

# Scalable Ensemble Diversification for OOD Generalization and Detection



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# Shortcut biases are reason for failures in computer vision

Background bias in image classification:

Predicted  
as Cow



Predicted  
as Dolphin

# Shortcut biases are reason for failures in natural language processing

Parametric answer bias in question answering for retrieval augmented language models:

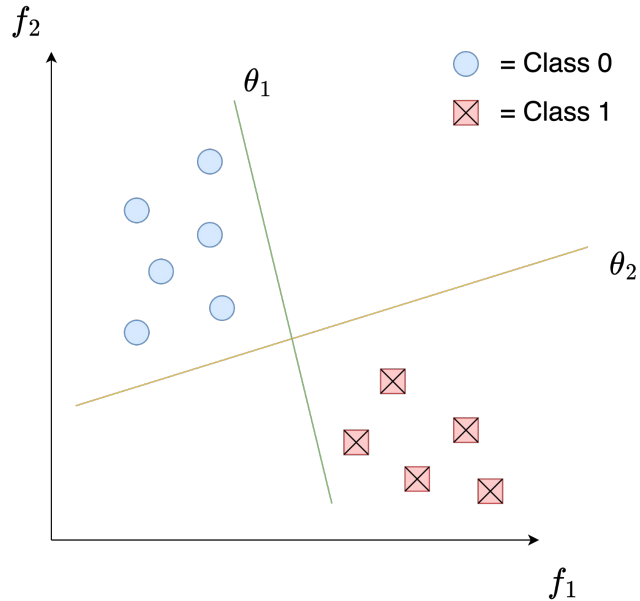
**Question:** Who was the main performer at this year's halftime show?

**Document:** CBS broadcast Super Bowl 50 in the U.S., and charged an average of \$5 million for a 30-second commercial during the game. The Super Bowl 50 halftime show was **headlined by the British rock group Coldplay** with special guest performers **Beyoncé** and Bruno Mars, who headlined the Super Bowl XLVII and Super Bowl XLVIII halftime shows, respectively. It was the third-most watched U.S. broadcast ever.

**Ground-truth answer:** **Coldplay**

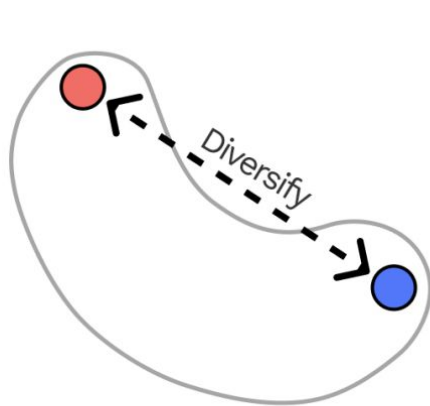
**Incorrect parametric answer:** **Beyoncé**

# Intuition for mitigating shortcut biases by multiple hypotheses

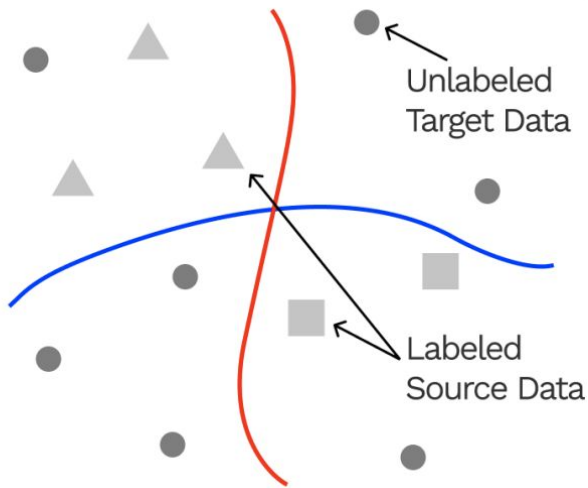


**Underspecified dataset** =  
several features can be  
used to predict ground  
truth

# Current diversification approaches were designed for small-scale datasets



Near-optimal Functions  
for Source Distribution



$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{agree}}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{ID}}) + \mathcal{L}_{\text{disagree}}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{OOD}})$$

On ImageNet scale they do not work

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{agree}}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{ID}}) + \mathcal{L}_{\text{disagree}}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{OOD}})$$

Method	$\mathcal{D}_{\text{OOD}}$	IN-val	IN-A	IN-R
Deep ensemble	-	<b>85.4</b>	<b>39.9</b>	46.3
+Diverse HPs	-	<b>85.4</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>46.5</b>
A2D	IN-A	85.1	37.8	45.2
A2D	IN-R	85.1	37.8	45.2
Div	IN-A	85.1	37.8	45.2
Div	IN-R	85.1	35.7	41.8

# On which samples models tend to disagree?

y: corkscrew  
first\_pred: corkscrew  
second\_pred: wine bottle  
index: 70609



Multilabel

y: assault rifle  
first\_pred: rifle  
second\_pred: assault rifle  
index: 61206



Subclass relationship

y: Indian elephant  
first\_pred: tusker  
second\_pred: Indian elephant  
index: 51162



Easy to confuse

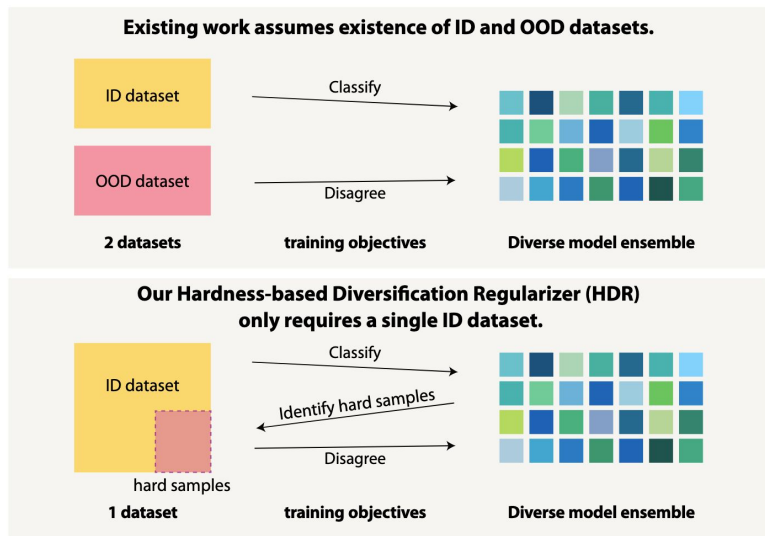
# How to find samples for disagreement within in-distribution (ID) data?

Idea: identify hard training samples with high cross-entropy (CE) and disagree on them

Do it via adaptive reweighting:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{agree}}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{ID}}) + \alpha \cdot \mathcal{L}_{\text{disagree}}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{ID}})$$

- In the beginning of training  $\alpha$  is almost 0
- On the later epochs, for each sample  $\alpha$  is proportional to CE on this sample





# Details on loss with adaptive weights. Hardness-based diversification regularizer (HDR).

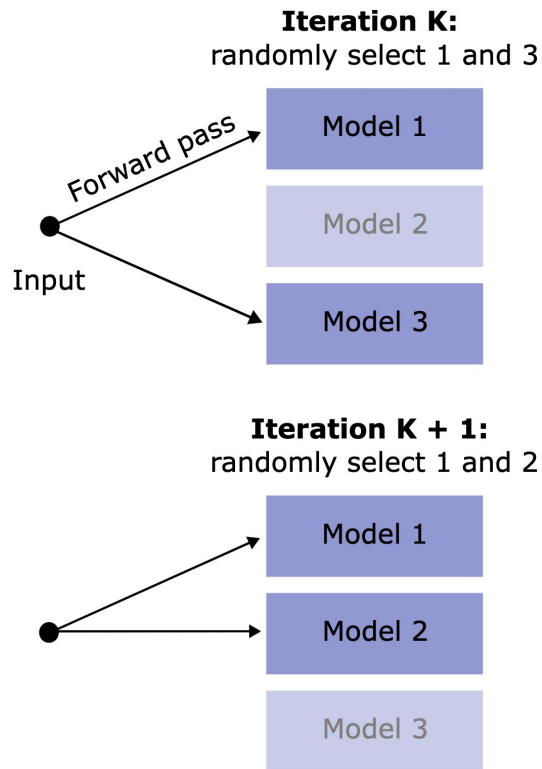
$$\alpha_n := \frac{\text{CE} \left( \frac{1}{M} \sum_m f^m(x_n), y_n \right)}{\left( \frac{1}{|B|} \sum_{b \in B} \text{CE} \left( \frac{1}{M} \sum_m f^m(x_b), y_b \right) \right)^2}$$

$$\mathcal{G}(p^m(x), p^l(x)) = -\log(p_{\hat{y}}^m(x) \cdot (1 - p_{\hat{y}}^l(x)) + p_{\hat{y}}^l(x) \cdot (1 - p_{\hat{y}}^m(x)))$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{main}} = \frac{1}{MN} \sum_n^N \sum_m^M -\log p_{y_n}^m(x_n; \theta)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{HDR}} := \mathcal{L}_{\text{main}} + \frac{\lambda}{NM(M-1)} \sum_n \sum_{m < l} \text{stopgrad}(\alpha_n) \cdot \mathcal{G}(p^m(x_n), p^l(x_n))$$

# Stochastic sum allows to train ensembles of any size



# Results in OOD generalization

Method	#Models	Val	IN-A	IN-R
Deep ensemble	5	<b>85.4</b>	39.9	46.3
+Diverse HPs	5	<b>85.4</b>	39.9	46.5
DivDis	5	85.1	36.3	41.8
A2D	5	85.1	37.8	45.2
HDR (Ours)	5	85.3	<b>43.0</b>	<b>48.7</b>
Deep ensemble	50	<b>85.5</b>	38.8	45.8
+Diverse HPs	50	<b>85.5</b>	42.5	48.5
HDR (Ours)	50	83.6	<b>50.6</b>	<b>53.8</b>

# Novel way to measure epistemic uncertainty

Idea: measure diversity of outputs as number of uniquely predicted classes instead of ensemble confidence ( $\bar{p}$ )

Discrete formula:

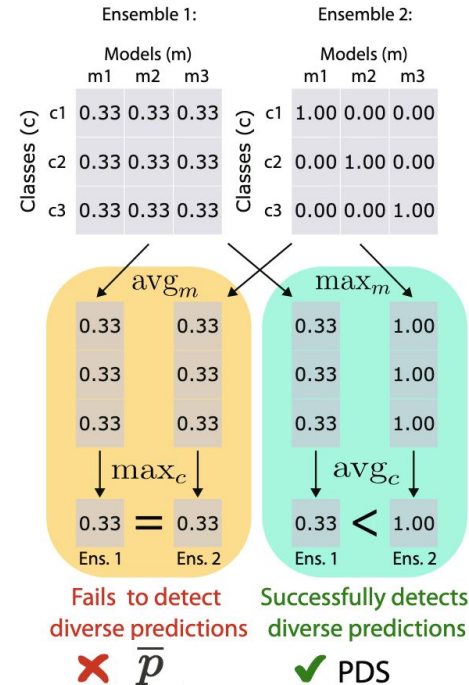
$$\hat{Y} = \{\operatorname{argmax}_c p_c^m(x), m = 1 \dots M\}$$

$$\eta_{\# \text{unique}} := \frac{1}{C} \operatorname{num\_unique}(\hat{Y})$$

Continuous approximation - predictive diversity score (PDS):

$$\eta_{\text{PDS}} := \frac{1}{C} \sum_c \max_m p_c^m(x)$$

Model predictions on a sample  $x$



# Results in OOD detection

Models	$\eta$	C-1	C-5	iNaturalist	OpenImages
Single model	$p$	61.5	83.3	95.8	90.9
Deep Ensemble	$\bar{p}$	61.9	83.5	95.8	91.1
+Diverse HPs	$\bar{p}$	<b>64.2</b>	<b>86.1</b>	<b>96.9</b>	<b>92.3</b>
DivDis	$\bar{p}$	59.8	84.3	96.6	92.2
A2D	$\bar{p}$	59.4	83.5	96.6	91.6
HDR (Ours)	$\bar{p}$	64.1	84.5	96.0	91.5
Deep Ensemble	PDS	56.5	62.5	59.2	58.9
+Diverse HPs	PDS	64.3	84.9	92.6	88.9
DivDis	PDS	60.0	85.1	96.9	93.9
A2D	PDS	59.9	85.0	97.1	93.9
HDR (Ours)	PDS	<b>68.1</b>	<b>89.4</b>	<b>97.7</b>	<b>94.1</b>

# Conclusions

- Identifying samples for disagreement within ID data + stochastic sum enables **scaling** of diverse ensembles to ImageNet
- Diversify ensembles by making them disagree on **hard samples**
- Use **PDS** to measure epistemic uncertainty and detect OOD samples

# Appendix

# Ensemble benefits from diversification

When we average outputs of multiple models error is:

$$\text{Err}(\bar{f}) = \overline{\text{Err}(f)} - \text{Var } f$$

Error of averaged model

Mean Error of single model

Variance of model outputs

If we want to make  $\text{Err}(\bar{f})$  small

For that we need to **increase**  $\text{Var } f$

While keeping  $\overline{\text{Err}(f)}$  low



## More formally

$$\bar{\mathbf{f}}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{f})} [\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})]$$

$$\text{Var}_{p(\mathbf{f})}[\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})] = \sum_{i=1}^C \text{Var}_{p(\mathbf{f})} [f^{(i)}(\mathbf{x})]$$

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{y}) = \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{x})} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^C \left( f^{(i)}(\mathbf{x}) - y^{(i)} \right)^2 \right]$$

$$\mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{f})} [\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{y})] - \mathbf{B}(\bar{\mathbf{f}}(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{y}) = \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{x})} [\text{Var}_{p(\mathbf{f})}[\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})]]$$

# Stochastic sum is an unbiased estimator

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{agree}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{disagree}} = \frac{1}{|M|} \sum_{m \in M} \mathcal{L}(m) + \frac{1}{|P_M|} \sum_{p \in P_M} \mathcal{G}(p).$$

$$\overline{\nabla \mathcal{L}_{\text{agree}}} = \frac{1}{|I|} \sum_{m \in I} \nabla \mathcal{L}(m)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{m \in M} [\overline{\nabla \mathcal{L}_{\text{agree}}}] &= \frac{1}{|I|} \sum_{m \in I} \mathbb{E}_{m \in M} [\nabla \mathcal{L}(m)] = \frac{1}{|I|} \cdot |I| \cdot \frac{1}{|M|} \sum_{m \in M} \nabla \mathcal{L}(m) = \\ &= \nabla \left[ \frac{1}{|M|} \sum_{m \in M} \mathcal{L}(m) \right] = \nabla \mathcal{L}_{\text{agree}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\overline{\nabla \mathcal{L}_{\text{disagree}}} = \frac{1}{|I|} \sum_{p \in I} \nabla \mathcal{G}(p)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{m \in M} [\overline{\nabla \mathcal{L}_{\text{disagree}}}] &= \frac{1}{|\eta|} \sum_{p \in P_I} \mathbb{E}_{m \in M} [\nabla \mathcal{G}(p)] = \frac{1}{|I|} \cdot |I| \cdot \frac{1}{|P_M|} \sum_{p \in P_M} \nabla \mathcal{G}(p) \\ &= \nabla \mathcal{L}_{\text{disagree}} \end{aligned}$$