

# Teaching Categories to Human Learners with Visual Explanations

Oisin Mac Aodha

University of Edinburgh

[www.oisin.info](http://www.oisin.info)

[@oisinmacaodha](mailto:@oisinmacaodha)

Can we design **teaching algorithms**  
that will enable humans to become  
better at **visual categorization**?

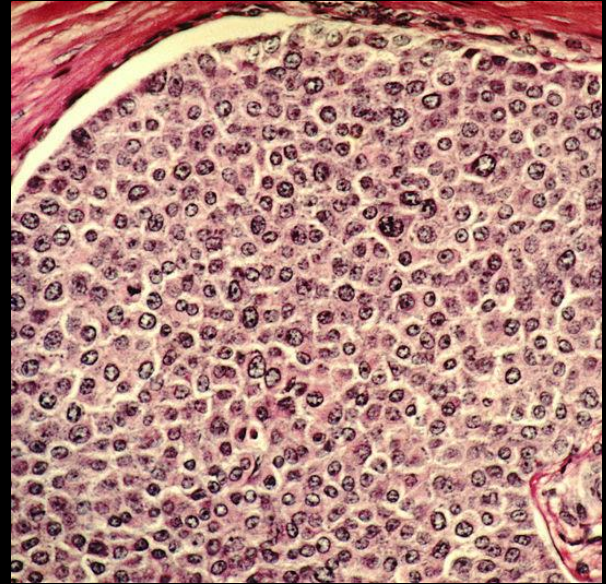
# Why Visual Expertise?

## What species?



# Why Visual Expertise?

## Cancerous?



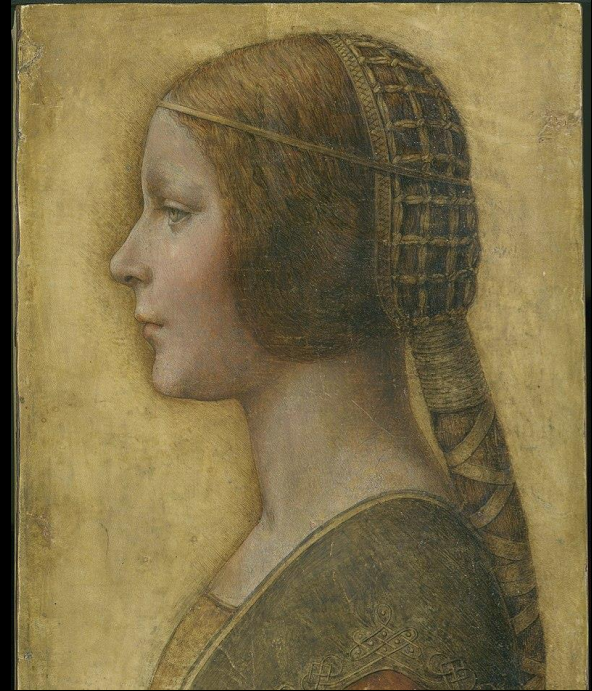
# Why Visual Expertise?

## Poisonous?



# Why Visual Expertise?

## Forgery?



# Challenges - 1 Visual Similarity

Grey heron



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grey\\_heron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grey_heron)

Cocoi heron



<https://ebird.org/species/cocher1>

# Challenges - 2 Within Class Variation



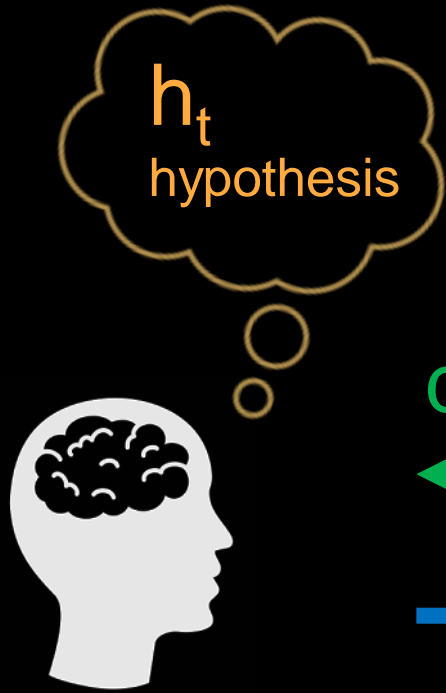
# Challenges - 3 “Attribution”

Which pixels “explain”  
the class label?

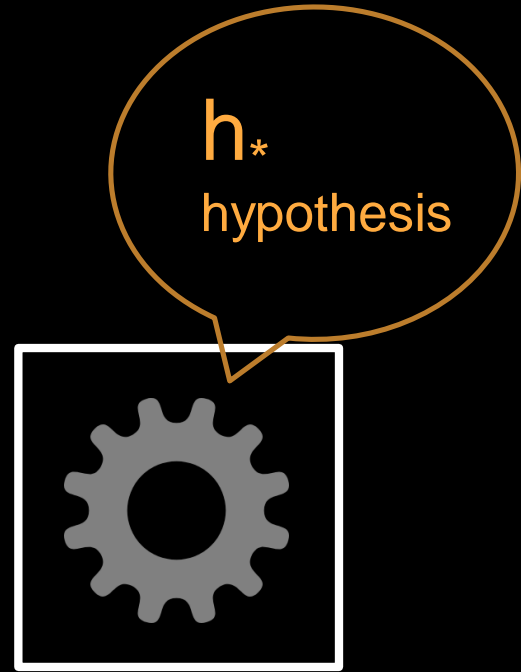


[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grey\\_heron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grey_heron)





Student/Learner



Machine Teacher

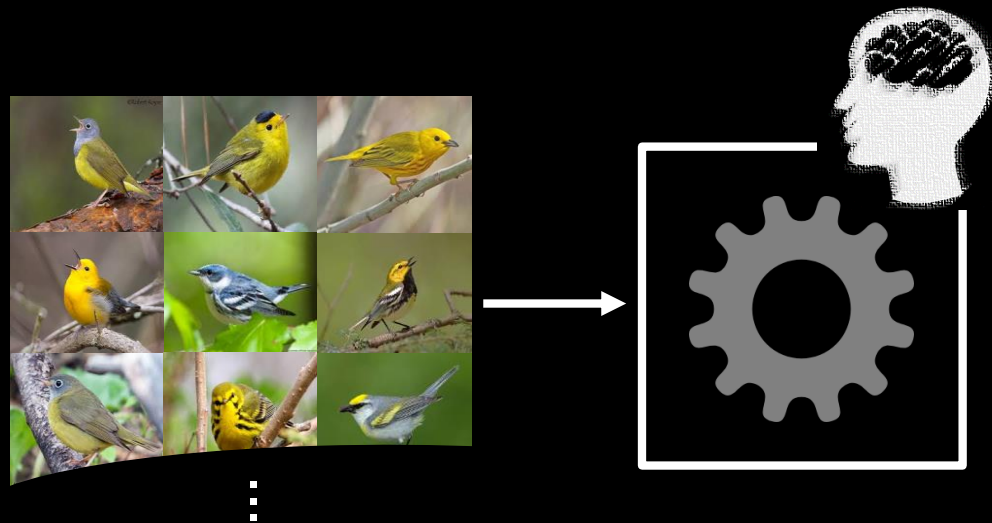
# Teaching Visual Expertise



⋮

Set of images with  
class labels

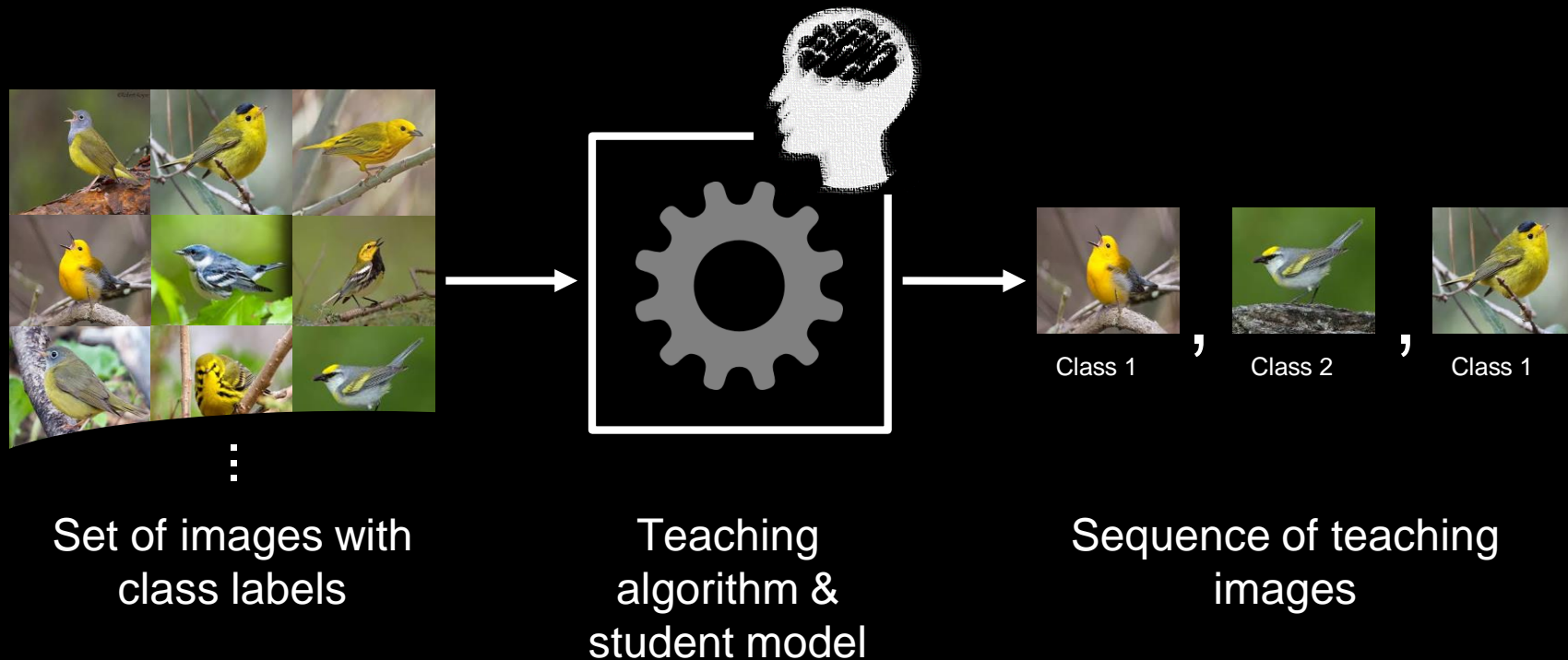
# Teaching Visual Expertise



Set of images with  
class labels

Teaching  
algorithm &  
student model

# Teaching Visual Expertise



# Machine Teaching Landscape

## Theoretical

Goldman & Kearns 1995

Zhu 2013

Chen et al. 2018

...

## Decision Making

Bak et al. 2016

...

## Spaced Repetition

Leitner 1972

Settles & Meeder 2016

Hunziker et al. 2019

Choffin et al. 2019

...

## Visual Categories

Singla et al. 2014

Johns et al. 2015

Chen et al. 2018

...

**Connecticut Warbler  
or MacGillivray's Warbler**



**Connecticut Warbler**  
**or ~~MacGillivray's Warbler~~**



**Connecticut Warbler**



**MacGillivray's Warbler**



**Connecticut Warbler**

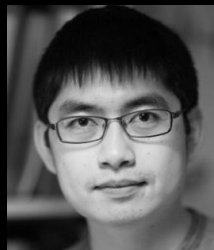


**MacGillivray's Warbler**

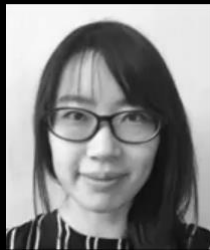


# Teaching Categories to Human Learners with Visual Explanations

## CVPR 2018



Yuxin Chen  
Uni. of Chicago



Shihan Su  
Caltech

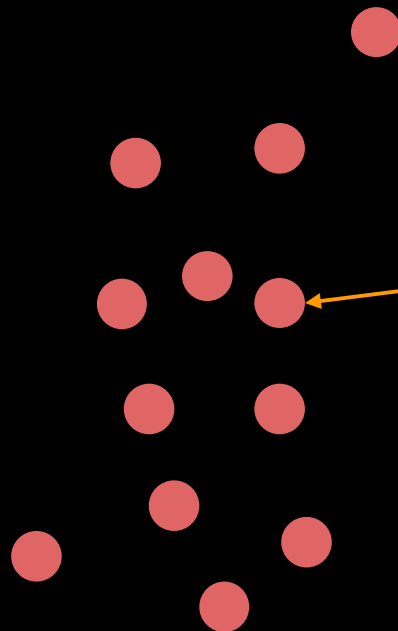
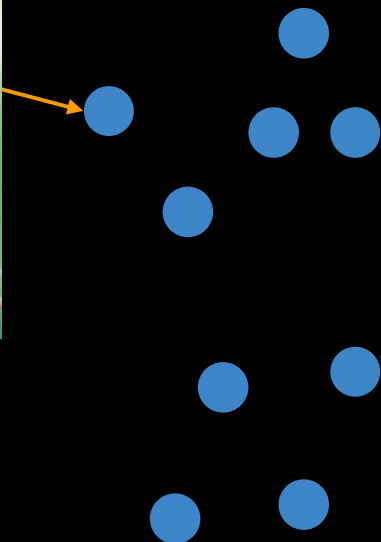


Pietro Perona  
Caltech

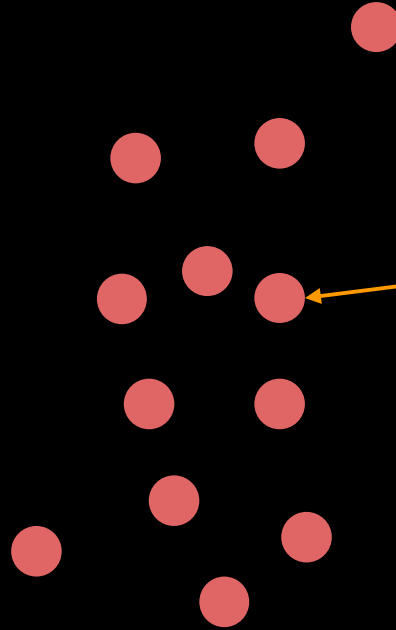
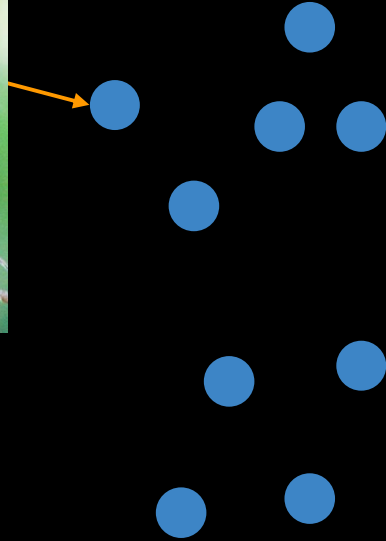
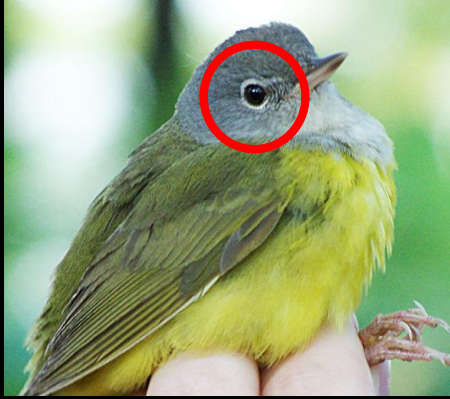


Yisong Yue  
Caltech

x is an image



e is an associated  
explanation



# Visual “Explanations”

Monarch



Viceroy



Queen



Red Admiral



Cabbage  
White



# Visual “Explanations”

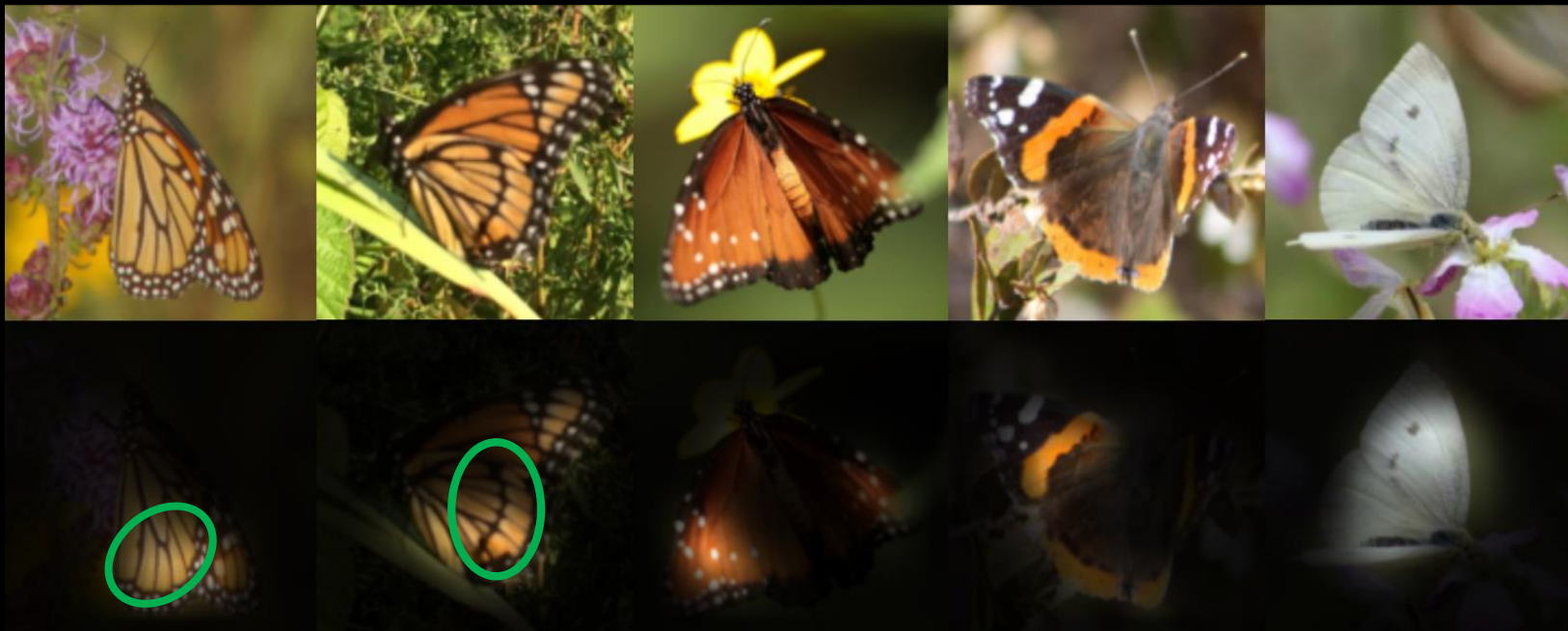
Monarch

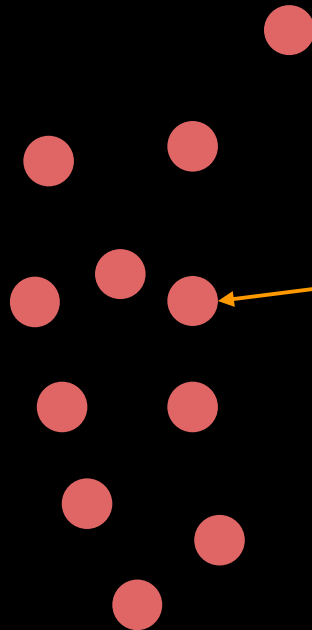
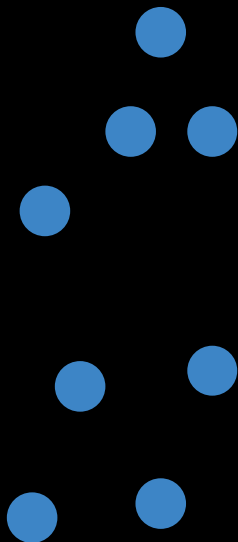
Viceroy

Queen

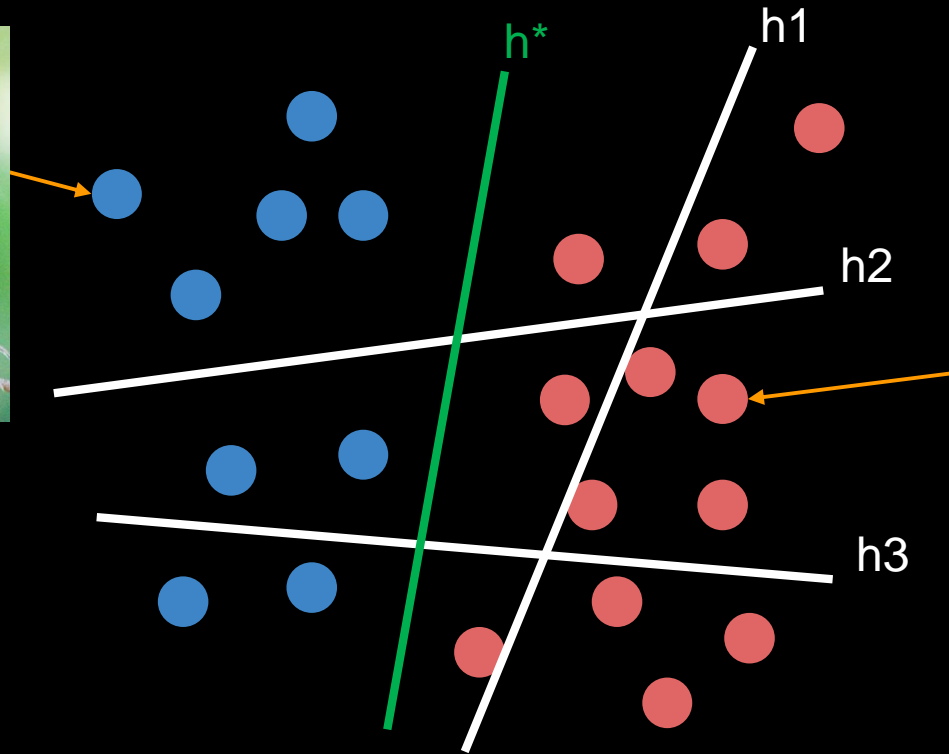
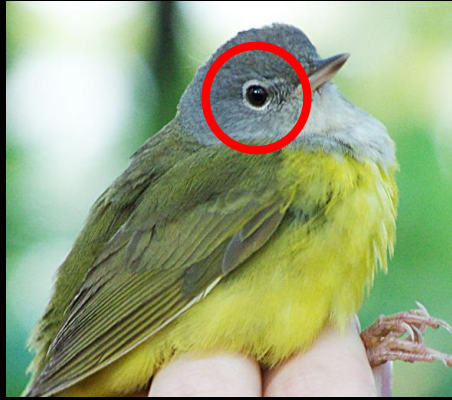
Red Admiral

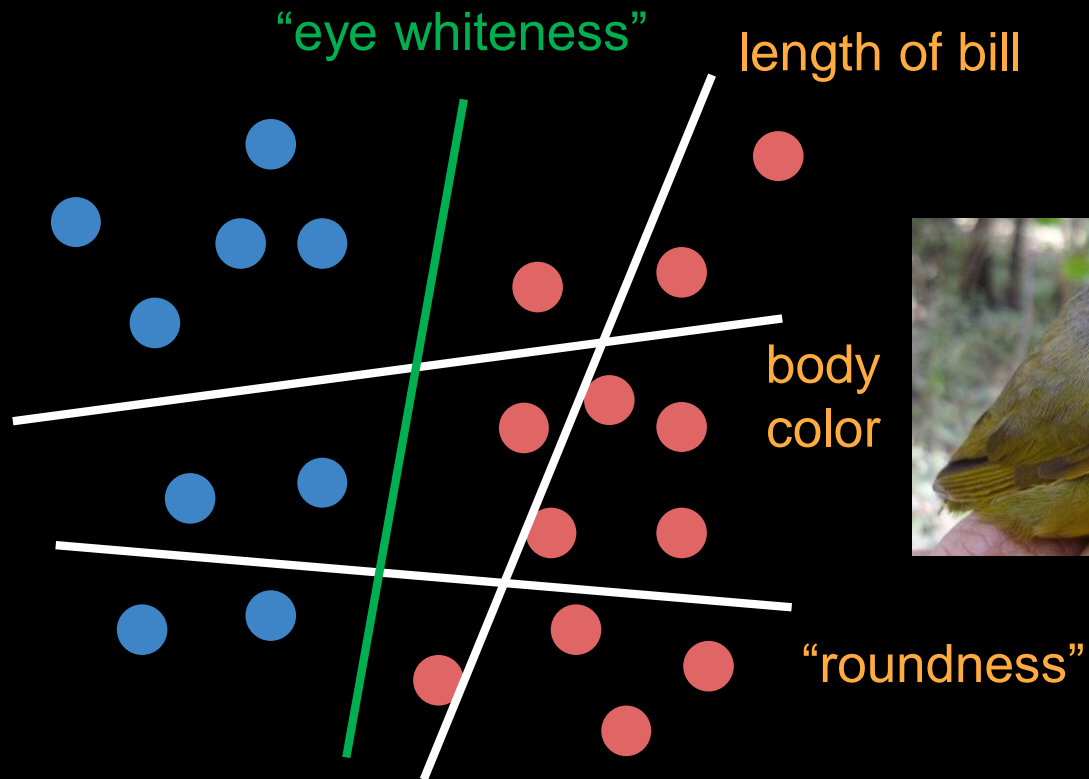
Cabbage  
White

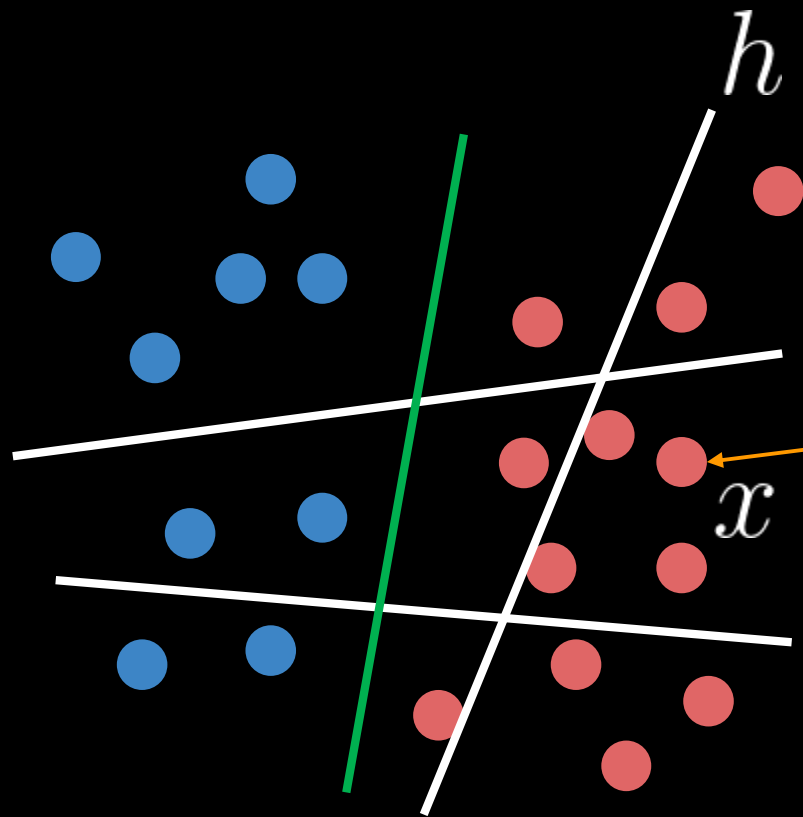




$h$  is a hypothesis



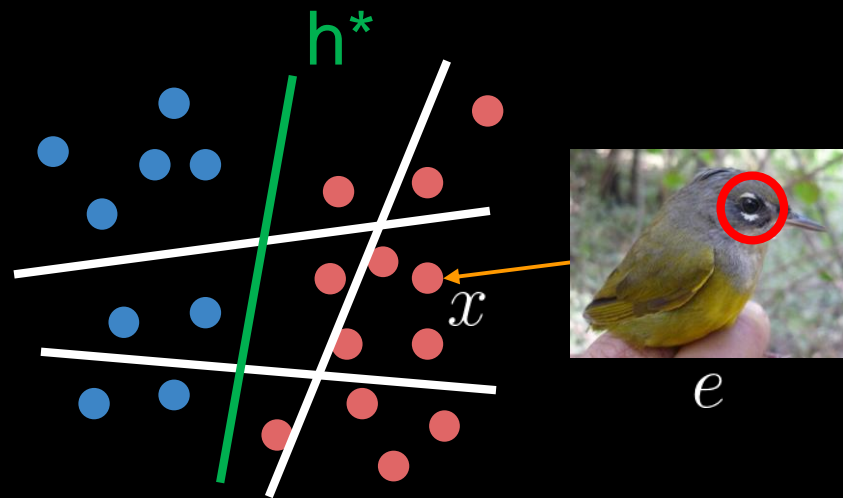




$e$

# How to Choose Teaching Set $T$ to Teach $h^*$ ?

$$T = \{(x_1, y_1, e_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n, e_n)\}$$



# Student Model

$$P(h|T)$$

# Student Model

$$P(h|T) \propto P(h) \prod_{x_t, y_t \in T} S(y_t|h, x_t)$$

“win stay, lose switch”

# Student Model

$$P(h|T) \propto P(h) \prod_{x_t, y_t \in T} S(y_t|h, x_t)$$

“win stay, lose switch”

$$S(y_t|h, x_t) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } y_t = \hat{y}_t^h \\ \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-\alpha h(x_t)y_t)} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Student Model - With Explanations

$$P(h|T) \propto P(h) \prod_{x_t, y_t \in T} S(y_t|h, x_t)$$

“Good”



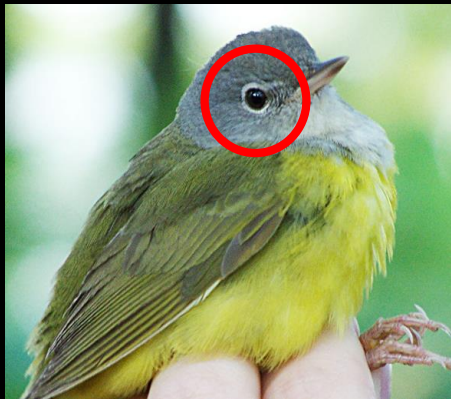
“Bad”



# Student Model - With Explanations

$$P(h|T) \propto P(h) \prod_{x_t, y_t \in T} S(y_t|h, x_t) \prod_{x_t, e_t \in T} (E(e_t) D(x_t))$$

“Good”



“Bad”



## Student Model - With Explanations

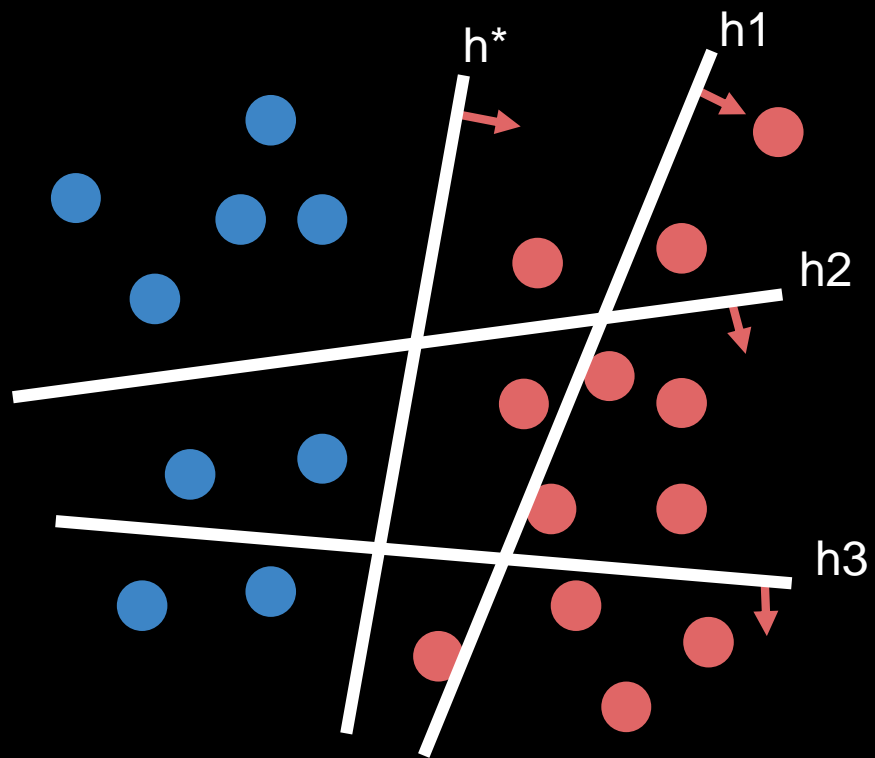
$$P(h|T) \propto P(h) \prod_{x_t, y_t \in T} S(y_t|h, x_t) \prod_{x_t, e_t \in T} (E(e_t) D(x_t))$$

$$E(e_t) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-\beta \text{diff}(e_t))}$$

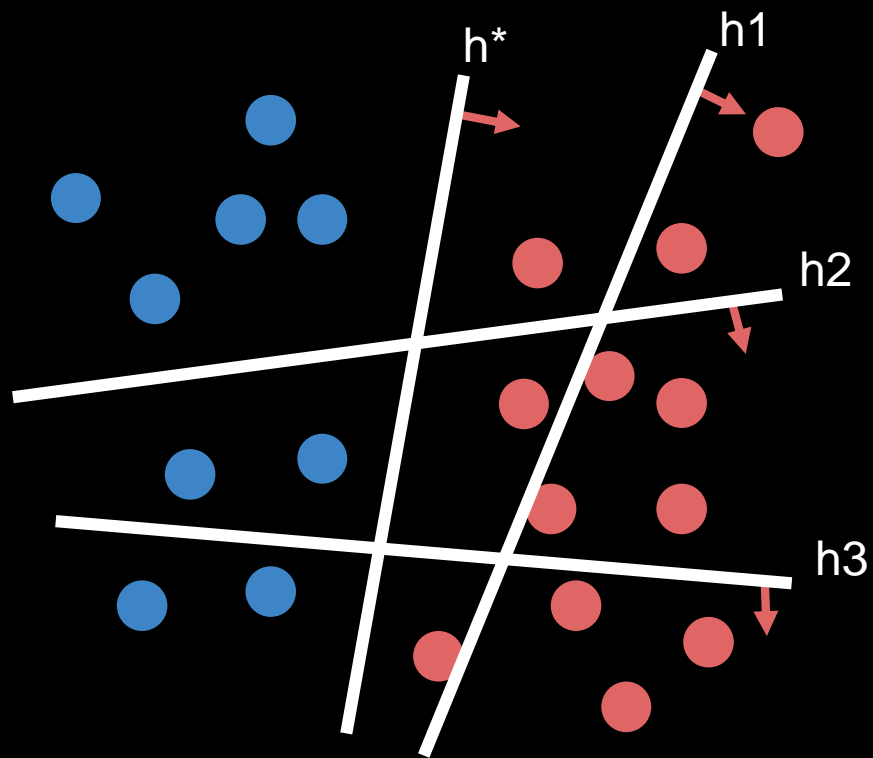
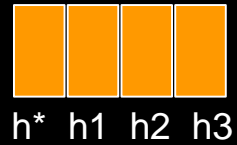
## Selecting the Teaching Set $T$

Select for largest reduction in expected error

$$\mathbb{E}[err(h)|T] = \sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}} P(h|T)err(h)$$

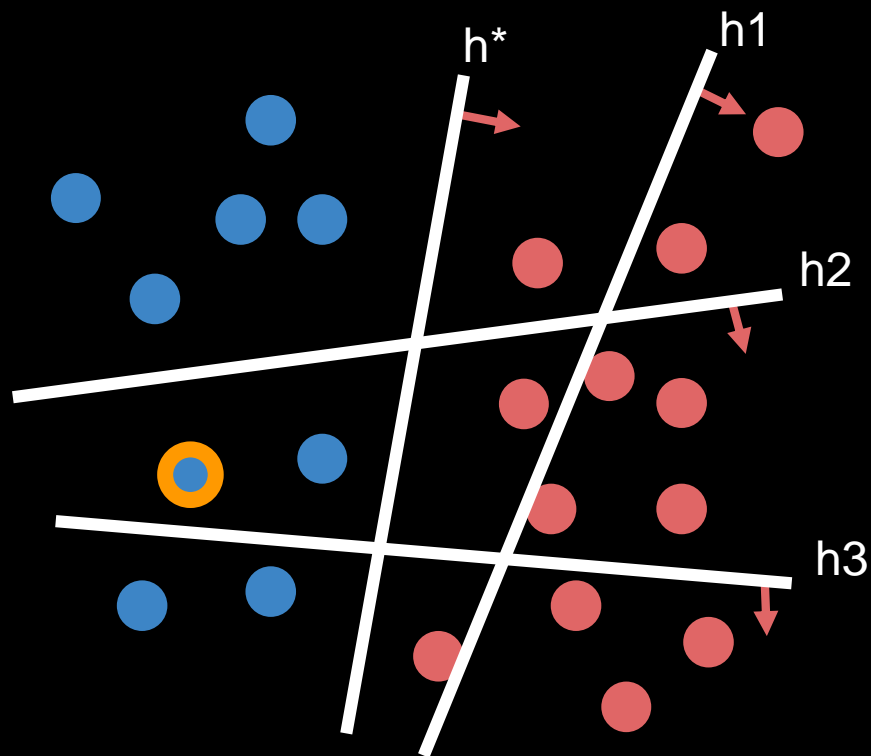
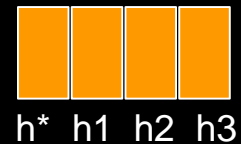


$P(h) =$



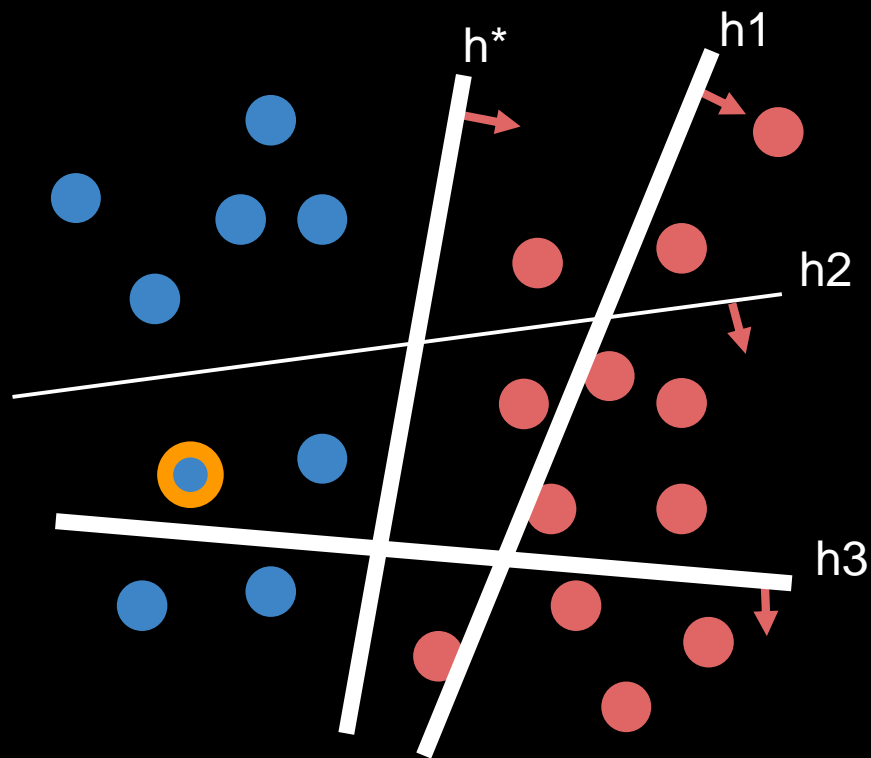
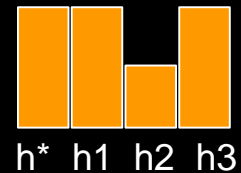
# Select Teaching Example 1

$P(h) =$



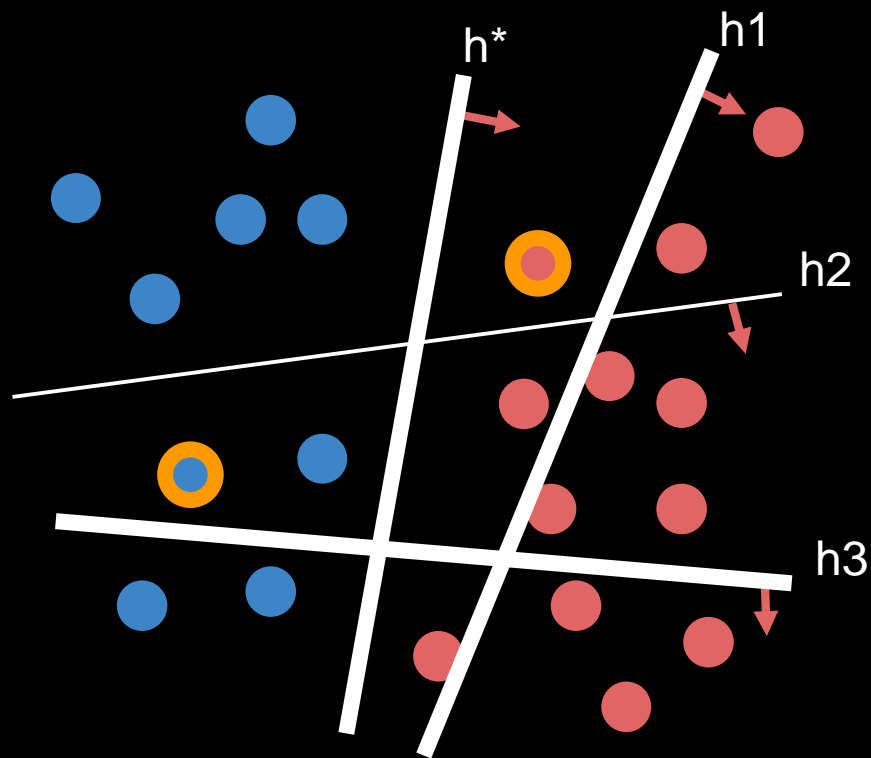
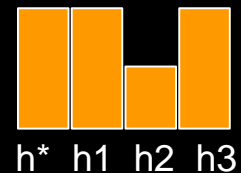
# Update Model

$$P(h|x_1) =$$

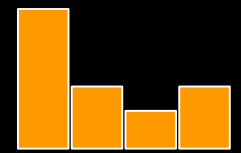


# Select Teaching Example 2

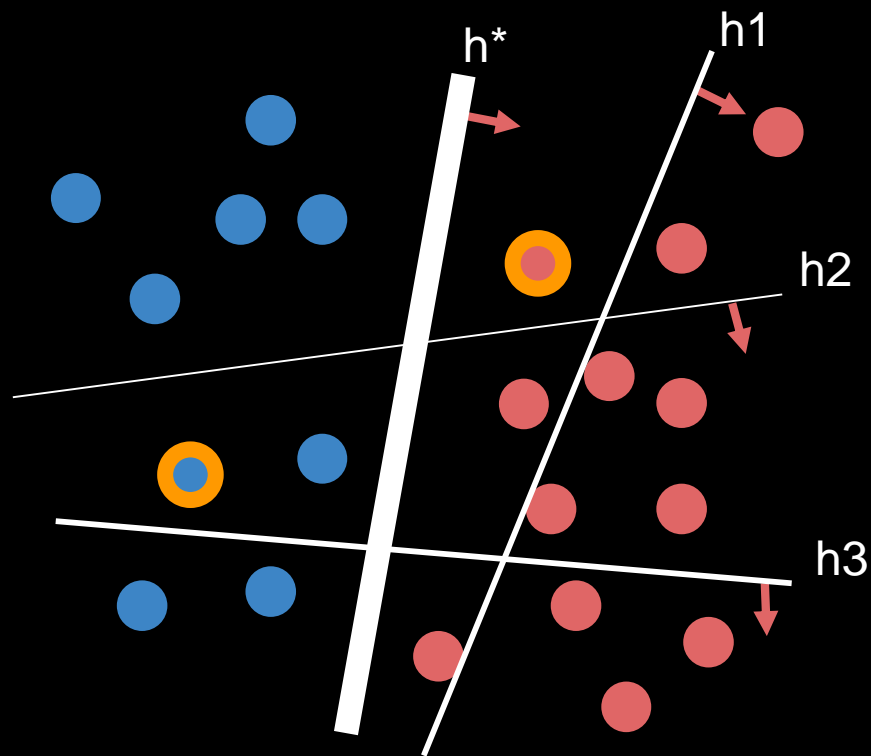
$$P(h|x_1) =$$



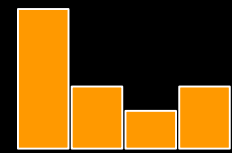
# Update Model

$$P(h|x_1, x_2) =$$


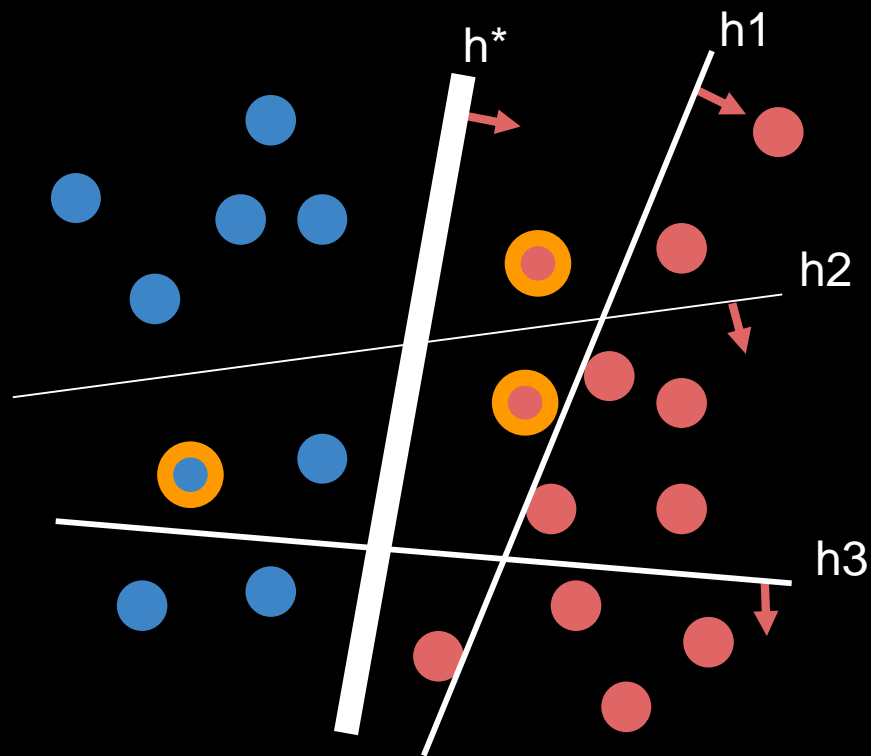
Hypothesis	Probability
$h^*$	0.45
$h1$	0.25
$h2$	0.15
$h3$	0.15



Repeat ...

$$P(h|x_1, x_2) =$$


Hypothesis	Probability
$h^*$	0.45
$h1$	0.25
$h2$	0.15
$h3$	0.15



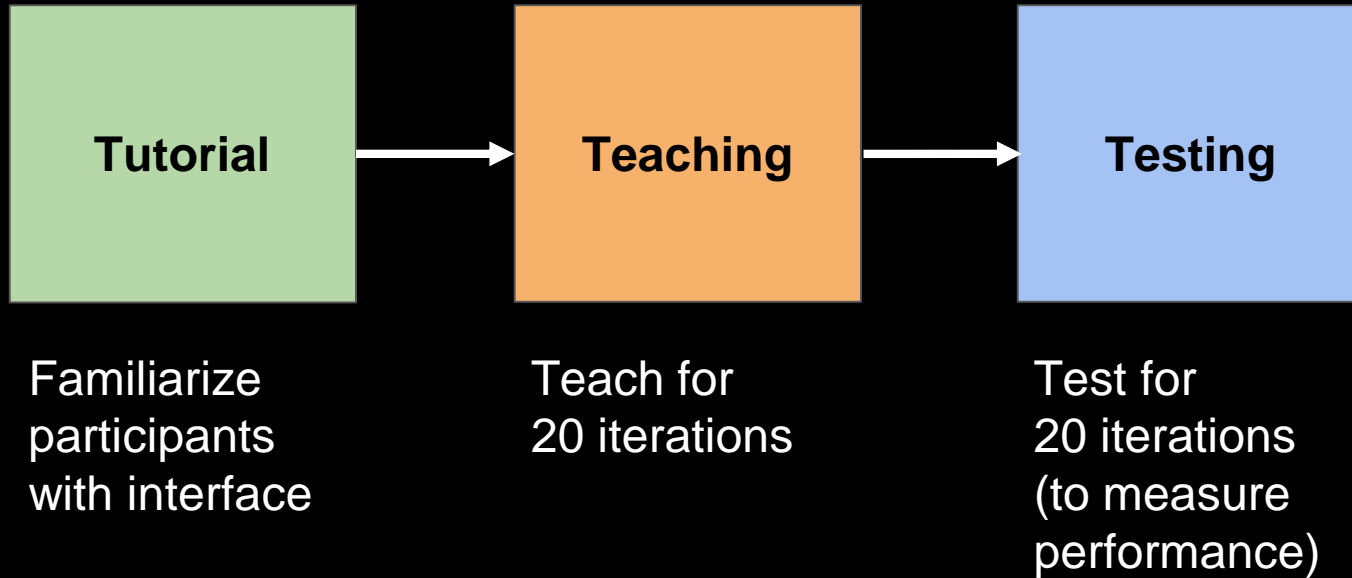
# Multiclass Teaching

Independent posterior per class

$$\frac{1}{C} \sum_c \sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}} P_c(h|T) err_c(h)$$



# Experimental Setup



# Step 1 - Query Learner

Which Species is Present?



A) Viceroy

B) Monarch

C) Queen

D) Red Admiral

## Step 2 - Get Learner Response

Which Species is Present?



**A) Viceroy**



**B) Monarch**

**C) Queen**

**D) Red Admiral**

## Step 3 - Provide Feedback

Which Species is Present?



A) Viceroy

**B) Monarch**



C) Queen

D) Red Admiral



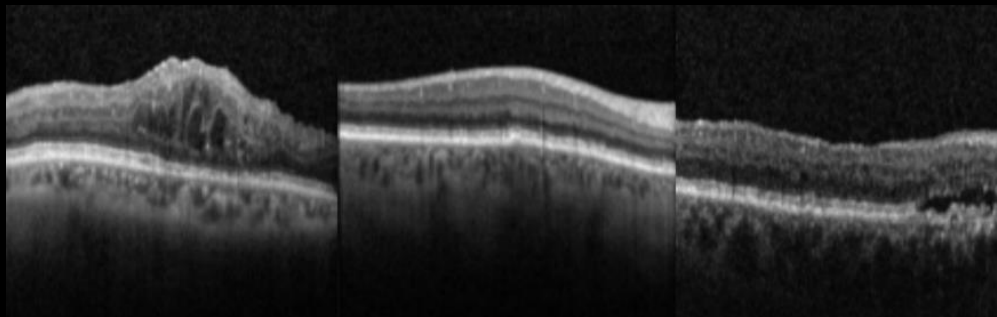
# Retina Images

1125 images, 3 classes

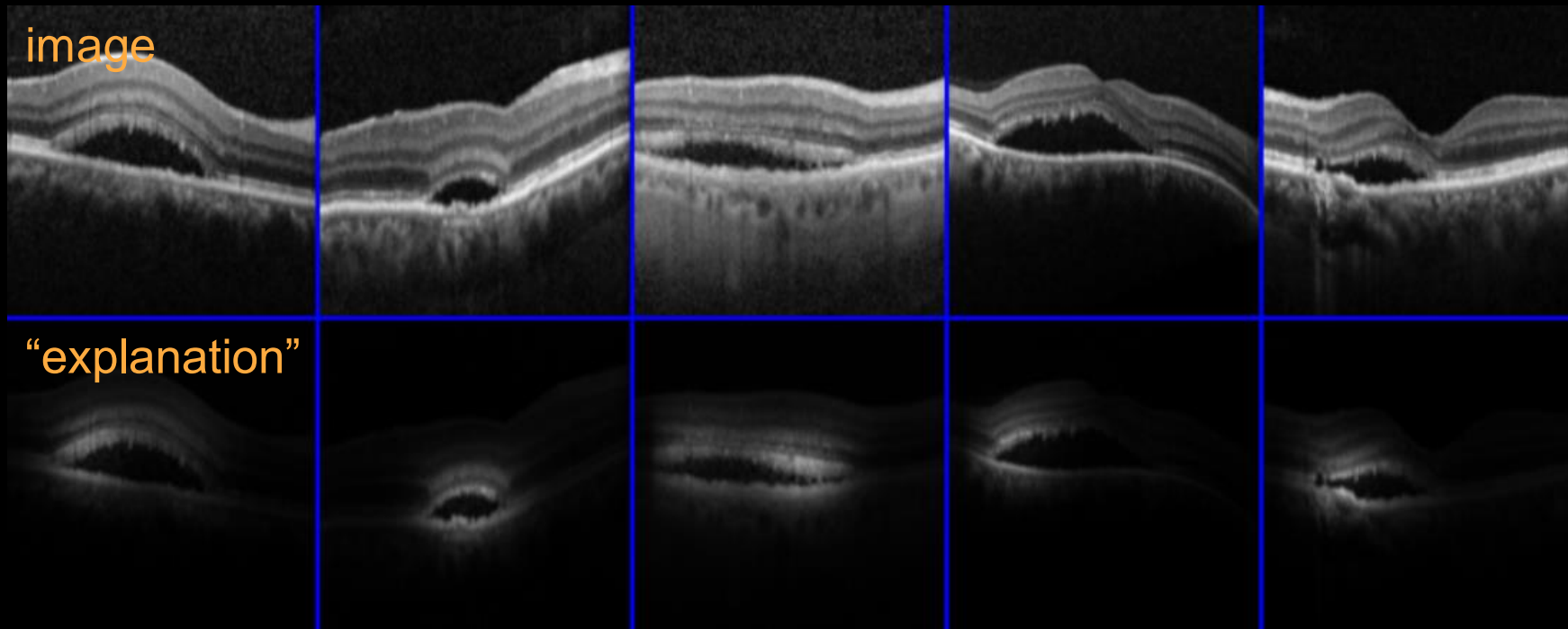
Macular  
Edema

Normal

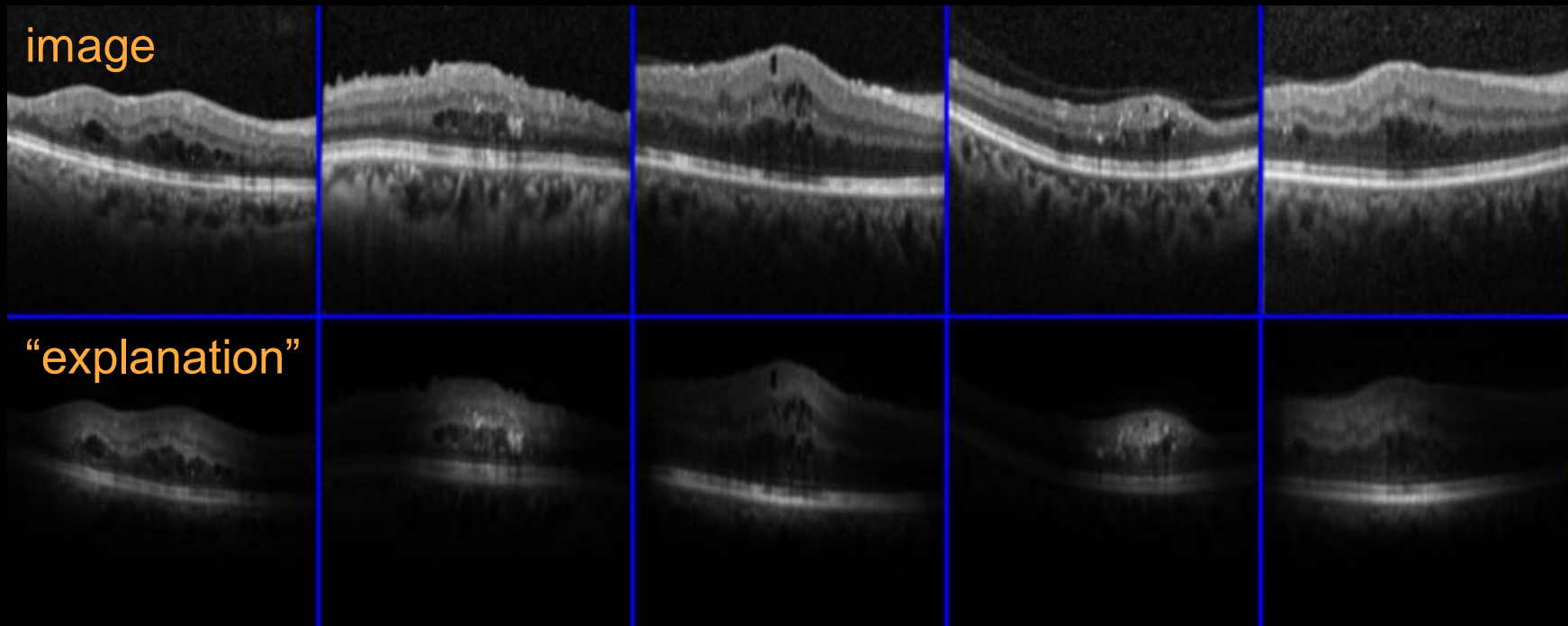
Subretinal  
Fluid



~ 40 participants per dataset per teaching algorithm



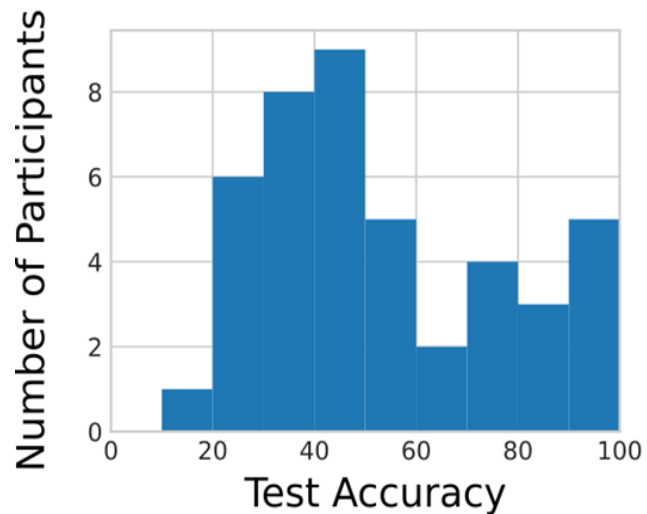
Subretinal fluid



Macular Edema

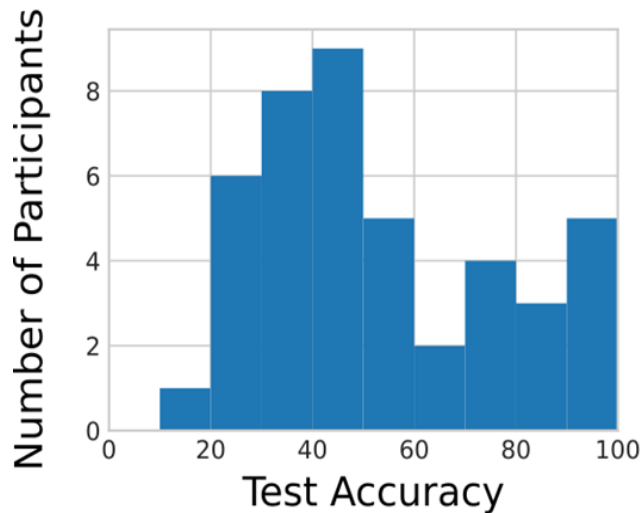
# Results for Retina Images

## Random Image

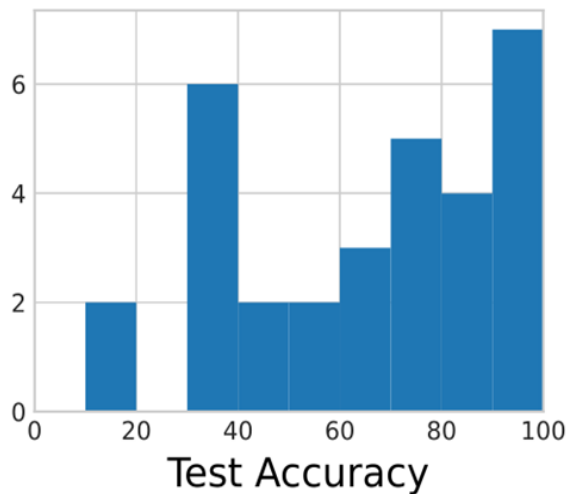


# Results for Retina Images

## Random Image

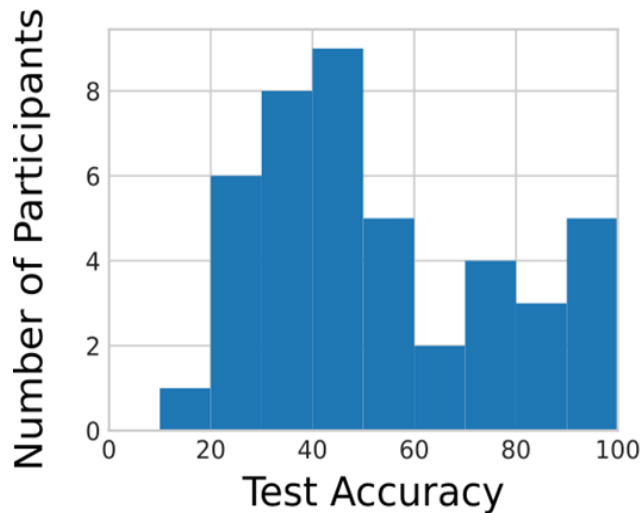


## Random Image with Explanation

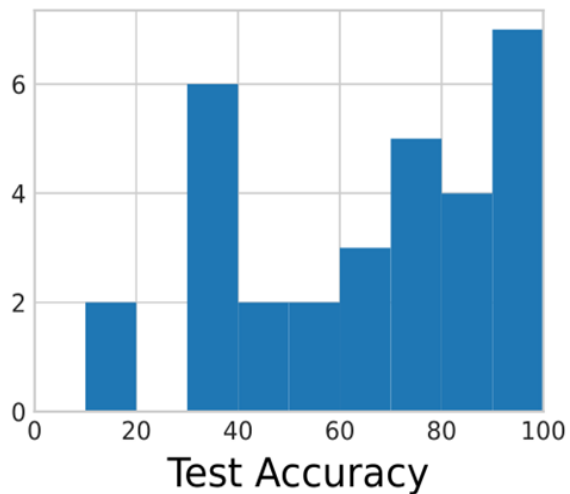


# Results for Retina Images

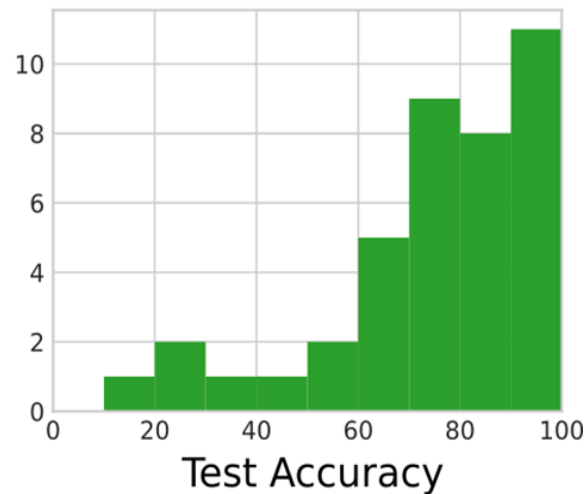
**Random Image**



**Random Image  
with Explanation**



**Explain (Ours)**



# Chinese Characters

717 images, 3 classes

Grass

Mound

Stem

草

阜

蒂

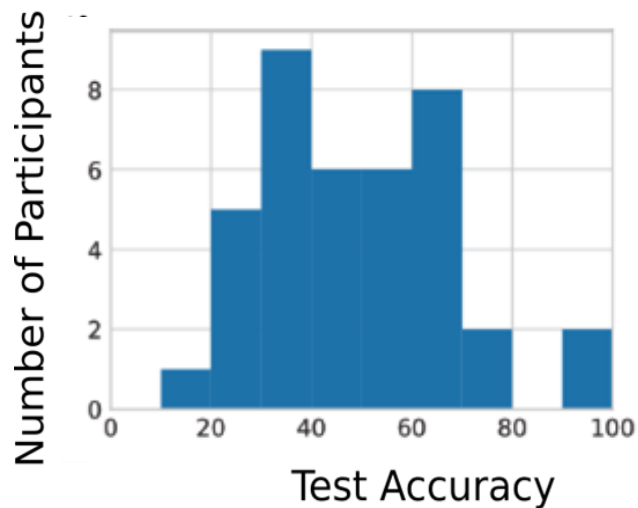
草

阜

蒂

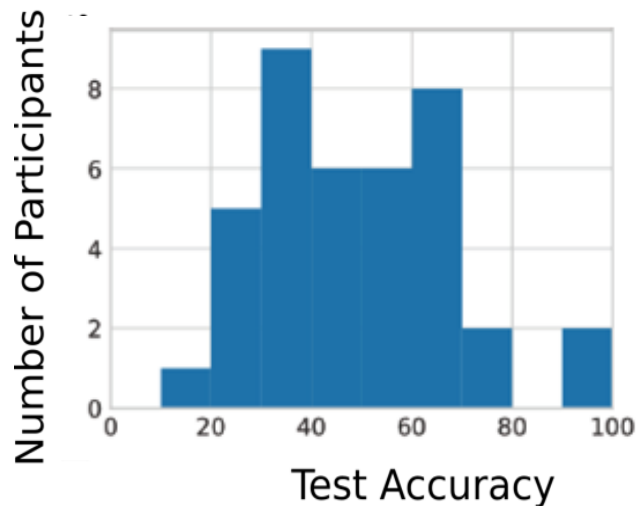
# Results for Chinese Characters

## Random Image

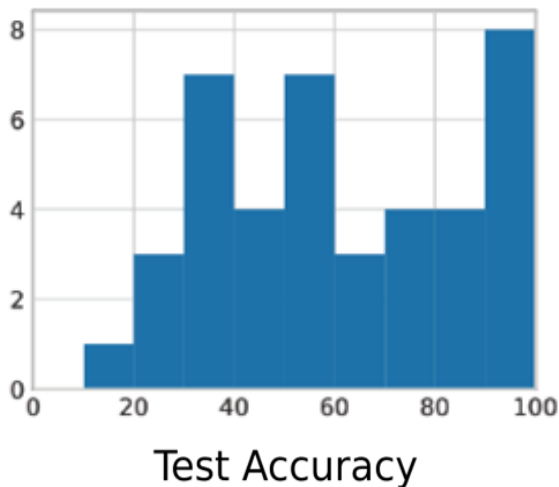


# Results for Chinese Characters

## Random Image

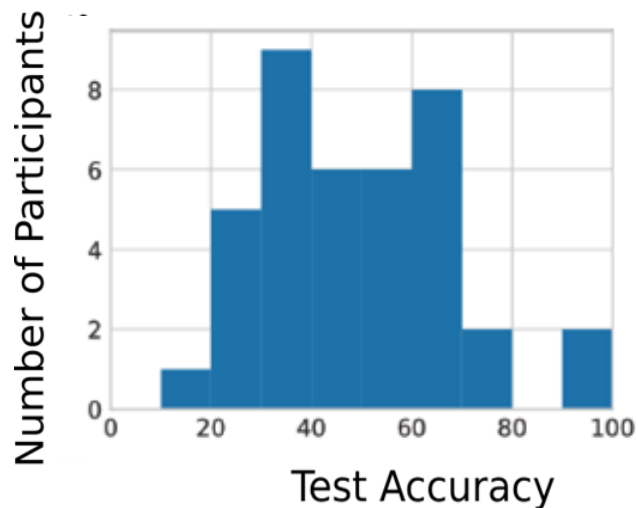


## Random Image with Explanation

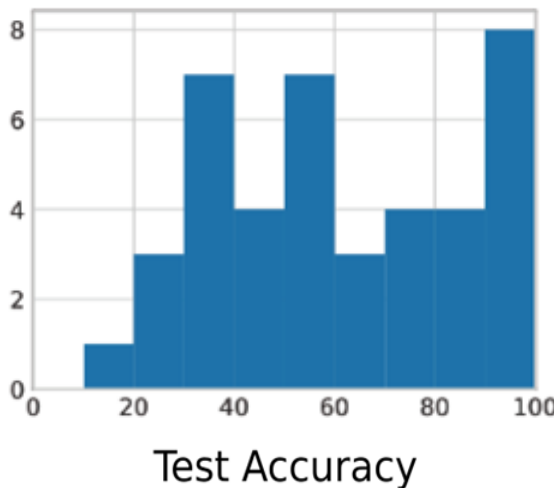


# Results for Chinese Characters

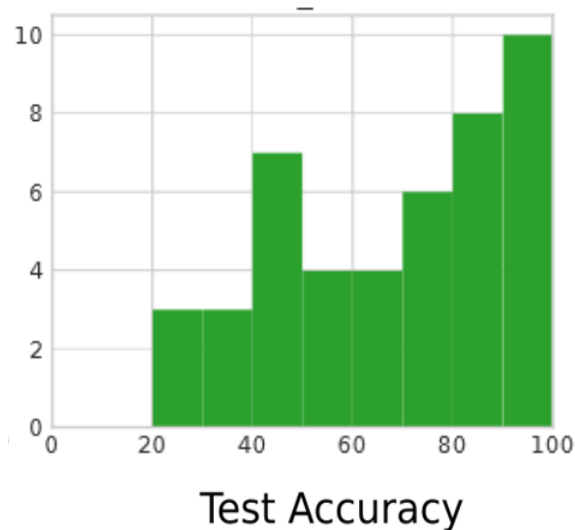
**Random Image**



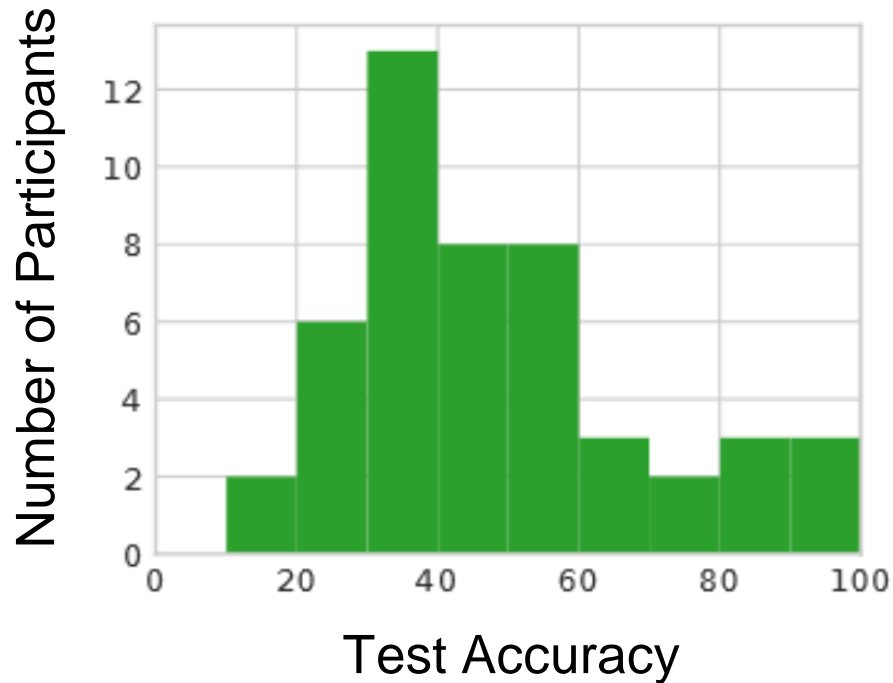
**Random Image  
with Explanation**



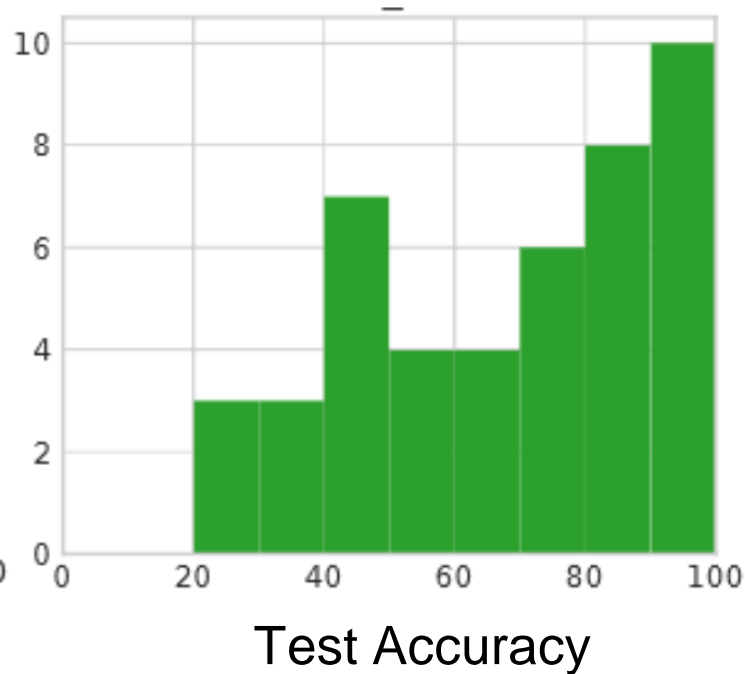
**Explain (Ours)**



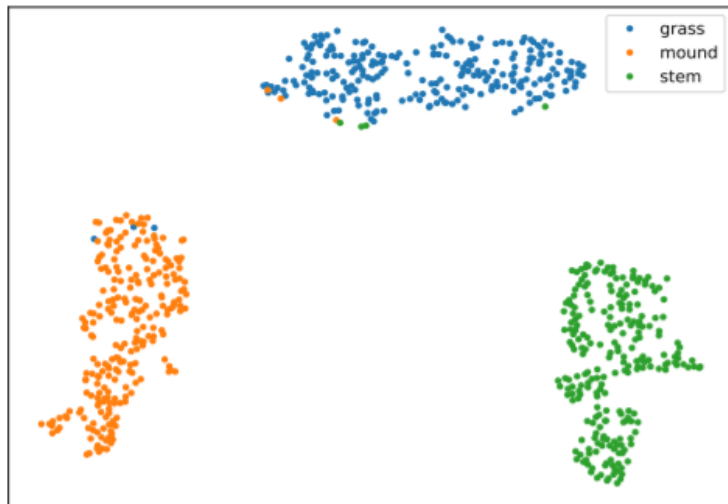
**Explain (Ours)**  
“CNN Features”



**Explain (Ours)**  
“Crowd Features”



## “CNN Features”



Grass

草

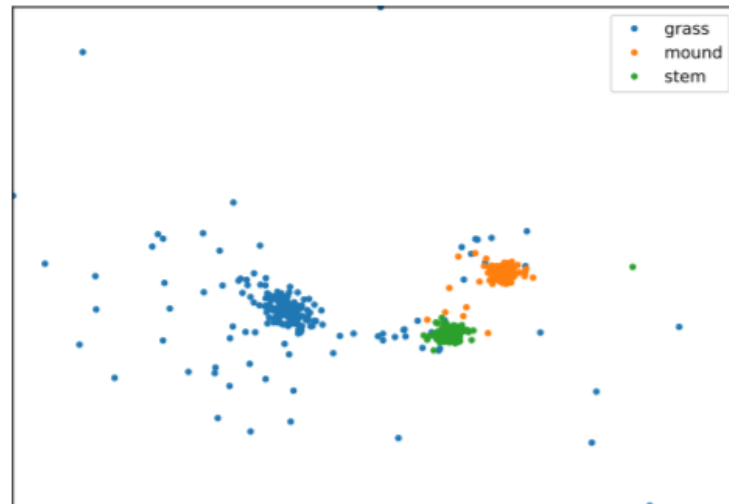
Mound

阜

Stem

蒂

## “Crowd Features”



# Butterflies

2,224 images, 5 classes

Monarch



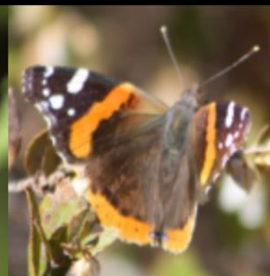
Viceroy



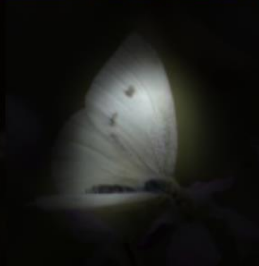
Queen



Red  
Admiral

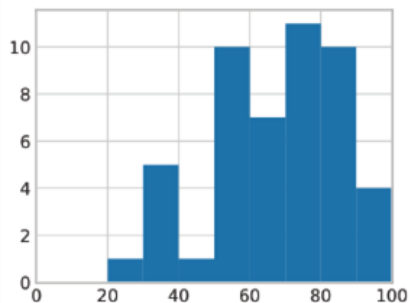


Cabbage  
White

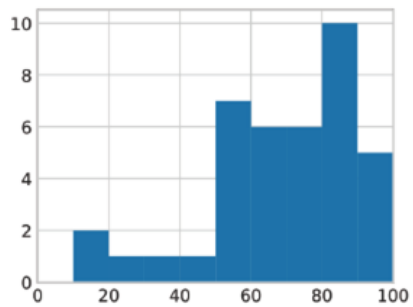


# Results for Butterflies

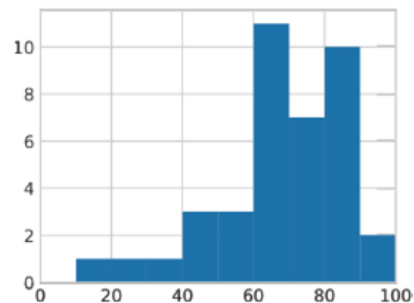
**Random  
Label Only**



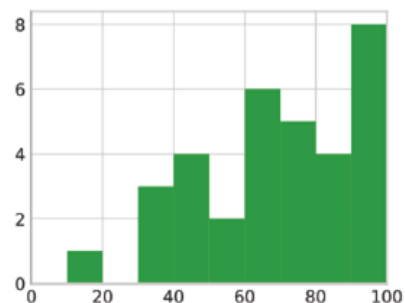
**Random  
w/ Explain**



**Greedy  
Label Only**



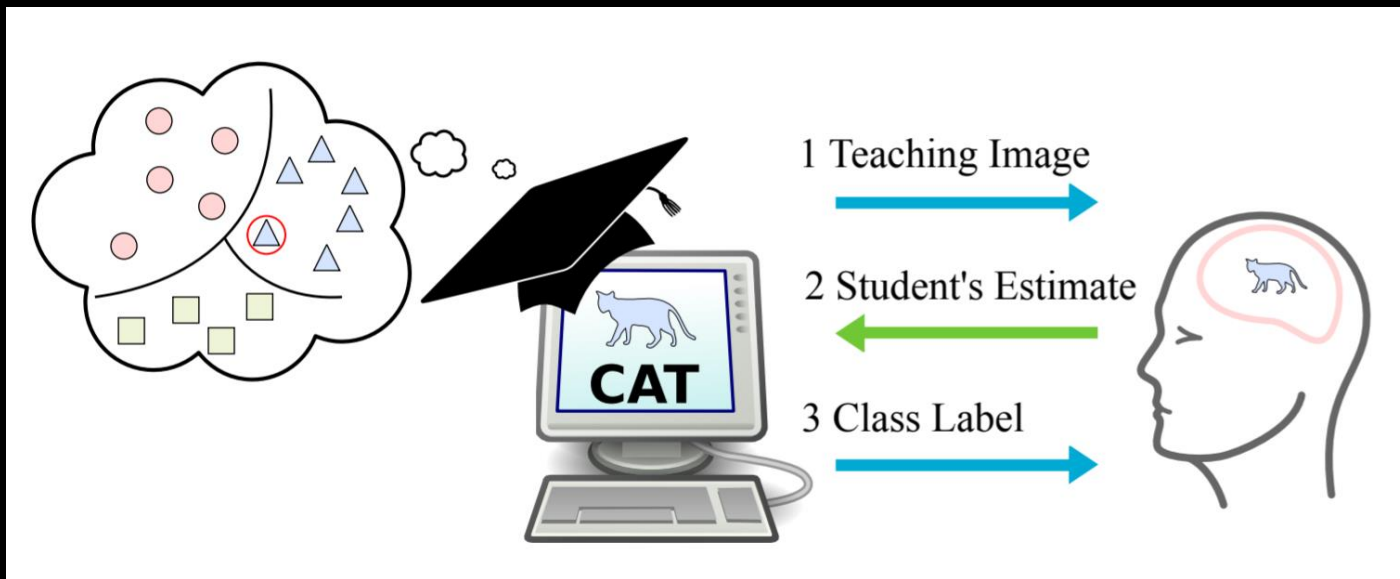
**Our Approach**





Next steps for teaching visual  
knowledge ....

# Interactive Teaching



**Becoming the Expert: Interactive Multi-Class Machine Teaching** CVPR 2015

Johns, Mac Aodha, Brostow

**Understanding the Role of Adaptivity in Machine Teaching: The Case of Version Space Learners** NeurIPS 2018

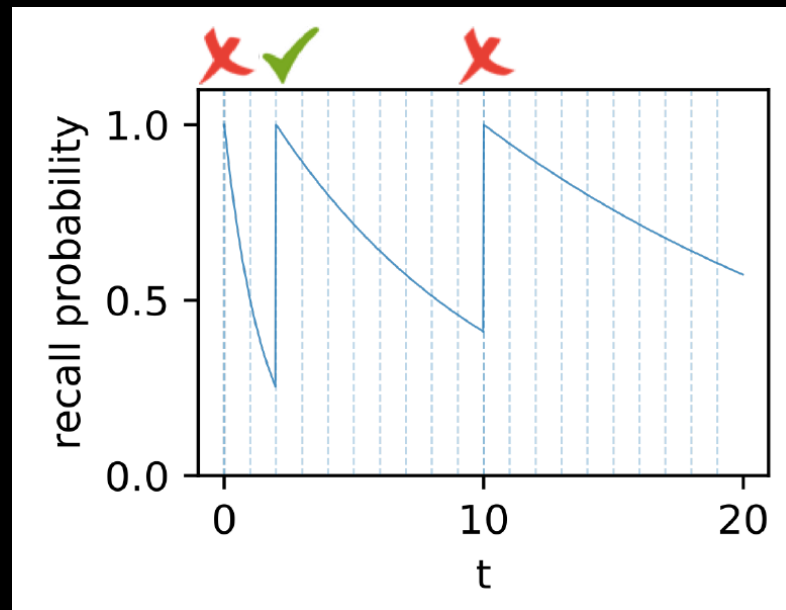
Chen, Singla, Mac Aodha, Perona, Yue

# Modelling Learner Memory Decay

Memory decays over time

Spaced repetition model

Estimate learner recall



Teaching Multiple Concepts to Forgetful Learners NeurIPS 2019

Hunziker, Chen, Mac Aodha, Gomez Rodriguez, Krause, Perona, Yue, Singla

# Scaling Up Visual Teaching - [ebird.org/quiz](https://ebird.org/quiz)



eBird

Submit

Explore

My eBird

Science

About

News

Help

Donate



Oisín Mac Aodha (macaodha) ▾



Language ▾



211 S Wilson Ave, Pasadena, CA 91106, USA

What bird is this?

1 of 20 [Home](#)

Pacific Wren

Marsh Wren

Bewick's Wren

Cactus Wren

None of the above

Not identifiable due to:

- ☐ Multiple species
- ☐ No bird

© Lawrence Haller

Williamson, Texas, United States | 7 Aug 2016

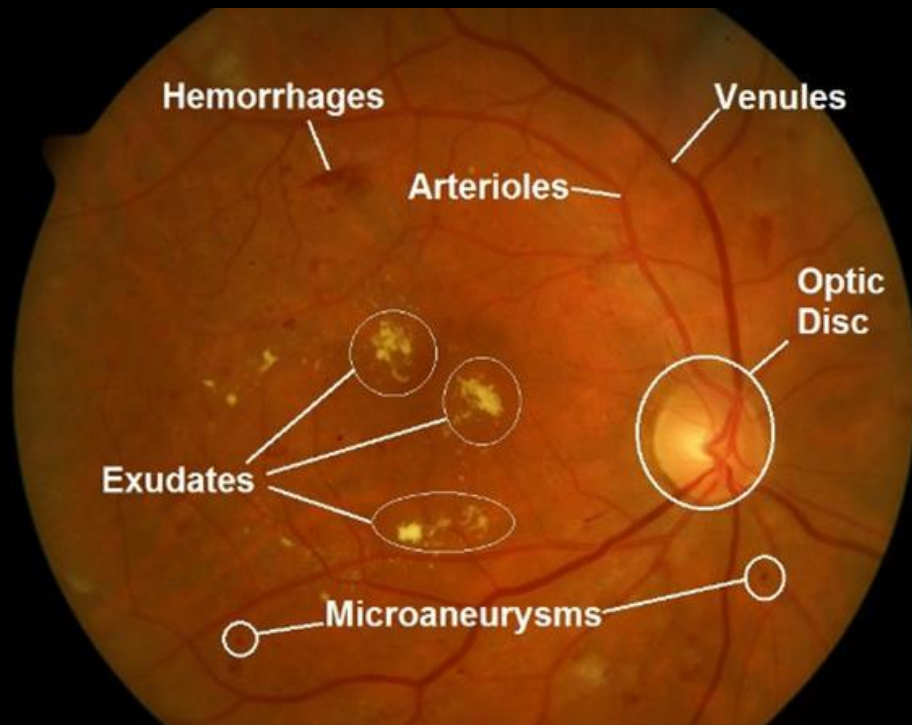
Macaulay Library ML32156901 | eBird Checklist S31011305 | TheCornellLab 



Report...

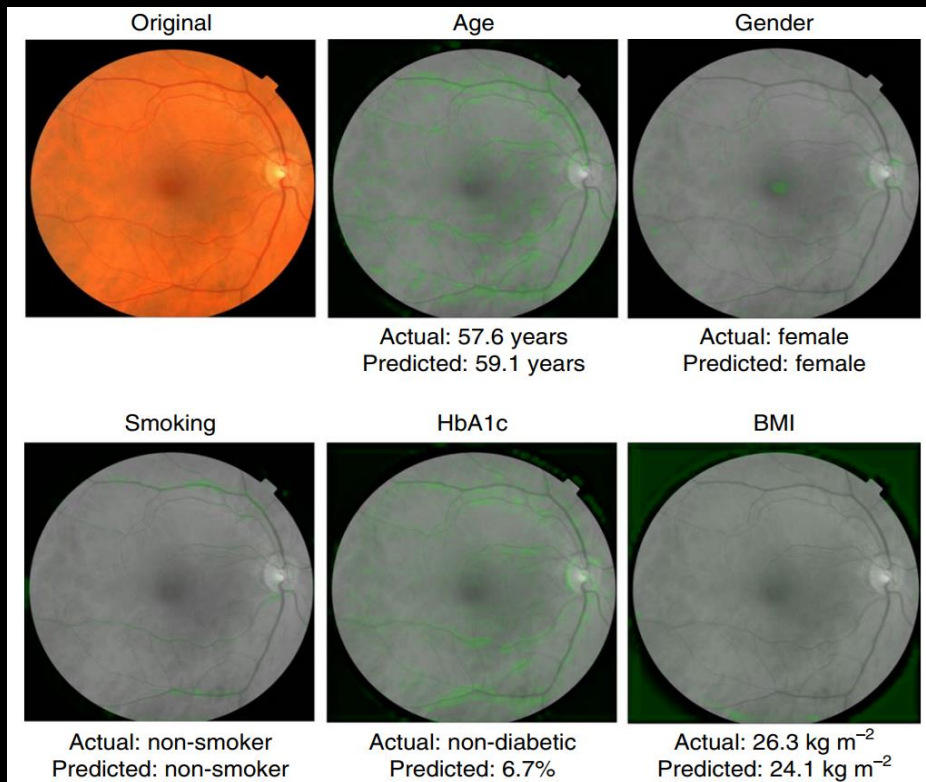
# Teaching Fine-Grained Detail

Learning explanations  
through teaching



# Closing the Loop

Teaching super human  
image understanding



Prediction of cardiovascular risk factors from retinal fundus photographs via deep learning

Poplin et al. **Nature Biomedical Engineering** 2018



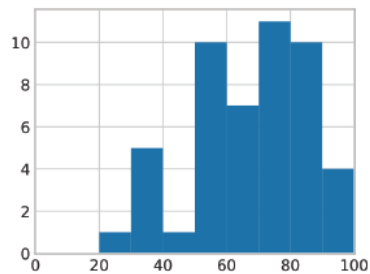
# Questions

Teaching GUI, model code, and data:

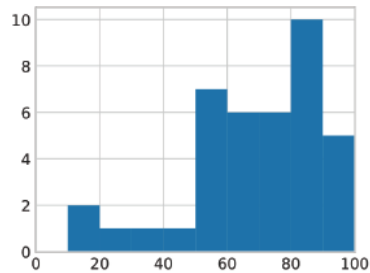
[https://github.com/macodha/explain\\_teach](https://github.com/macodha/explain_teach)



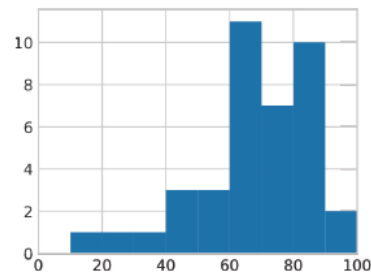
**Random  
Label Only**



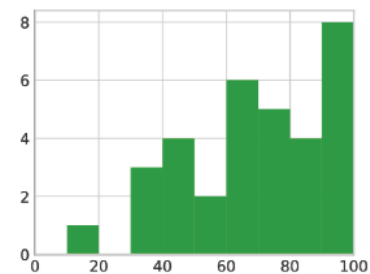
**Random  
w/ Explain**



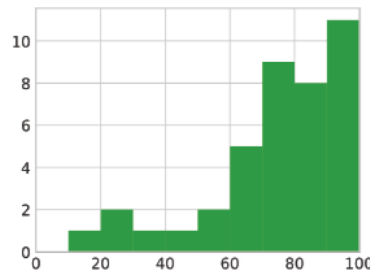
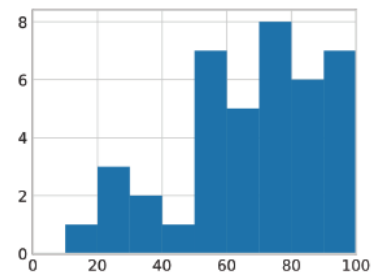
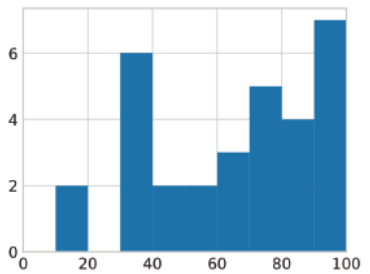
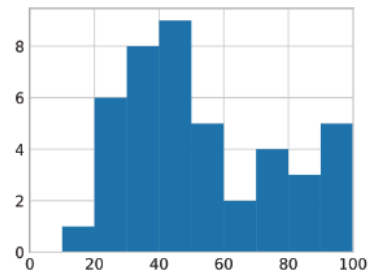
**Greedy  
Label Only**



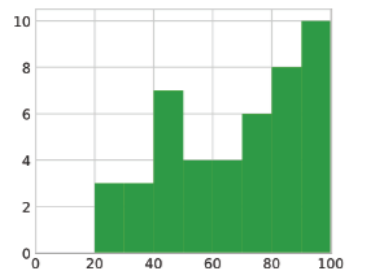
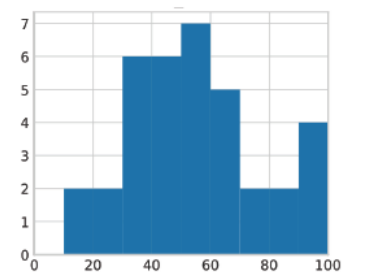
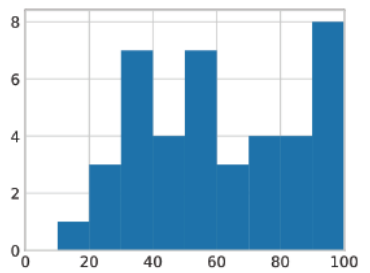
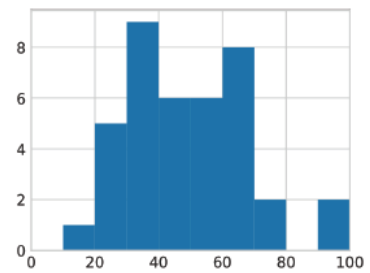
**Our Approach**



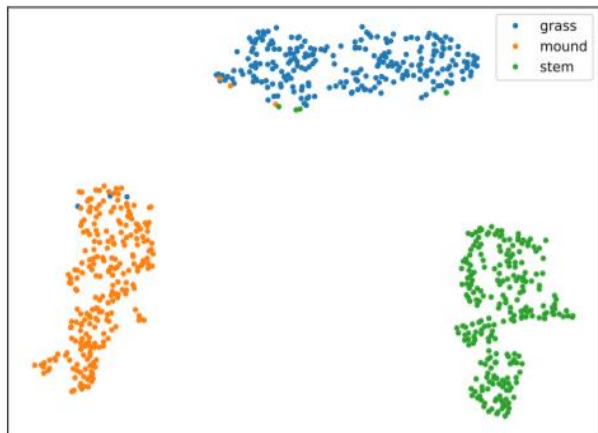
**Butterflies**



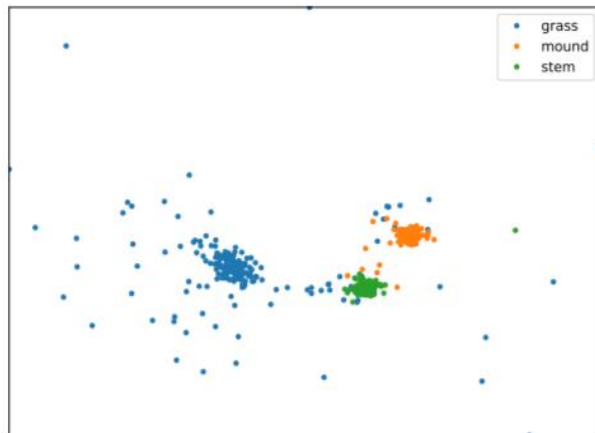
**OCT Eyes**



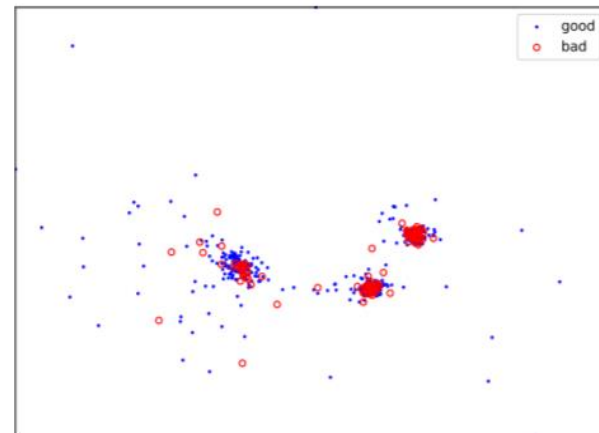
**Chinese**



A) CNN Embedding



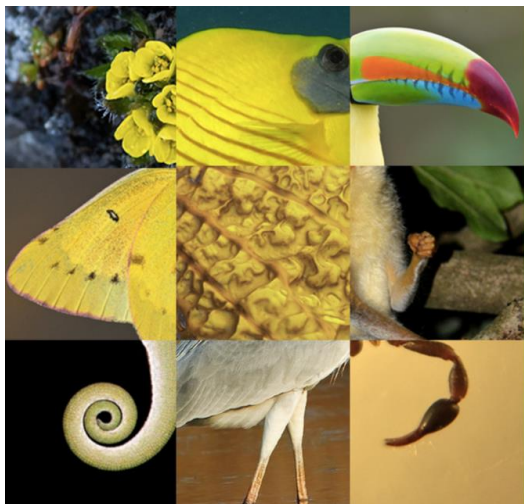
B) Crowd Embedding



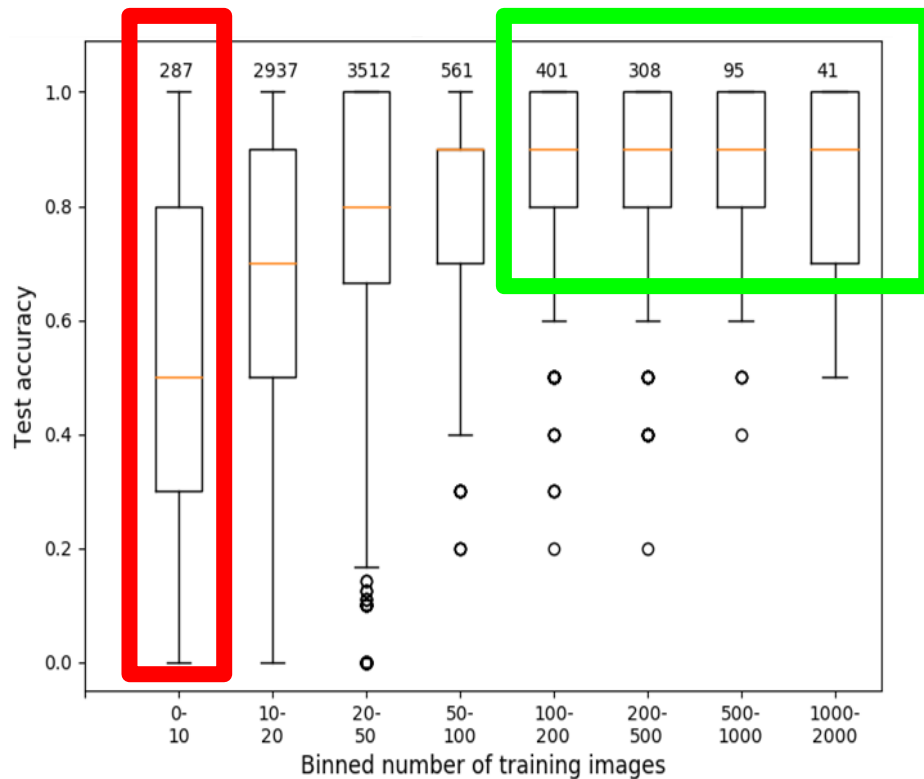
C) Explanation Difficulty

# Learning How to Perform Low Shot Learning

## iNaturalist Dataset



8,142 classes  
>400K images



The iNaturalist Species Classification and Detection Dataset **CVPR 2018**  
Van Horn, Mac Aodha, Song, Cui, Sun, Shepard, Adam, Perona, Belongie