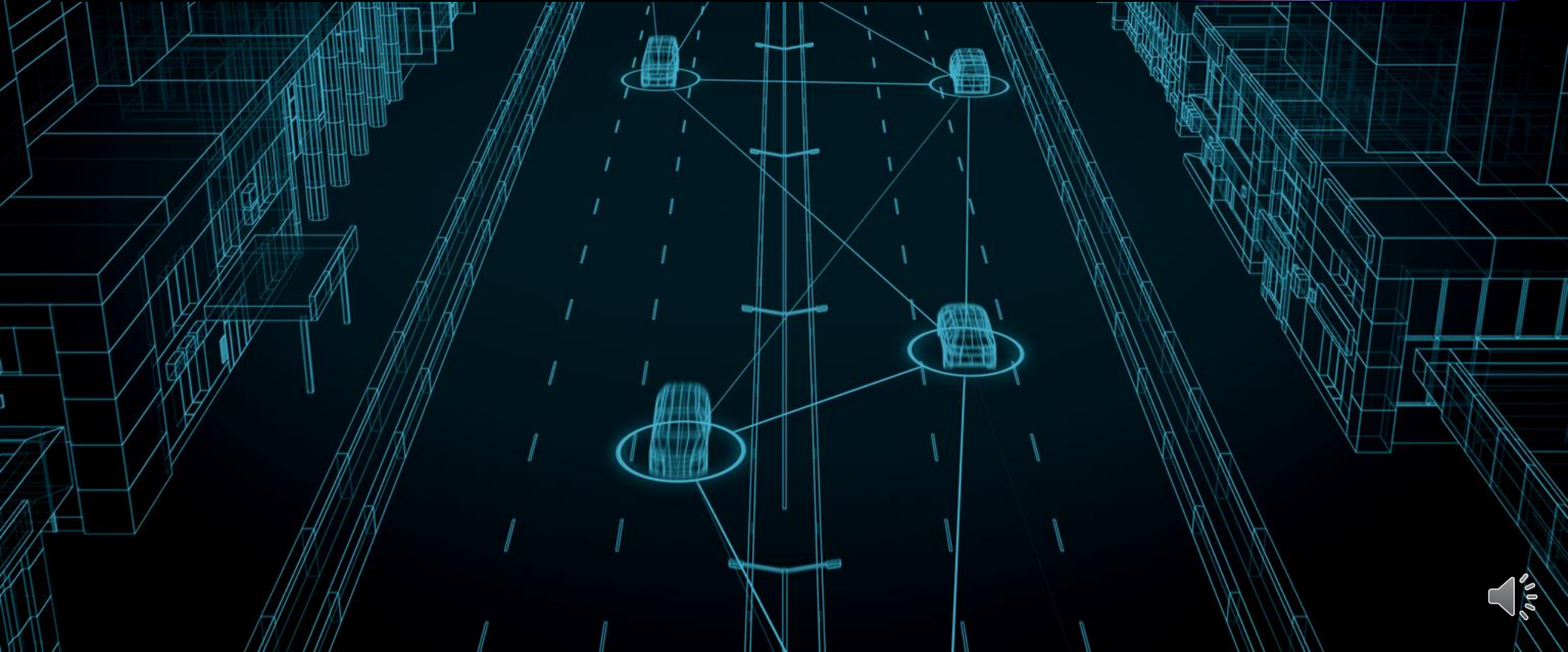


# Bayesian Uncertainty and Expected Gradient Length - Regression: Two Sides of The Same Coin?



Mercedes-Benz

Megh Shukla  
Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India



# Information Superhighway



Labelling all this data is *very, very* expensive

Active Learning: Can we select images to label such that we...

 **Maximize model performance per set of images annotated**

# Expected Gradient Length (EGL)

Gradient as a measure of informative content for an image

$$\text{Classification [1]} : x^* = \arg \max_x \sum_i p(y_i|x, \theta) \|\nabla_{\theta} l(\mathcal{L} \cup \{x, y_i\}; \theta)\|$$

$$\text{Regression [2]} : x^* = \arg \max_x \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \|(f_z(x) - f_k(x))x\|$$



Intuitively defined, lacks theory! ☹️

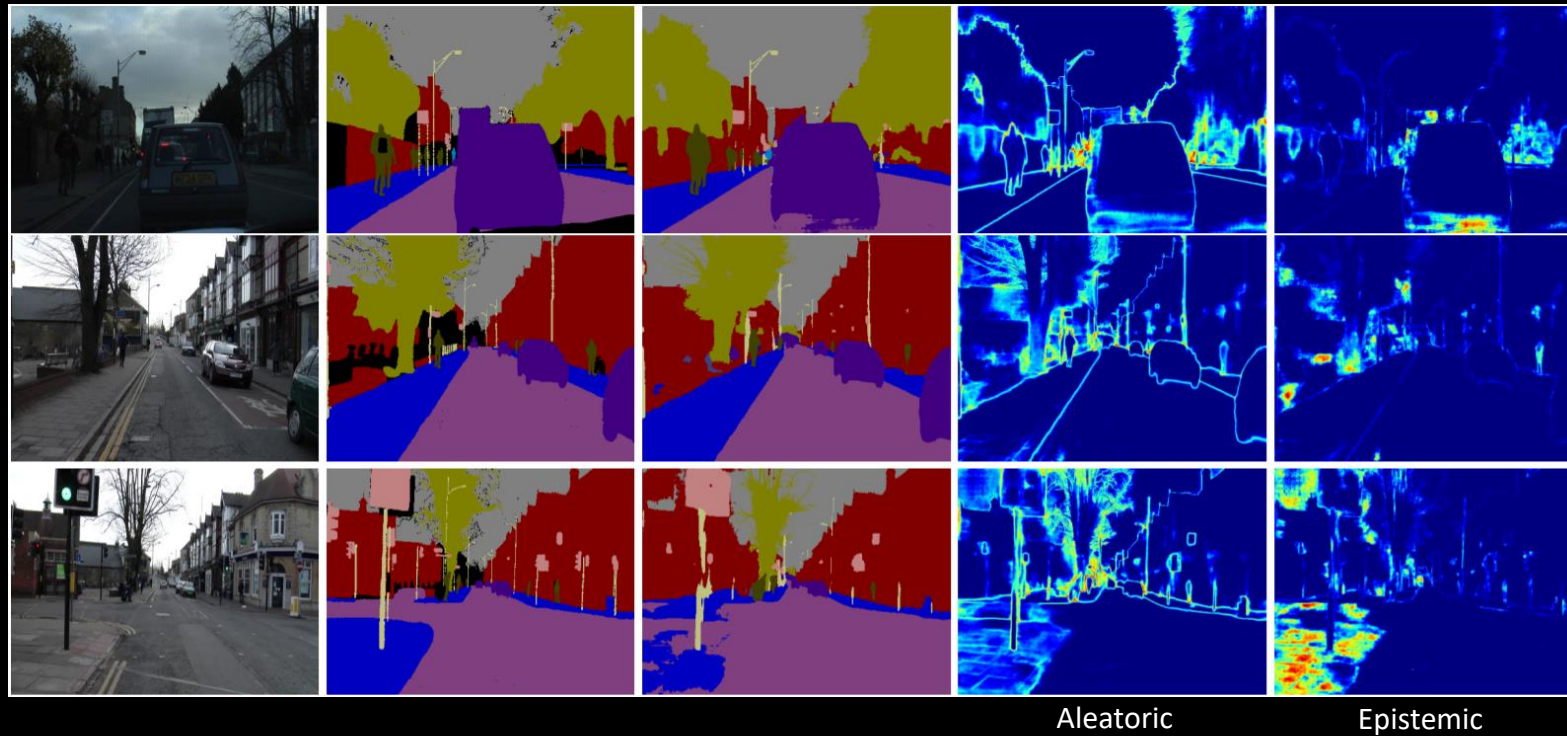
[1] Settles and Craven, "An Analysis of Active Learning Strategies for Sequence Labeling Tasks", EMNLP 2008

[2] Cai et al., "Maximizing expected model change for active learning in regression", ICDM 2013



# Bayesian Uncertainty in Computer Vision [3]

$$Var(y) \approx \underbrace{\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{y}_t^2 - \left( \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{y}_t \right)^2}_{\text{Epistemic}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{\sigma}_t^2}_{\text{Aleatoric}}$$



[3] Kendall and Gal, "What Uncertainties Do We Need in Bayesian Deep Learning for Computer Vision?", NeurIPS 2017



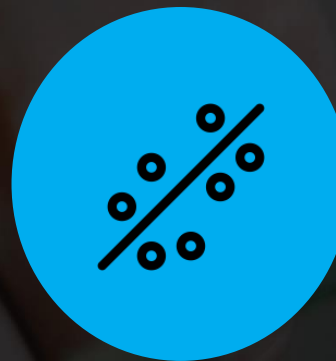
# Are Bayesian Uncertainty and Expected Gradient Length equivalent?

Literature places uncertainty and expected gradient length as different active learning paradigms. Is there a connection between them?

SPOILER: Yes 😊

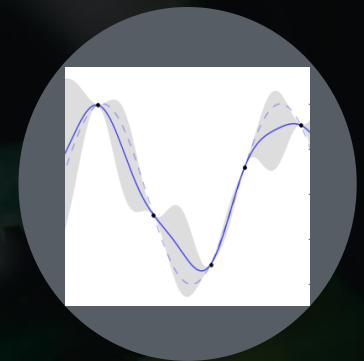
Fisher Information

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(x; \theta) \right)^2 f(x; \theta) dx$$



Linear Regression

Non-linear Regression



The No Free Lunch Theorem



# The No Free Lunch Theorem <sup>[4]</sup> ... But Why?

$$\mathcal{Z} \in \{\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}\}$$

Sample space

$$p(x, y|\theta_0) = p(y|x, \theta_0)p(x)$$

True distribution

$$q(x, y|\theta_0) = p(y|x, \theta_0)q(x)$$

Sample distribution



*There is no universal learner, no learner can succeed on all learning tasks*

[4] Shalev-Shwartz and Ben David, "Understanding Machine Learning: From Theory to Algorithms", Cambridge Press



# The No Free Lunch Theorem [4] ... But Why?

*There is no universal learner, no learner can succeed on all learning tasks*

$$q(x, y|\theta_0) = p(y|x, \theta_0)q(x)$$

Bayesian Analysis

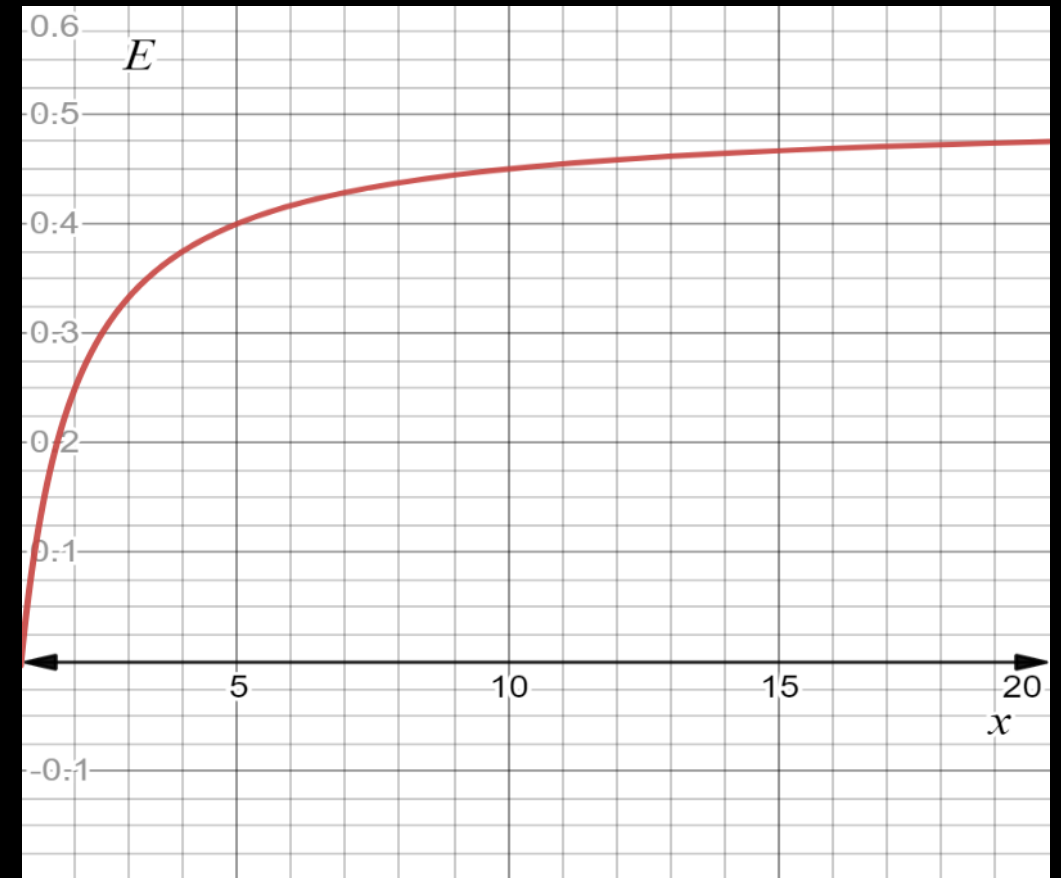
$$q(x, y) = \int_{\theta} q(y|x, \theta)q(x)\pi(\theta|z_{obs})d\theta$$

But do we need to do this ... ?

YES.

Namely, let  $A$  be a learning algorithm for the task of binary classification. Let  $m$  be any number smaller than  $|\mathcal{X}|/k$ , representing a training set size. Then, there exists a distribution  $\mathcal{D}$  over  $\mathcal{X} \times \{0, 1\}$  such that:

- There exists a function  $f : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  with  $L_{\mathcal{D}}(f) = 0$ .
- $\mathbb{E}_{S \sim \mathcal{D}^m} [L_{\mathcal{D}}(A(S))] \geq \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2k}$ .



Notice the convergence of expected risk to chance as the ratio of unlabelled points increases

[4] Shalev-Shwartz and Ben David, "Understanding Machine Learning: From Theory to Algorithms", Cambridge Press



# Fisher Information

$$\sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta} - \theta_0) \xrightarrow{D} \mathcal{N}(0, I_q^{-1}(\theta_0))$$

*Distribution*

$$q(x, y) = \int_{\theta} q(y|x, \theta)q(x)\pi(\theta|z_{obs})d\theta$$

*Substitution*

$$q^* = \arg \max_q \int_x q(x) \int_y \int_{\theta} q(y|x, \theta)\pi(\theta|z_{obs}) \|\nabla_{\theta} l(x, y, \theta)\|^2 d\theta dy dx$$

*Ensemble*

$$x^* = \arg \max \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \int_y q(y|x, \theta_k) \|\nabla_{\theta_z} l(x, y, \theta_z)\|^2$$





# Expected Gradient Length - Regression

$$x^* = \arg \max_x \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \int_y q(y|x, \theta_k) \|\nabla_{\theta_z} l(x, y, \theta_z)\|^2$$

$$q(y|x, \theta)$$

$$\|\nabla_{\theta_z} l(x, y, \theta_z)\|^2$$

$$\mathcal{N}(y, \mu_k, \sigma_k)$$

$$(y - f_z(x)) \nabla_{\theta_z} f_z(x)$$

CLOSED FORM SOLUTION



# Expected Gradient Length - Regression

CLOSED FORM SOLUTION

$$\|\nabla_{\theta_z} f_z(x)\|^2 [(y - \mu_k) + (\mu_k - f_z)]^2$$

$$\|\nabla_{\theta_z} f_z(x)\|^2 \int \mathcal{N}(y, \mu_k, \sigma_k)(y - \mu_k)^2 dy + 2 \int \mathcal{N}(y, \mu_k, \sigma_k)(y - \mu_k)(\mu_k - f_z) dy + \int \mathcal{N}(y, \mu_k, \sigma_k)(\mu_k - f_z)^2 dy$$

VARIANCE

MEAN - MEAN = 0

$(\mu_k - f_z)^2$



$$x^* = \operatorname{argmax} \frac{\|\nabla_{\theta_z} f_z(x)\|^2}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \hat{\sigma}_k^2(x) + (\mu_k(x) - f_z(x))^2$$



For reference – Bayesian Uncertainties in Computer Vision

$$\operatorname{Var}(y) \approx \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{y}_t^2 - \left( \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{y}_t \right)^2 + \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{\sigma}_t^2$$



# EGL++

No Ensembles / Dropouts?

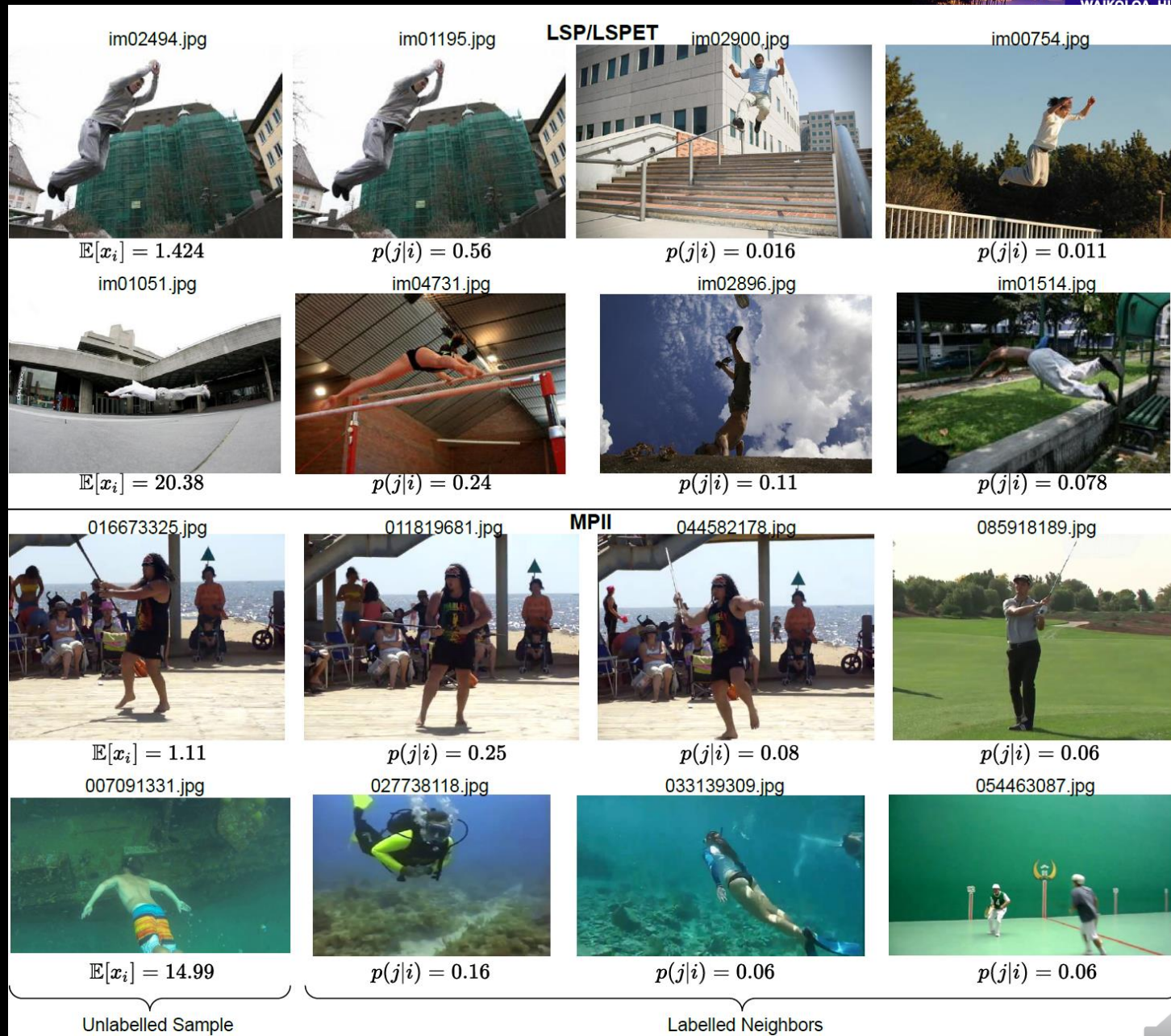
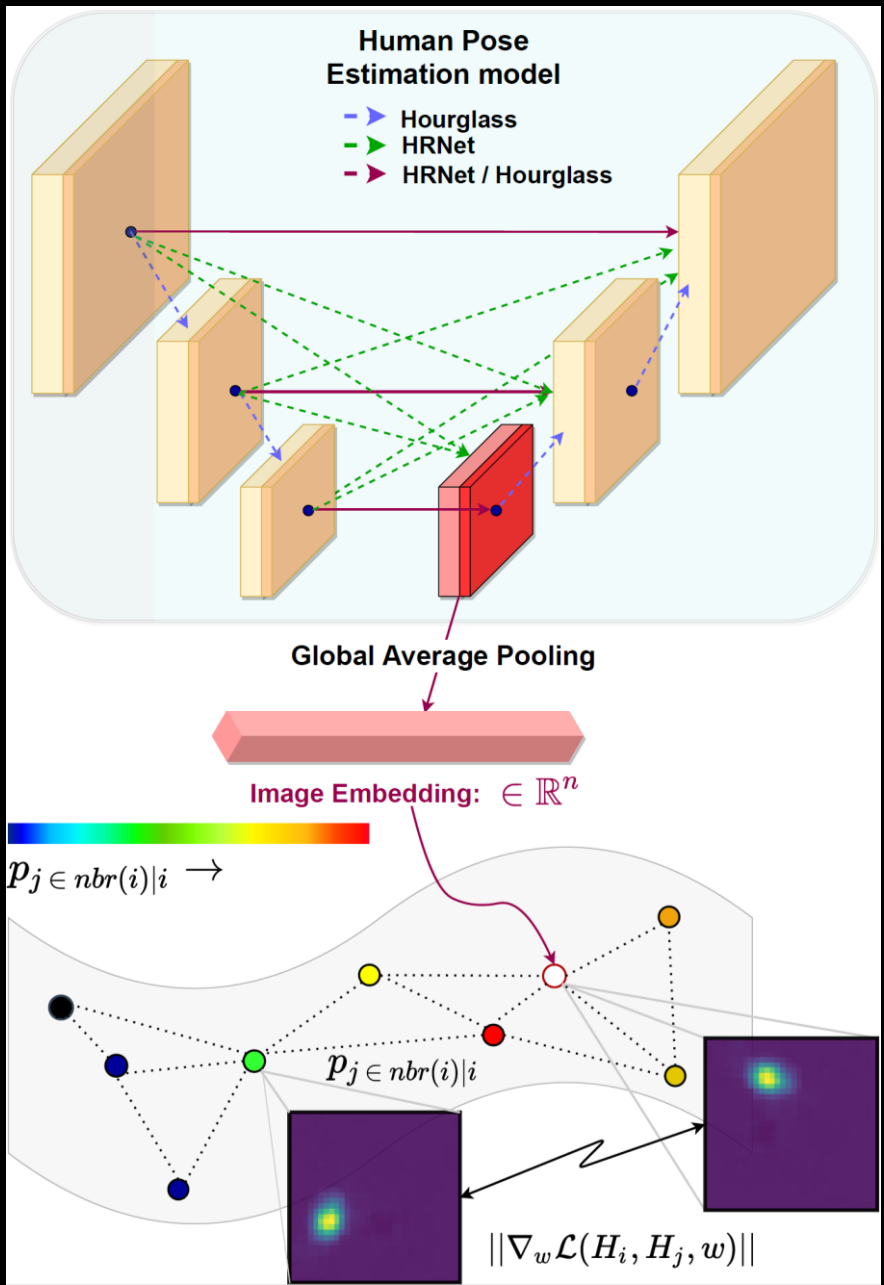
No closed form solution for  $q(y|x, \theta)$  ?

$$x^* = \arg \max \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \int_y q(y|x, \theta_k) \|\nabla_{\theta_z} l(x, y, \theta_z)\|^2$$



$$x^* = \arg \max \sum_{n=1}^{n=N} q_{tsne}(y_n|x, \theta) \|\nabla_{\theta} l(x, y_n, \theta)\|^2$$





# EGL++

MPII Newell Validation Split: Mean+-Sigma (5 runs), one-tailed paired t-test (vs EGL++) at 0.1 significance value

#images →	2000			3000			4000			5000			6000		
Methods	$\mu$	$\sigma$	$p$ - value	$\mu$	$\sigma$	$p$	$\mu$	$\sigma$	$p$	$\mu$	$\sigma$	$p$	$\mu$	$\sigma$	$p$
Random	75.95	0.55	<b>0.003</b>	78.33	0.65	<b>0.012</b>	80.31	0.91	<b>0.006</b>	81.35	0.41	<b>0.001</b>	82.23	0.74	<b>0.007</b>
Core-set [37]	76.61	0.6	<b>0.0047</b>	79.24	0.7	0.245	81.25	0.67	<b>0.072</b>	82.23	1.14	0.123	82.97	1.11	<b>0.064</b>
Multi-peak [27]	76.74	0.61	<b>0.0054</b>	79.56	0.46	0.462	81.19	0.31	<b>0.063</b>	82.61	0.5	<b>0.093</b>	83.11	0.71	<b>0.062</b>
Learning Loss [51]	76.28	0.76	<b>0.0276</b>	79.27	0.52	0.185	81.35	0.35	0.152	82.94	0.44	0.319	83.79	0.46	<b>0.053</b>
EGL++ (ours)	77.28	0.63	-	79.58	0.33	-	81.53	0.51	-	83.07	0.25	-	84	0.38	-

LSP Test Split: Mean+-Sigma (5 runs), one-tailed paired t-test (vs EGL++) at 0.1 significance value

#images →	2000			3000			4000			5000			6000		
Methods	$\mu$	$\sigma$	$p$ - value	$\mu$	$\sigma$	$p$	$\mu$	$\sigma$	$p$	$\mu$	$\sigma$	$p$	$\mu$	$\sigma$	$p$
Random	80.34	0.31	0.285	81.81	0.24	0.297	82.68	0.32	0.138	83.35	0.36	<b>0.095</b>	84.13	0.16	<b>0.029</b>
Core-set [37]	79.69	0.82	<b>0.043</b>	81.41	0.45	<b>0.096</b>	82.25	0.39	<b>0.021</b>	83.11	0.38	<b>0.032</b>	83.73	0.31	<b>0.006</b>
Multi-peak [27]	80.36	0.4	0.225	81.48	0.53	0.125	82.63	0.23	0.119	83.29	0.2	<b>0.036</b>	84.3	0.44	<b>0.063</b>
Learning Loss [51]	79.58	0.39	<b>0.002</b>	81.39	0.34	<b>0.071</b>	82.31	0.42	<b>0.038</b>	83.31	0.25	<b>0.029</b>	84.2	0.53	<b>0.098</b>
EGL++ (ours)	80.49	0.45	-	81.91	0.27	-	83.03	0.43	-	83.91	0.51	-	84.68	0.36	-

## Uncertainty Quantification

Single deterministic network

Hyperparameter free (well ... almost!)

No modifications to existing architectures



# Thank you!



Megh Shukla  
Computer Vision Research Engineer  
Mercedes-Benz R&D India

[megh.shukla@daimler.com](mailto:megh.shukla@daimler.com)  
<https://meghshukla.github.io>