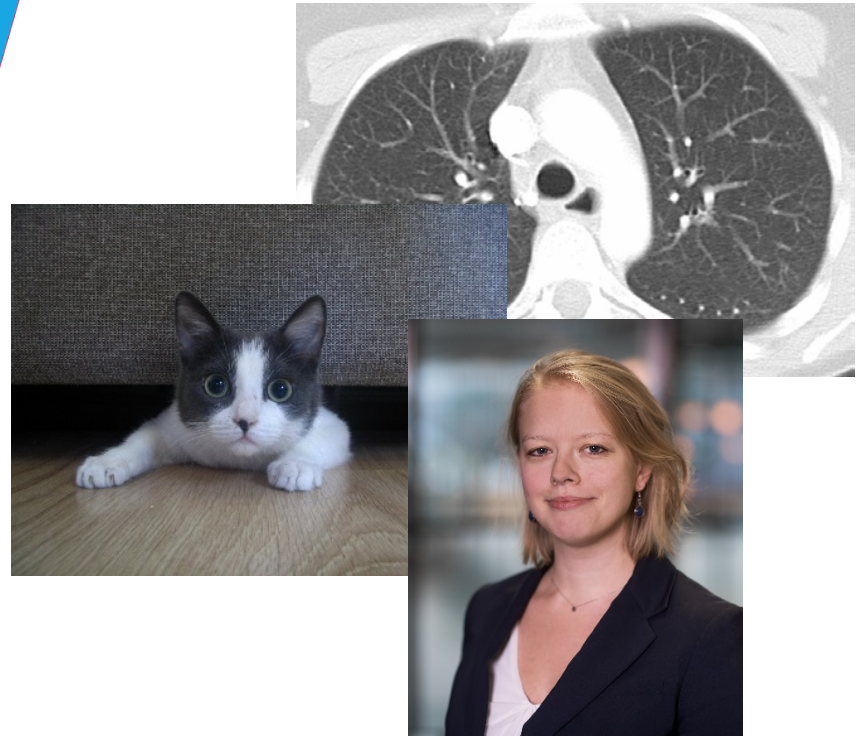


# Multiple instance learning in biomedical applications

Veronika Cheplygina



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<http://www.veronikach.com>



# Outline

- Multiple instance learning
  - Problem definition
  - Classifiers
- Examples
  - Medical images
  - Bioinformatics
- Challenges

# Need lots of labeled data

High complexity method



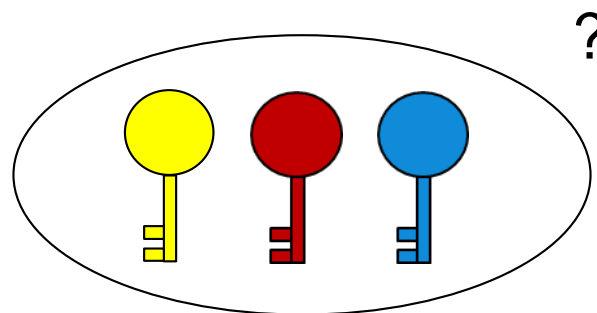
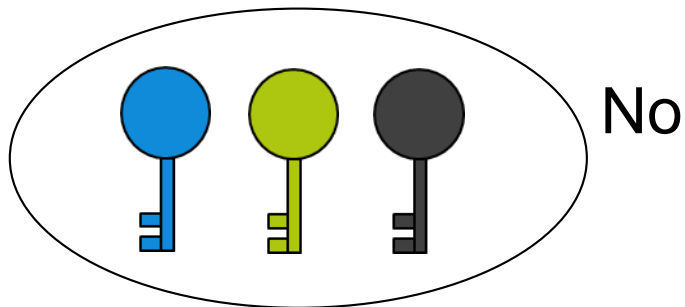
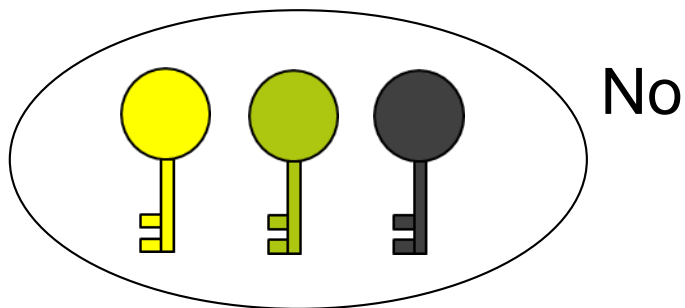
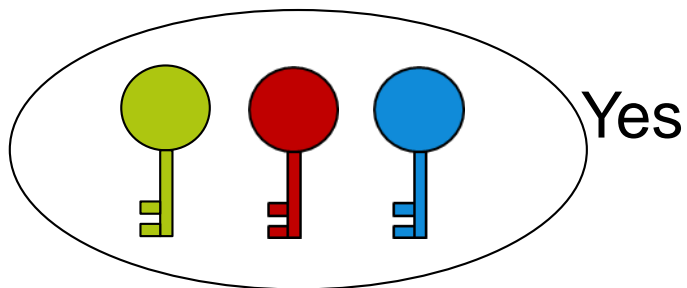
Performance

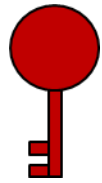
Low complexity method



Training size

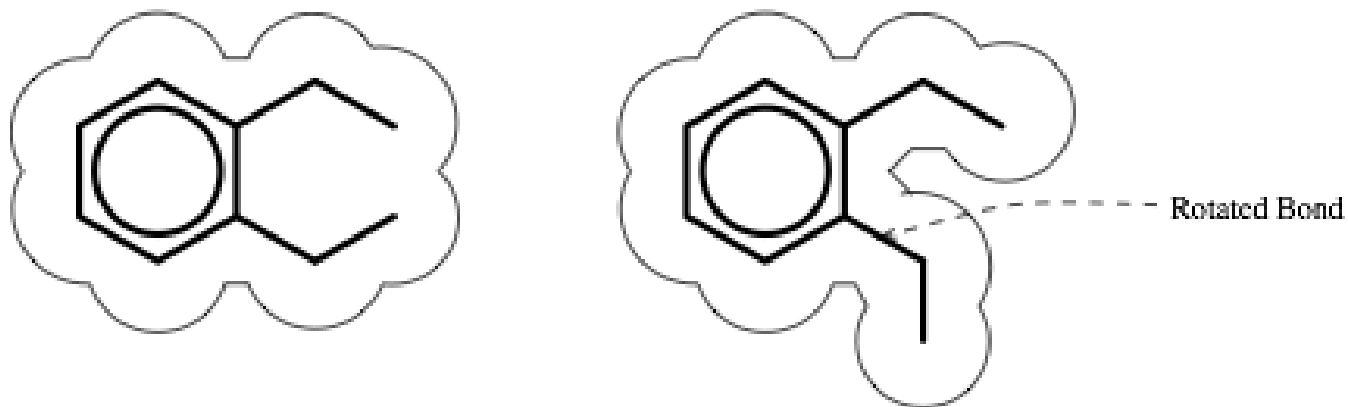
# Use labels that are easier to obtain





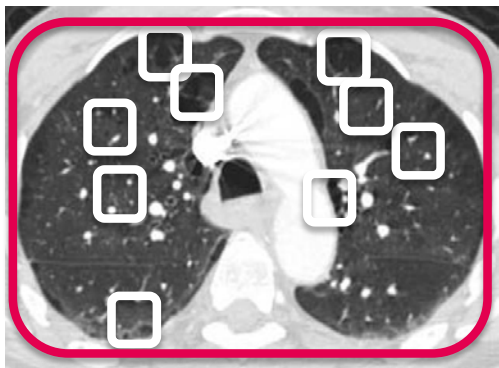
Yes

# MIL Applications



- Predict molecule activity
- Different number of conformations per molecule
- Molecule is active *iff* 1 or more conformations are active

# MIL Applications

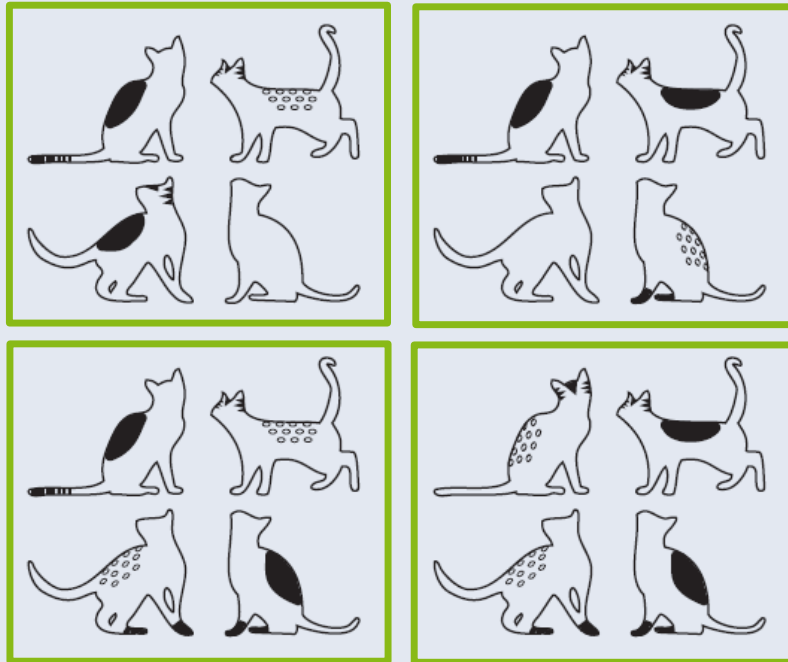


Weak annotations

- At least 1 abnormal patch = abnormal scan
- For a new scan:
  - What is the diagnosis?
  - Where are the abnormalities?

## Dissimilarity-Based Multiple Instance Learning

What is different about the groups of cats on the front cover, from the groups on the back cover? If you can answer this question, you are probably also able to categorize another, previously unseen to you, group of cats. This thesis is about different applications where similar puzzles may occur, and how some machine learning algorithms approach such problems.



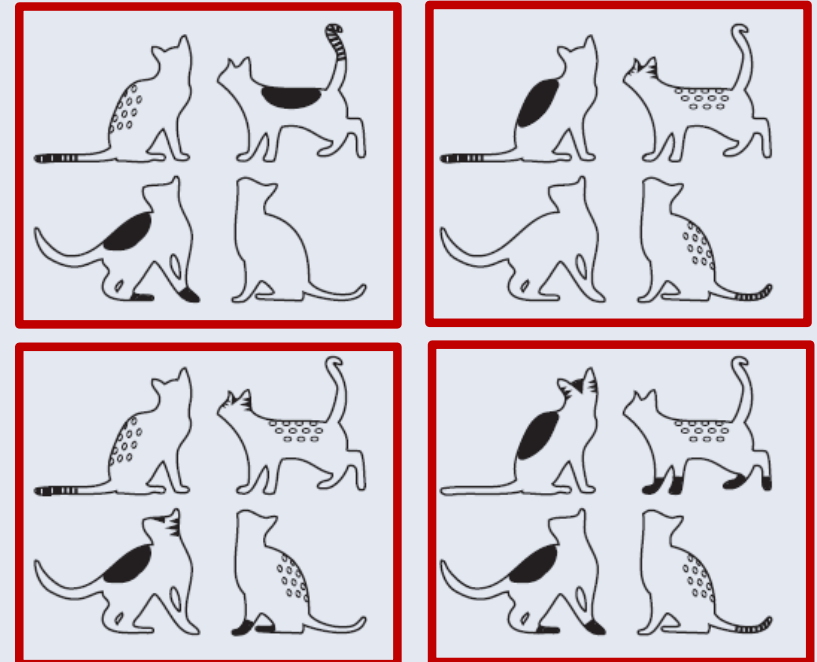
ISBN 978-94-6295-192-1

# Dissimilarity-Based Multiple Instance Learning

Veronika Cheplygina

Dissimilarity-Based Multiple Instance Learning

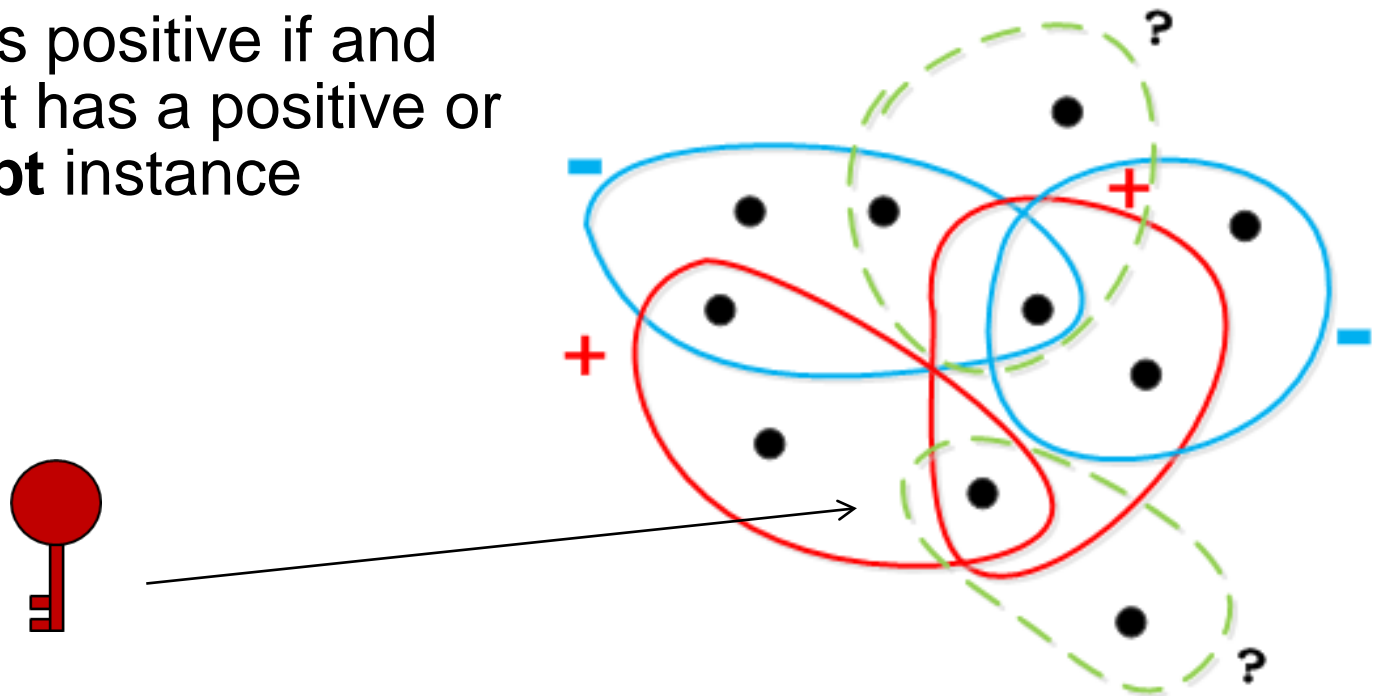
Veronika Cheplygina



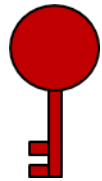


# Multiple Instance Learning

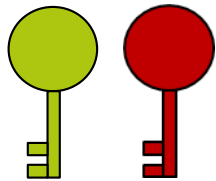
- **Bag of instances** (feature vectors)
- A bag is positive if and only if it has a positive or **concept** instance







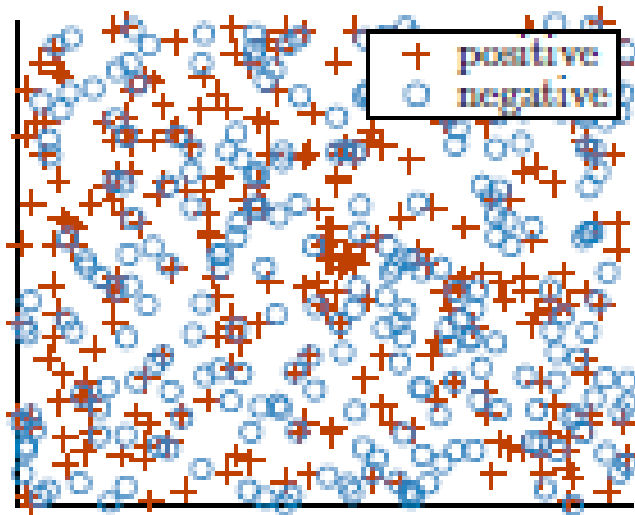
Yes



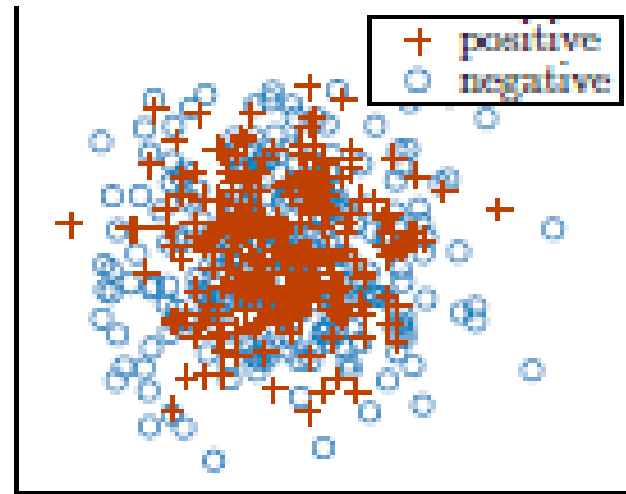
No

# Assumptions

Many possible assumptions that fit in this paradigm



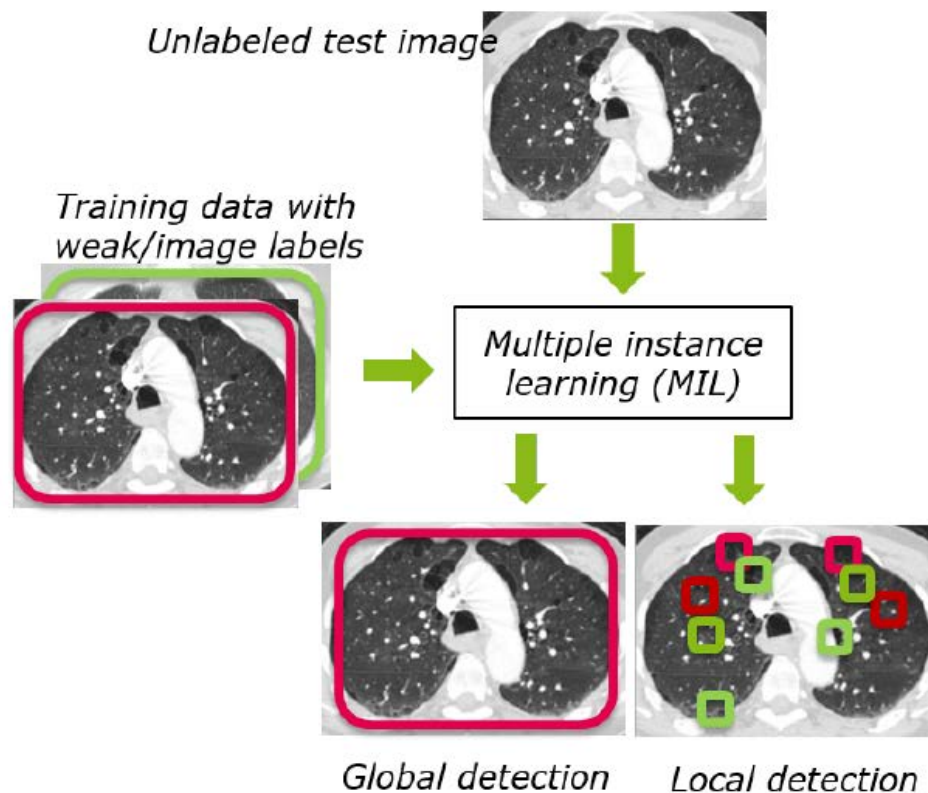
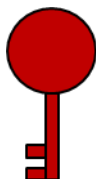
(a) Concept



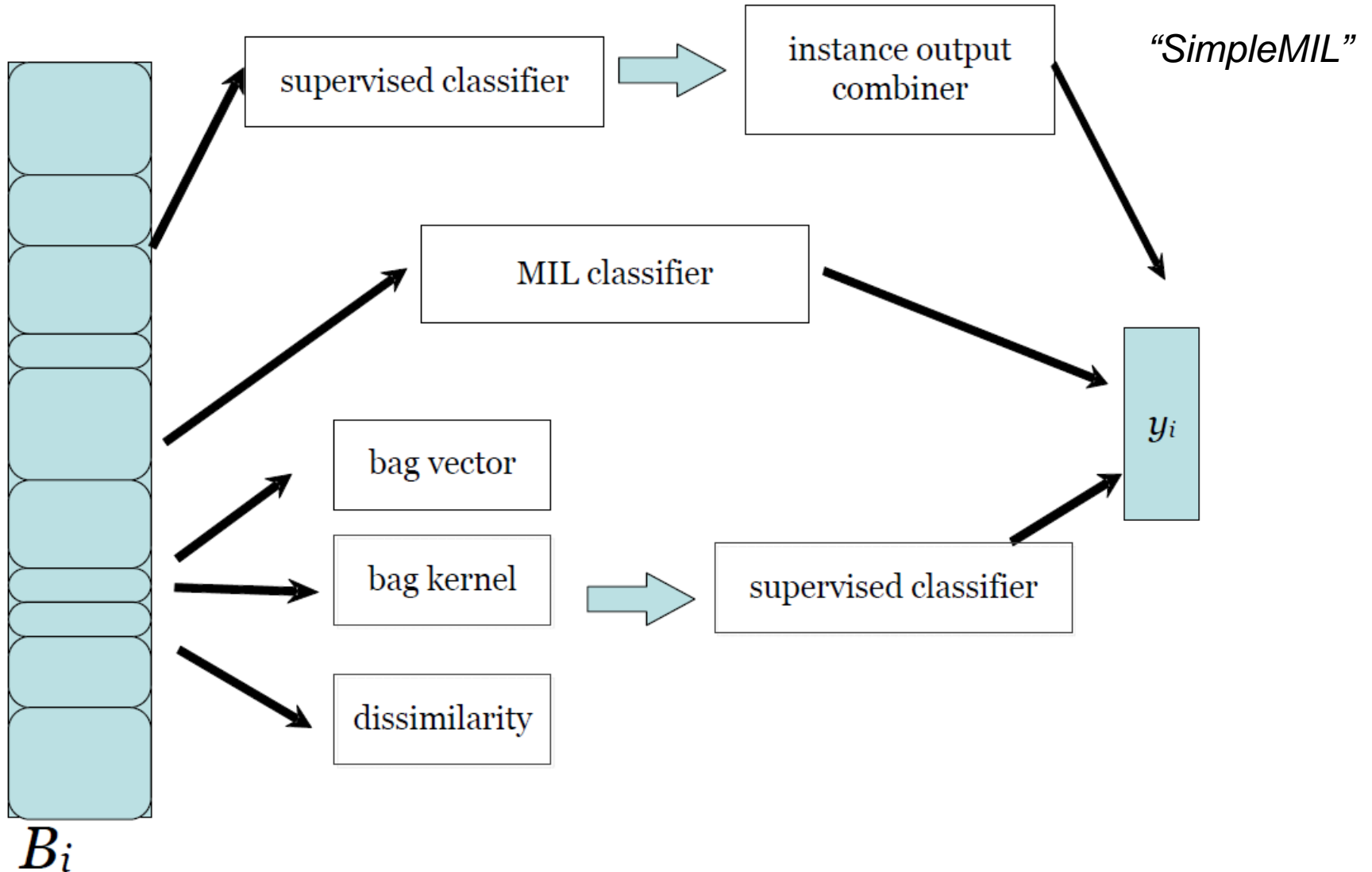
(b) Distribution

# Goal of classifier

- Predict labels for previously unseen bags
- Predict labels for previously unseen instances

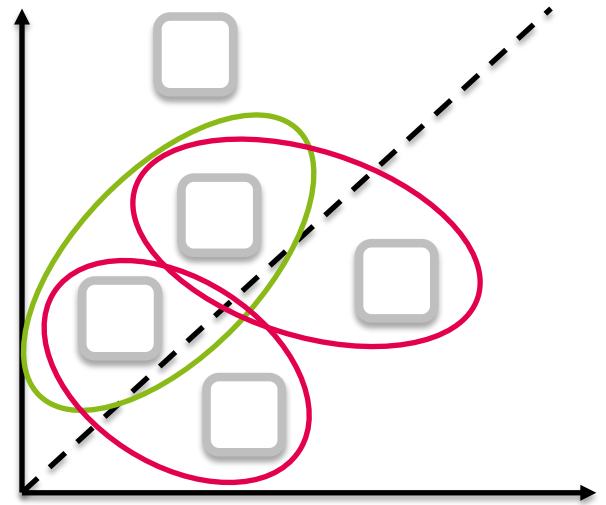


# MIL classifiers



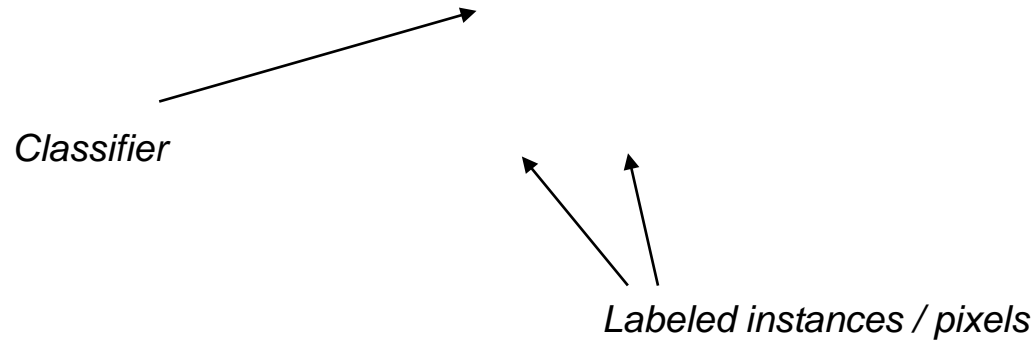
# Learning: instance-level

- Find concept or instance labels, s.t. bag constraints are satisfied
  - Explicit combining of instances, e.g. max or mean
- 
- Instance labels are provided
  - Not always robust



# Learning: instance-level

- Supervised SVM



- “Find a plane which separates the instances well, such that the instance (pixel) labels are more or less correct”



# Learning: instance-level

- miSVM

$$\min_{\{y_i\}} \min_{\mathbf{w}, b, \xi} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 + C \sum_i \xi_i$$

*Instance labels*  $\rightarrow$  s.t.  $\forall i : y_i(\langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x}_i \rangle + b) \geq 1 - \xi_i, \xi_i \geq 0, y_i \in \{-1, 1\}, \text{ and}$

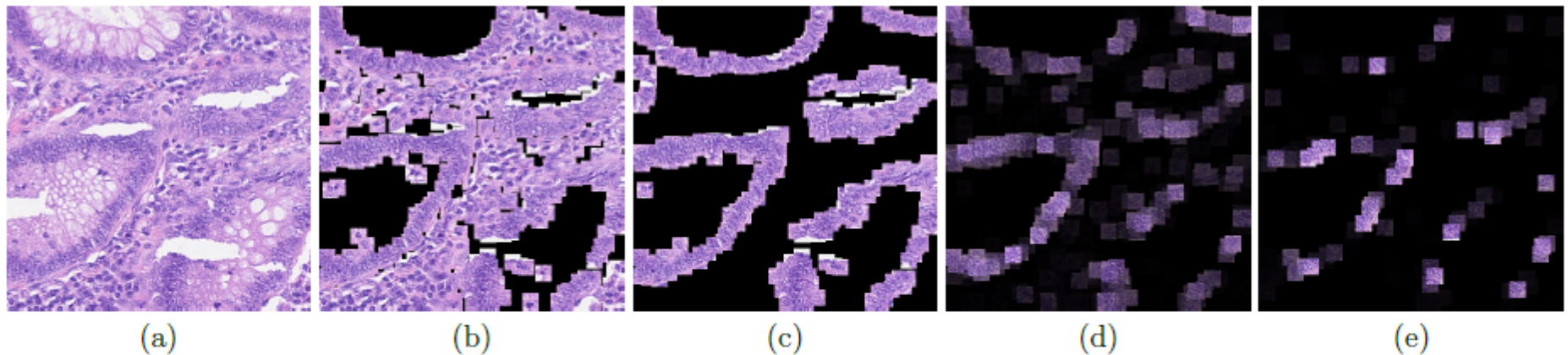
$$\sum_{i \in I} \frac{y_i + 1}{2} \geq 1, \forall I \text{ s.t. } Y_I = 1, \text{ and } y_i = -1, \forall I \text{ s.t. } Y_I = -1.$$

$\leftarrow$  *Bag labels*  $\rightarrow$

- Find the instance labels and a plane ..., such that ..., and the bag label assumption holds

# Learning: instance-level

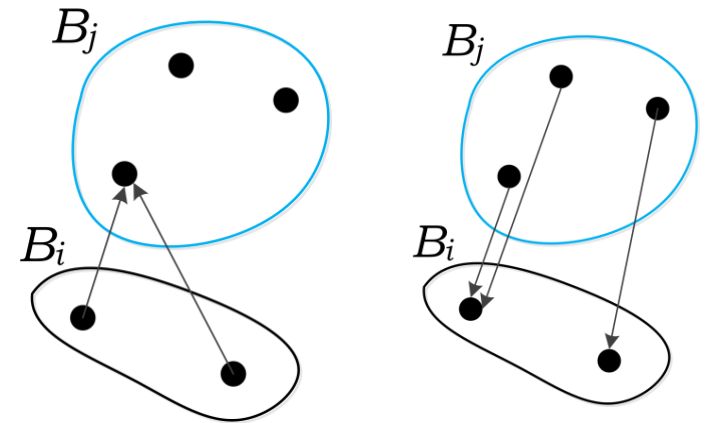
- Classifier is in instance space  $\rightarrow$  instance posteriors can be visualized



*Figure 10. Colon cancer example 1: (a) H&E stained histology image. (b)  $27 \times 27$  patches centered around all marked nuclei. (c) Ground truth: Patches that belong to the class epithelial. (d) Attention heatmap: Every patch from (b) multiplied by its attention weight. (e) Instance+max heatmap: Every patch from (b) multiplied by its score from the INSTANCE+max model.*

# Learning: bag-level

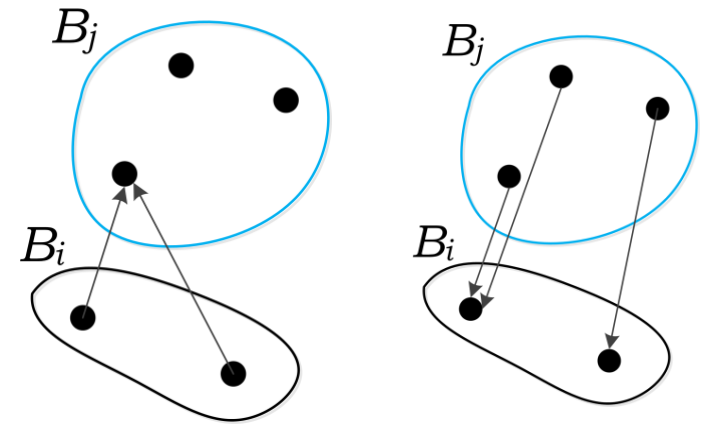
- Bag distance or kernel
- Bag “summary” + supervised classifier
- Implicit mean combining
- Robust in practice
- Usually no instance labels



	$B_1$	$B_2$	$B_3$
$B_1$	0	5	4
$B_2$	5	0	1
$B_3$	4	1	0

# Learning: bag-level

- Example: dissimilarity-space
- Use ALL information in distance matrix
- Good for e.g. multi-concept data



Distance matrix

	$B_1$	$B_2$	$B_3$
$B_1$	0	5	4
$B_2$	5	0	1
$B_3$	4	1	0



Regular dataset

*Some features...*

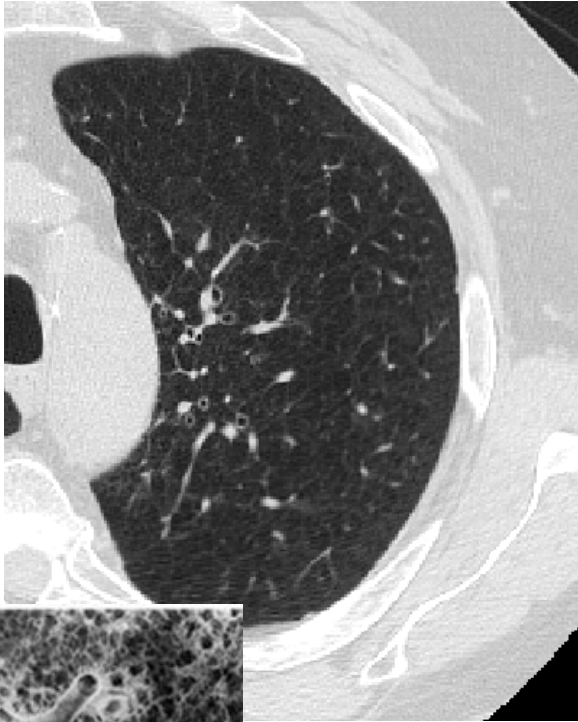
	0	5	4
$B_1$	0	5	4
$B_2$	5	0	1
$B_3$	4	1	0



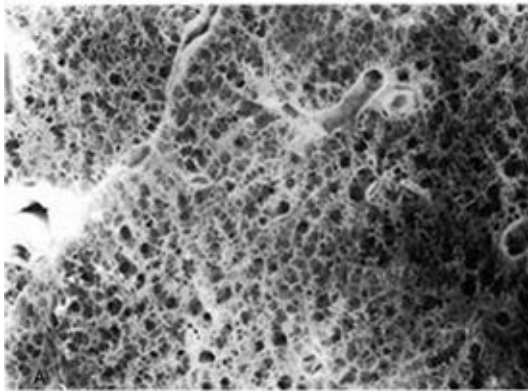
# Examples



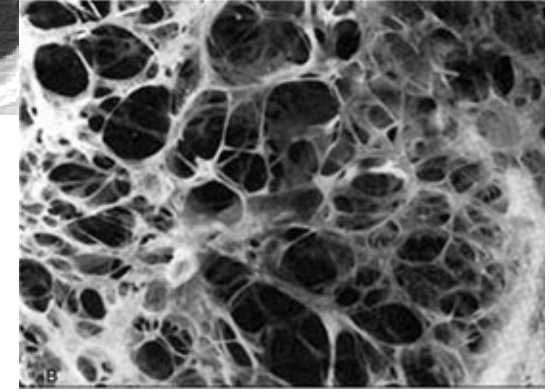
# COPD in CT: Destruction of lung tissue (emphysema)



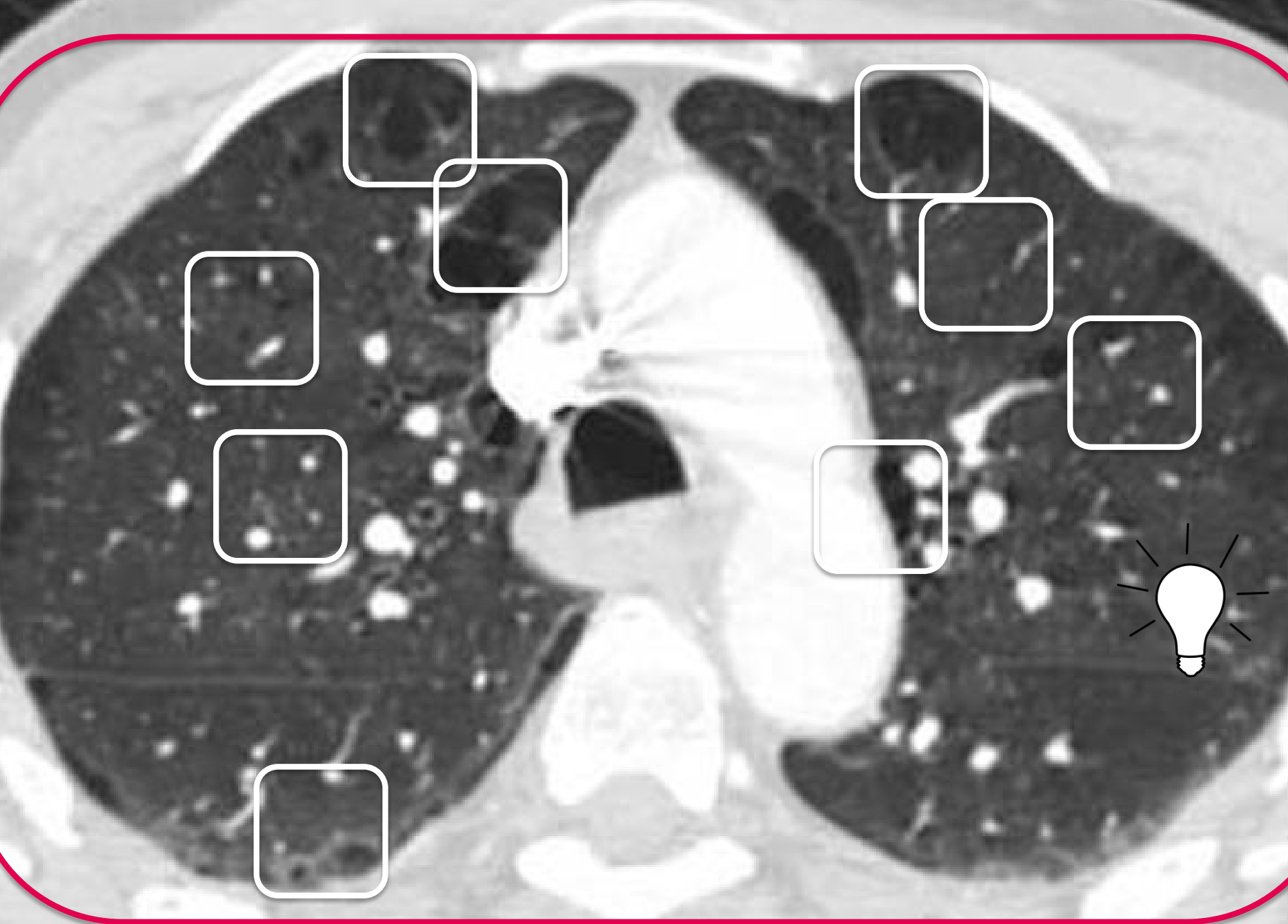
Normal



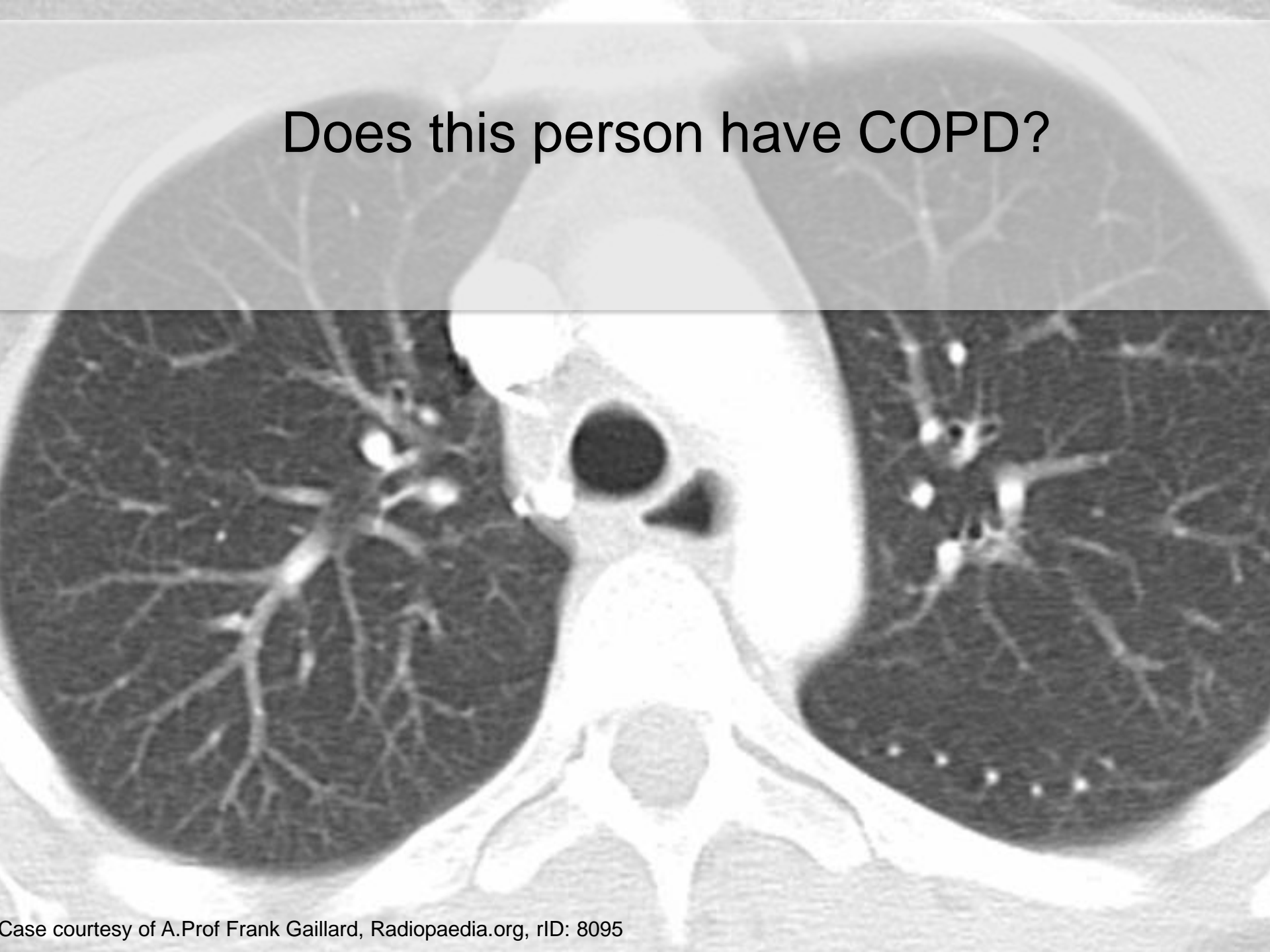
COPD



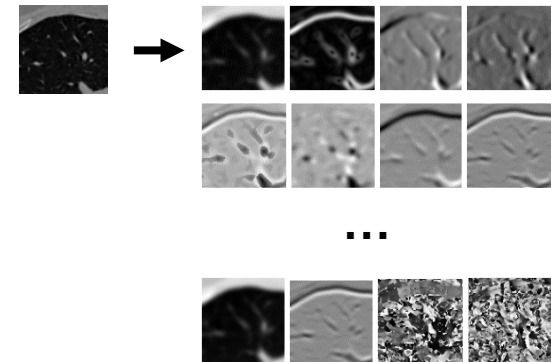




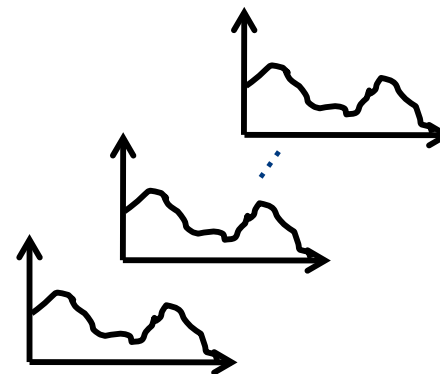
Does this person have COPD?



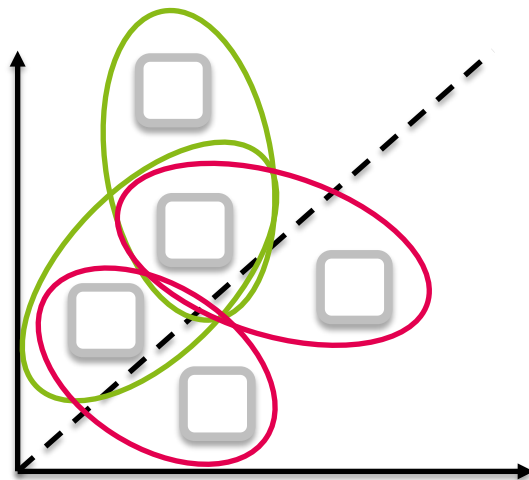




Texture filters



Histograms



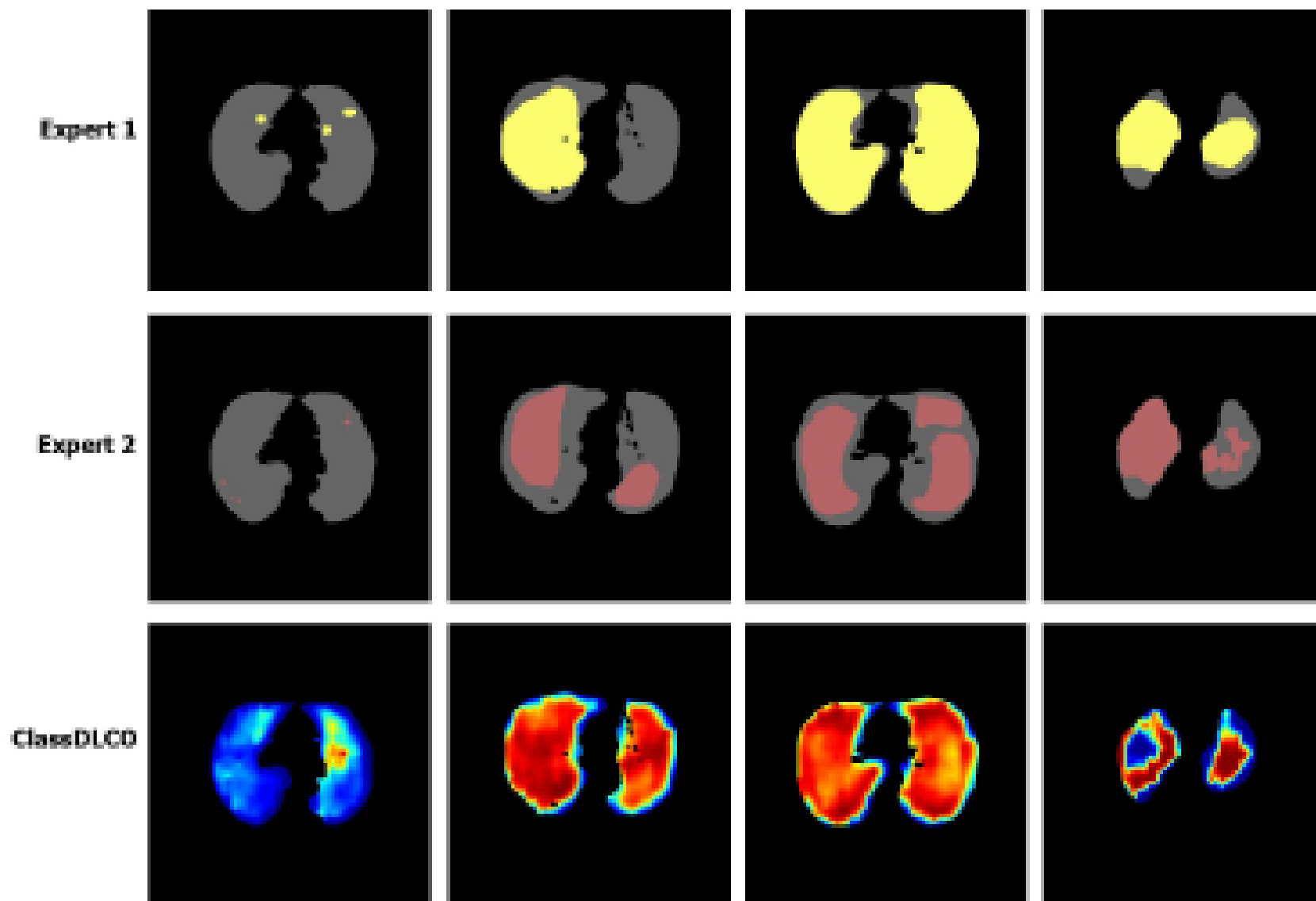
MIL

Image = COPD or not (lung function), 50 ROIs

- 600 chest CT images (train/validation/test)
- Instance-level vs bag-level classifiers
- Naïve approach already good
- Good to take all instances into account

Classifier	AUC $\mathcal{X}_{val}$	AUC $\mathcal{X}_{te}$
Simple logistic noisy	50.0	50.0
Simple logistic avg	<b>71.9</b>	<b>70.5</b>
Simple $k$ -NN noisy	61.0	65.9
Simple $k$ -NN avg	67.0	67.8
miSVM noisy	<b>69.7</b>	65.4
miSVM avg	<b>74.5</b>	<b>71.7</b>
MILBoost	55.8	61.4
Citation $k$ -NN	65.2	61.5
mean-inst SVM	<b>74.0</b>	<b>74.2</b>
extremes SVM	<b>70.8</b>	68.6
BoW SVM	50.0	50.0
MILES	65.8	68.2
meanmin SVM	70.8	<b>71.3</b>
meanmin $k$ -NN	65.0	<b>69.1</b>
emd SVM	<b>73.7</b>	<b>74.6</b>
emd $k$ -NN	65.1	67.1

Cheplygina, V., Sorensen, L., Tax, D. M. J., Pedersen, J. H., Loog, M., & de Bruijne, M. (2014). Classification of COPD with multiple instance learning. In International Conference on Pattern Recognition (pp. 1508-1513).



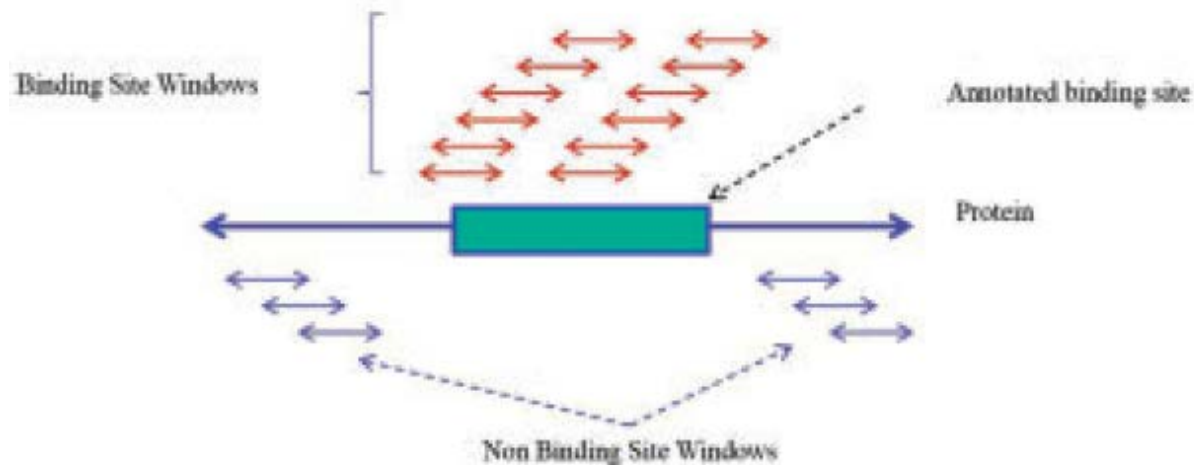
# MIL in medical imaging

- Classification of cancerous tissue in histology most popular
- Brain, eye, lung, heart, breast and others
- About half classify instances

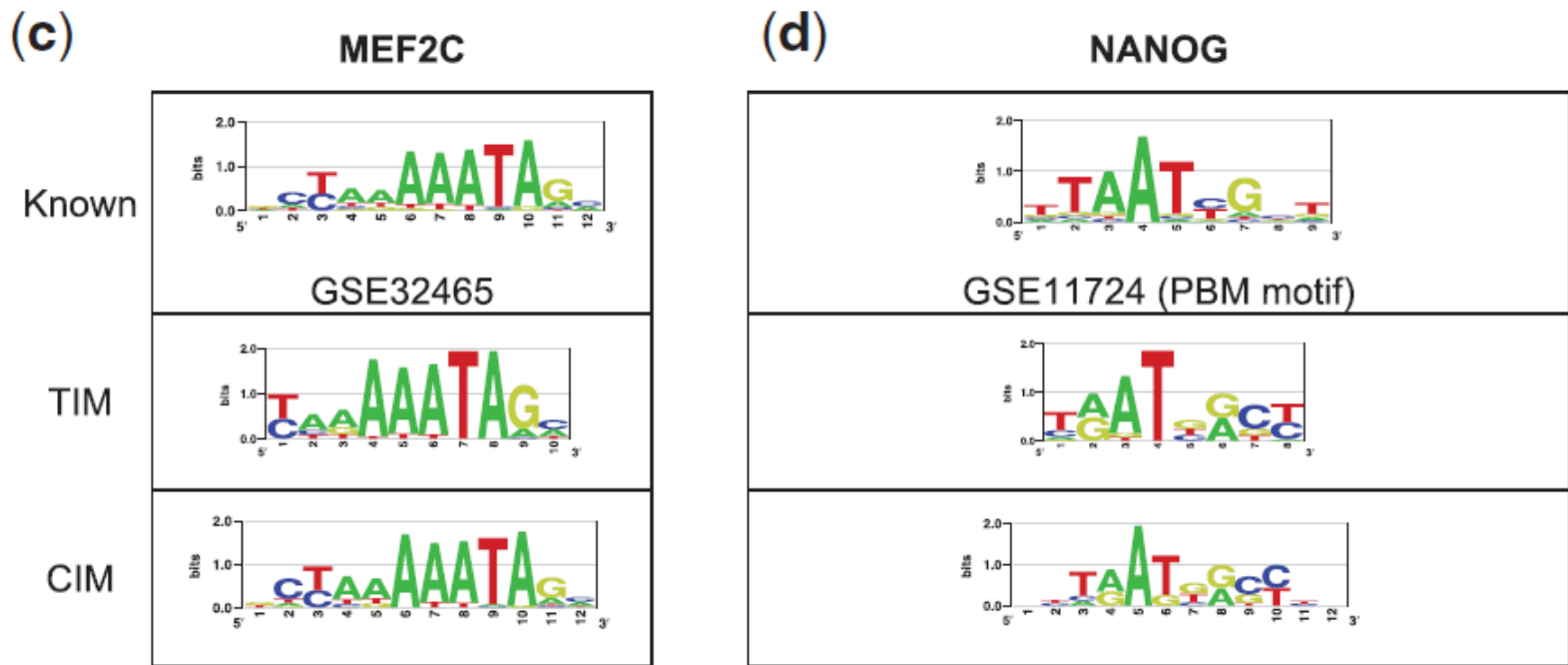
Reference	Application	MIL category	Method
Brain			
Tong et al. (2014)	AD classification	global	excl bag
Chen et al. (2015b)	cerebral small vessel disease detection	global	instance
Dubost et al. (2017)	enlarged perivascular space detection	local	instance
Eye			
Venkatesan et al. (2015)	diabetic retinopathy classification	global	excl bag
Quelleg et al. (2012)	diabetic retinopathy classification	global, local	instance
Schlegl et al. (2015)	fluid segmentation	local	instance
Manivannan et al. (2016)	retinal nerve fiber layer visibility classification	global, local	instance
Lu et al. (2017)	fluid detection	global	instance
Breast			
Maken et al. (2014)	breast cancer detection	global	multiple
Sanchez de la Rosa et al. (2015)	breast cancer detection	global, local	excl bag
Shin et al. (2017)	mass localization, classification	global, local	instance
Lung			
Dundar et al. (2007)	pulmonary embolism detection	false positive	instance
Bi and Liang (2007)	pulmonary embolism detection	false positive	instance
Liang and Bi (2007)	pulmonary embolism detection	false positive	instance
Cheplygina et al. (2014)	COPD classification	global	multiple
Melendez et al. (2014)	tuberculosis detection	global, local	instance
Stainvas et al. (2014)	lung cancer lesion classification	false positive	instance
Melendez et al. (2016)	tuberculosis detection	global, local	instance
Kim and Hwang (2016)	tuberculosis detection	global, local	instance
Shen et al. (2016)	lung cancer malignancy prediction	global, local	instance
Cheplygina et al. (2017)	COPD classification	global	instance
Li et al. (2017b)	abnormality detection (14 classes)	global, local	instance
Abdomen			
Dundar et al. (2007)	polyp detection	false positive	instance
Wu et al. (2009)	polyp detection	false positive	instance
Lu et al. (2011)	polyp detection, size estimation	false positive	instance
Wang et al. (2012)	polyp detection	false positive	instance
Wang et al. (2015a)	lesion detection	global	prim bag
Wang et al. (2015b)	lesion detection	global	prim bag
Histology/Microscopy			
Dundar et al. (2010)	breast lesion detection	global	instance
Samsudin and Bradley (2010)	pap smear classification	global	multiple
McCann et al. (2012)	colitis detection	global	instance
Zhang et al. (2013)	skin biopsy annotation	global	multiple
Kandemir et al. (2014)	breast cancer detection	global	excl bag
Xu et al. (2014)	colon cancer detection	global, local	instance
Hou et al. (2015)	glioblastoma, low-grade glioma detection	global	instance
Li et al. (2015)	breast cancer detection	global	prim bag
Mercan et al. (2016)	breast cancer detection	global	instance
Kraus et al. (2016)	cell type classification	global, local	instance
Jia et al. (2017)	cancerous region segmentation (colon)	global, local	instance
Tomczak et al. (2017)	breast cancer detection	global	instance
Multiple			
Vural et al. (2006)	abnormality detection in three applications	false positive	instance
Kandemir and Hamprecht (2015)	abnormality detection in two applications	global, local	multiple
Hwang and Kim (2016)	lesion detection in two applications	global, local	instance
Other			
Situ et al. (2010)	dermoscopic feature annotation	global	prim bag
Liu et al. (2010)	cardiac event detection	global	instance
Yan et al. (2016)	bodypart recognition	global	instance

Cheplygina, V., de Bruijne, M., & Pluim, J. P. W. (2019). Not-so-supervised: a survey of semi-supervised, multi-instance, and transfer learning in medical image analysis. Medical Image Analysis. [URL](#)

# Bioinformatics

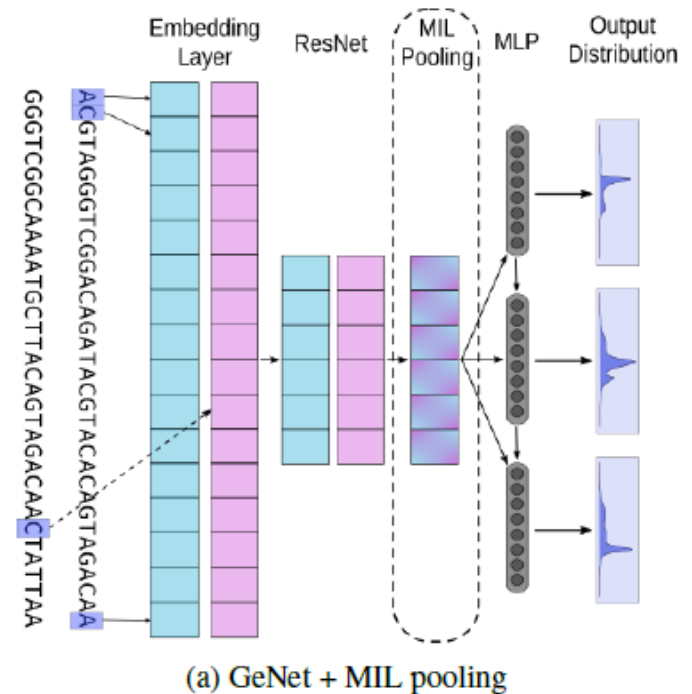
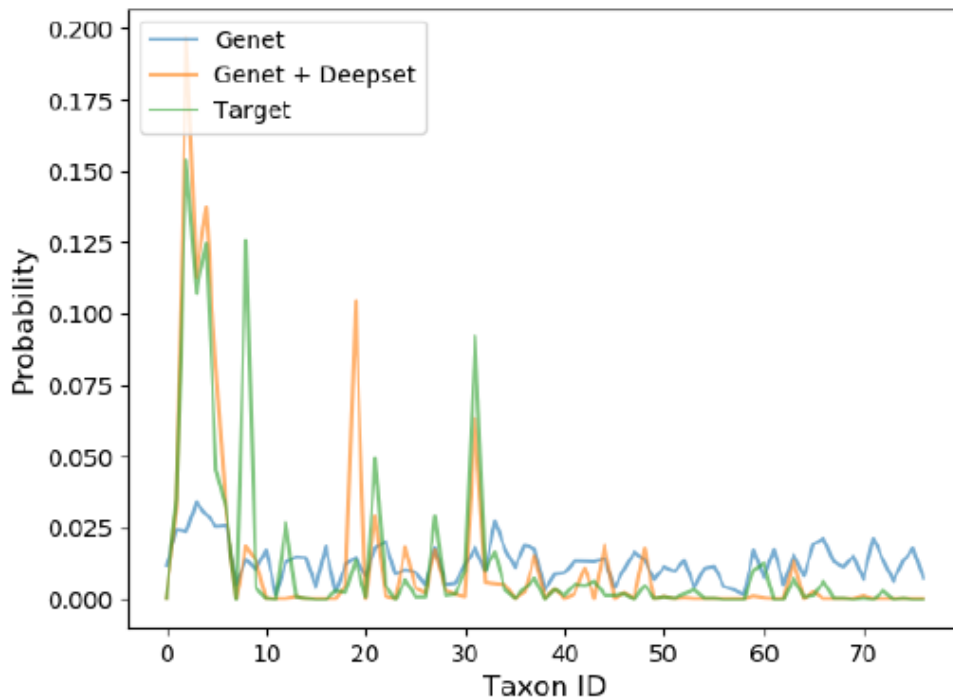


- Proteins that bind or not to Calmodulin
- Instances = sequences of length 21, substring co-occurrence features
- MI SVM
- *“The weights for the 1-spectrum features closely follow the amino acid propensities in CaM binding sites”*



**Fig. 5.** Comparison between literature motifs and best match top instance motifs ('TIM') and best match center instance motifs ('CIM'). Motifs were identified by HOMER which was separately run on top (TI) and central (CI) sequences

- Bag = DNA sequence, binds or not to a TF
- Instances = all subsequences, represented by co-occurrence features
- SimpleMIL, mean combining



- Predict distribution of taxa in a metagenomics DNA read (bag)

Georgiou, A., Fortuin, V., Mustafa, H., & Räscht, G. (2019). Deep Multiple Instance Learning<sup>31</sup> for Taxonomic Classification of Metagenomic read sets. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1909.13146*.

# Similarities & Differences

- Representation
  - Instance = often “part of” bag (not “is a”)
  - “Distribution” problems more common
  - Instance correlations?
- Label type
  - Class label, proportion in medical imaging
  - Label, ranking, distribution



# Similarities & Differences

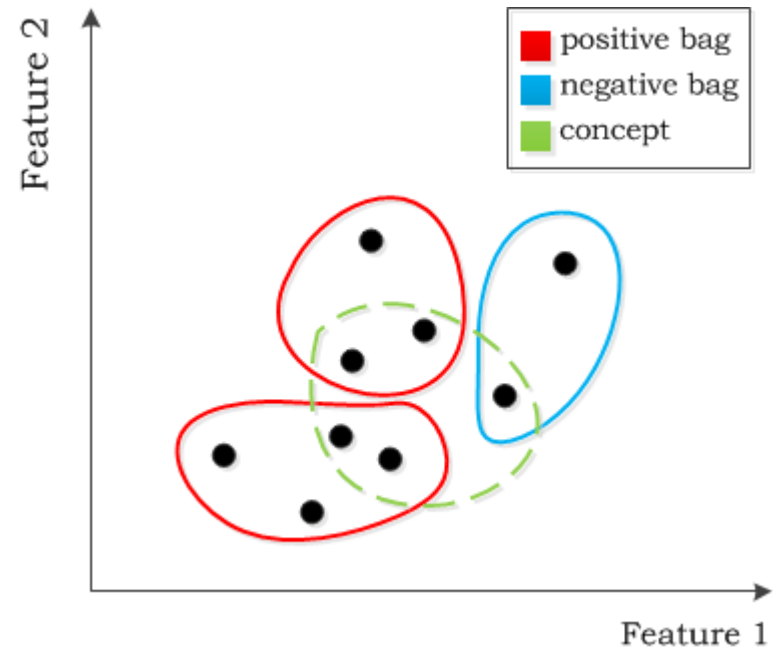
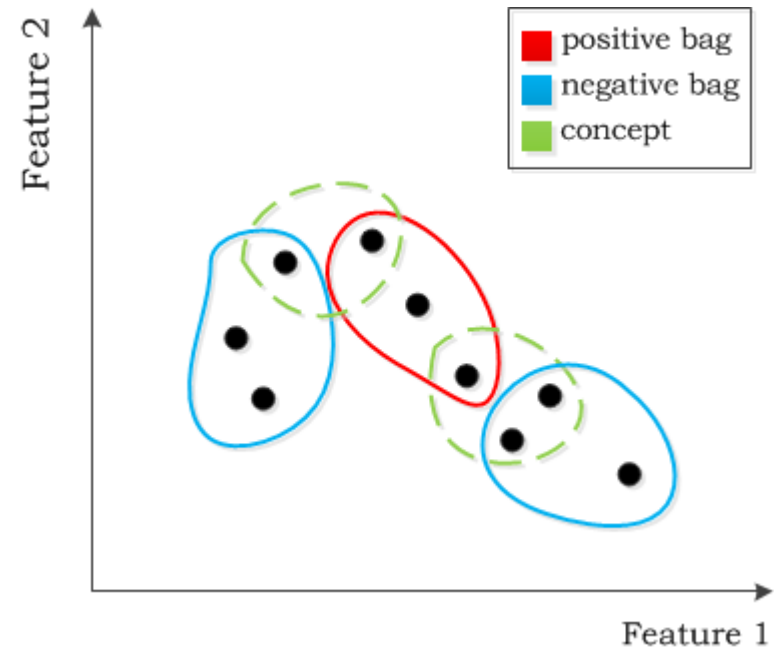
- Methods
  - Existing vs “novel” methods
  - Simple methods are competitive
- Instance labels
  - Source of labels
  - Use of instance labels for training
- Open science

# Challenges



# Many variants

- Relationship bag/instances, “is a” or “is part of”?
- What are the assumptions about the labels?
- What is the goal of the classifier?



# Multiple Instance Learning

## Group-based Classification

## Set Classification

## Collective Classification

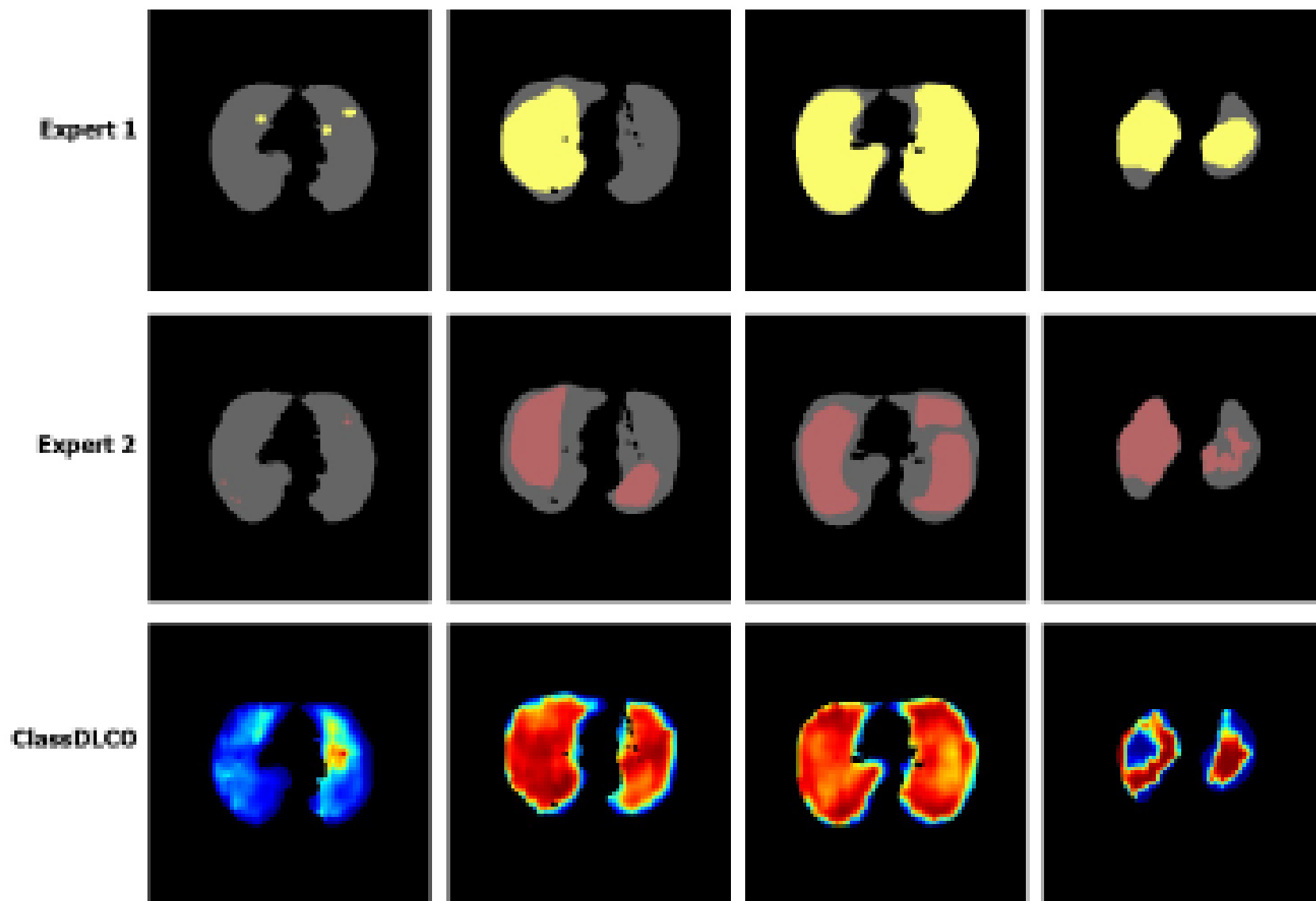
Cheplygina, V., Tax, D. M. J., & Loog, M. (2015). On classification with bags, groups and sets. *Pattern Recognition Letters*, 59, 11-17.



Where are the abnormalities?

This is an axial CT scan of the chest. A large, well-defined, soft-tissue density mass is visible in the central mediastinum, likely representing a large lymph node or a central lung mass. Additionally, there are numerous small, well-defined, rounded nodules scattered throughout both lung fields, particularly in the peripheral regions. The bronchovascular bundles are visible, and the surrounding lung parenchyma appears relatively normal except for the presence of these nodules.

**Ground  
truth?**



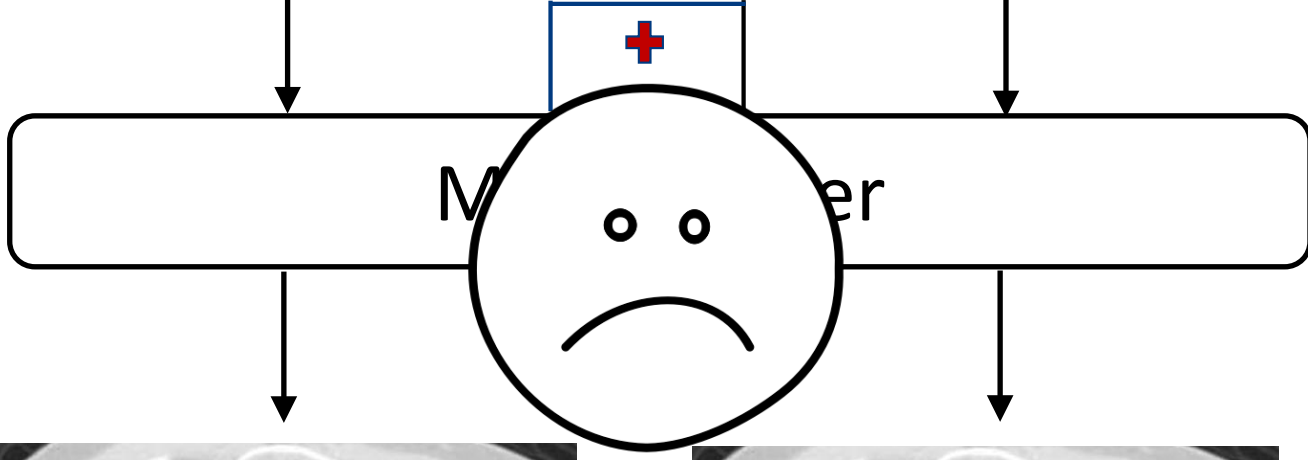
*Work by Isabel Pino Pena*

# Instance labels often not available

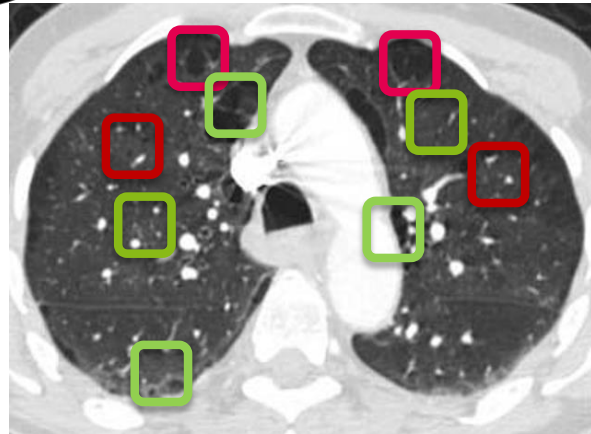
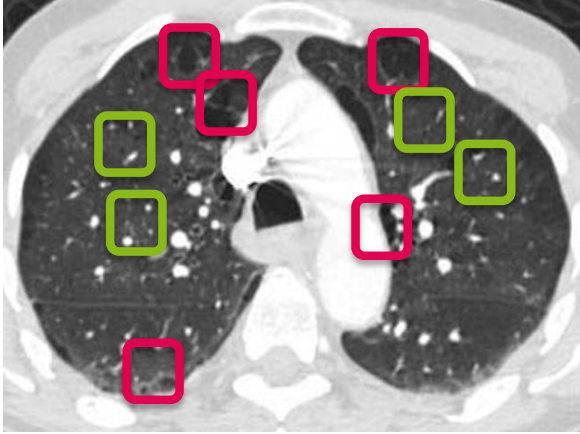
Task	B	I	Task	B	I
Cancer histology [9]	+	+	Diabetic retinopathy [9]	+	-
COPD in CT [6]	+	-	Tuberculosis in XR [13]	+	o
Cancer histopathology [22]	+	+	Osteoarthritis in MRI [12]	+	o
Diabetic retinopathy [16]	+	+	Pulmonary embolism in CT [11]	+	-
Myocardial infarction in ECG [18]	+	-	COPD in CT [17]	+	-
Colorectal cancer in CT [8]	+	-			

**Table 1.** Evaluation of MIL in CAD tasks. Columns show bag (B) and instance (I) evaluation: supervised (+), qualitative (o) or none (-).

Training



Test





# Instance labels can be unstable

Fraction of agreement

Ideally: always 1.0

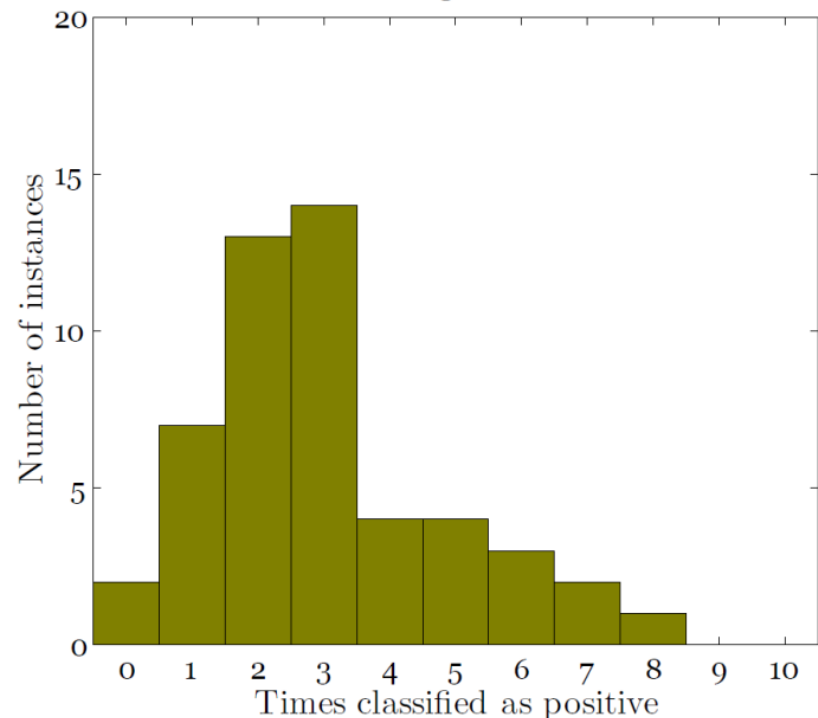
$S_+$

1.0	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.5
0.4	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.4
0.5	0.4	1.0	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.6
0.3	0.2	0.2	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.2
0.6	0.2	0.4	0.3	1.0	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.4
0.5	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.3	1.0	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.4
0.6	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	1.0	0.3	0.4	0.4
0.2	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.3	0.1	0.3	1.0	0.5	0.1
0.4	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	1.0	0.3
0.5	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.3	1.0

How often patches are labeled abnormal

Ideally: either 0x or 10x

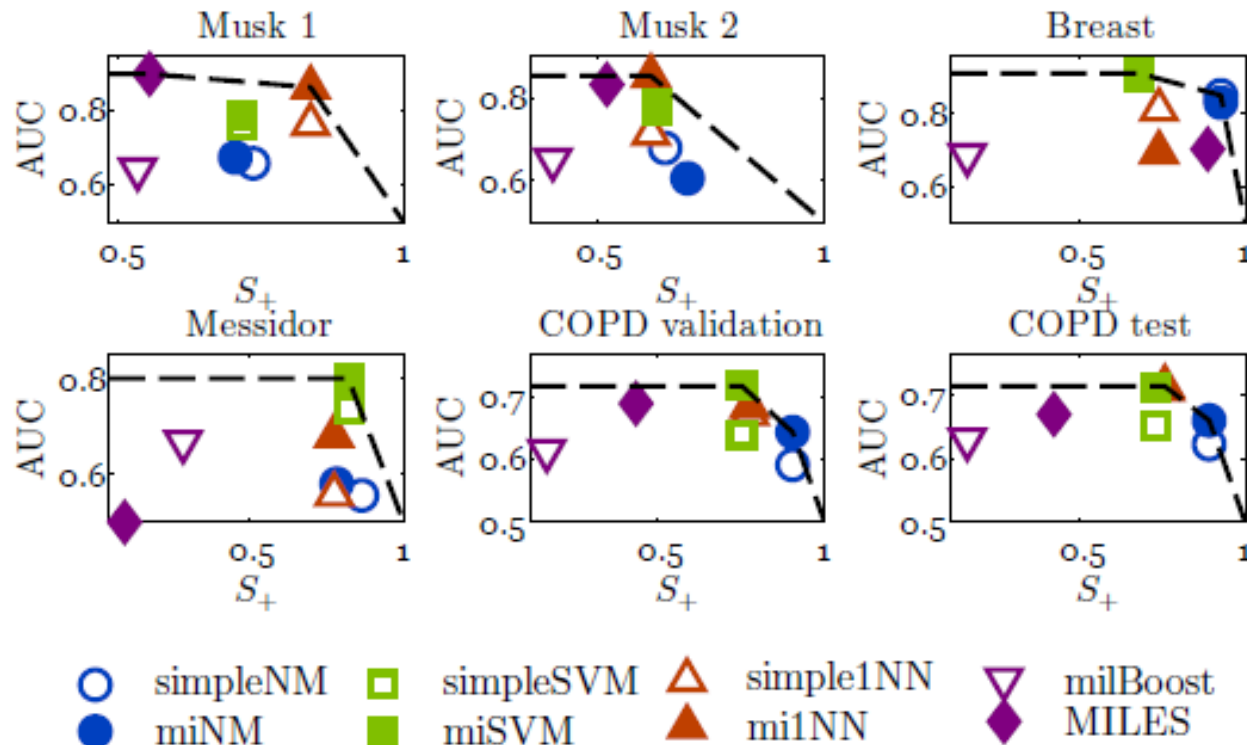
Bag 157



# Similar situation in other datasets

6 datasets, 8 MIL classifiers

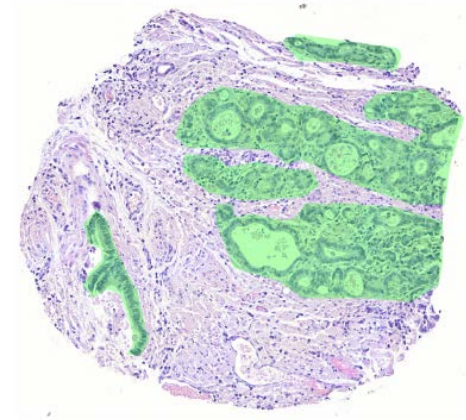
Trade-off bag performance and instance stability



# Bag vs instance performance

	Accuracy (%)	F1 score	AUC-ROC	AUC-PR
mi-Graph [33]	<b>86.4</b>	<b>0.90</b>	<b>0.93</b>	<b>0.97</b>
MILBoost [24]	83.0	0.88	0.91	0.96
B-KI-SVM [17]	82.6	0.88	0.91	0.95
GPMIL [15]	81.2	0.88	0.90	0.93
I-KI-SVM [17]	80.3	0.86	0.89	0.93
iAPR [7]	79.4	0.87	0.88	0.94
Citation k-NN [26]	74.5	0.83	0.72	0.82
EMDD [31]	72.2	0.83	0.72	0.82
mi-SVM [2]	68.4	0.81	0.86	0.76
MI-SVM [2]	68.1	0.81	0.89	0.94
SIL-SVM [3]	68.1	0.81	0.92	0.95
Fully Supervised SVM	85.0	0.90	0.92	0.96

Bag-level

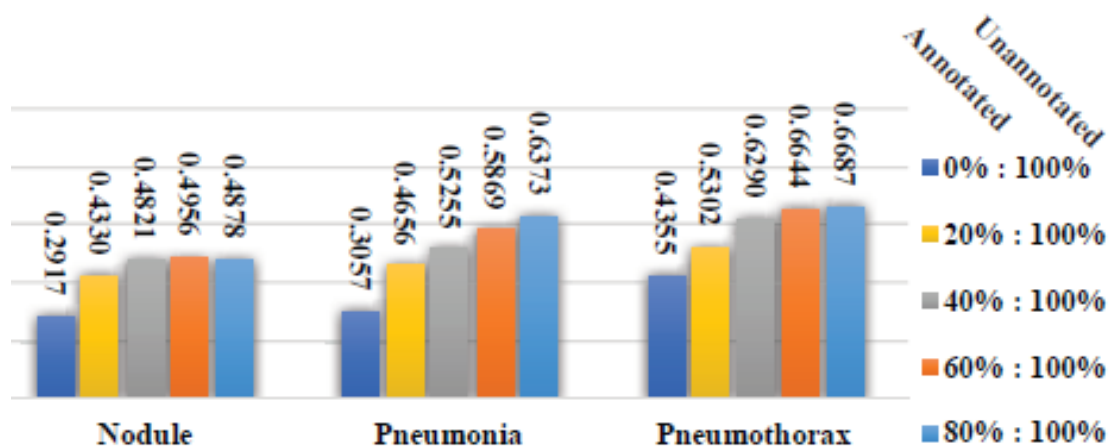


	Accuracy (%)	F1 score	AUC-ROC	AUC-PR
MILBoost [24]	<b>66.7</b>	0.70	0.75	0.71
GPMIL [15]	65.8	0.54	0.77	0.69
B-KI-SVM [17]	64.7	0.48	0.67	0.67
I-KI-SVM [17]	63.0	0.37	0.69	0.68
mi-SVM [2]	62.7	<b>0.71</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>0.82</b>
iAPR [7]	57.8	0.34	0.50	0.47
Citation k-NN [26]	54.3	0.67	0.69	0.76
EMDD [31]	54.1	0.33	0.56	0.52
MI-SVM [2]	46.9	0.64	0.74	0.71
SIL-SVM [3]	46.9	0.64	0.80	0.75
mi-Graph [33]	-	-	-	-
Fully Supervised SVM	83.5	0.82	0.91	0.90

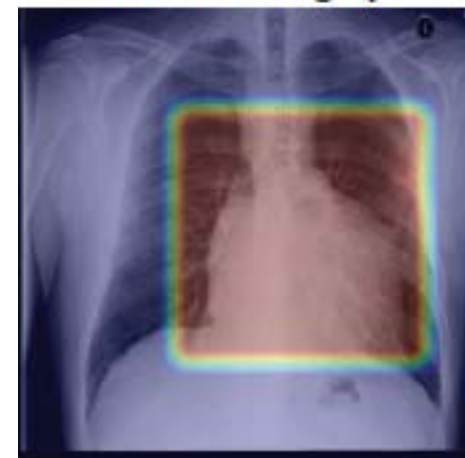
Instance-level

Kandemir, M., & Hamprecht, F. A. (2015). Computer-aided diagnosis from weak supervision: a benchmarking study. *Computerized Medical Imaging and Graphics*, 42, 44-50.

# Bag vs instance performance



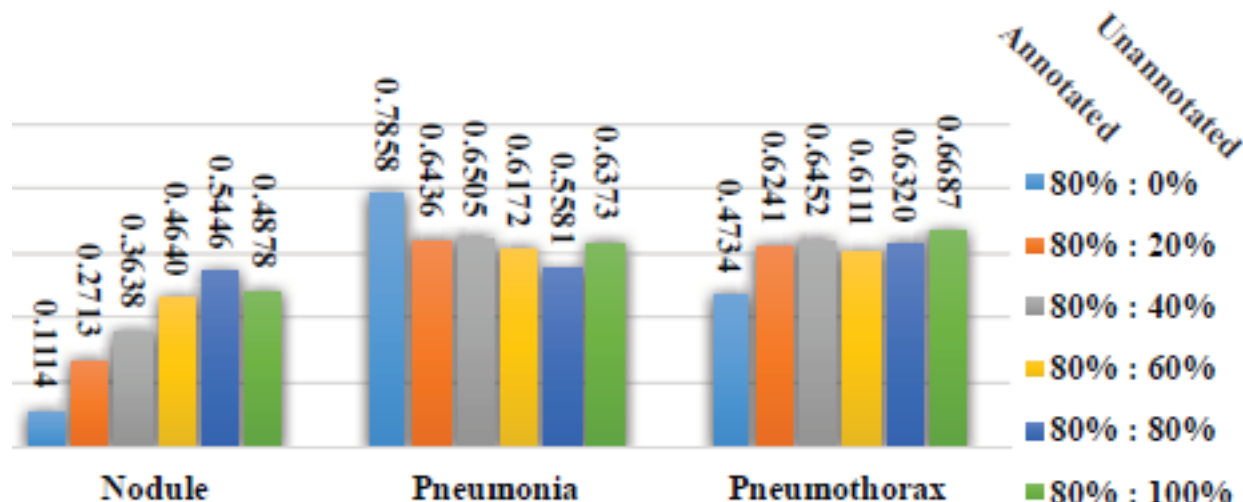
Localization for Cardiomegaly



Training on 100% bags and adding 0-80% instances  
Testing on 20% instances

Adding instances helps!

# Bag vs instance performance



Training on 80% instances and 0-100% bags  
Testing on 20% instances

Adding bags does **can even hurt performance**

# Summary

- Multiple instance learning
  - Definition
  - Classifiers
- Examples
  - Medical imaging
  - Bioinformatics
- Challenges
  - Definitions, what is MIL?
  - Instance label evaluation
  - Bag/instance trade-off





T<sub>1</sub>

H<sub>4</sub>

A<sub>1</sub>

N<sub>1</sub>

K<sub>5</sub>

S<sub>1</sub>

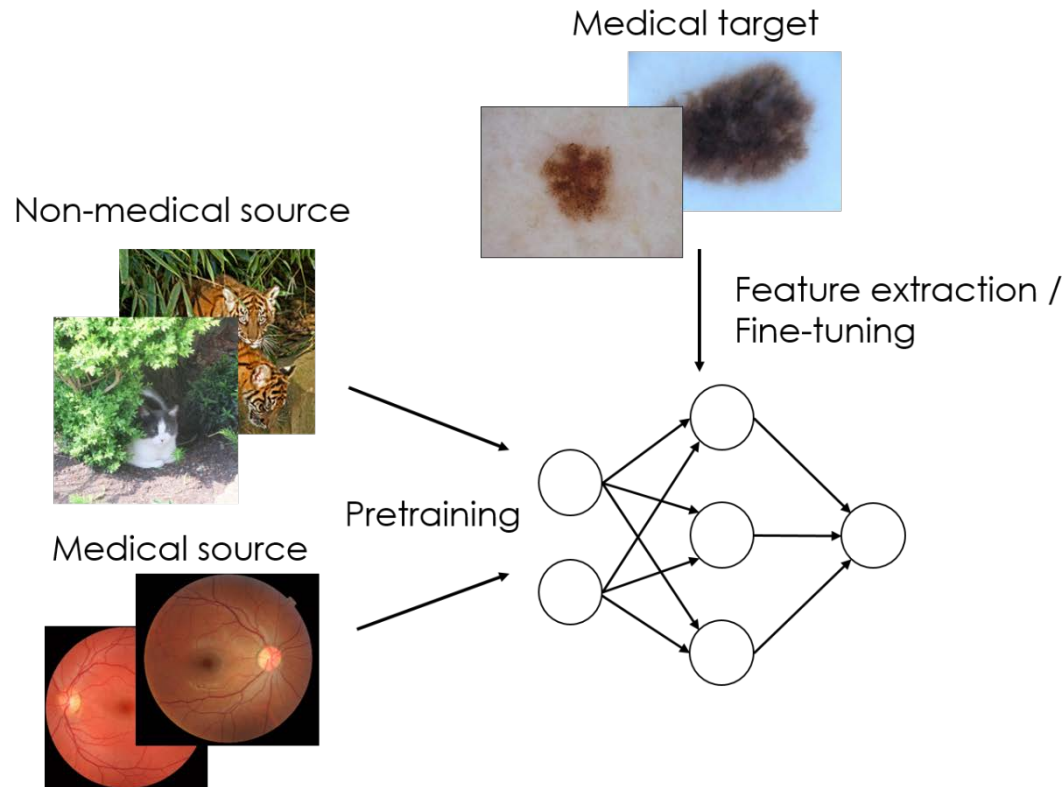
@drveronikach



<http://www.veronikach.com>



# Transfer learning from (dis)similar datasets

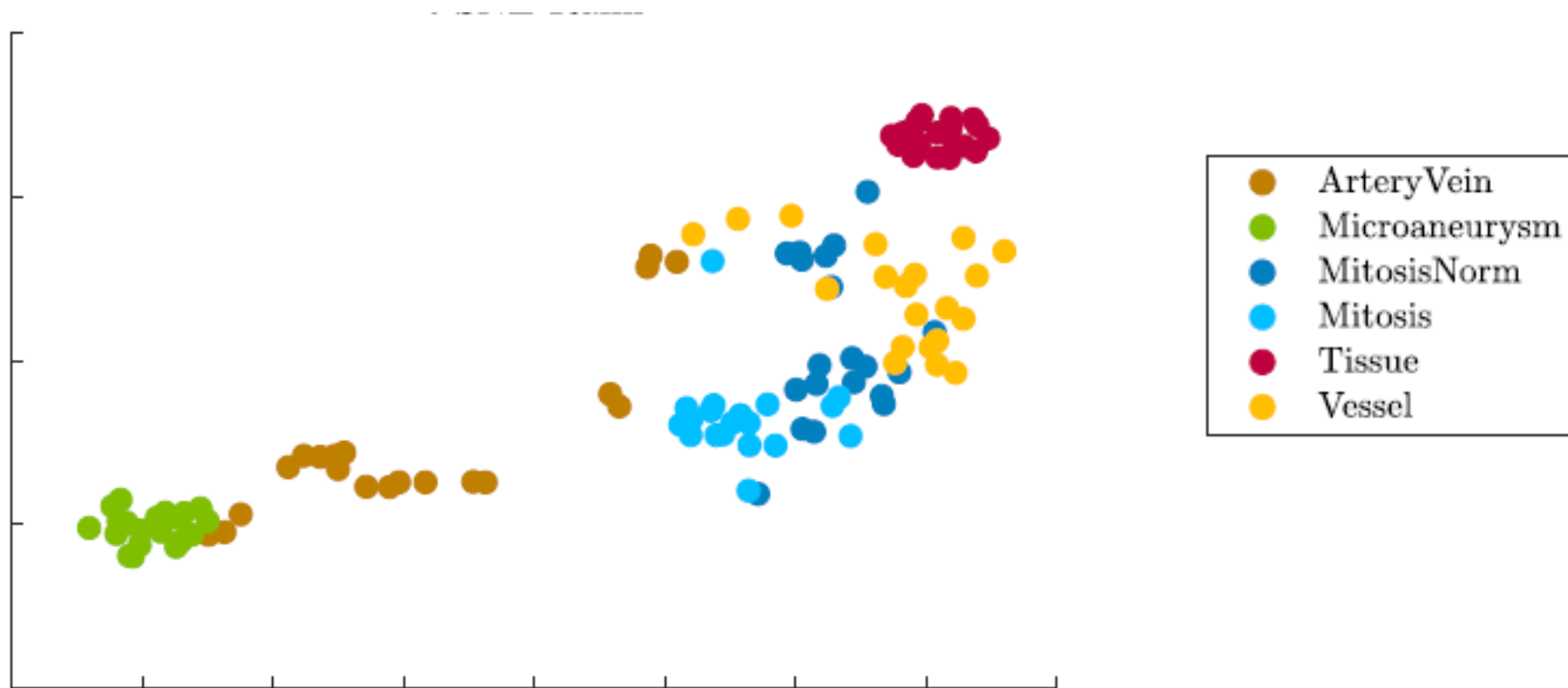


Cats or CAT scans: transfer learning from natural or medical image source datasets?

Cheplygina, V. (2019). Cats or CAT scans: transfer learning from natural or medical image source datasets?. Current Opinion in Biomedical Engineering. [URL](#)



# Meta-learning: how to quantify similarity of data?



Cheplygina, V., Moeskops, P., Veta, M., Bozorg, B. D., & Pluim, J. (2017). Exploring the similarity of medical imaging classification problems. In Large-Scale Annotation of Biomedical Data and Expert Label Synthesis (MICCAI LABELS) (pp. 59-66)

# A Survey of Crowdsourcing in Medical Image Analysis

Silas Ørting<sup>1</sup>✉, Andrew Doyle<sup>2,\*</sup>, Matthias Hirth<sup>3,\*</sup>, Arno van Hilten<sup>4,\*</sup>, Oana Inel<sup>5,7,\*</sup>,  
Christopher R. Madan<sup>6,\*</sup>, Panagiotis Mavridis<sup>7,\*</sup>, Helen Spiers<sup>8,9,\*</sup>, and Veronika Cheplygina<sup>10</sup>✉

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<sup>4</sup> Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

<sup>5</sup> Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

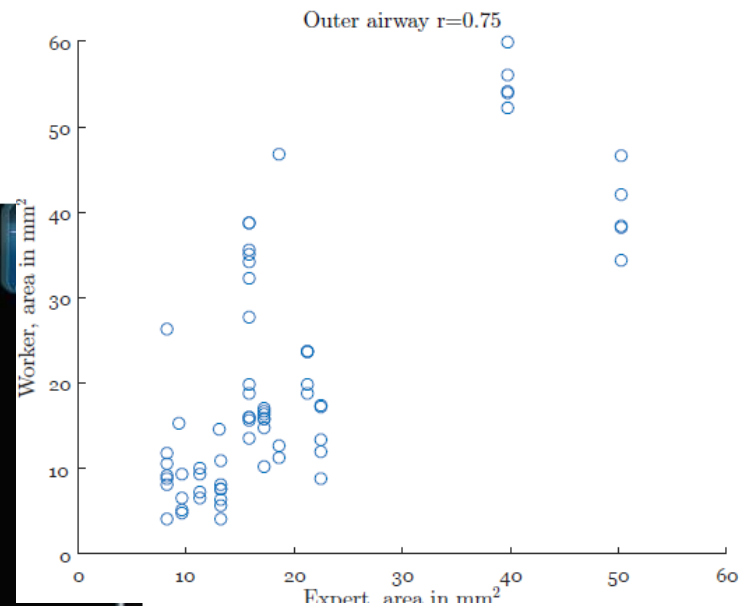
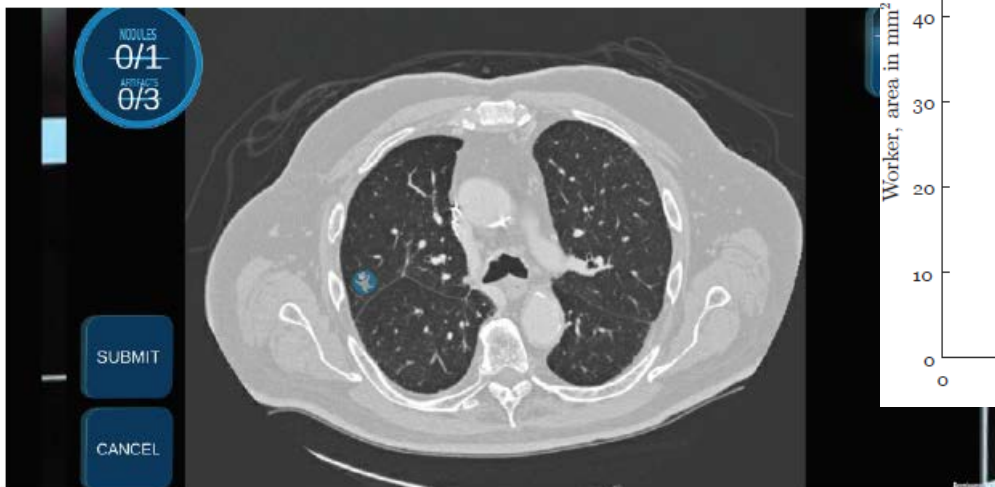
<sup>6</sup> University of Nottingham, Nottingham, United Kingdom

<sup>7</sup> Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands

<sup>8</sup> University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom

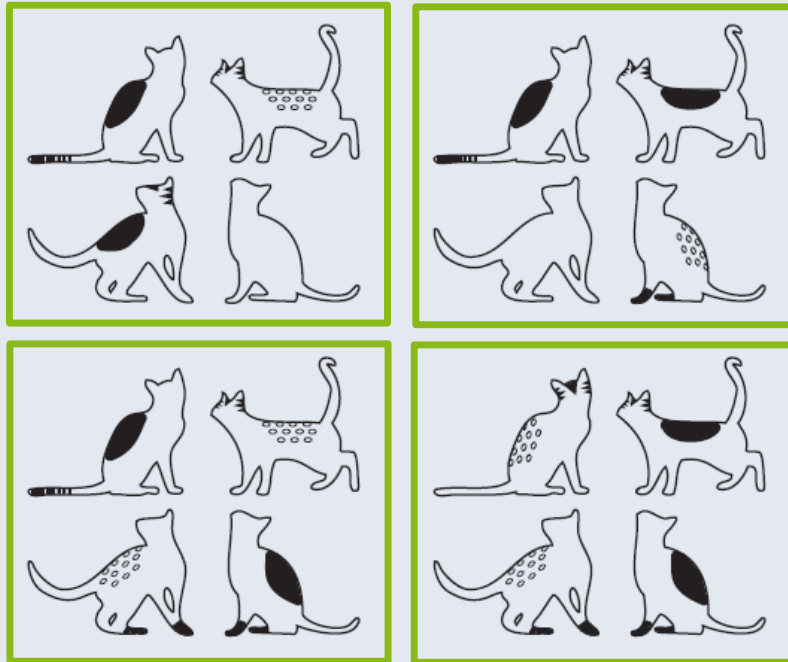
<sup>9</sup> Zooniverse, University of Oxford, Oxford

<sup>10</sup> Eindhoven University of Technology, Eindhoven, The Netherlands



## Dissimilarity-Based Multiple Instance Learning

What is different about the groups of cats on the front cover, from the groups on the back cover? If you can answer this question, you are probably also able to categorize another, previously unseen to you, group of cats. This thesis is about different applications where similar puzzles may occur, and how some machine learning algorithms approach such problems.



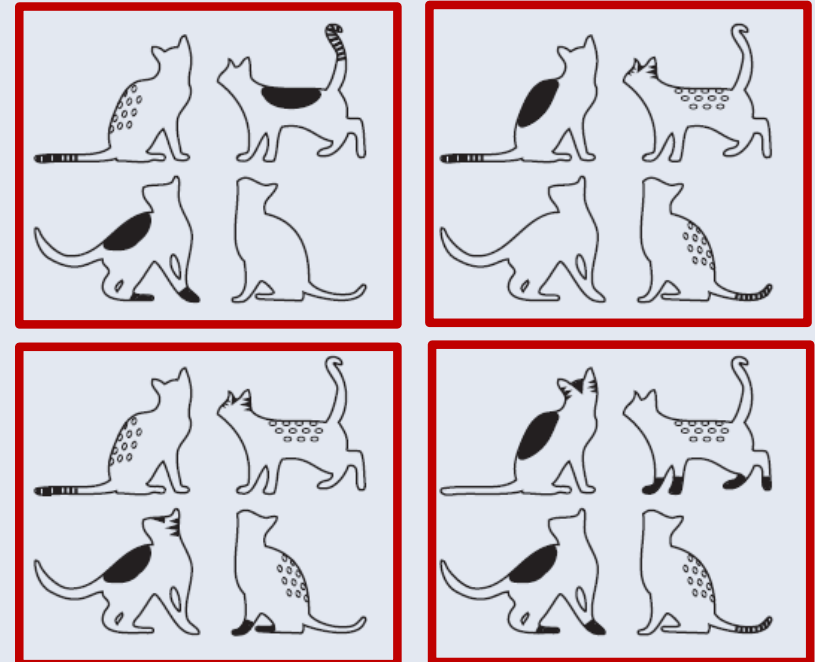
ISBN 978-94-6295-192-1

# Dissimilarity-Based Multiple Instance Learning

Veronika Cheplygina

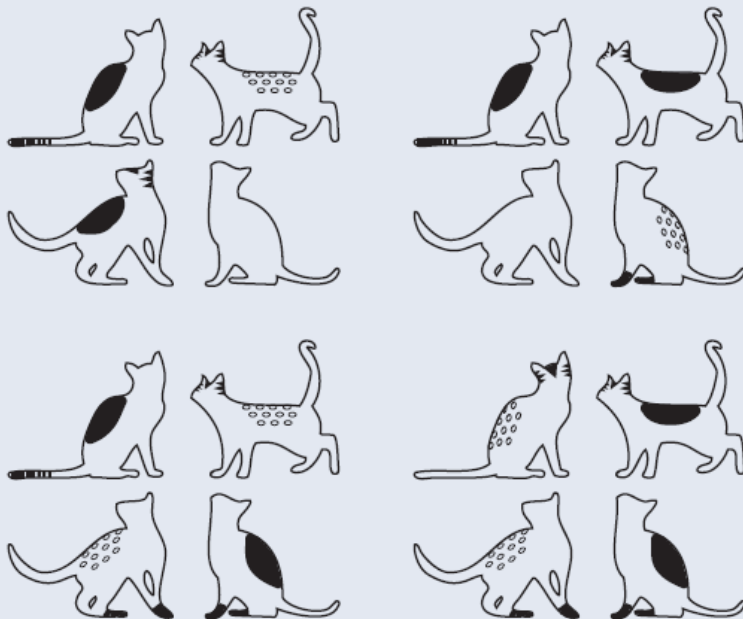
Dissimilarity-Based Multiple Instance Learning

Veronika Cheplygina



## Dissimilarity-Based Multiple Instance Learning

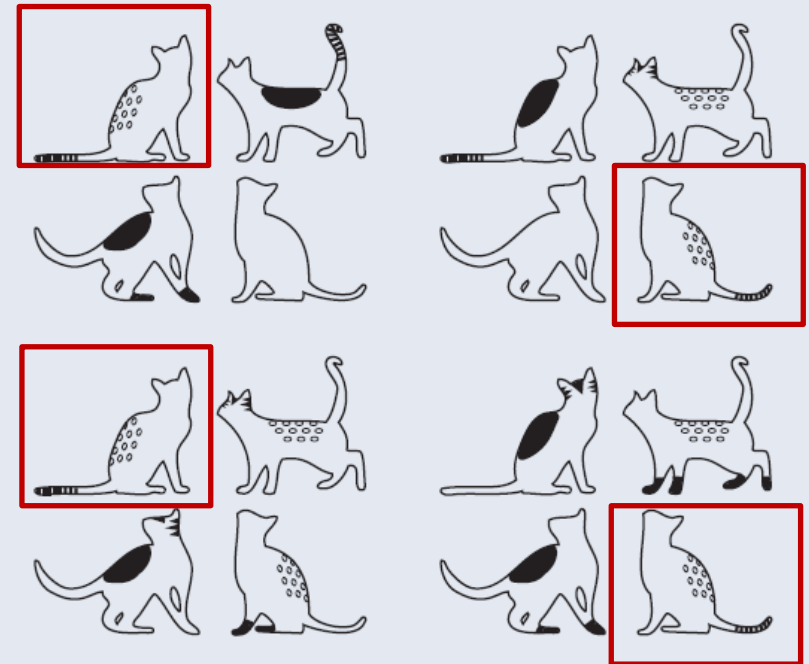
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