

# PAC Prediction Sets for Meta-Learning

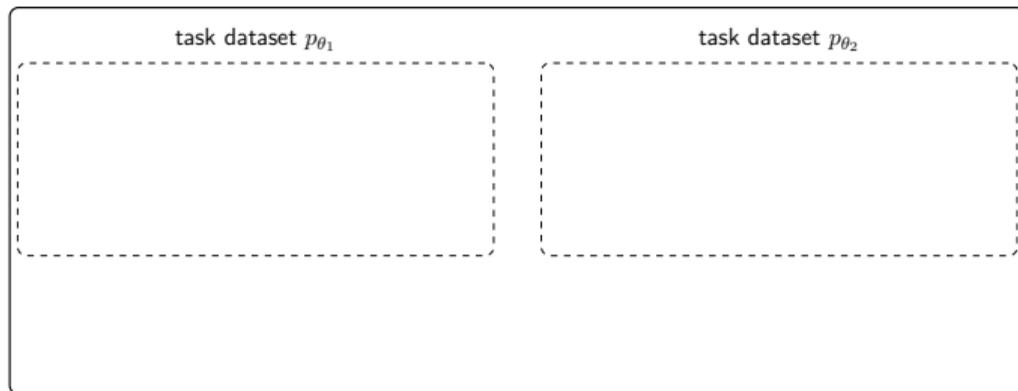
Sangdon Park, Edgar Dobriban, Insup Lee, and Osbert Bastani

NeurIPS 2022

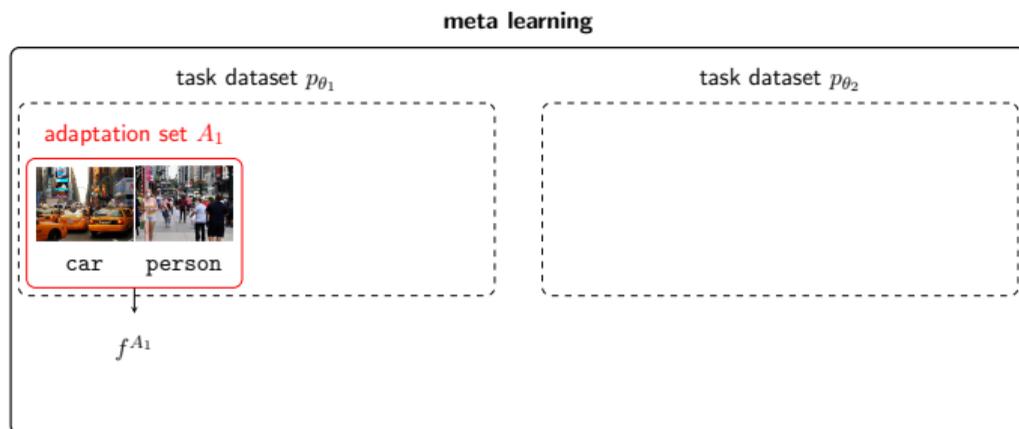


# Meta-Learning: Learning a Predictor for Fast Adaptation

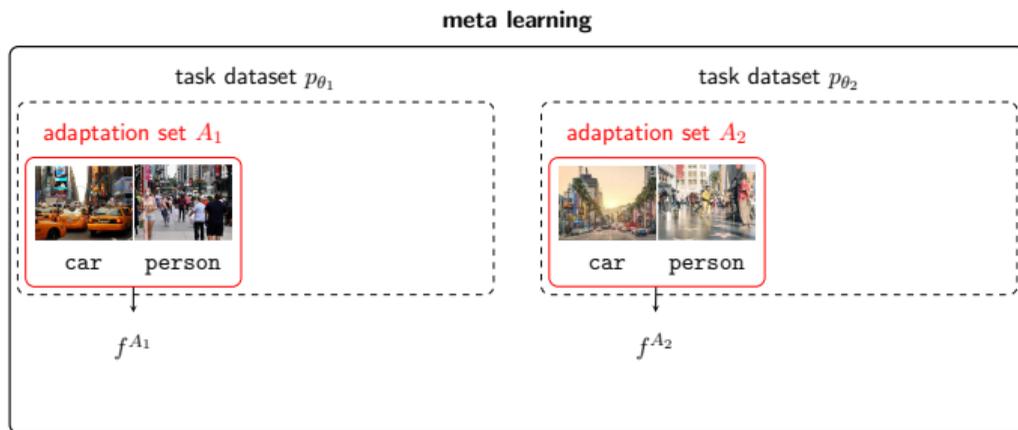
meta learning



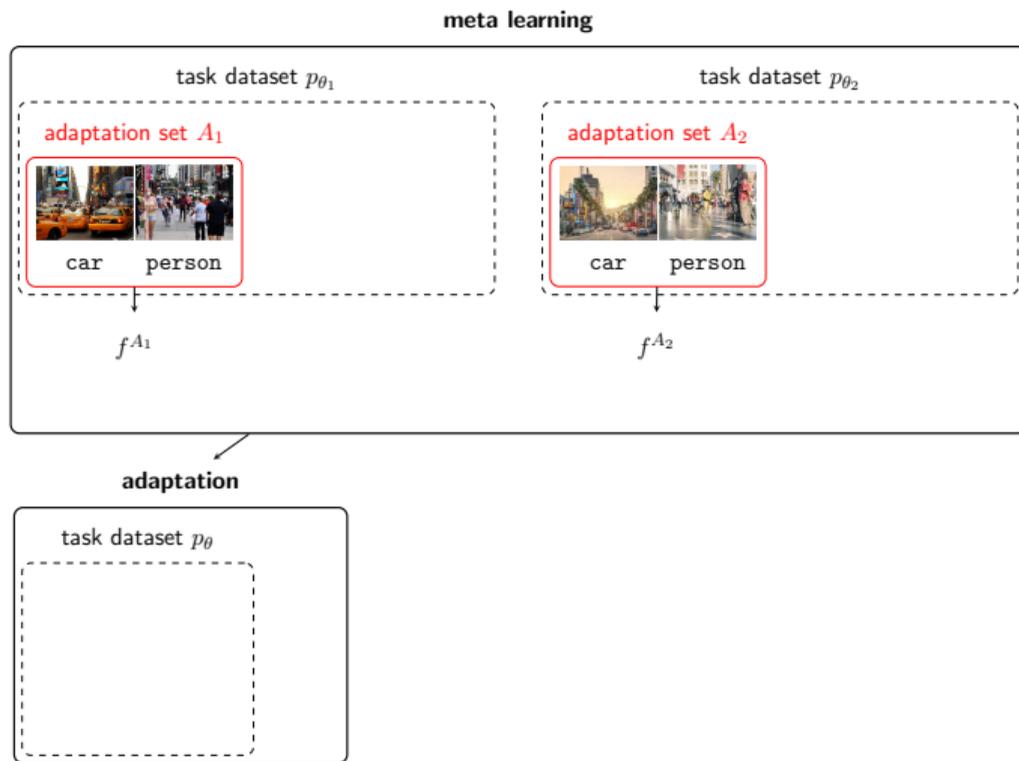
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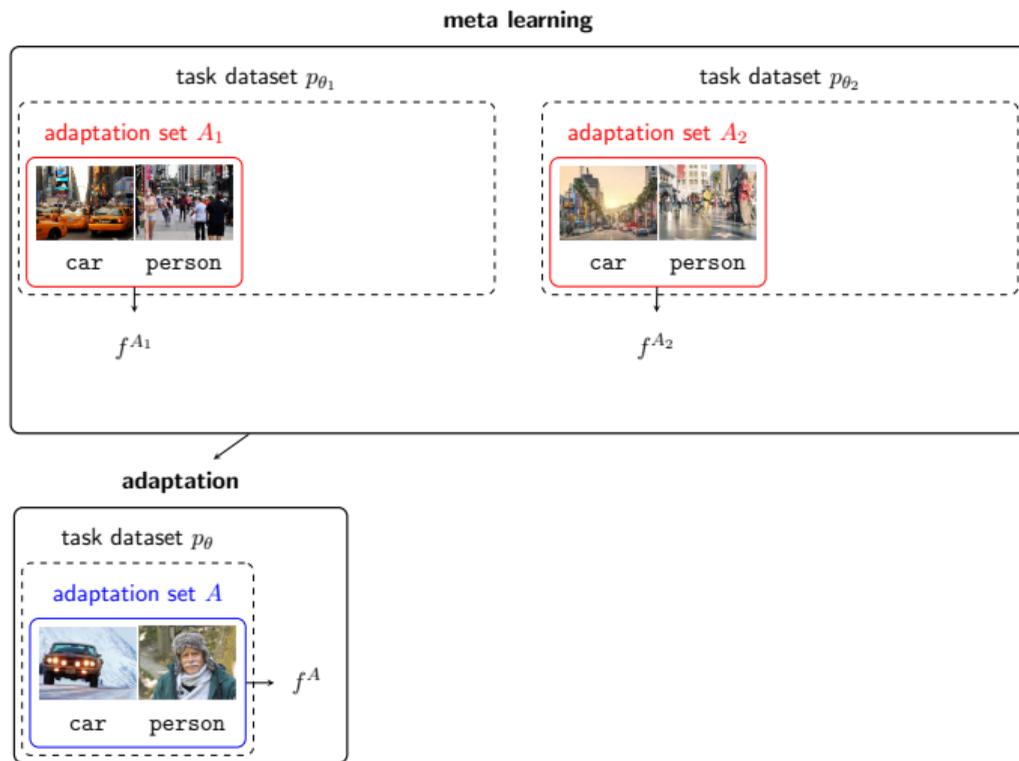
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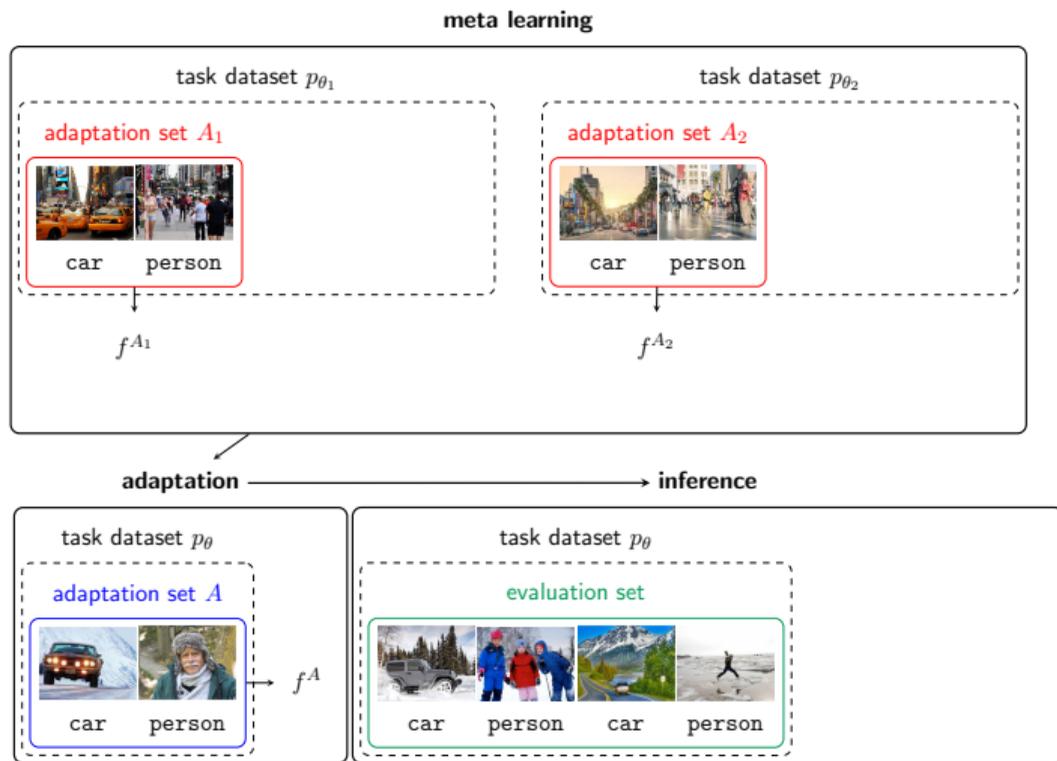
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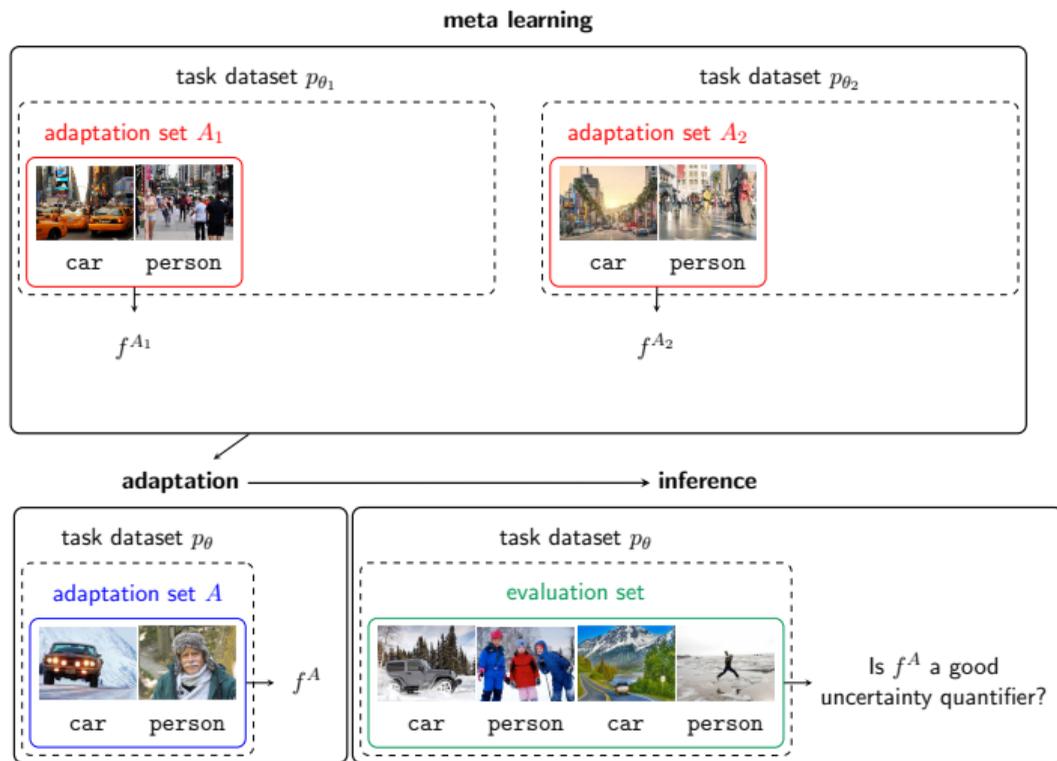
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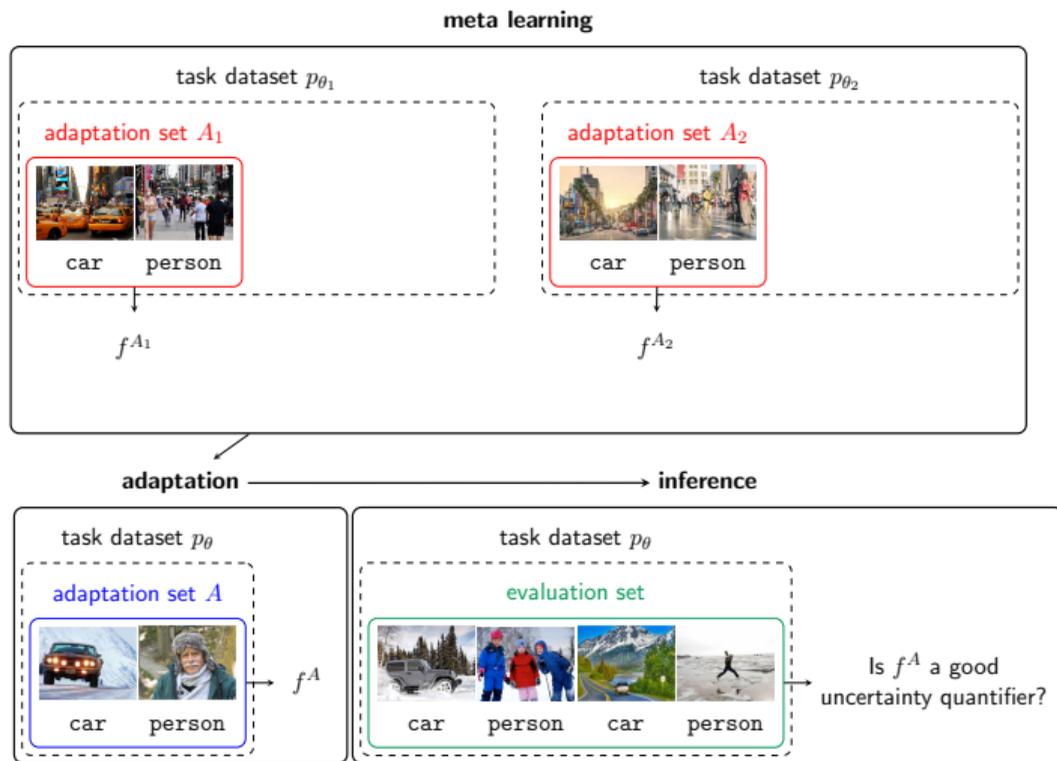
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**No guarantee** on quantified uncertainty by the meta-learned and adapted model.

# Quantify Provable Uncertainty via PAC Prediction Sets

A **PAC prediction set** (Wilks, 1941; Vovk, 2013; Park et al., 2020) is a **prediction set** that comes with the **probably approximately correct (PAC) guarantee** (Valiant, 1984).

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A **prediction set** is a set-valued predictor

$$F_{\tau}(x) = \{y \in \mathcal{Y} \mid f(x, y) \geq \tau\},$$

where a conformity score function  $f : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  and a parameter  $\tau \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  are given.

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A parameter  $\tau \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  is  $\varepsilon$ -correct if

$$\mathbb{P}_{\theta} \left\{ Y \in F_{\tau}(X) \right\} \geq 1 - \varepsilon,$$

where the **probability** is taken over  $(X, Y) \sim p_{\theta}$ .

We denote a set of all  $\varepsilon$ -correct taus by  $T_{\varepsilon}(\theta)$ .

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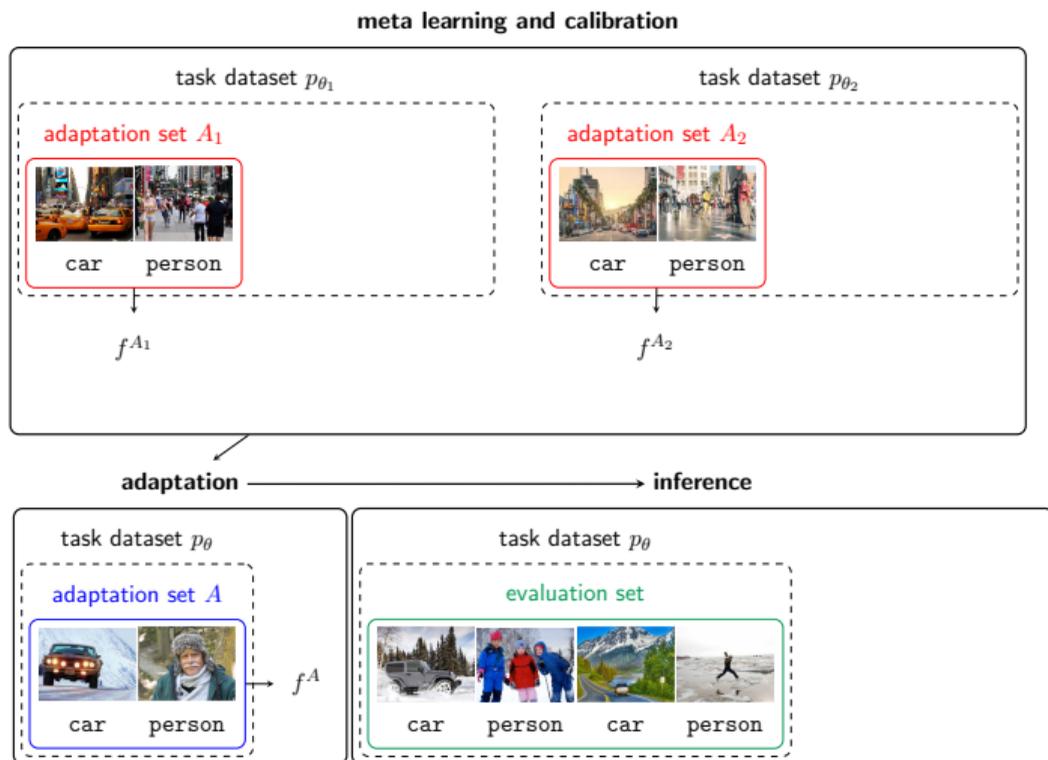
A **PAC prediction set** (Wilks, 1941; Vovk, 2013; Park et al., 2020) is a **prediction set** that comes with the **probably approximately correct (PAC) guarantee** (Valiant, 1984).

An estimator  $\hat{\gamma}_{\epsilon, \delta} : (\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y})^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  is  $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -**probably approximately correct (PAC)** if

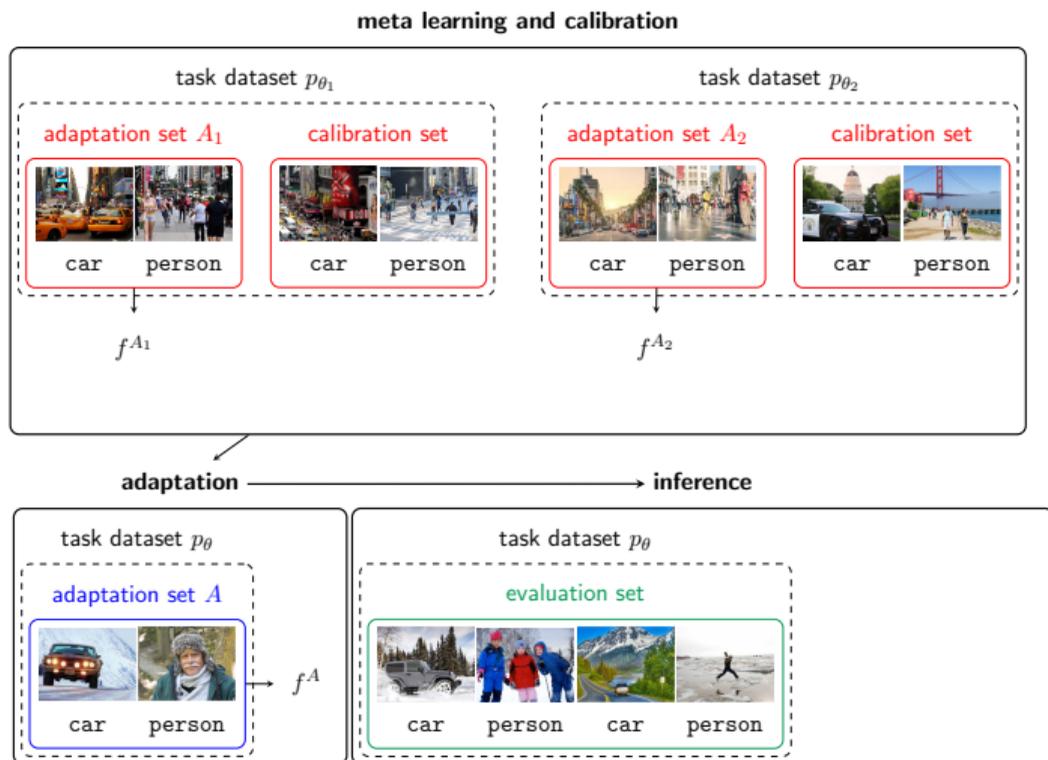
$$\mathbb{P} \left\{ \hat{\gamma}_{\epsilon, \delta}(\mathbf{S}) \in T_{\epsilon}(\theta) \right\} \geq 1 - \delta,$$

where the **probability** is taken over a calibration set  $\mathbf{S} \in (\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y})^*$ .

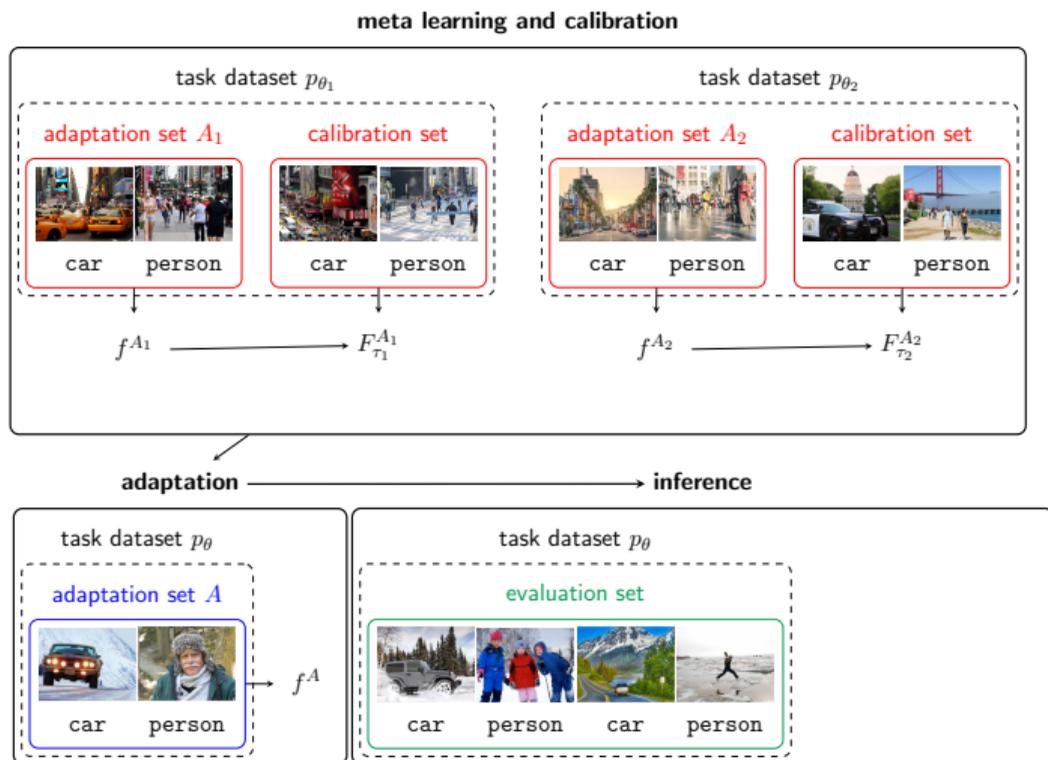
# Meta-Calibration: Learning PAC Prediction Sets for Fast Adaptation



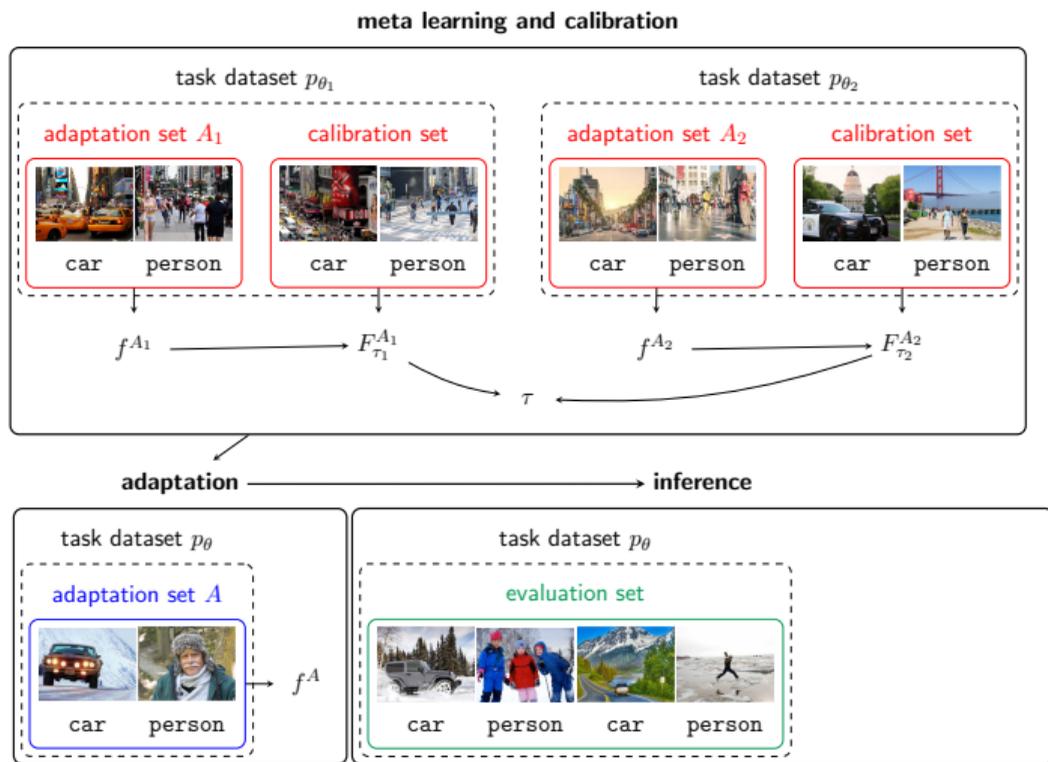
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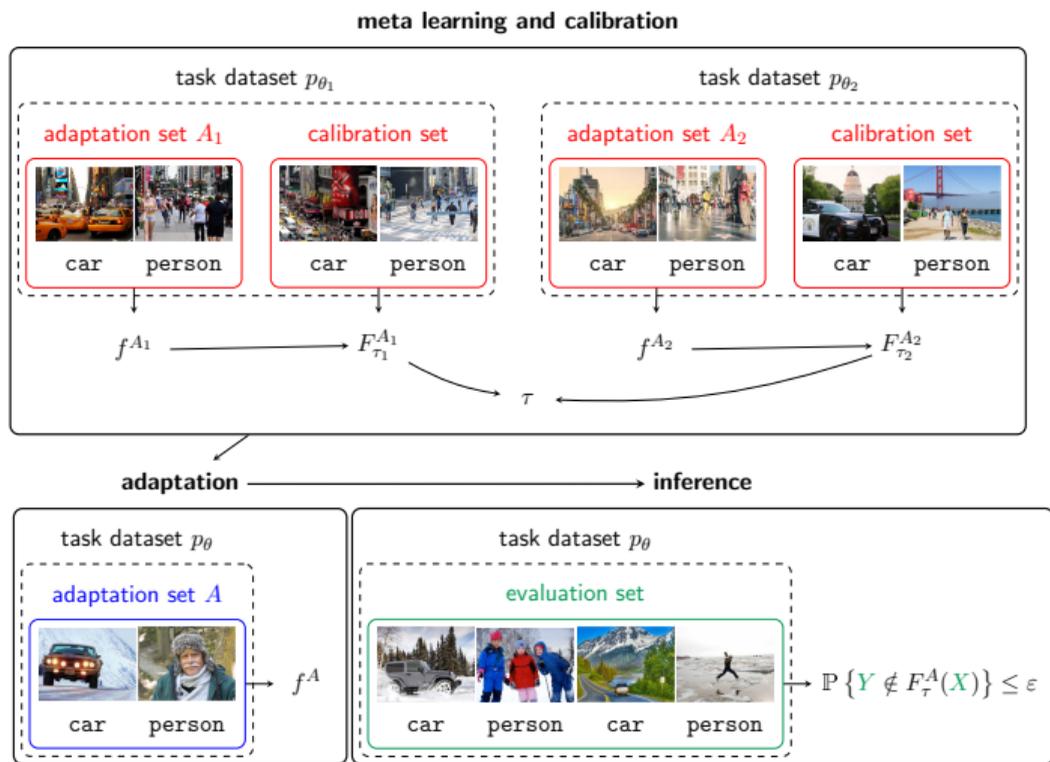
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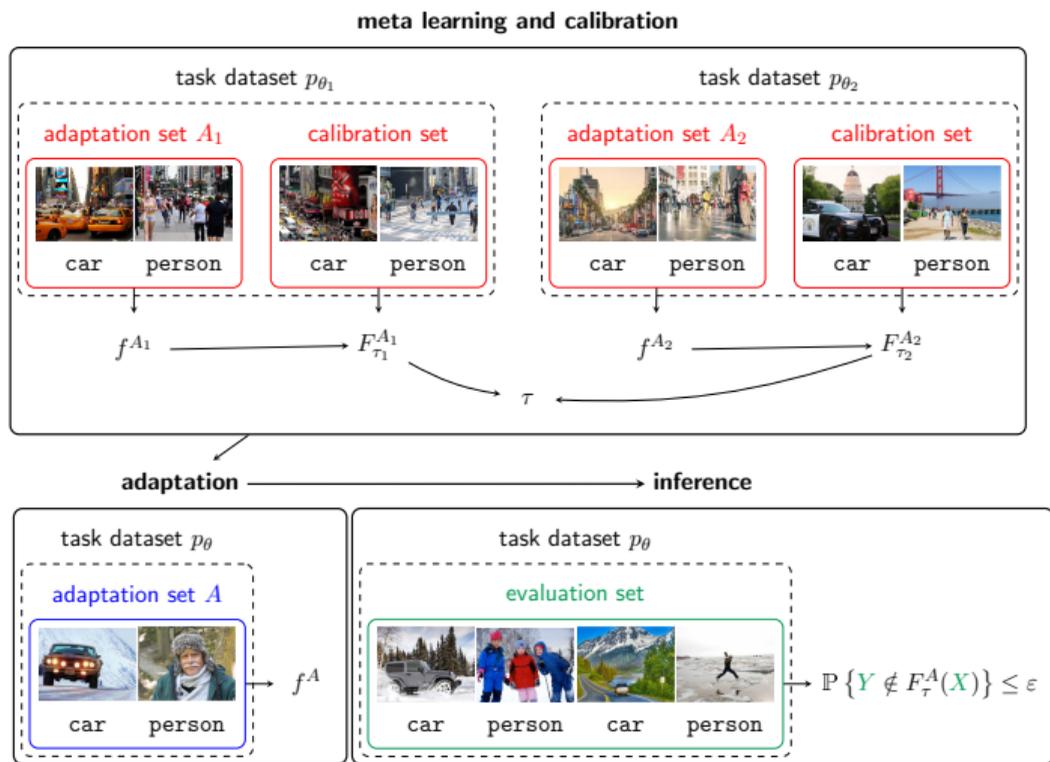
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Three sources of randomness in the (1) **meta calibration**, (2) **adaptation**, and (3) **evaluation**.

## Problem: PAC Prediction Sets for Meta-Learning

We control the three sources of randomness via three parameters  $\delta$ ,  $\alpha$ , and  $\epsilon$ .

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An estimator  $\hat{\tau} : \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  is  $(\varepsilon, \alpha, \delta)$ -**meta PAC (mPAC)** if

$$\hat{\tau}(\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{A}) \in T_{\varepsilon}(\theta, A)$$

where the **first probability** is taken over  $(\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{A})$  and the **second probability** is taken over  $(\theta, A)$ .

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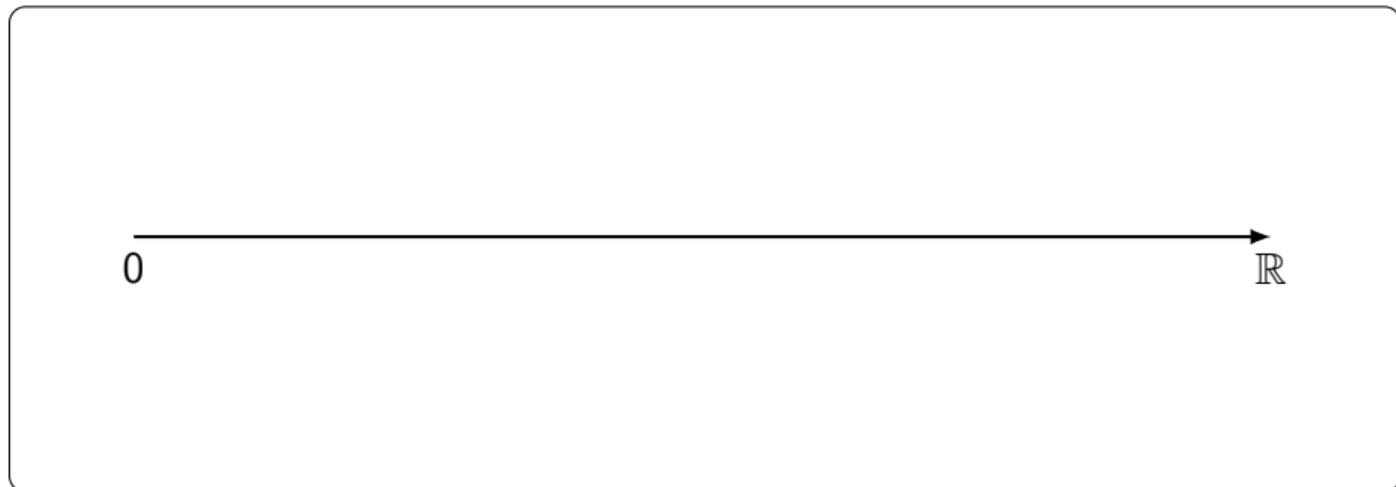
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## Algorithm (Simplified)

The proposed algorithm **Meta-PS** internally uses any PAC prediction set algorithm  $\hat{\gamma}_{\epsilon, \delta}$  (e.g., Park et al. (2020)).

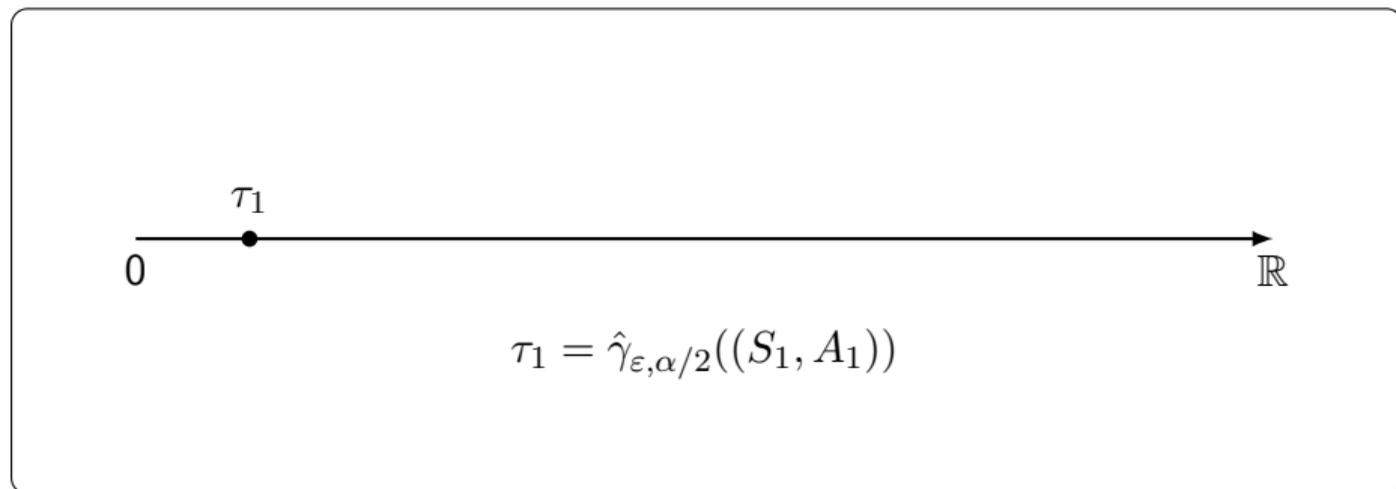
**Meta-PS**( $\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{A}, \epsilon, \alpha, \delta$ )



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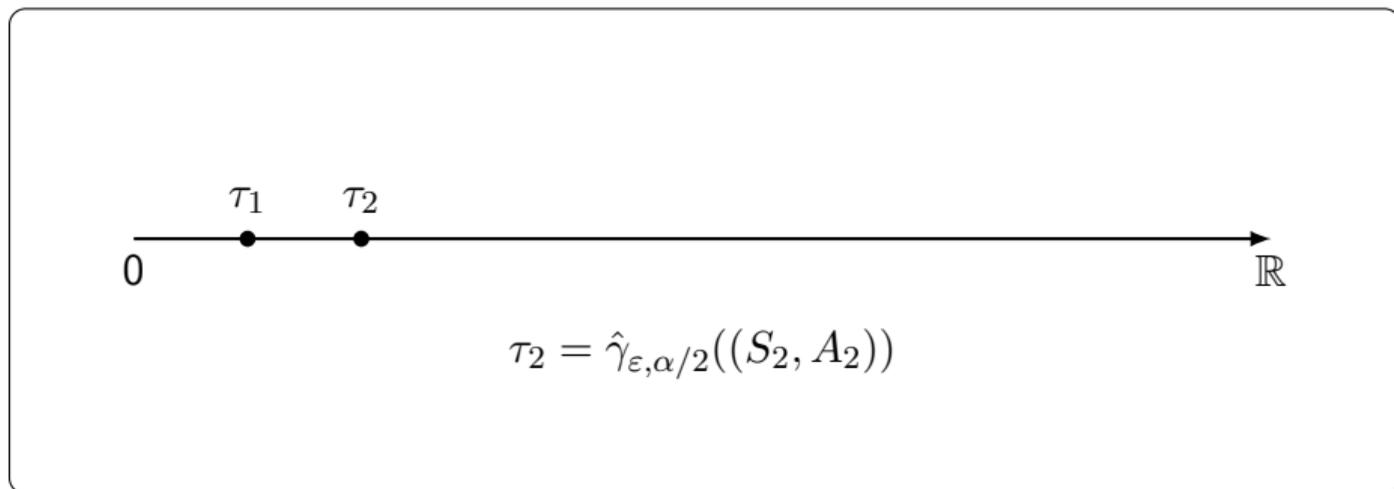
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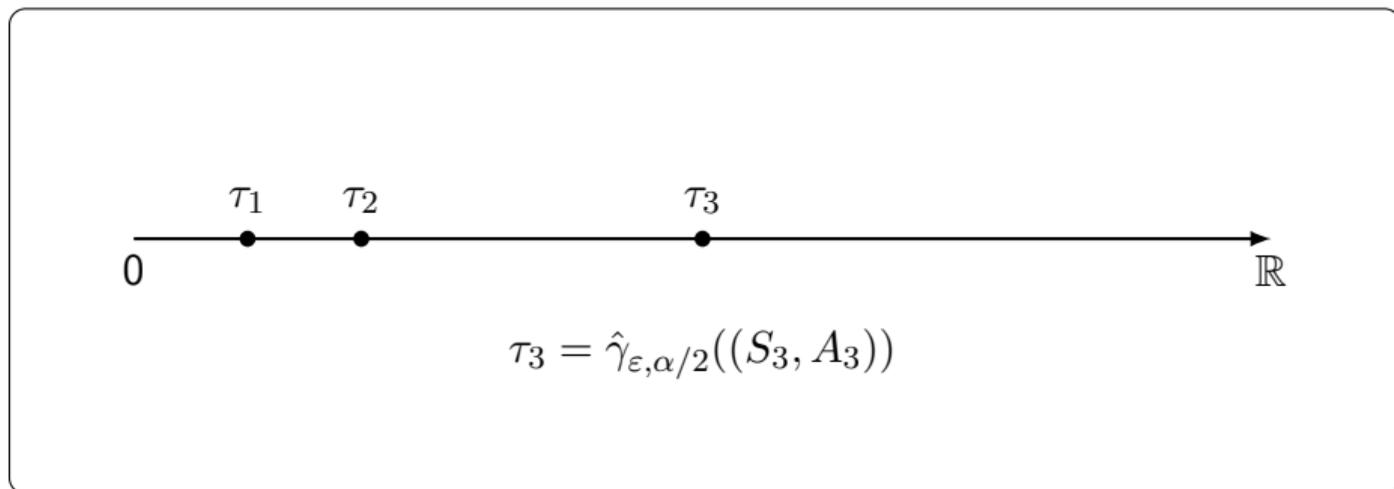
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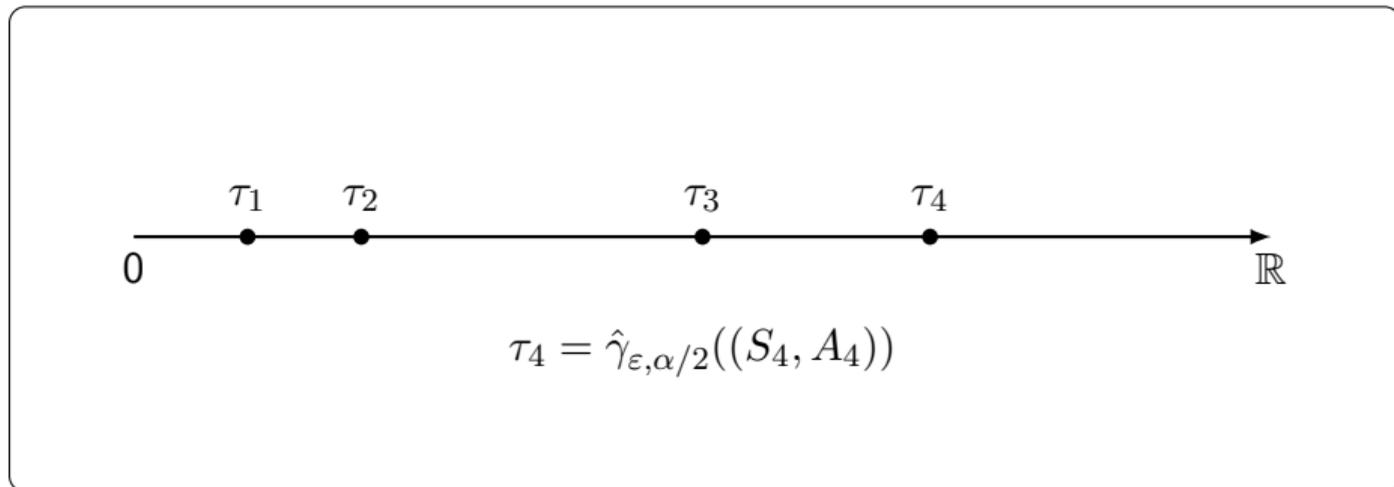
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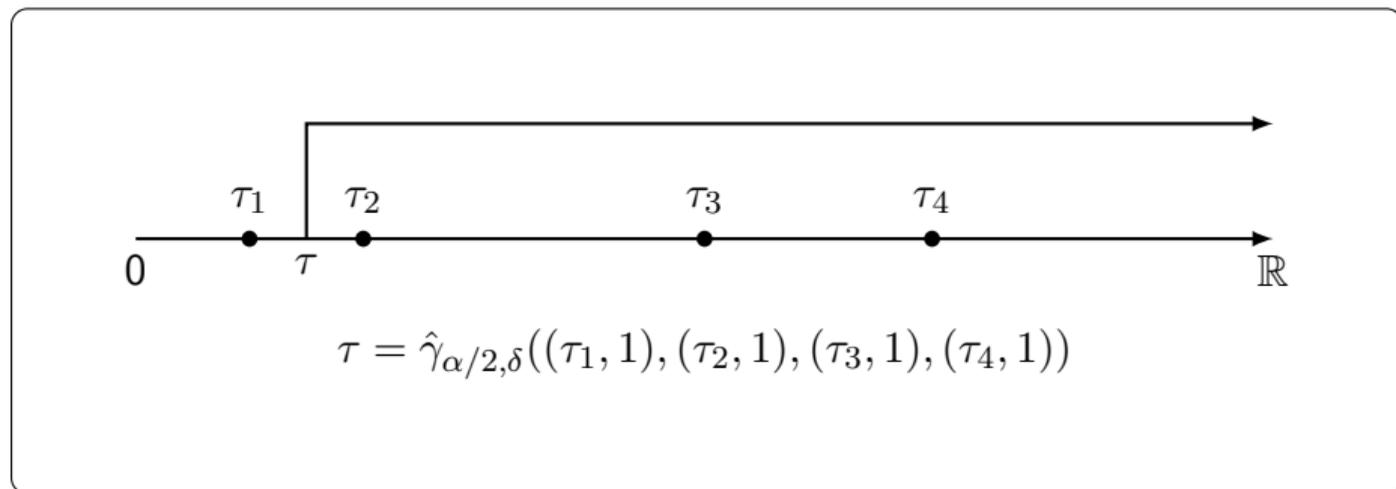
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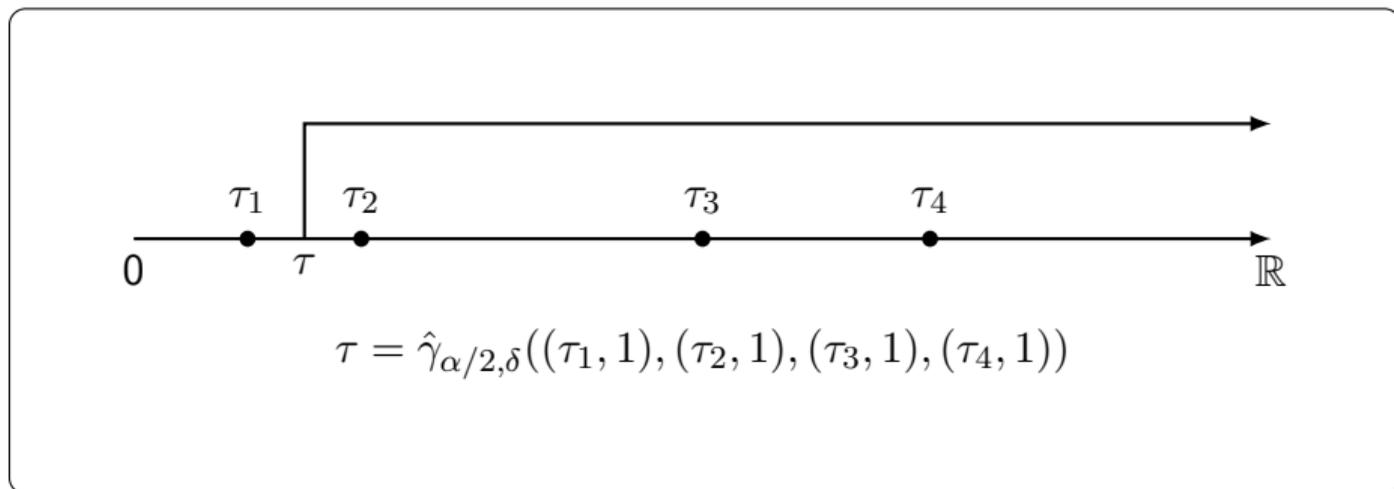
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**Meta-PS**( $\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{A}, \varepsilon, \alpha, \delta$ )



### Theorem (Meta PAC Guarantee)

The estimator  $\hat{\tau}_{\varepsilon, \alpha, \delta}$  implemented by **Meta-PS** is  $(\varepsilon, \alpha, \delta)$ -mPAC.

## Results: Mini-ImageNet

We empirically demonstrated the correctness guarantee of our algorithm **Meta-PS**.

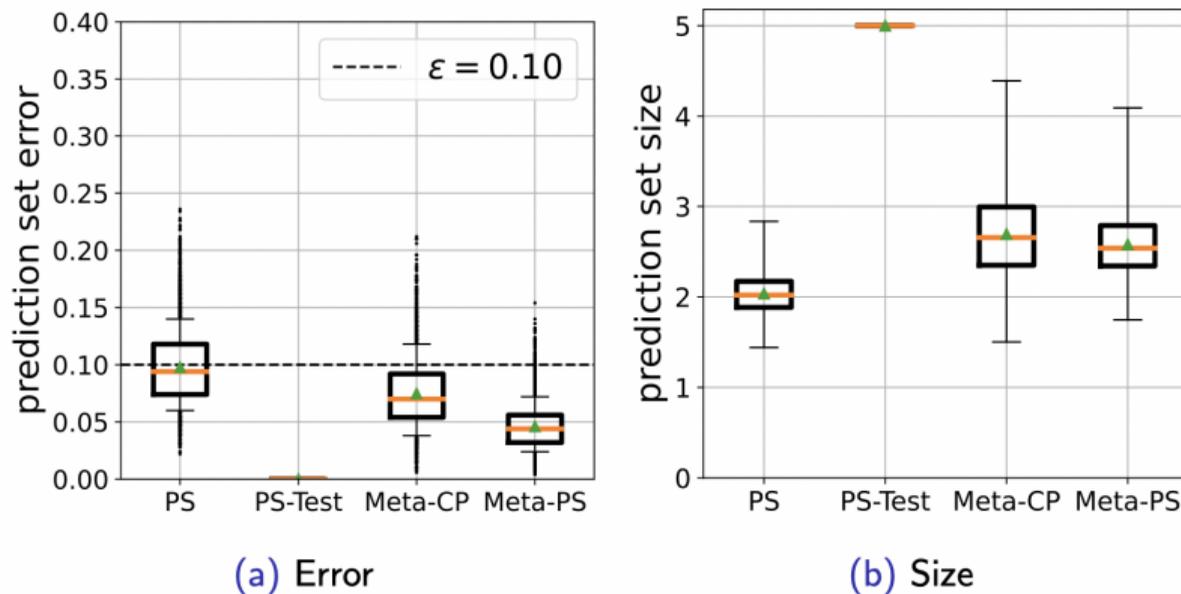


Figure:  $\epsilon = 0.1$ ,  $\alpha = 0.1$ ,  $\delta = 10^{-5}$  for **Meta-PS** and  $\epsilon = 0.1$ ,  $\delta = 10^{-5}$  for the other methods.

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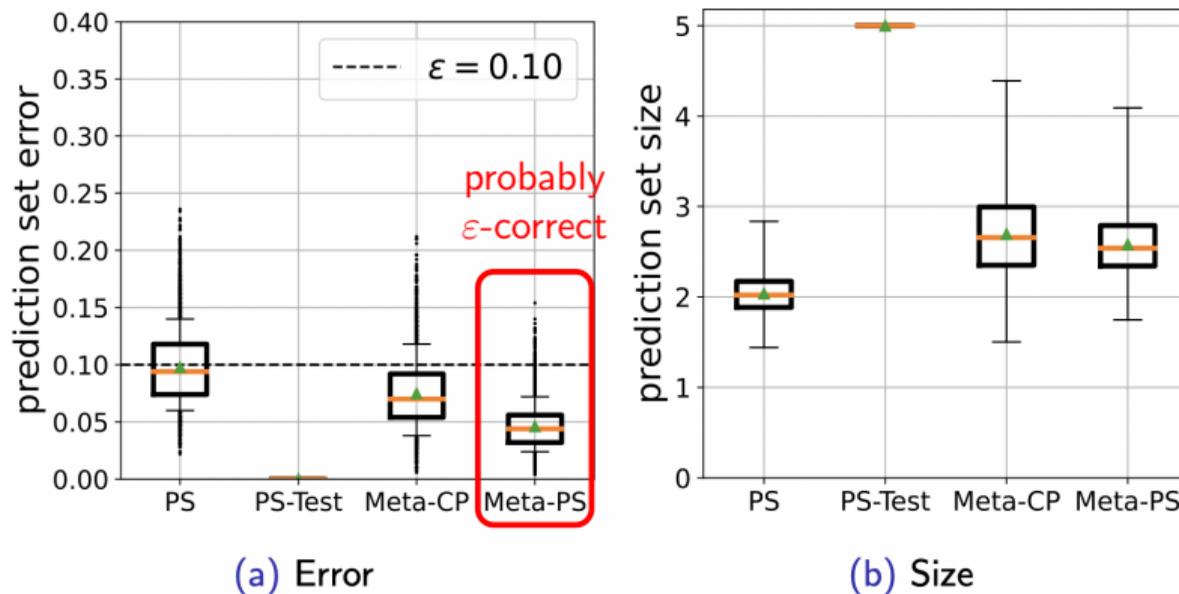


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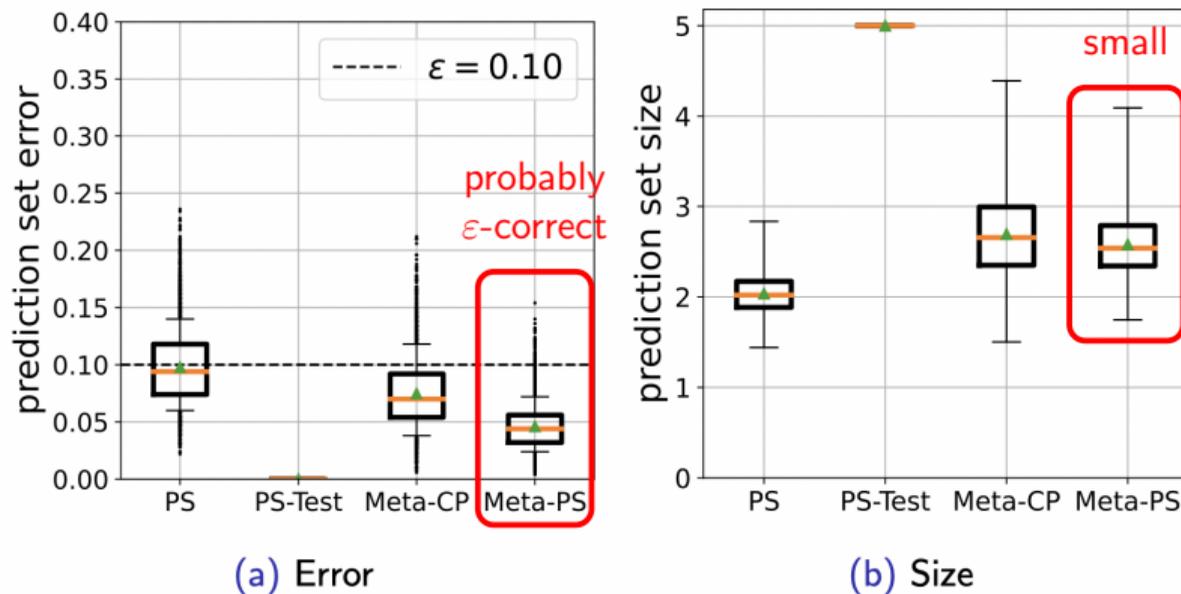


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## Conclusion

We proposed a PAC prediction set algorithm for meta learning.

- Controls three sources of uncertainty for our correctness guarantee.
- Evaluated over three application domains: image, language, and medical datasets.
- Code is available: <https://github.com/sangdon/meta-pac-ps>

# References

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