathcal{A}} S_{ij} - \max_{j \in \mathcal{P}} S_{ij}, 0)$
LogDetCG	$\log \det(S_{\mathcal{A}} - S_{\mathcal{A},\mathcal{P}} S_{\mathcal{P}}^{-1} S_{\mathcal{A},\mathcal{P}}^{T})$
GCCG	$f(\mathcal{A}) - 2 \sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}, j \in \mathcal{P}} S_{ij}$

#### Submodular Conditional Mutual Information (SCMI)

SCMI	$ I_f(\mathcal{A}; \mathcal{Q} \mathcal{P}) $
FLCMI	$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{U}} \max(\min(\max_{j \in \mathcal{A}} S_{ij}, \max_{j \in \mathcal{Q}} S_{ij}) - \max_{j \in \mathcal{P}} S_{ij}, 0)$
LogDetCMI	$\log \frac{\det(I - S_{\mathcal{P}}^{-1} S_{\mathcal{P}}, \mathcal{Q} S_{\mathcal{Q}}^{-1} S_{\mathcal{P}}^{T}, \mathcal{Q})}{\det(I - S_{\mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{P}}^{-1} S_{\mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{P}}, Q S_{\mathcal{Q}}^{-1} S_{\mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{P}}^{T}, Q)}$

#### **Relationship between SIM**

$$\max_{\mathcal{A}\subseteq\mathcal{U},|\mathcal{A}|\leq B}I_f(\mathcal{A};\mathcal{Q}|\mathcal{P})$$

Function	Setting	Realistic Scenario
Submodular	$\mathcal{Q} \leftarrow \mathcal{U}, \mathcal{P} \leftarrow \emptyset$	Standard AL
SMI	$\mathcal{Q} \leftarrow \mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{P} \leftarrow \emptyset$	Imbalance, OOD
SCG	$\mathcal{Q} \leftarrow \emptyset, \mathcal{P} \leftarrow \mathcal{P}$	Redundancy
SCMI	$\mathcal{Q} \leftarrow \mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{P} \leftarrow \mathcal{P}$	OOD

- **1.** for selection round i = 1 : N do
- **2.** Train model  $\mathcal{M}$  with loss  $\mathcal{H}$  on the current labeled set  $\mathcal{L}$  and obtain parameters  $\theta_i$
- **3.** Using model parameters  $\theta_i$ , compute gradients using hypothesized labels  $\{\nabla_{\theta_i} \mathcal{H}(x_j, \hat{y}_j, \theta_i), \forall j \in \mathcal{U}\}$  and obtain a similarity matrix X
- **4.** Instantiate a submodular function *f* based on *X*
- 5.  $\mathcal{A}_i \leftarrow \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{U}, |\mathcal{A}| \leq B} I_f(\mathcal{A}; \mathcal{Q} | \mathcal{P})$  (Optimize SCMI with an appropriate choice of  $\mathcal{Q}$  and  $\mathcal{P}$ , see Tab. 1)
- 6. Get labels  $L(\mathcal{A}_i)$  for batch  $\mathcal{A}_i$  and  $\mathcal{L} \leftarrow \mathcal{L} \cup L(\mathcal{A}_i)$ ,  $\mathcal{U} \leftarrow \mathcal{U} \mathcal{A}_i$
- 7. end for
- 8. return trained model  $\mathcal{M}$  and parameters  $\theta_N$

- **1.** for selection round i = 1 : N do
- **2.** Train model  $\mathcal{M}$  with loss  $\mathcal{H}$  on the current labeled set  $\mathcal{L}$  and obtain parameters  $\theta_i$
- **3.** Using model parameters  $\theta_i$ , compute gradients using hypothesized labels  $\{\nabla_{\theta_i} \mathcal{H}(x_j, \hat{y}_j, \theta_i), \forall j \in \mathcal{U}\}$  and obtain a similarity matrix X
- **4.** Instantiate a submodular function *f* based on *X*
- 5.  $\mathcal{A}_i \leftarrow \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{U}, |\mathcal{A}| \leq B} I_f(\mathcal{A}; \mathcal{Q} | \mathcal{P})$  (Optimize SCMI with an appropriate choice of  $\mathcal{Q}$  and  $\mathcal{P}$ , see Tab. 1)
- **6.** Get labels  $L(\mathcal{A}_i)$  for batch  $\mathcal{A}_i$  and  $\mathcal{L} \leftarrow \mathcal{L} \cup L(\mathcal{A}_i)$ ,  $\mathcal{U} \leftarrow \mathcal{U} \mathcal{A}_i$
- 7. end for
- 8. return trained model  $\mathcal{M}$  and parameters  $\theta_N$

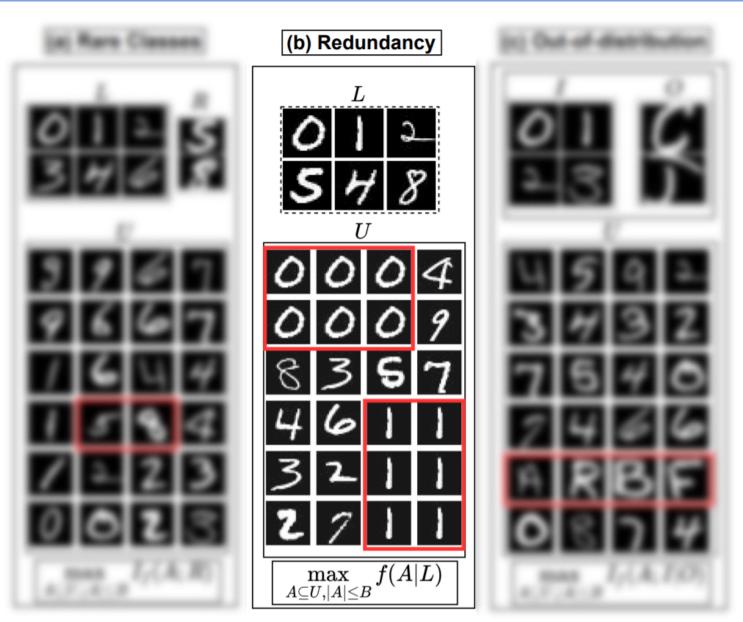
- **1.** for selection round i = 1 : N do
- **2.** Train model  $\mathcal{M}$  with loss  $\mathcal{H}$  on the current labeled set  $\mathcal{L}$  and obtain parameters  $\theta_i$
- **3.** Using model parameters  $\theta_i$ , compute gradients using hypothesized labels  $\{\nabla_{\theta_i} \mathcal{H}(x_j, \hat{y}_j, \theta_i), \forall j \in \mathcal{U}\}$  and obtain a similarity matrix X
- **4.** Instantiate a submodular function *f* based on *X* 
  - 5.  $\mathcal{A}_i \leftarrow \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{U}, |\mathcal{A}| \leq B} I_f(\mathcal{A}; \mathcal{Q} | \mathcal{P})$  (Optimize SCMI with an appropriate choice of  $\mathcal{Q}$  and  $\mathcal{P}$ , see Tab. 1)
  - **6.** Get labels  $L(\mathcal{A}_i)$  for batch  $\mathcal{A}_i$  and  $\mathcal{L} \leftarrow \mathcal{L} \cup L(\mathcal{A}_i)$ ,  $\mathcal{U} \leftarrow \mathcal{U} \mathcal{A}_i$
  - 7. end for
  - 8. return trained model  $\mathcal{M}$  and parameters  $\theta_N$

- **1.** for selection round i = 1 : N do
- **2.** Train model  $\mathcal{M}$  with loss  $\mathcal{H}$  on the current labeled set  $\mathcal{L}$  and obtain parameters  $\theta_i$
- **3.** Using model parameters  $\theta_i$ , compute gradients using hypothesized labels  $\{\nabla_{\theta_i} \mathcal{H}(x_j, \hat{y}_j, \theta_i), \forall j \in \mathcal{U}\}$  and obtain a similarity matrix X
- 4. Instantiate a submodular function *f* based on *X*
- ▶ 5.  $\mathcal{A}_i \leftarrow \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathcal{A}\subseteq \mathcal{U}, |\mathcal{A}| \leq B} I_f(\mathcal{A}; \mathcal{Q}|\mathcal{P})$  (Optimize SCMI with an appropriate choice of  $\mathcal{Q}$  and  $\mathcal{P}$ , see Tab. 1)
- **6.** Get labels  $L(\mathcal{A}_i)$  for batch  $\mathcal{A}_i$  and  $\mathcal{L} \leftarrow \mathcal{L} \cup L(\mathcal{A}_i)$ ,  $\mathcal{U} \leftarrow \mathcal{U} \mathcal{A}_i$ 
  - 7. end for
  - 8. return trained model  $\mathcal{M}$  and parameters  $\theta_N$

## **Choices of Query and Conditioning Sets**



## **Choices of Query and Conditioning Sets**



## **Choices of Query and Conditioning Sets**



Footer information

#### Choices of Query and Conditioning Sets for Multiple Co-occurring Realistic Scenarios

$$\max_{\mathcal{A}\subseteq\mathcal{U},|\mathcal{A}|\leq B}I_f(\mathcal{A};\mathcal{Q}|\mathcal{P})$$

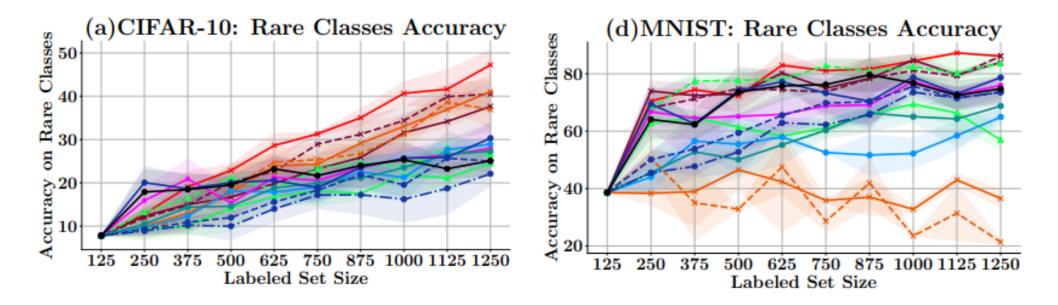
Function	Setting	Realistic Scenario
$I_f(\mathcal{A}:\mathcal{R} \mathcal{O})$	$\mathcal{Q} \leftarrow \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{P} \leftarrow \mathcal{O}$	Rare classes + OOD
$\mid I_f(\mathcal{A};\mathcal{R} \mathcal{L}- ilde{\mathcal{R}}) \mid$	$\mathcal{Q} \leftarrow \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{P} \leftarrow \mathcal{L} -  ilde{\mathcal{R}}$	Rare classes + Redundancy
$I_f(\mathcal{A};\mathcal{I} \mathcal{O}\cup\mathcal{I}^*)$	$\mathcal{Q} \leftarrow \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{P} \leftarrow \mathcal{O} \cup \mathcal{I}^*$	Redundancy + OOD

• For Rare classes + Redundancy:  $\tilde{R}$  is the subset of data points from the labeled set *L* that belong to the rare classes.

• For Redundancy + OOD: Kernel for  $I^*$  is computed using an exponential kernel to penalize similar samples in I.

## **Results: AL with Rare Classes**

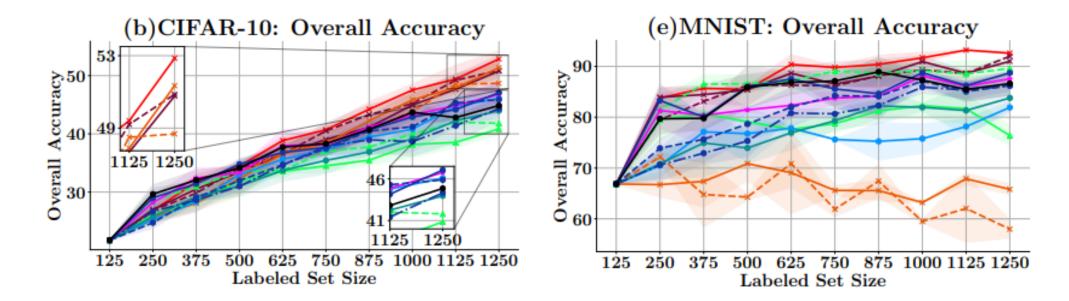
→ LOGDETMI → FLVMI → DIV-GCMI → FISHER-LV → BADGE → ENTROPY → MARGIN → FLQMI → GCMI → FISHER → GLISTER → CORESET → LEAST-CONF → RANDOM



- SMI based functions not only consistently outperforms all baselines by ~ 10 - 18% in terms of average accuracy on rare classes.
- FLQMI and LOGDETMI which balance between diversity and relevance perform better than GCMI which only models relevance.

#### **Results: AL with Rare Classes**

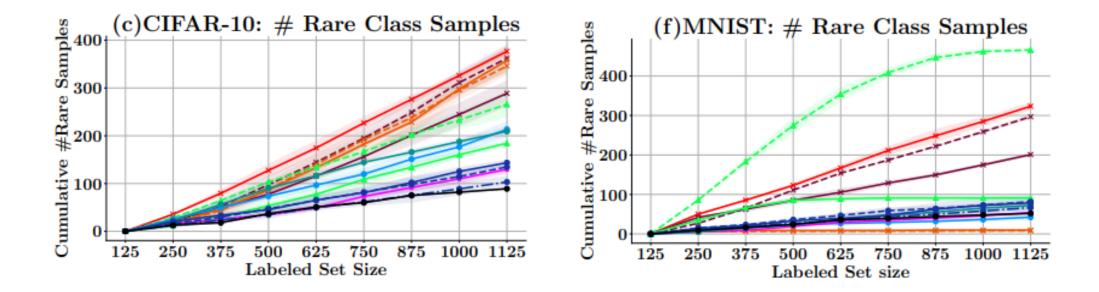
→ LOGDETMI → FLVMI → DIV-GCMI → FISHER-LV → BADGE → ENTROPY → MARGIN → FLQMI → GCMI → FISHER → GLISTER → CORESET → LEAST-CONF → RANDOM



SMI based functions not only consistently outperforms all baselines by by  $\sim 5 - 10\%$  in terms of overall accuracy.

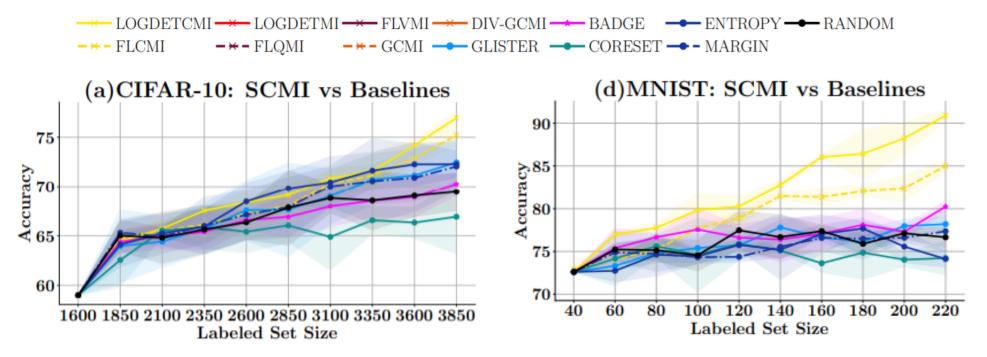
#### **Results: AL with Rare Classes**

→ LOGDETMI → FLVMI → DIV-GCMI → FISHER-LV → BADGE → ENTROPY → MARGIN → FLQMI → GCMI → FISHER → GLISTER → CORESET → LEAST-CONF → RANDOM



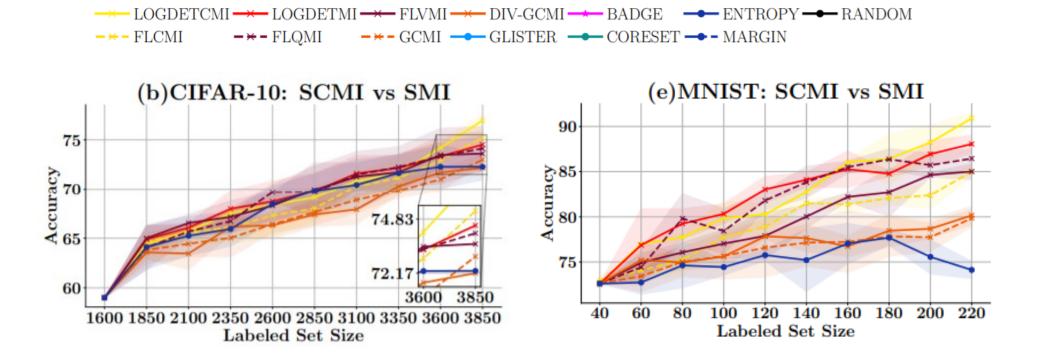
The gain in performance is because SMI functions pick the greatest number of diverse datapoints from the rare classes.

## **Results: AL with OOD Data**



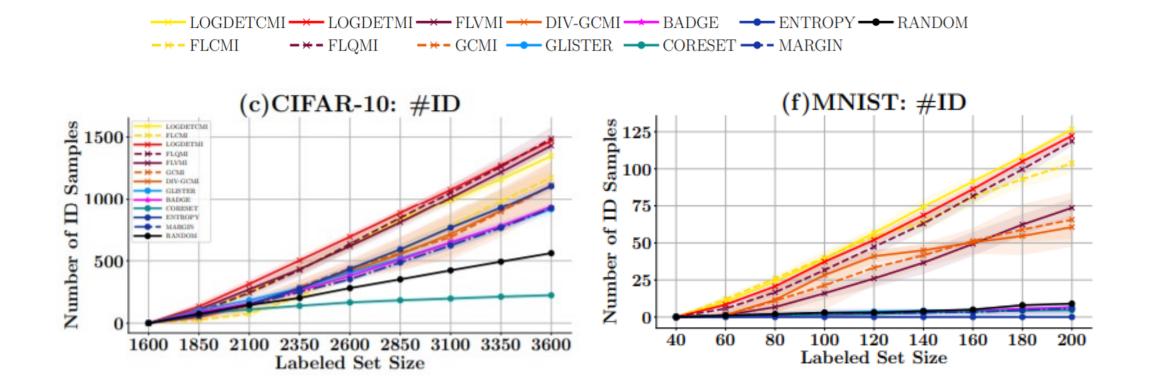
- SCMI based acquisition functions significantly outperform existing AL approaches by ~ 5 - 10%
- Existing acquisition functions have a high variance which is undesirable in realworld deployment scenarios. Our SCMI based acquisition functions show the lowest variance in training.

### **Results: AL with OOD Data**



SCMI functions show  $\sim 2 - 3\%$  improvement over SMI as the conditioning becomes stronger. This is because SCMI tend to select more in-distribution points compared to SMI.

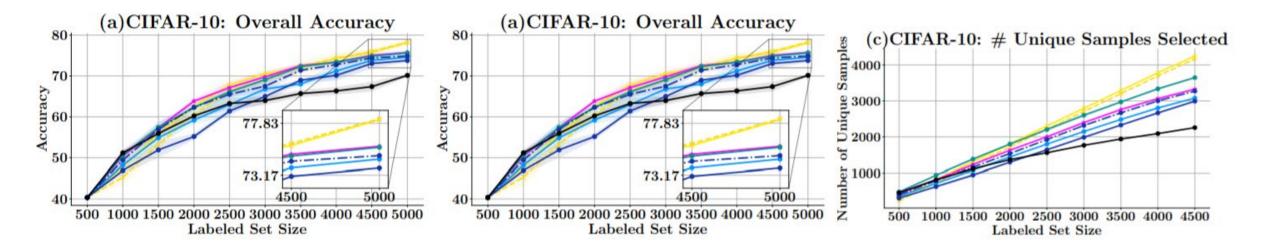
#### **Results: AL with OOD Data**



SMI and SCMI tend to select more in-distribution points compared to baselines.

## **Results: AL with Redundancy**

→ LOGDETCG → FLCG → GLISTER → BADGE CORESET → ENTROPY → MARGIN → RANDOM



- As expected, the diversity and uncertainty based methods outperform random.
- We observe that the SCG functions significantly outperform all baselines by ~ 3 5% in the later active learning rounds as the conditioning gets stronger.
- We observe this gain because SCG based acquisition functions select significantly more unique points than other methods.

## Conclusion

- We proposed a unified active learning framework SIMILAR using the submodular information functions.
- We showed the applicability of the framework in three realistic scenarios for active learning, namely rare classes, redundancy, and out of distribution data.
- In each case, we observed that the functions in SIMILAR significantly outperform existing baselines in each of these tasks.
- Our real-world experiments on MNIST, CIFAR-10, and ImageNet show that many of the SIM functions (specifically the LOGDET and FL variants) yield ~ 5% - 18% gain compared to existing baselines particularly in the rare class scenario and ~ 5% - 10% OOD scenarios.



# **Thank You**

