

# Continual Prototype Evolution: Learning Online from Non-Stationary Data Streams

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<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2009.00919.pdf>



# Continual learning and why you should care

DATA



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DATA



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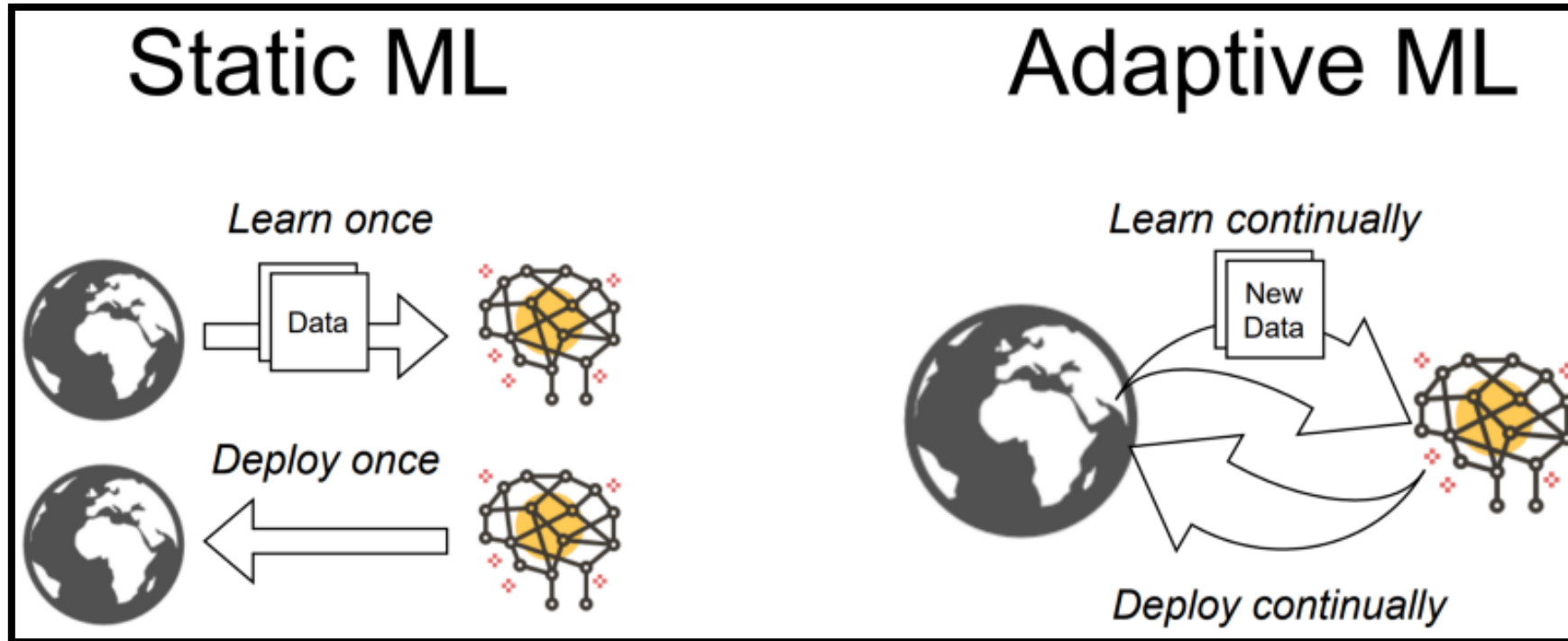


DATA





# Continual learning and why you should care



# Roadmap

- What is Continual Learning?
- How to learn from data streams?
- Why representation learning?
- Continual Prototype Evolution (CoPE)
  - Evolving prototypes
  - PPP-loss
  - Balanced replay

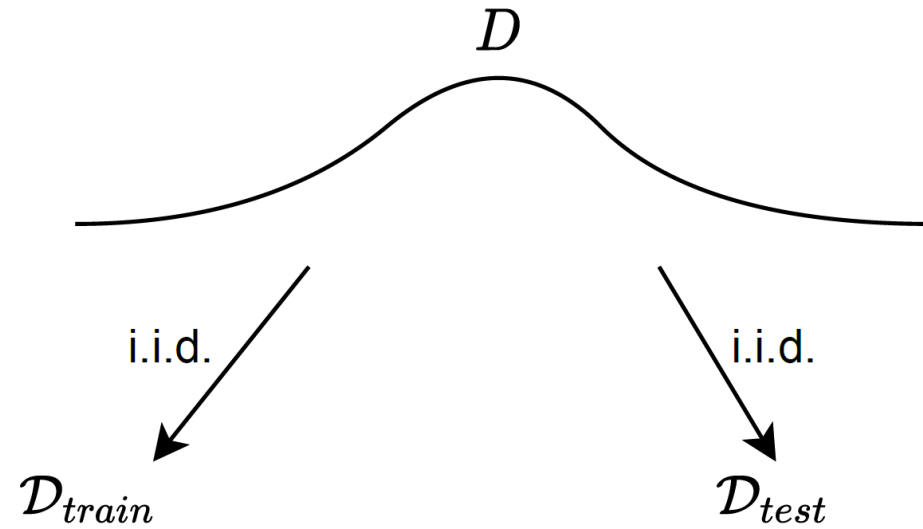
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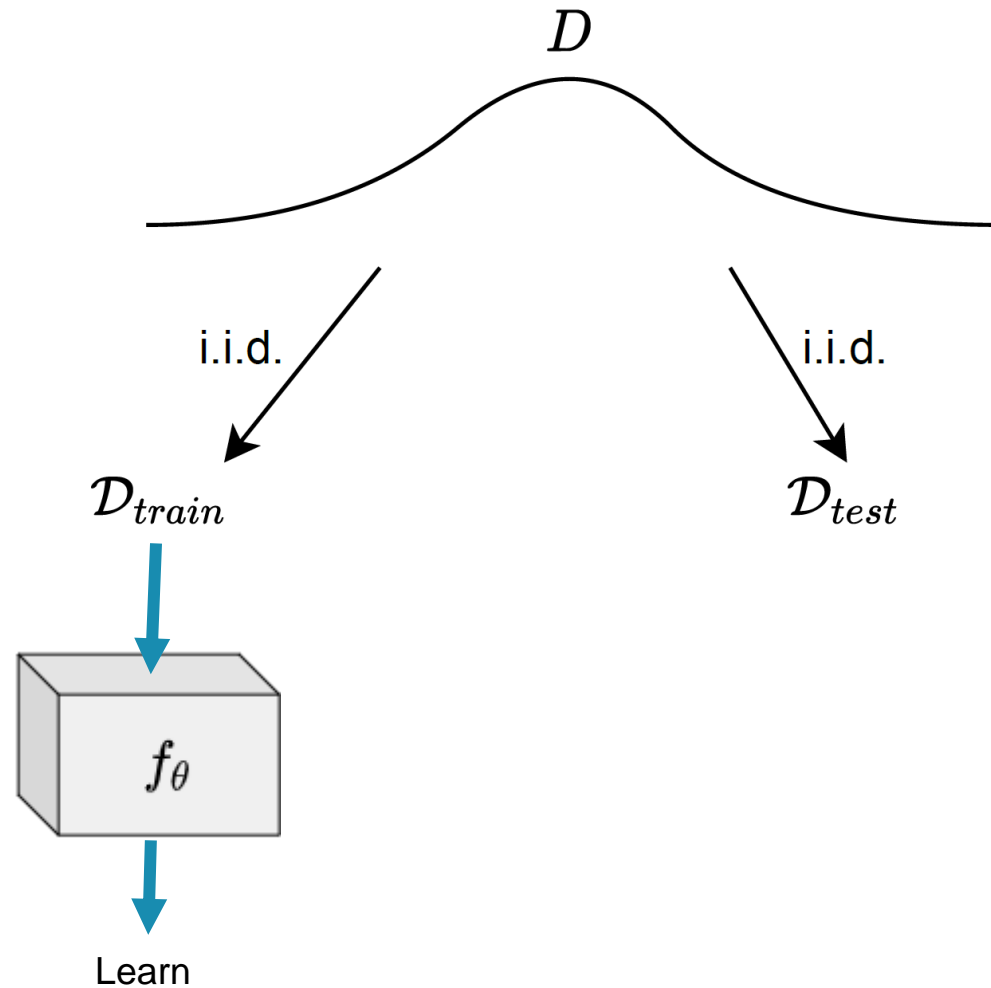


# Standard Machine Learning

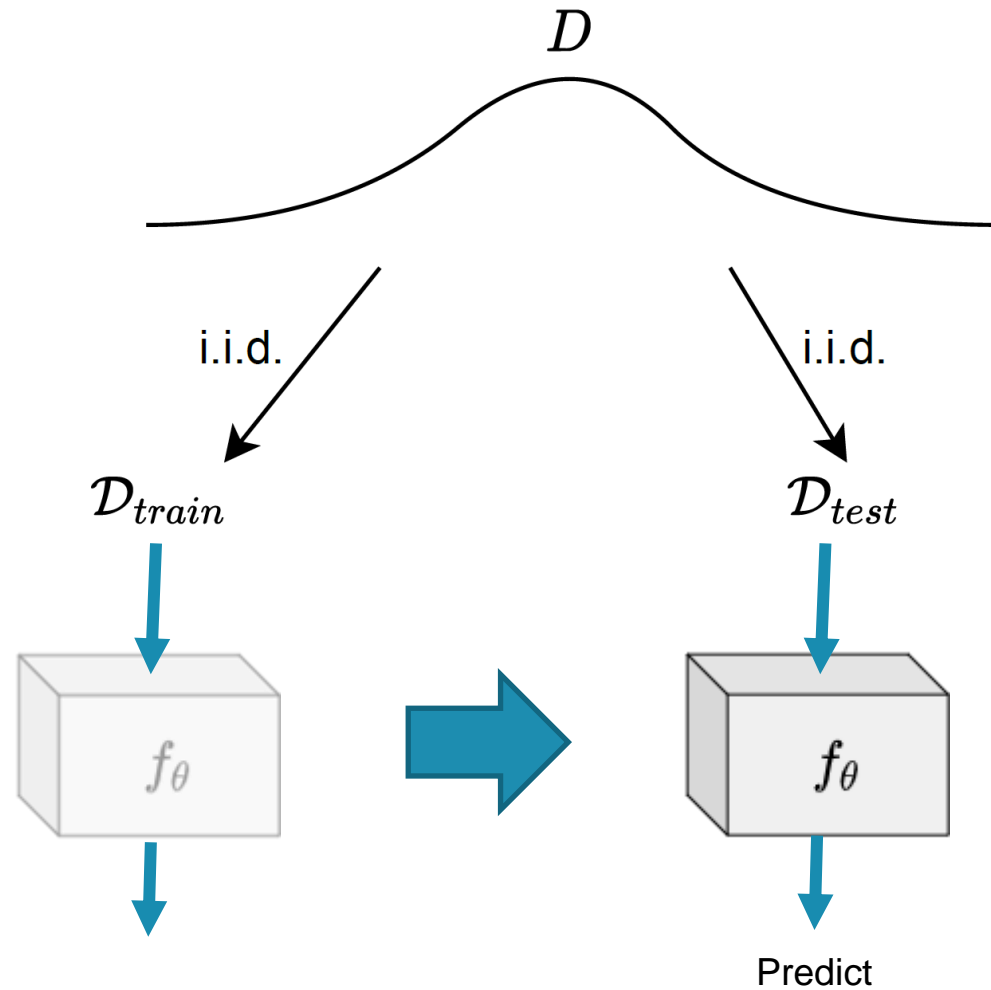




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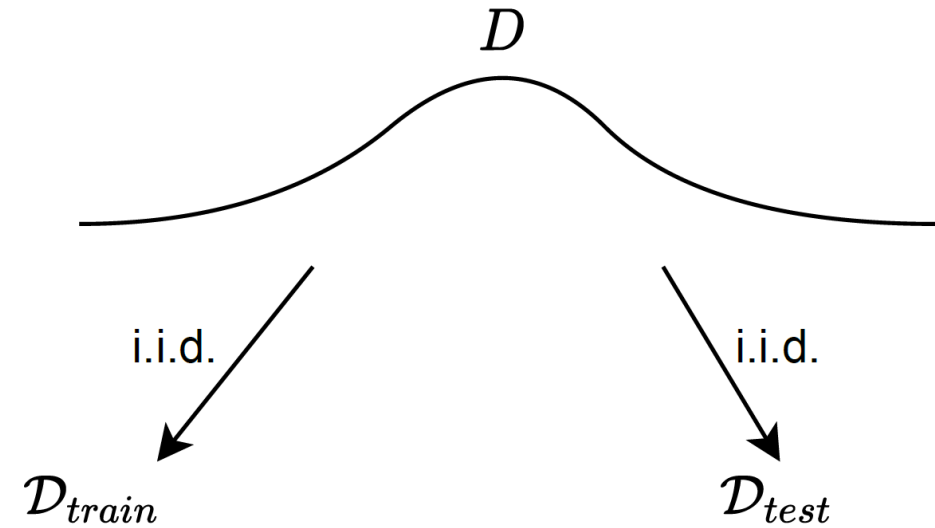


# Standard Machine Learning



# Standard Machine Learning

- Once trained, once deployed
- Deployed system is static over time
- Any changes? Retrain & Redeploy







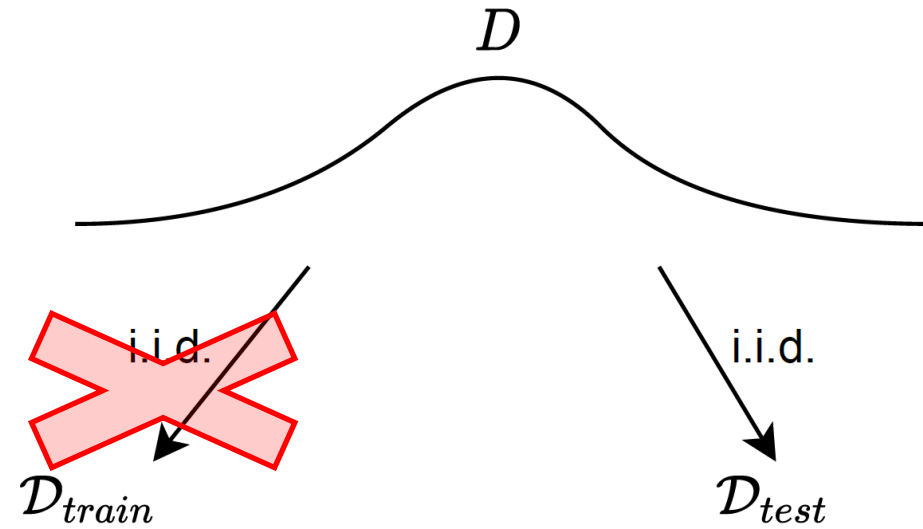
**EVER**





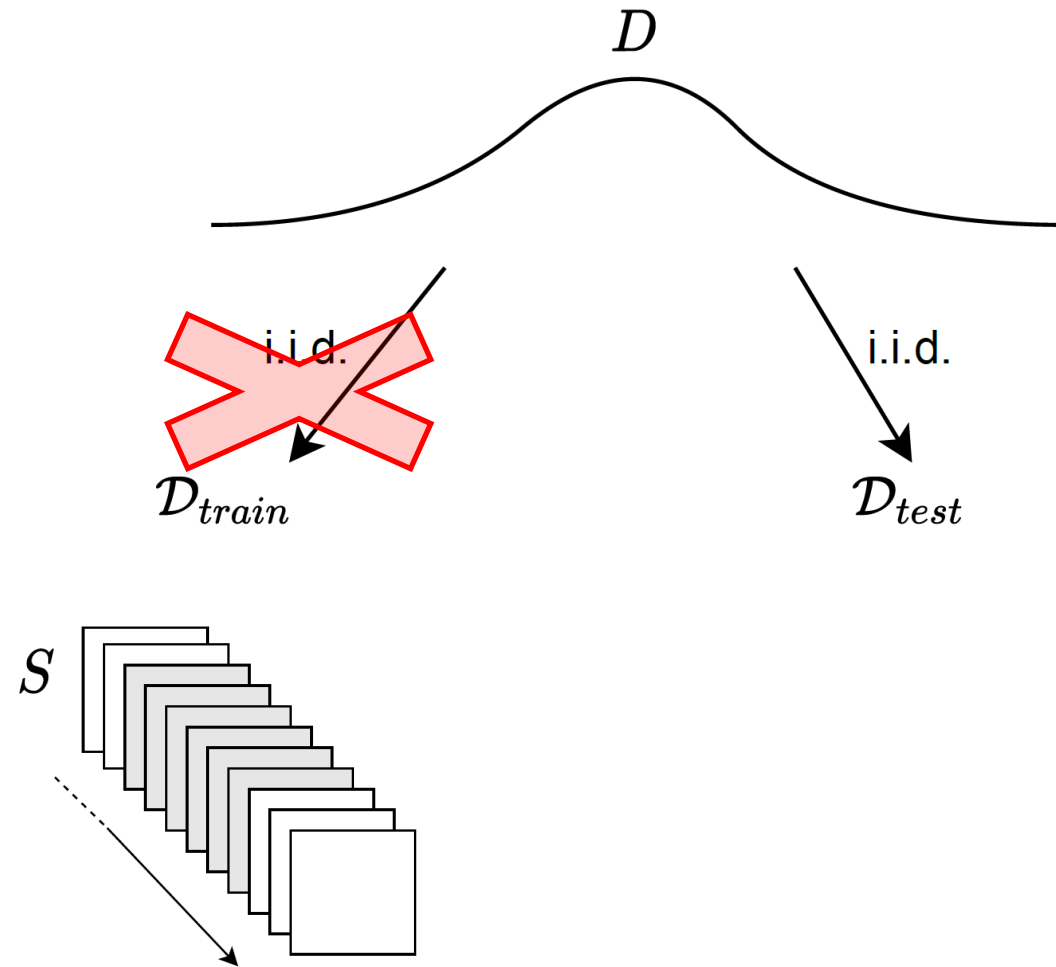
**EVER  
CHANGING**

# In Continual Learning



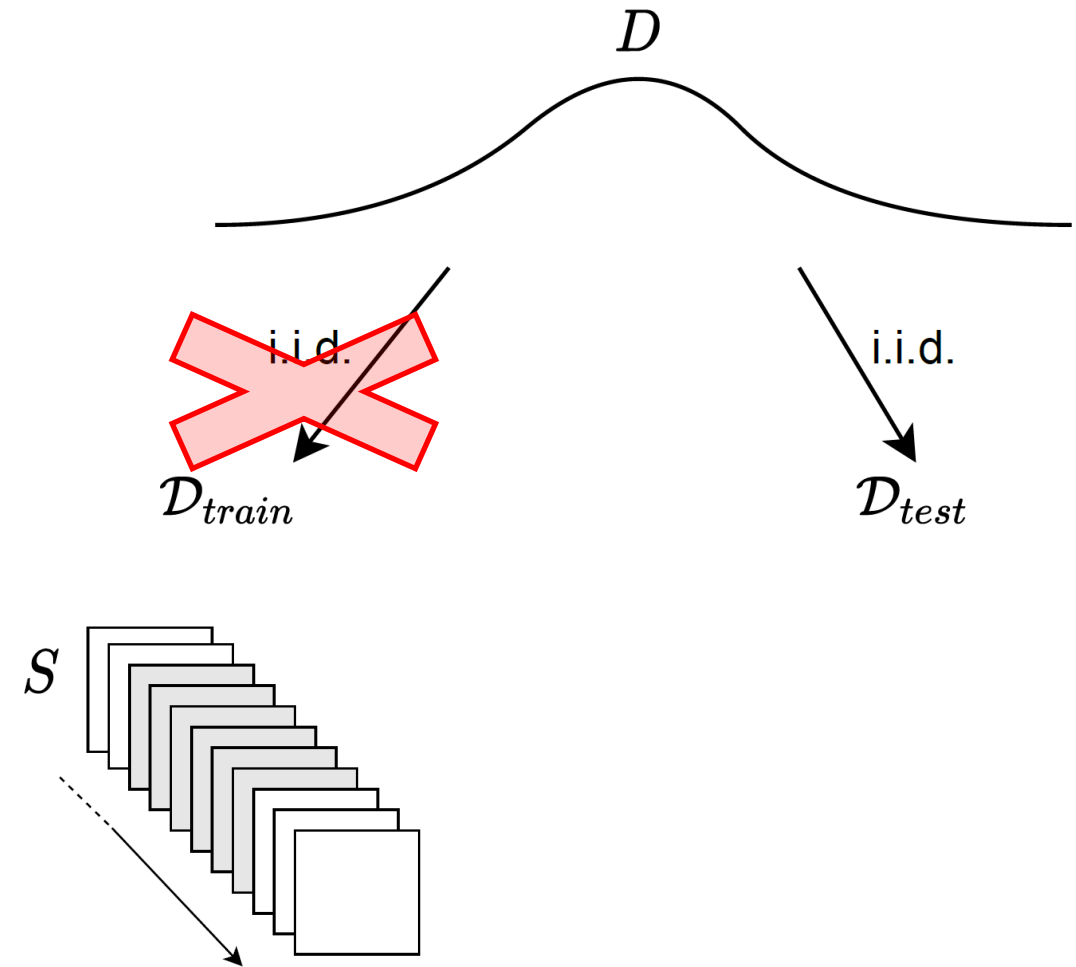


# In Continual Learning

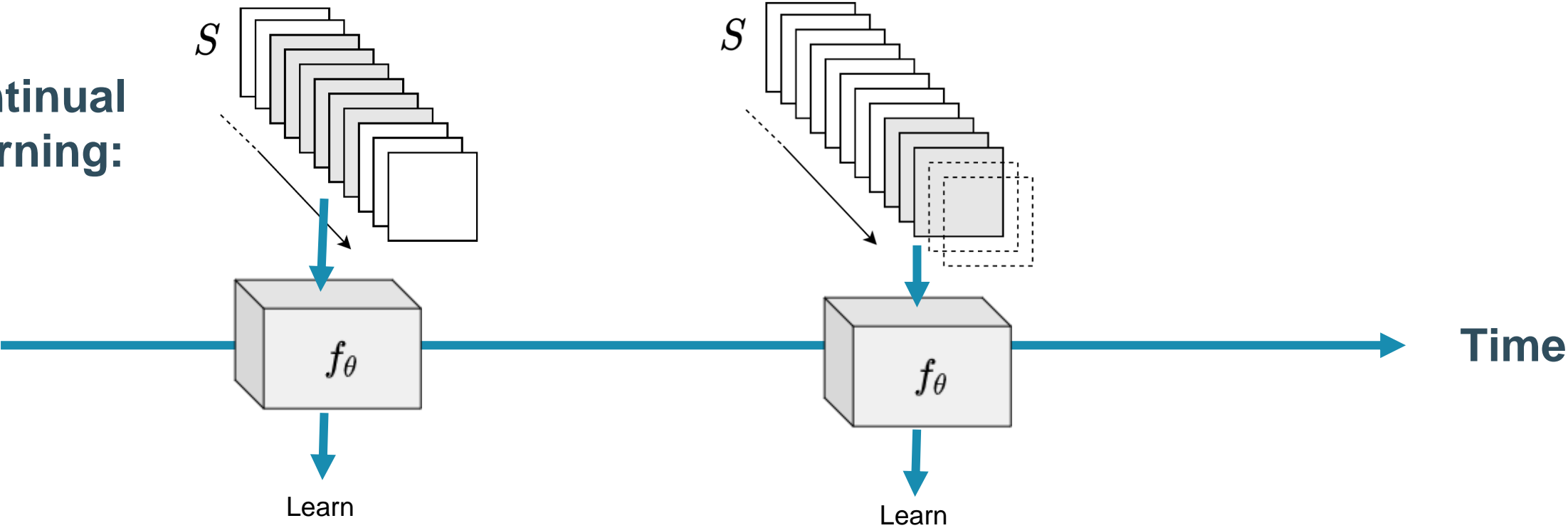


# In Continual Learning

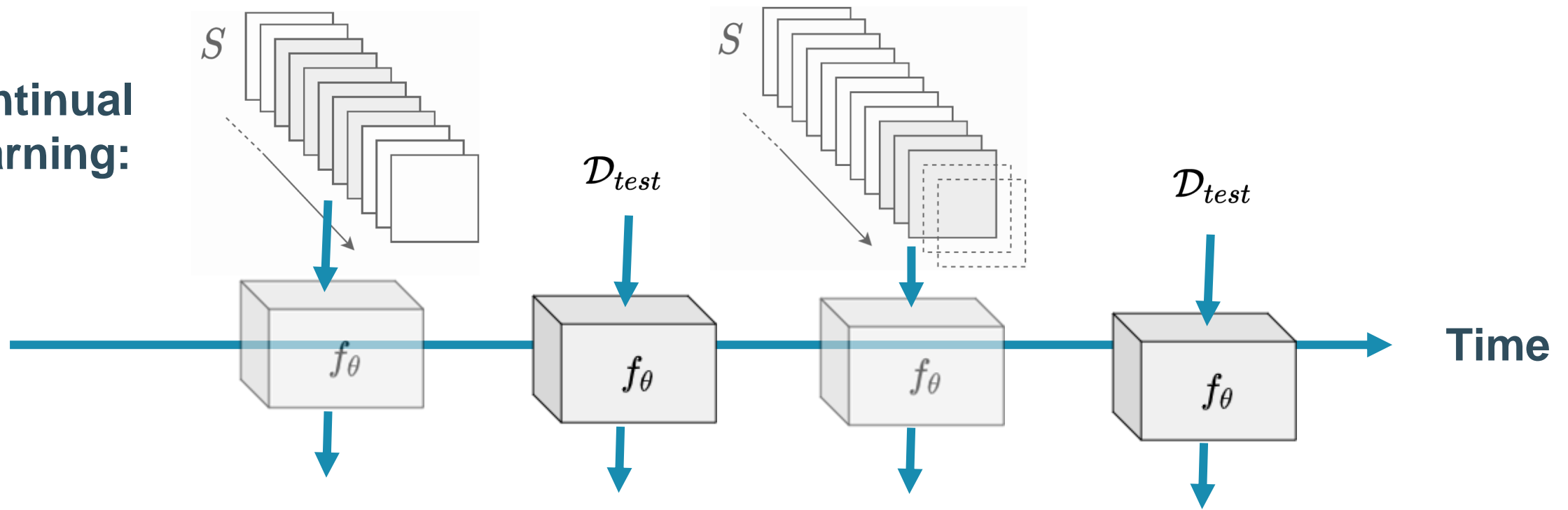
- Available training data changes over time
- Assumptions on  $D$  determined by  $\mathcal{D}_{test}$ 
  - What should the system learn?



# Continual Learning:



## Continual Learning:



- We use our static test set to measure performance of our system
- Over different points in time



# Used Metrics

- With  $\mathcal{D}_{test}$  static, iid over seen/all classes

- Average Accuracy (Avg over tasks in  $\mathcal{D}_{test}$  )

$$A_T = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{i=1}^T a_{T,i}$$

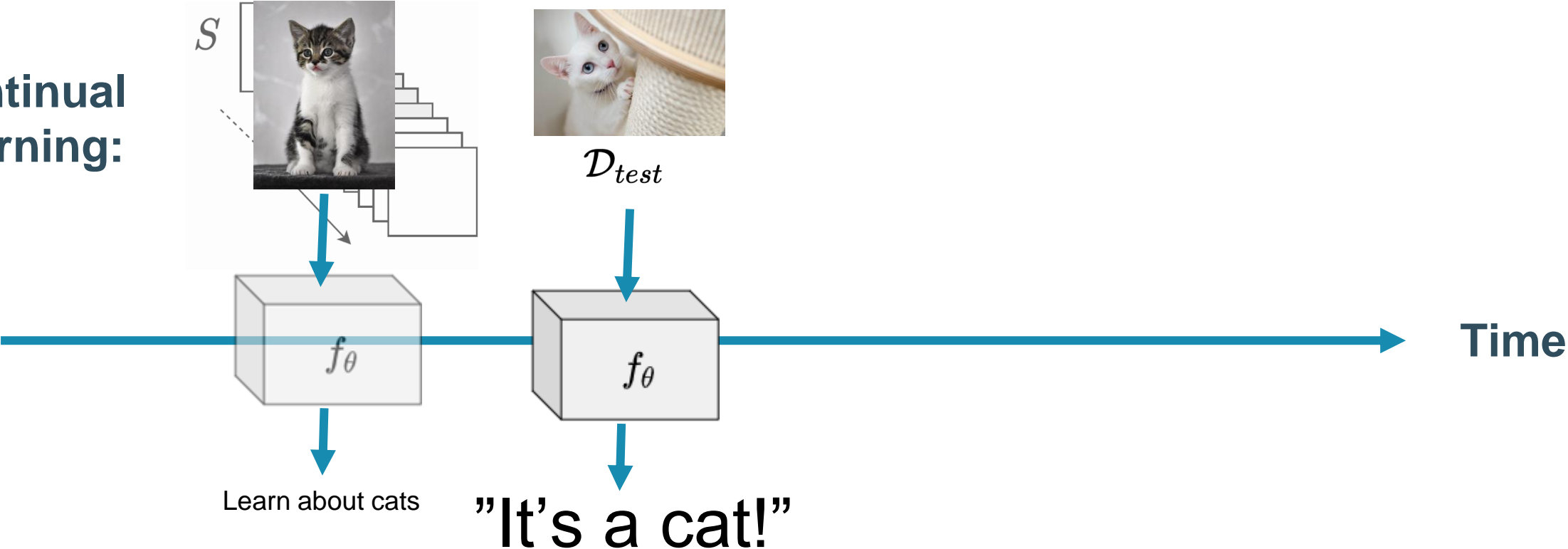
$a_{\text{learned until } X, \text{ eval on } X}$

- Average Forgetting (Avg over tasks in  $\mathcal{D}_{test}$  )

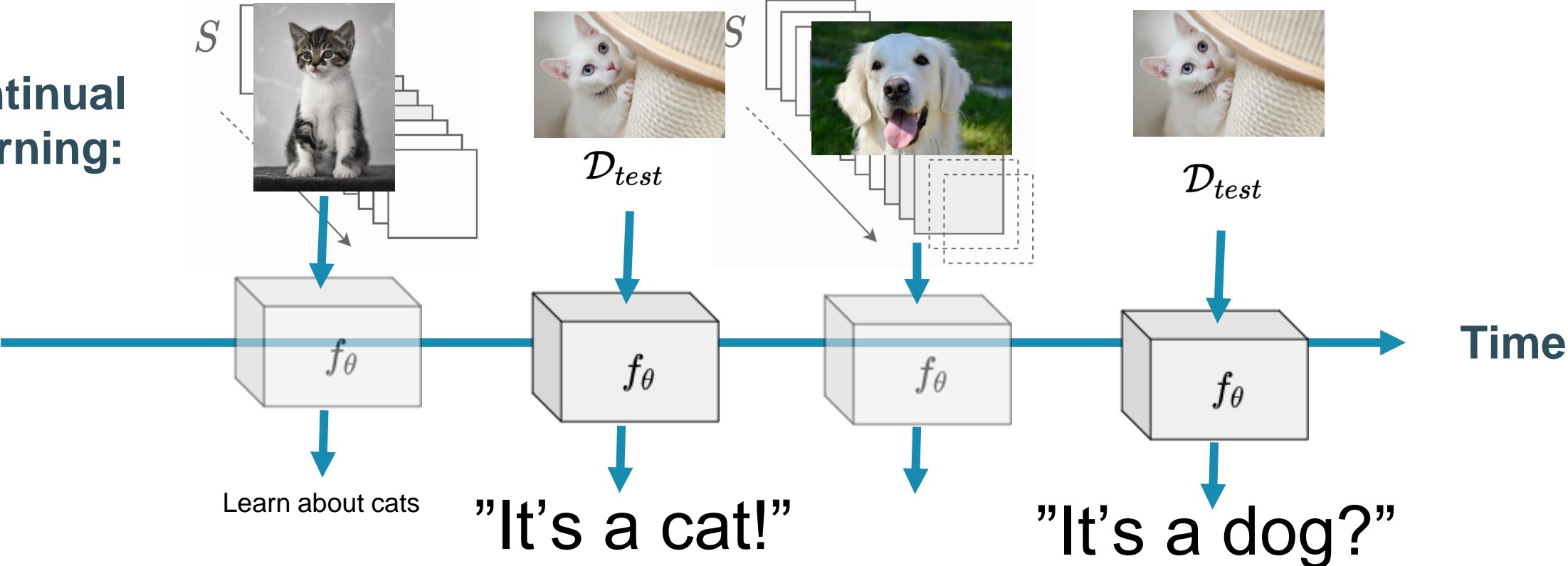
$$F_T = \frac{1}{T-1} \sum_{i=1}^{T-1} a_{i,i} - a_{T,i}$$

$a_{\text{learned until } X, \text{ eval on } X}$

# Continual Learning:

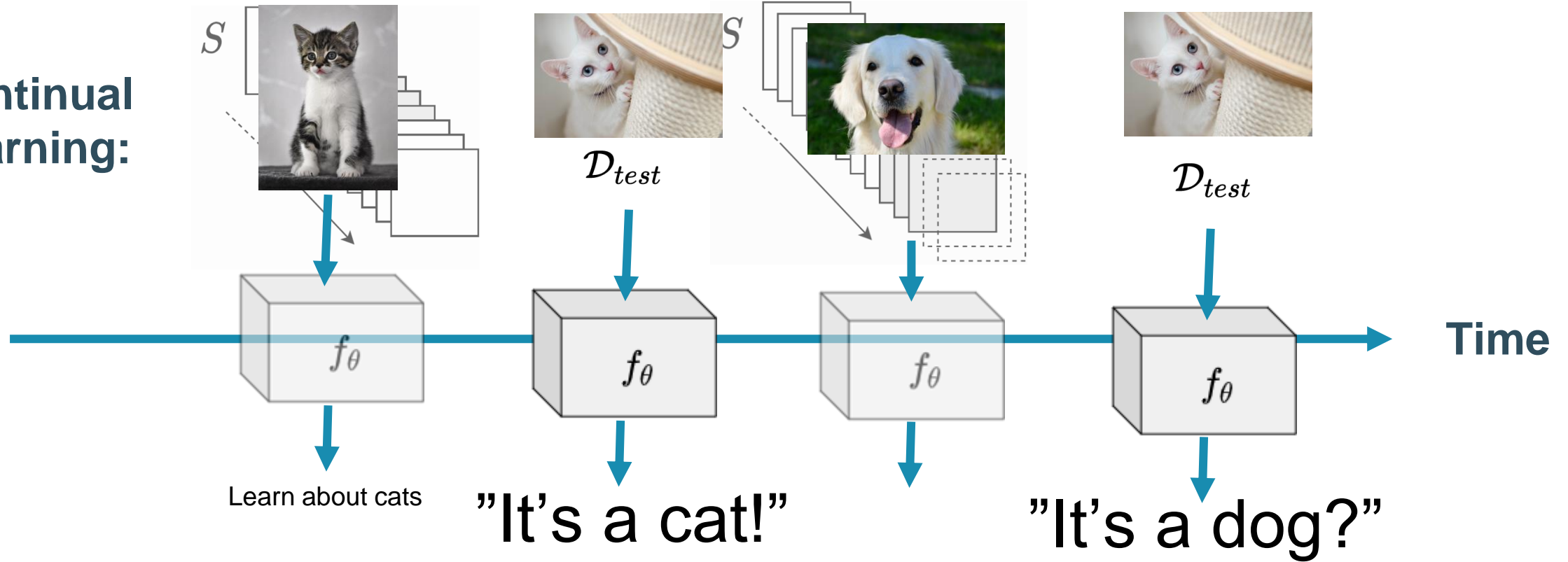


# Continual Learning:





# Continual Learning:

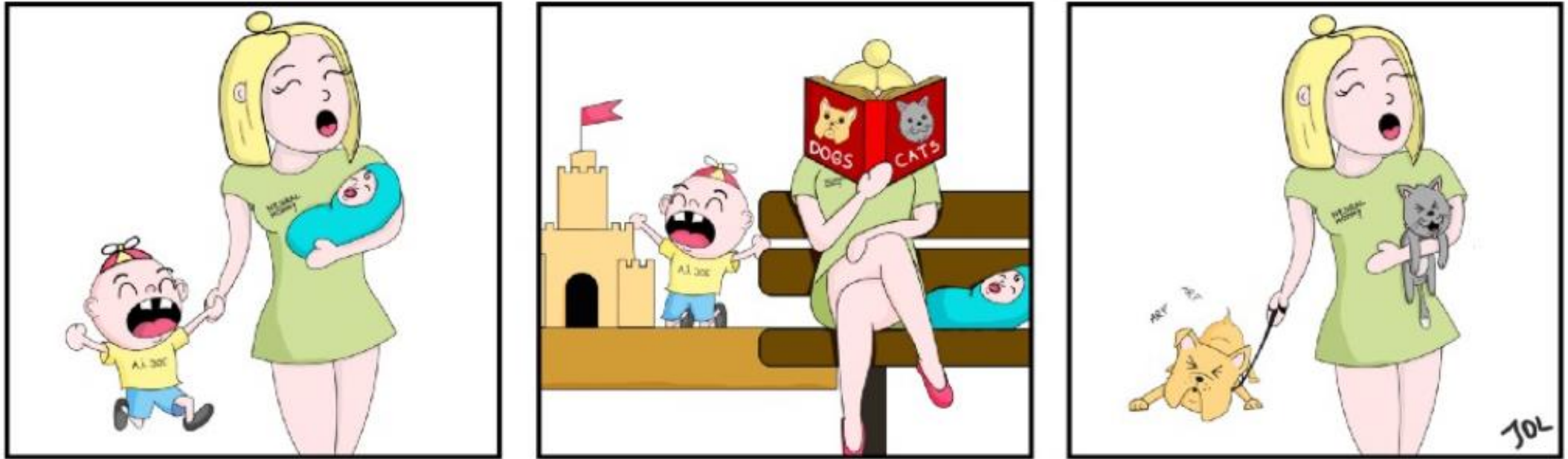


Continual Learning is hard in Neural Networks! → Very high Forgetting:

"Catastrophic Forgetting"



# Why neural networks make terrible mothers...



An illustration of catastrophic forgetting in neural networks. Cartoon credits @Jasper De Lange.



# Roadmap

- What is Continual Learning?
- **How to learn from data streams?**
- Why representation learning?
- Continual Prototype Evolution (CoPE)
  - Evolving prototypes
  - PPP-loss
  - Balanced replay

Follow along:



<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2009.00919.pdf>



# How to learn from data streams?

- Current continual learning paradigms

	<b>continual learning</b>	Eval	Train	
[1]	task incr.	$(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i, t_i)$	$(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i, t_i)$	→ Task transitions
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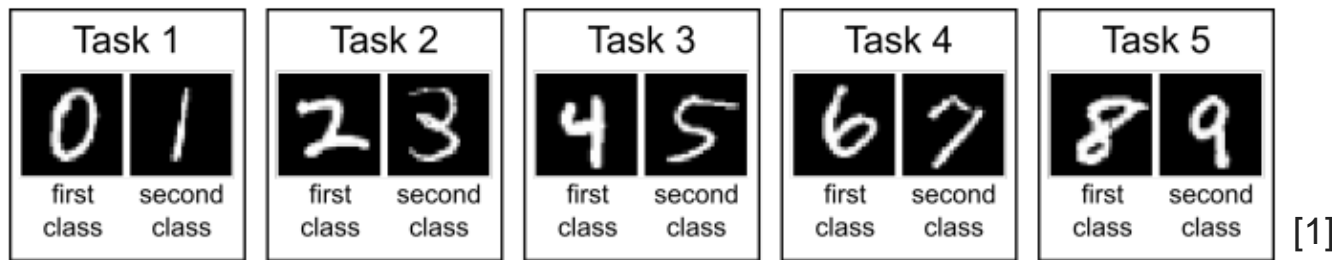
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## *What exactly is a task?*



# What exactly is a task?

- Grouped data subset by designer → Explicit bias by design



- Algorithmically, e.g. every K new classes → Implicit bias by design



# How to learn from data streams?

- Current continual learning paradigms

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***What exactly is a task?***

***How to define task-free settings?***





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***What exactly is a task?***

***How to define task-free settings?***

***What resources are available?***



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*What exactly is a task?*

*What information is available when?*

*How to define task-free settings?*

*What resources are available?*



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***How are training & testing interacting?***



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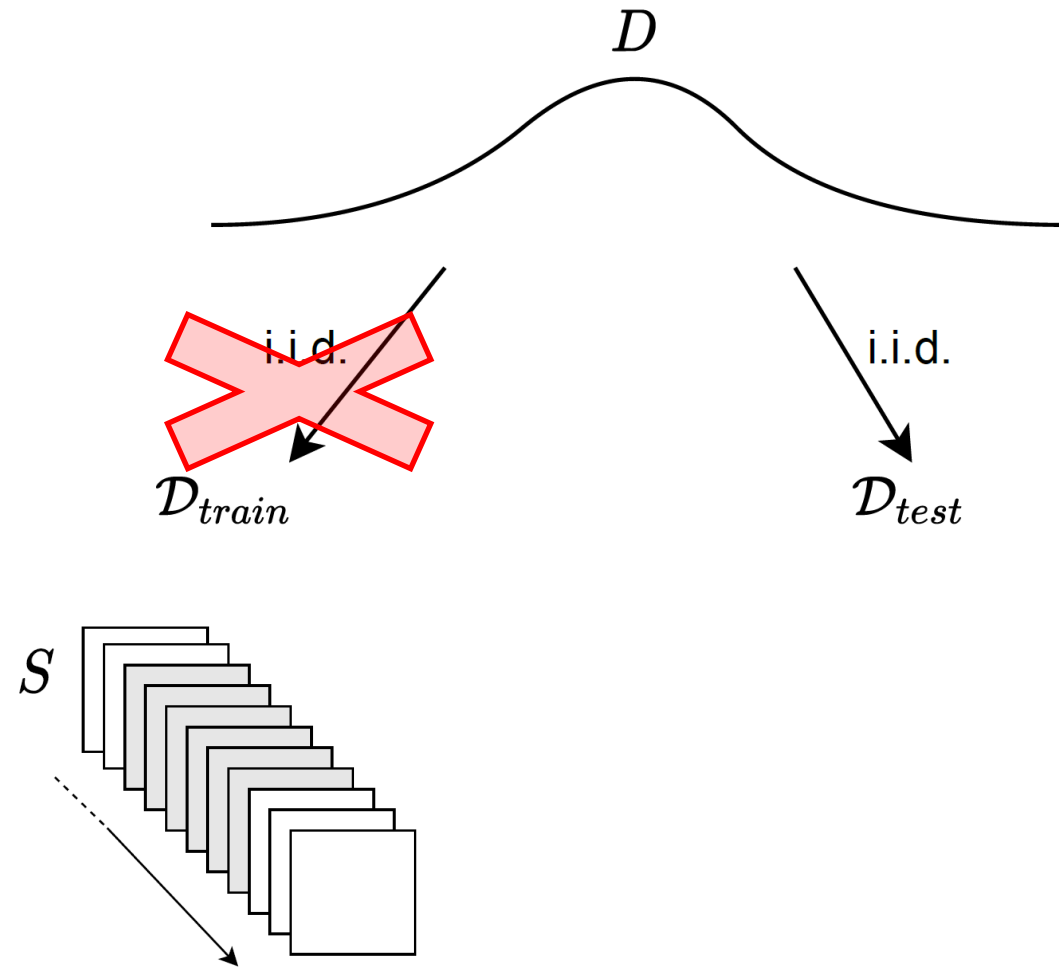
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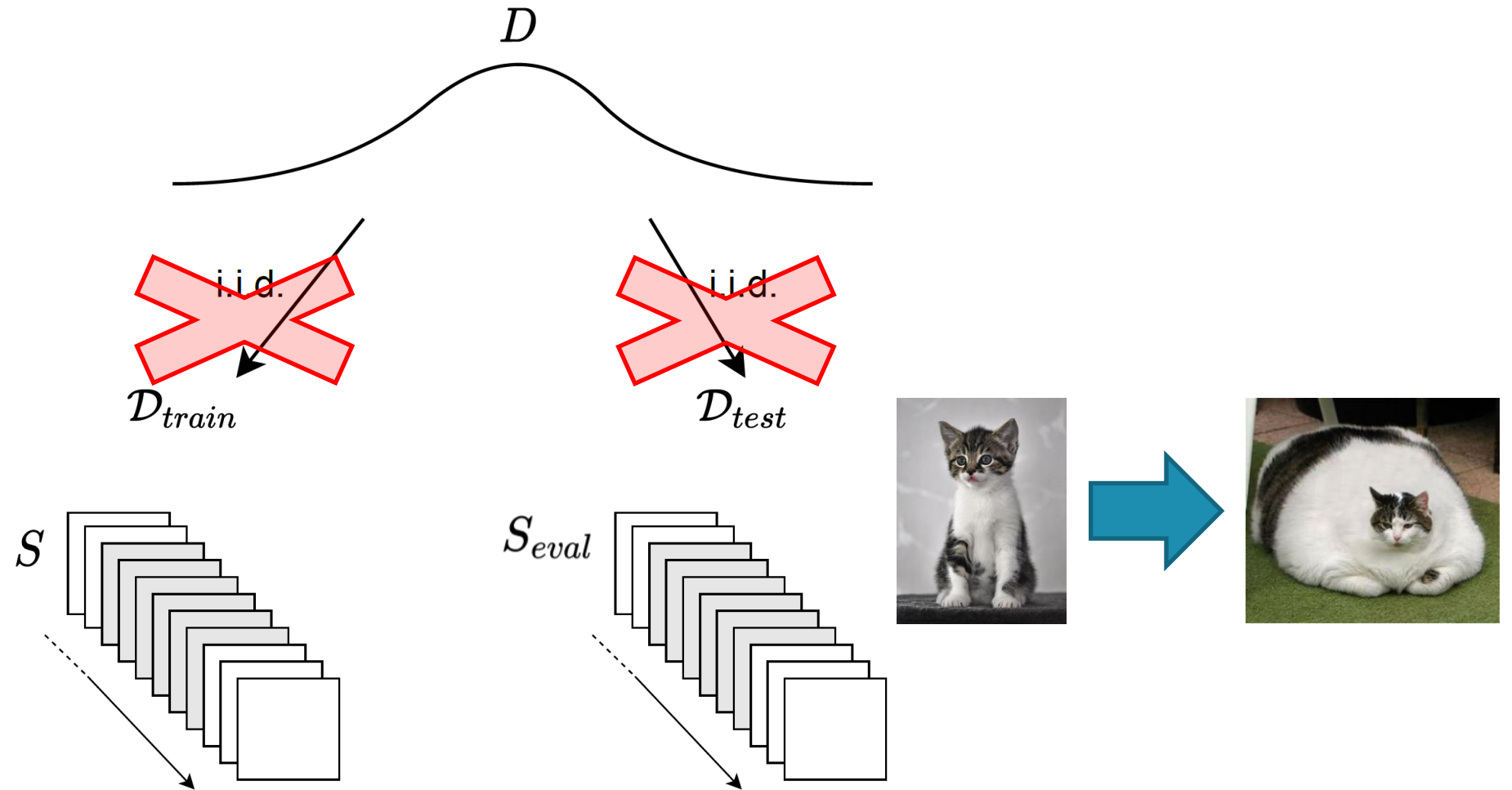
***What about drifting concepts?***



# Sidenote: Concept Drift



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# How to learn from data streams?

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***What exactly is a task?***

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***What information is available when?***

***How are training & testing interacting?***

***What about drifting concepts?***





# Learner-Evaluator Framework

- Operate independently
- Generalizable to any data stream
  - No notion of task required
- Generalizable to any evaluation
  - Concept drift ❤️ Continual Learning
- Horizon  $\mathcal{D}_t$   
Operational memory  $\mathcal{M}$

**How are training & testing interacting?**

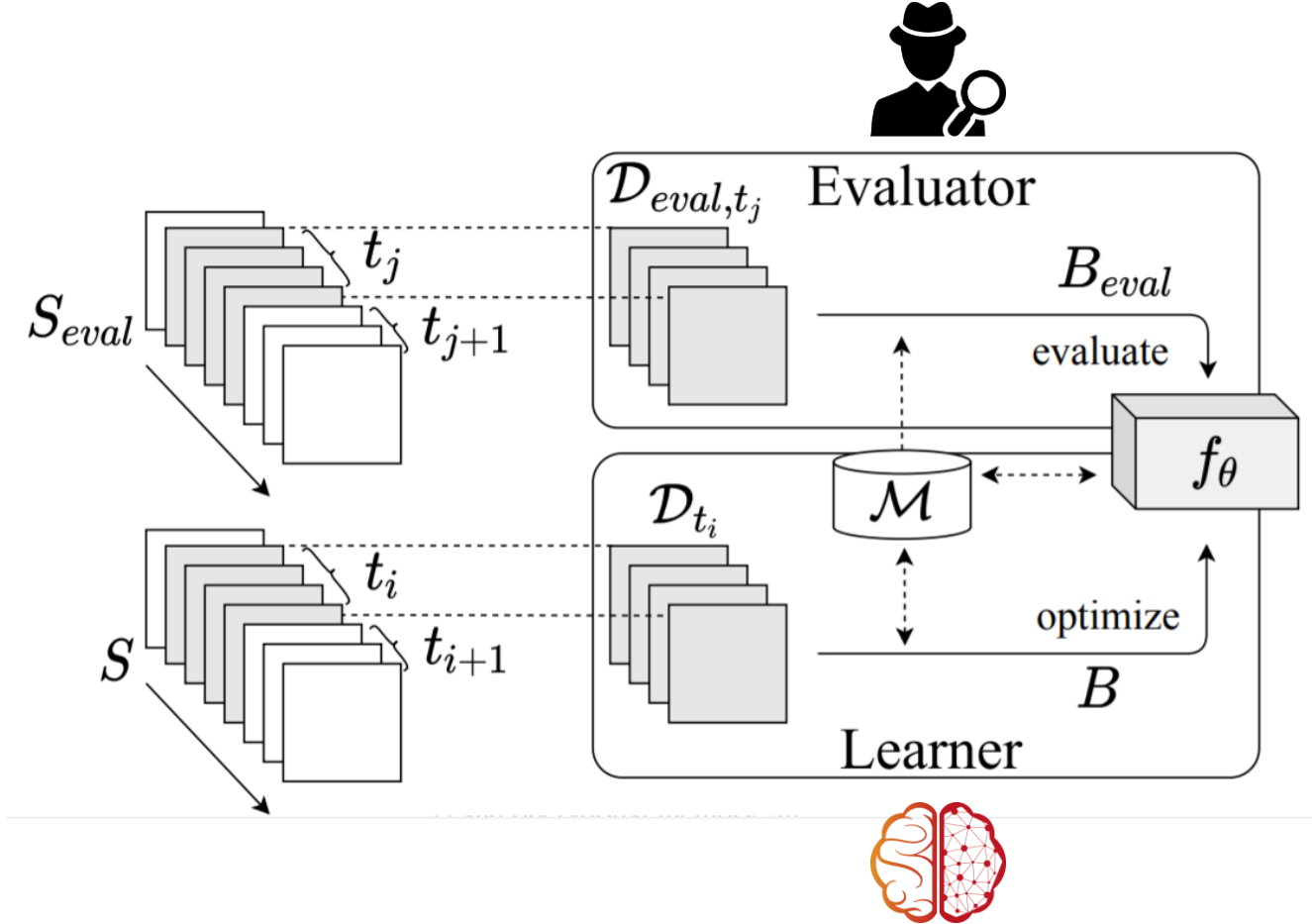
**What exactly is a task?  
How to define task-free settings?**

**What about drifting concepts?**

**What information is available when?  
What resources are available?**



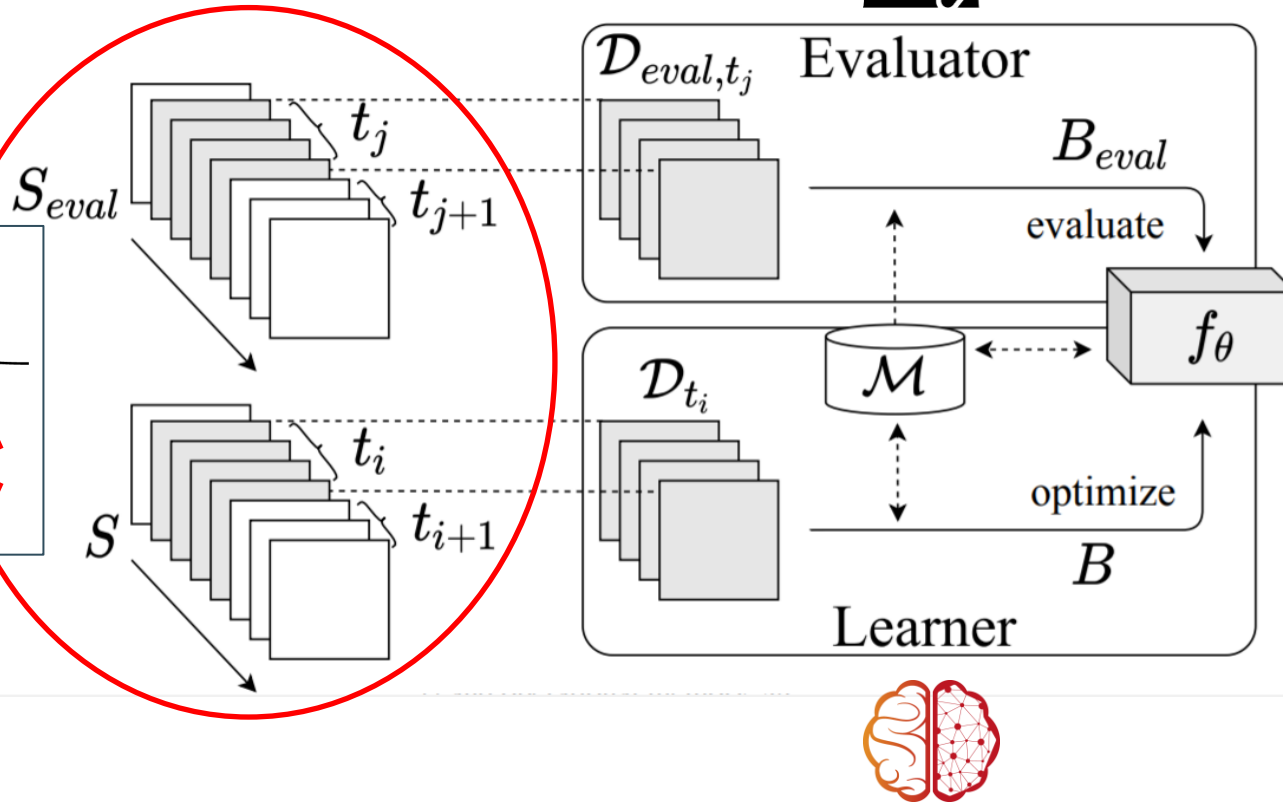
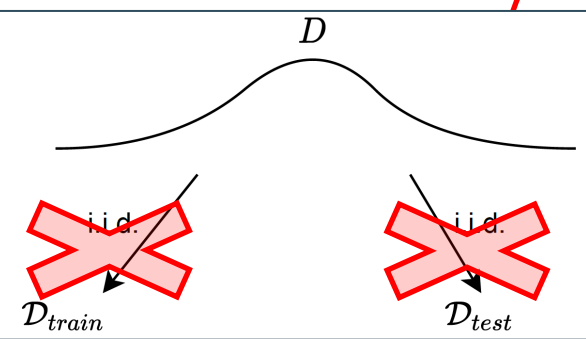
# Learner-evaluator framework



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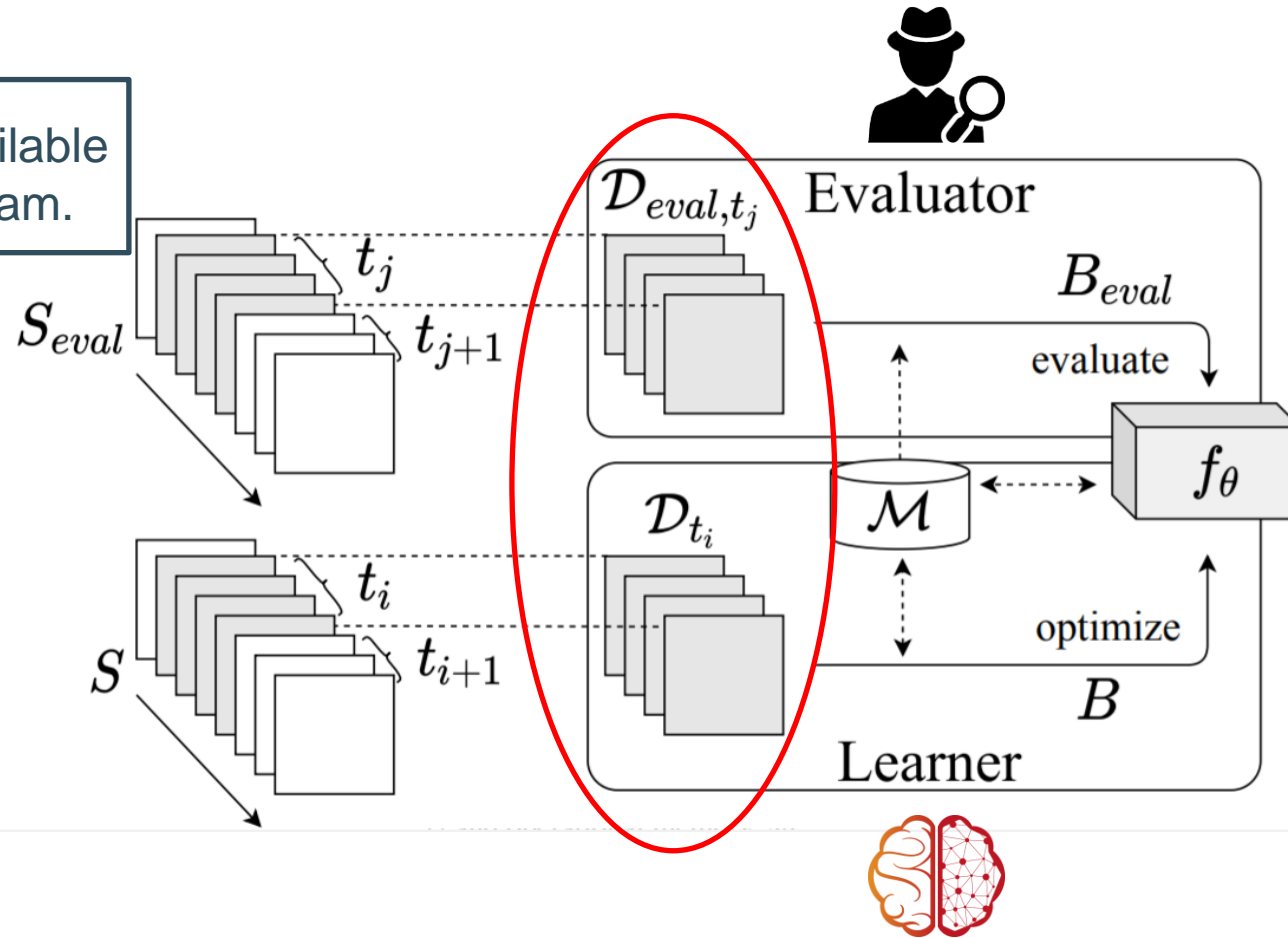
Streams model both

1. Continual Learning
2. Concept Drift



# Learner-evaluator framework

**Horizon**  $\mathcal{D}$  is the available subset of the data stream.



Offline (std ML)  $\mathcal{D} = S$   
 Online  $\mathcal{D} = B$

Models all CL-paradigms based on transition  $\mathcal{D}_{t_i \rightarrow t_{i+1}}$



# → Data incremental learning

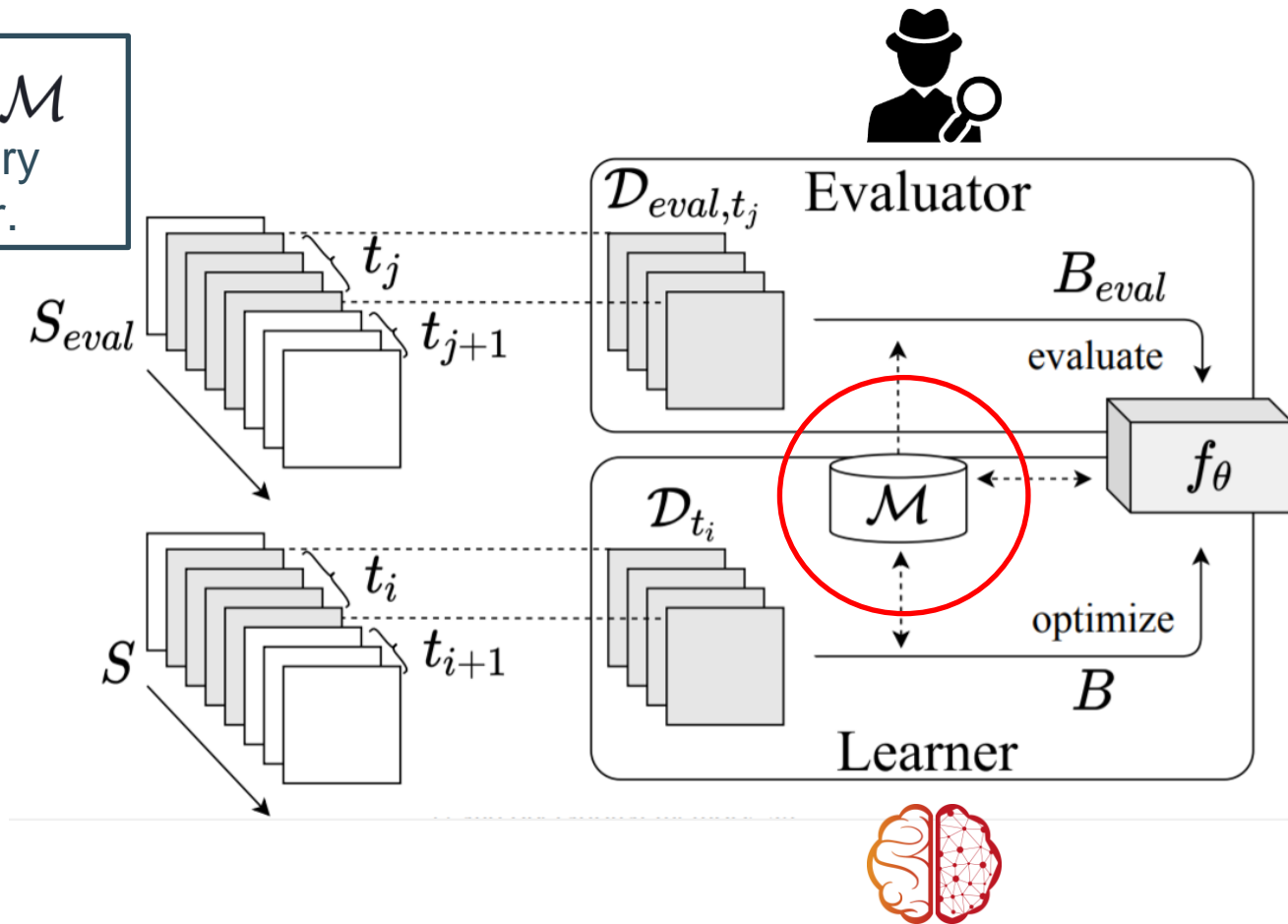
- Learning from data streams? **Data incremental learning!**  
 = *Task-free learning/streaming learning/task-agnostic learning*

	evaluator		learner		
	<i>sample</i>	<i>sample</i>	<i>horizon <math>\mathcal{D}</math></i>	<i>iid</i>	
<b>online learning</b>	$(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i)$	$(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i)$	batch ( $\mathcal{D} = B$ )	✓	
<b>continual learning</b>					
task incr.	$(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i, t_i)$	$(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i, t_i)$	task ( $\mathcal{D}_{t=t_i}$ )	✗	→ Task transitions
class incr.	$(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i)$	$(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i, t_i)$	class subset ( $\mathcal{D}_{t=t_i}$ )	✗	→ Class-subset transitions
domain incr.	$(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i)$	$(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i, t_i)$	domain ( $\mathcal{D}_{t=t_i}$ )	✗	→ Domain transitions
data incr.	$(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i)$	$(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i)$	any subset ( $B \leq \mathcal{D} < S$ )	✗	→ <b>Data stream subsets, no assumptions</b>



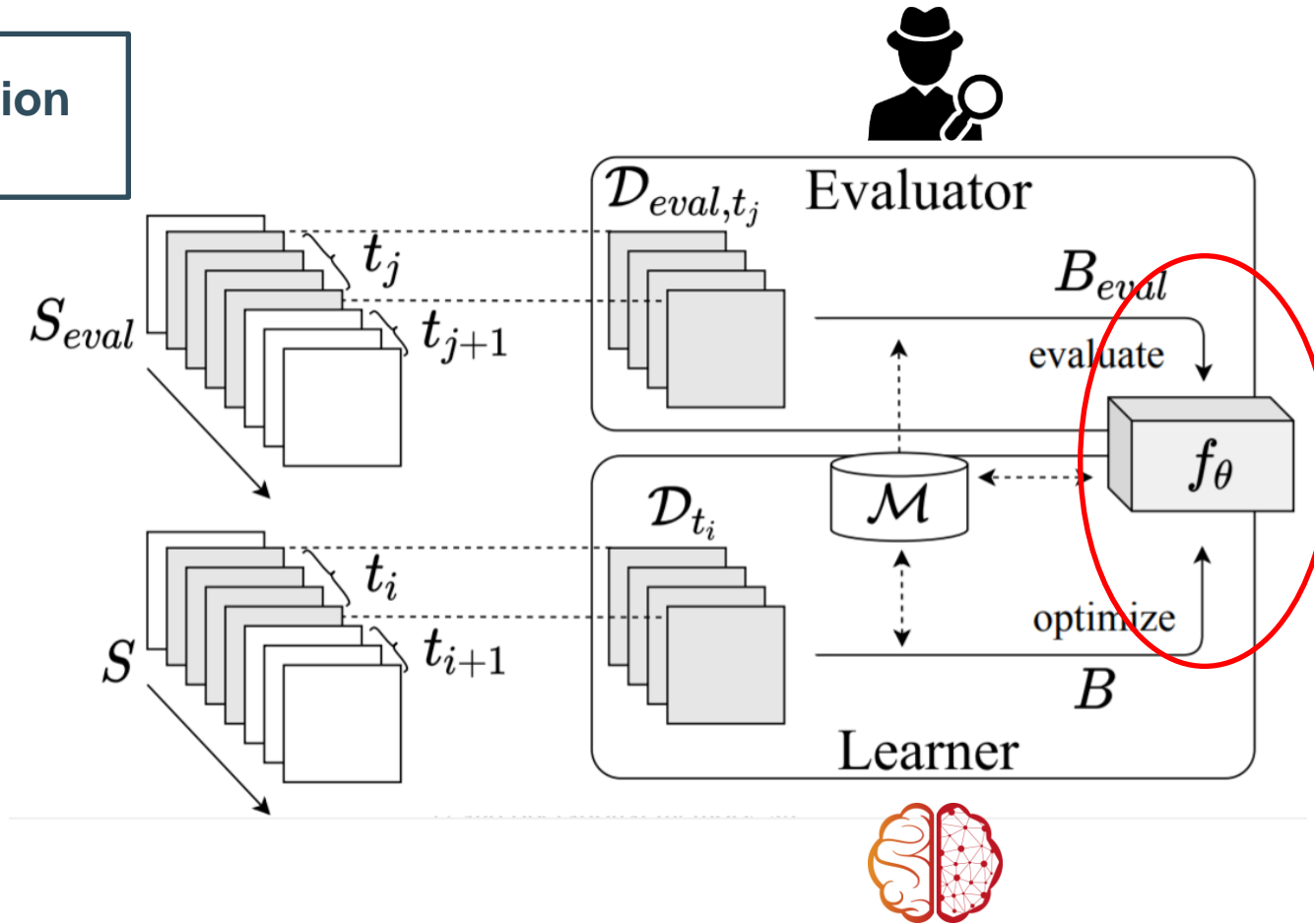
# Learner-evaluator framework

Operational Memory  $\mathcal{M}$  is the additional memory used by the CL learner.



# Learner-evaluator framework

Learning and evaluation act independent.



# Roadmap

- What is Continual Learning?
- How to learn from data streams?
- **Why representation learning?**
- Continual Prototype Evolution (CoPE)
  - Evolving prototypes
  - Balanced replay
  - PPP-loss

Follow along:



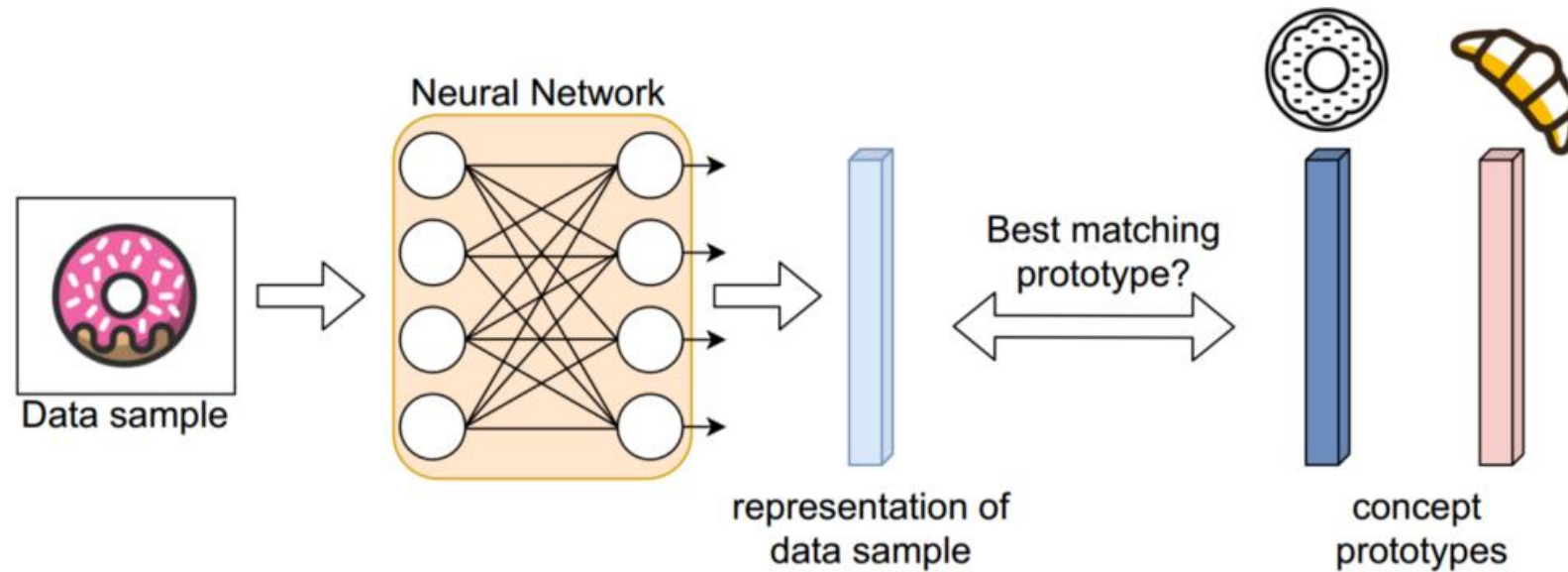
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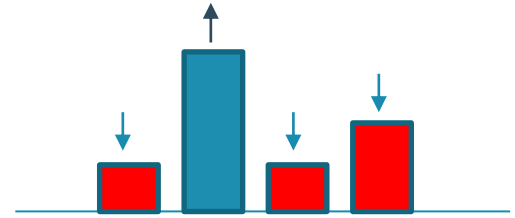
# Why representation learning?

- Catastrophic forgetting  
→ Optimization influences **entire parameter space!**
- Instead, learn a **low-dimensional embedding** with prototypes



# Why representation learning?

- **Typical softmax classifier with CE-loss**
  - Push away other-class weight vectors
  - Long unseen classes = unpredictable
  - Contrastive losses: Pair/triplet wise interaction



# But How?

2 problems to maintain prototypes

1. Each update step → Representation space changes  
= **Prototypes become stale**
2. Non-iid data → Some classes never seen again  
= **Prototypes become stale**



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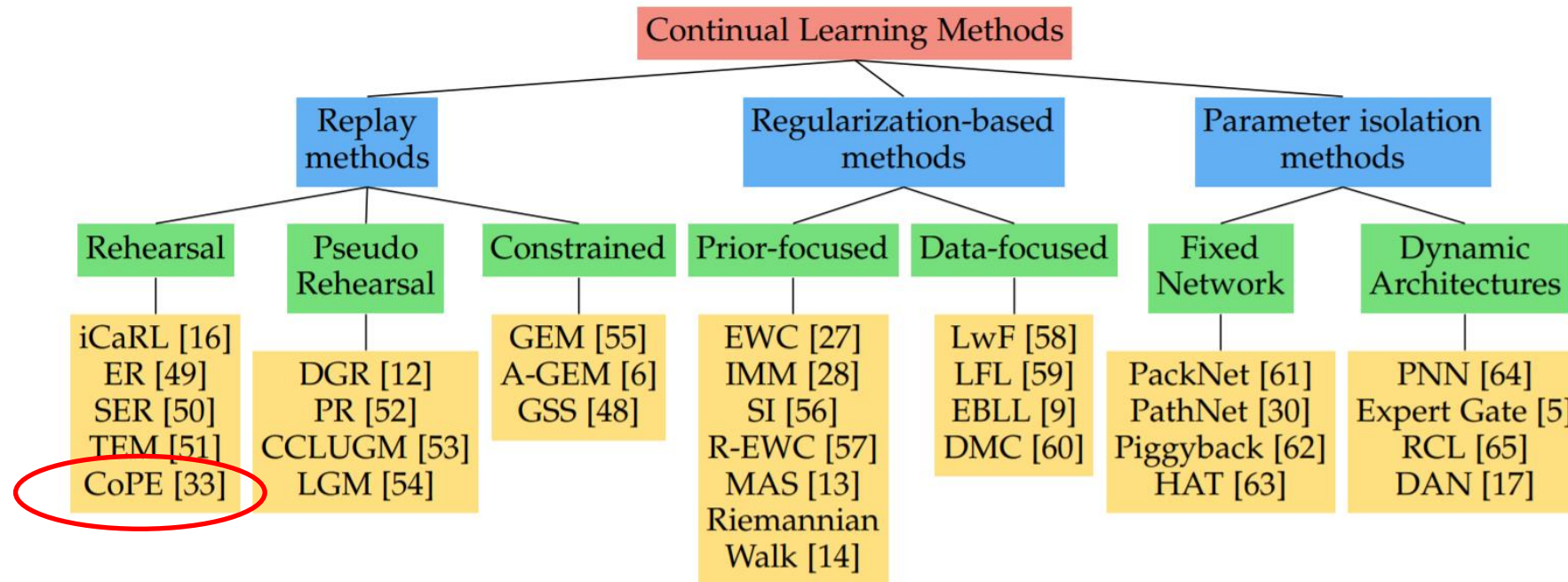
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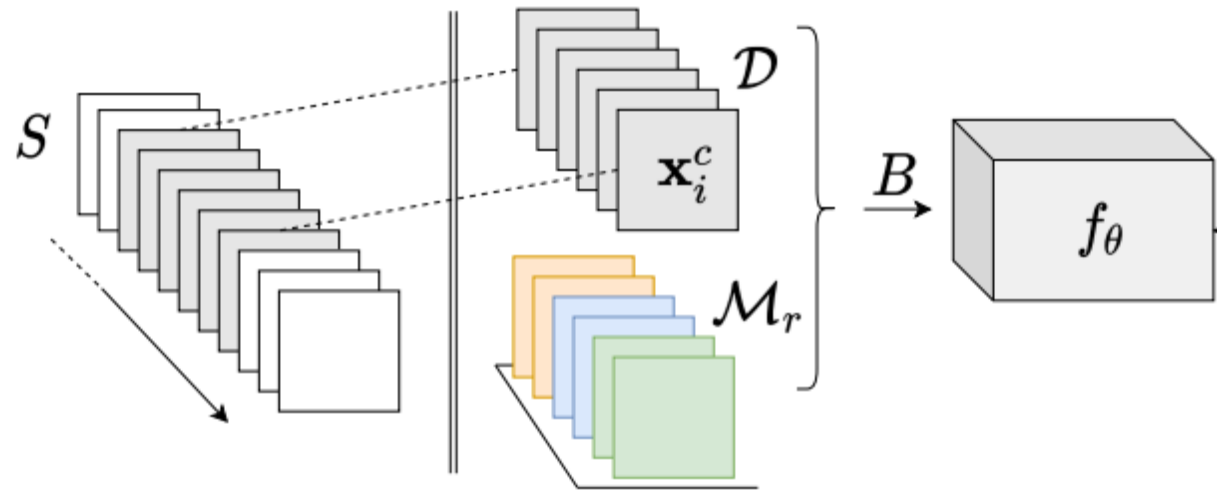
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# CoPE: Continual Prototype Evolution

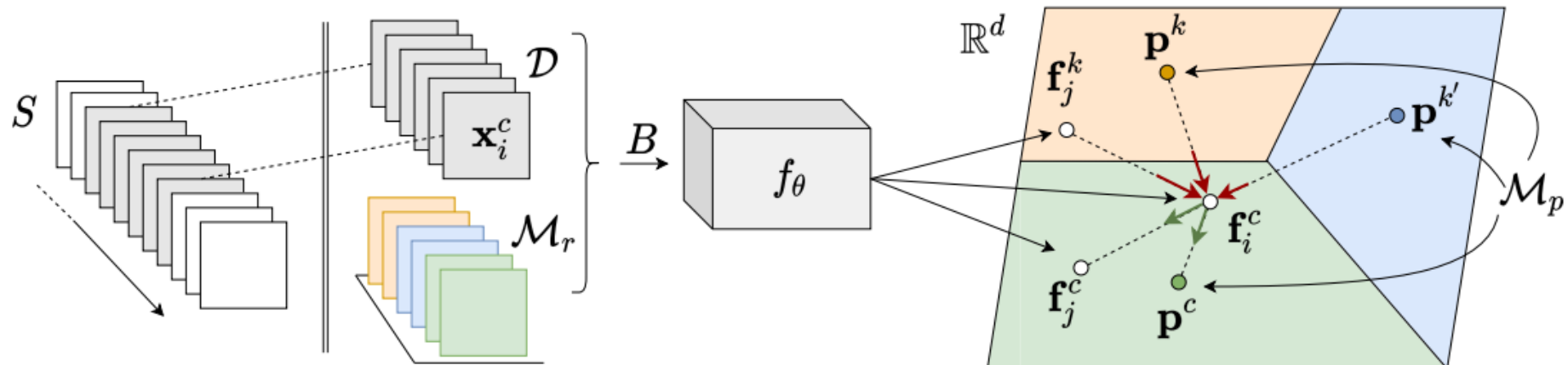


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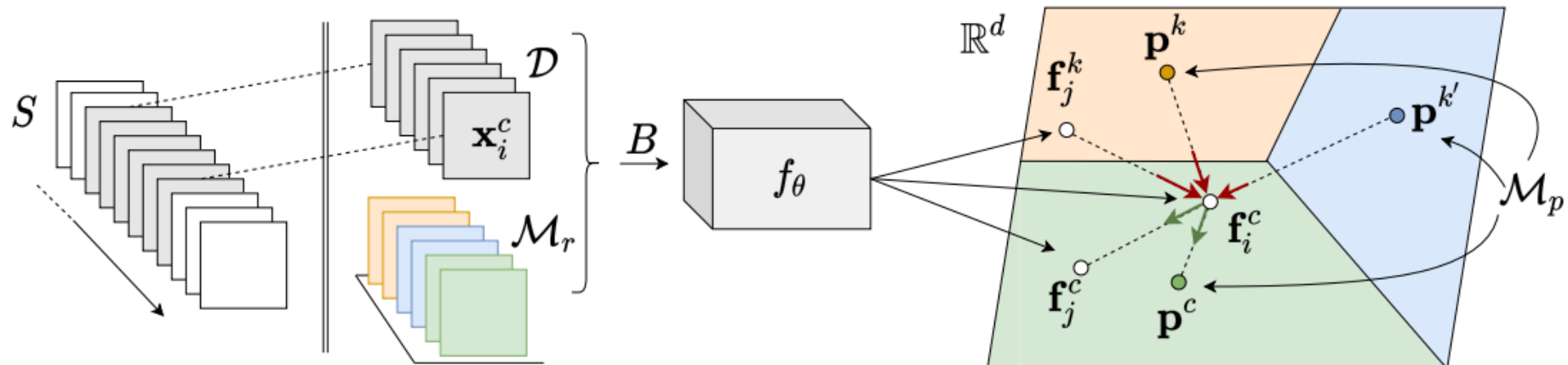
# CoPE: Continual Prototype Evolution

- Operates
  - Online
  - Data incremental
  - Imbalanced data



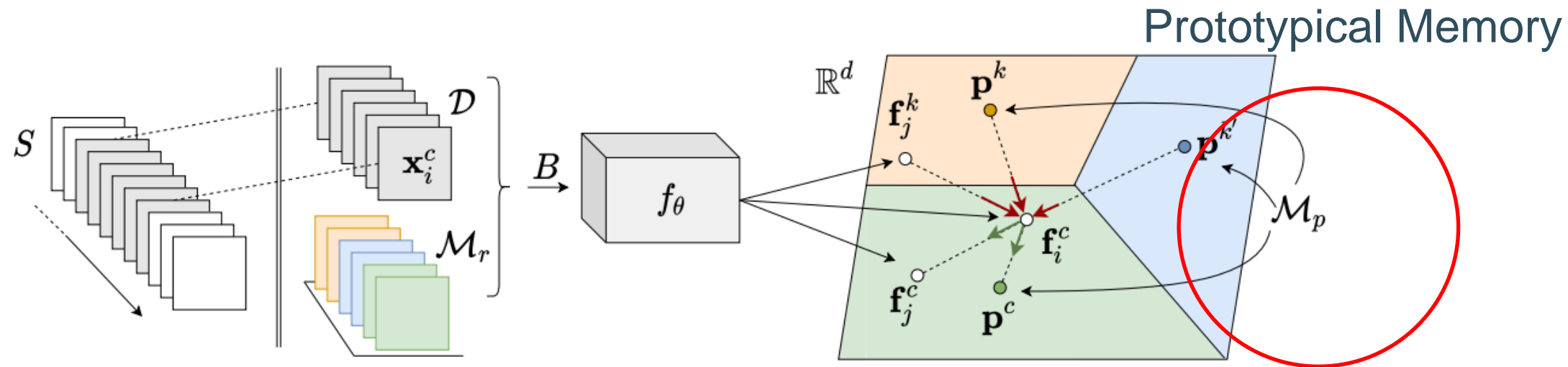
# CoPE: Continual Prototype Evolution

- 3 components
  - continually evolving prototypes
  - Pseudo-prototypical proxy loss (PPP-loss)
  - Balanced replay



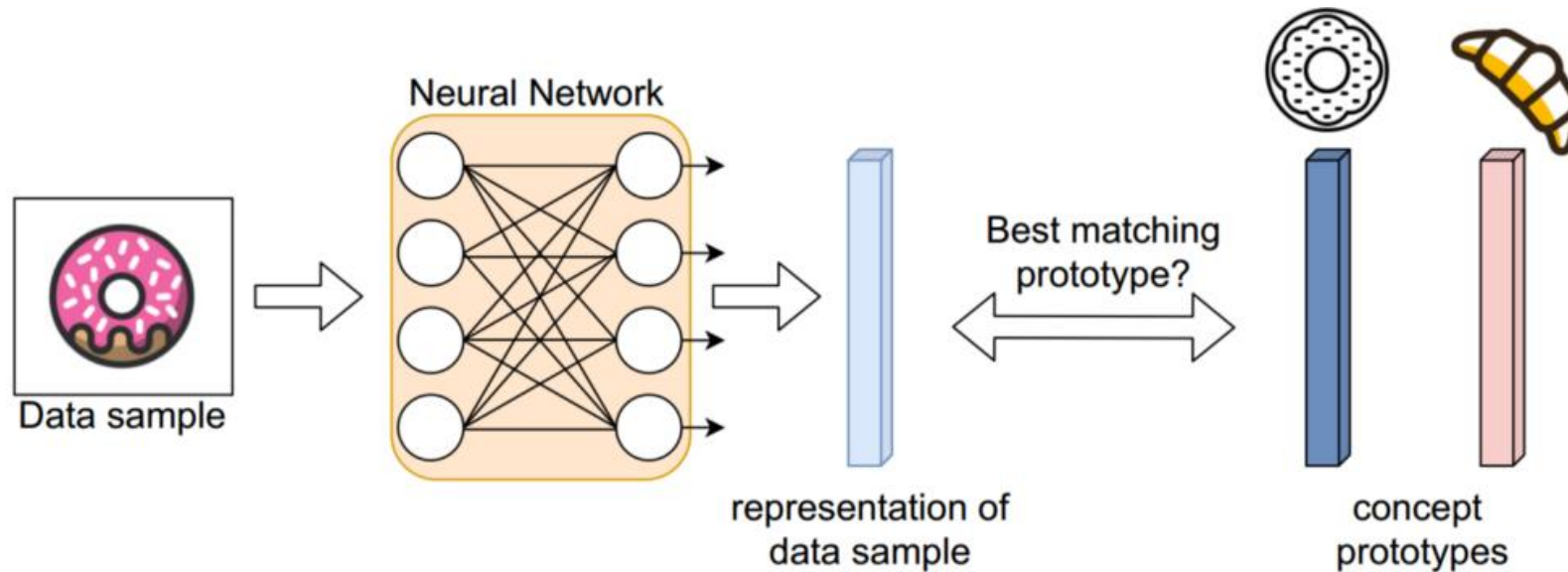


# CoPE: Component 1, Prototypes



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- Prototypes → Nearest Neighbour classifier



# CoPE: Component 1, Prototypes

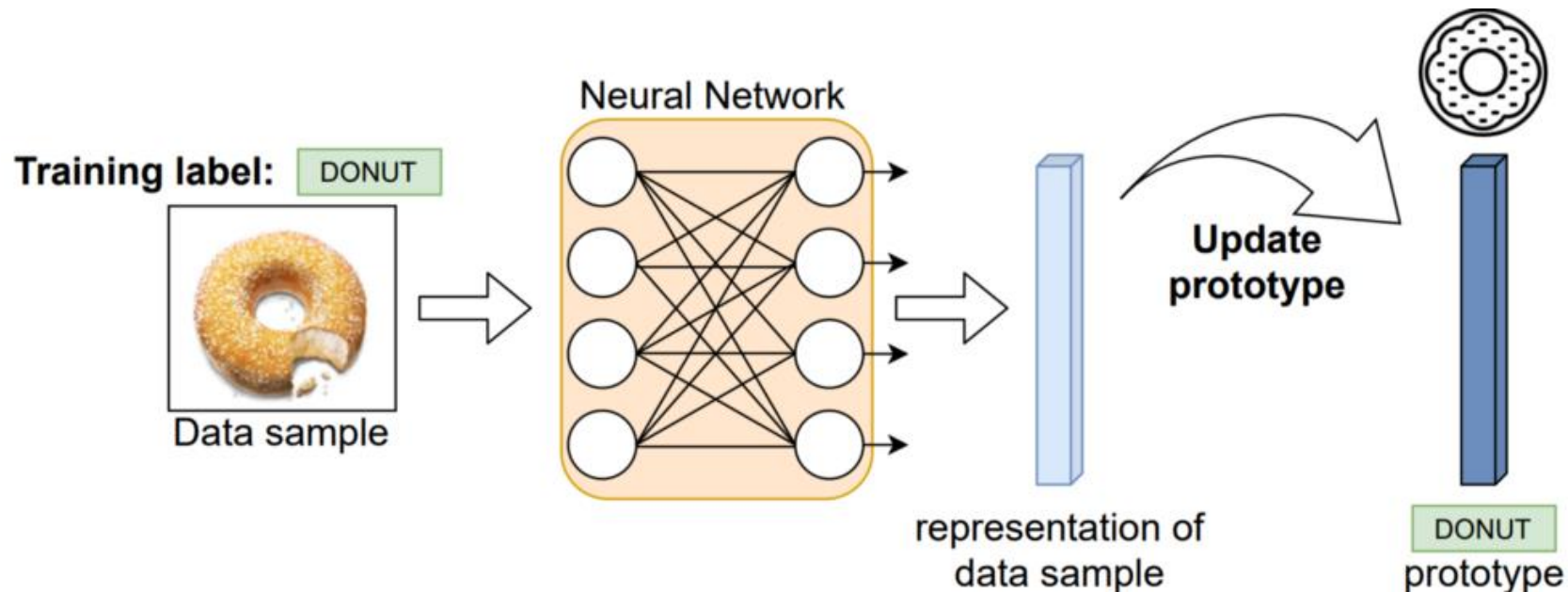
- CL literature: recalculated on task transitions with the FULL memory
  - × Exhaustive recalculation
  - × Dependent on task transitions
  - × Static and outdated between task transitions!
- CoPE updates online batch-wise with high momentum
  - ✓ Low resource usage
  - ✓ Only dependent batch transition
  - ✓ Always representative!



# CoPE: Component 1, Prototypes

- CoPE updates online batch-wise with high momentum

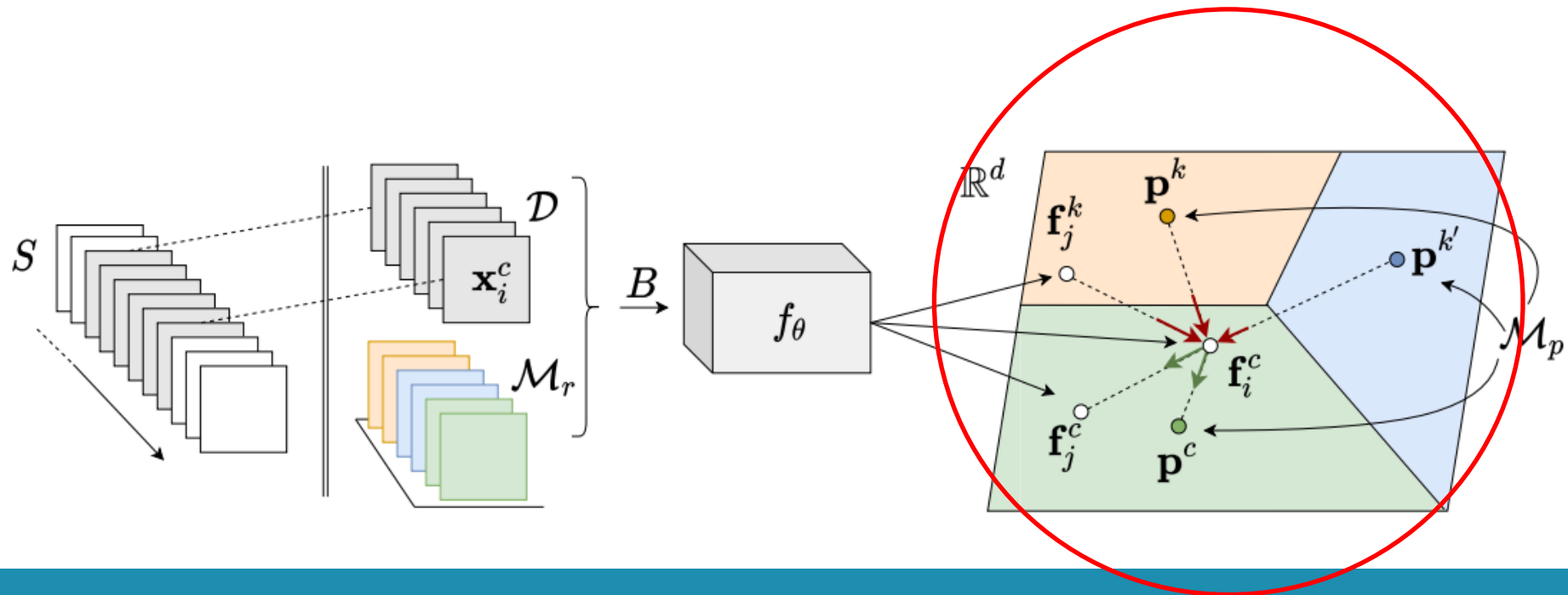
$$\mathbf{p}^c \leftarrow \alpha \mathbf{p}^c + (1 - \alpha) \bar{\mathbf{p}}^c, \text{ s.t. } \bar{\mathbf{p}}^c = \frac{1}{|B^c|} \sum_{\mathbf{x}^c \in B^c} f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^c)$$



# CoPE: Component 1, Prototypes

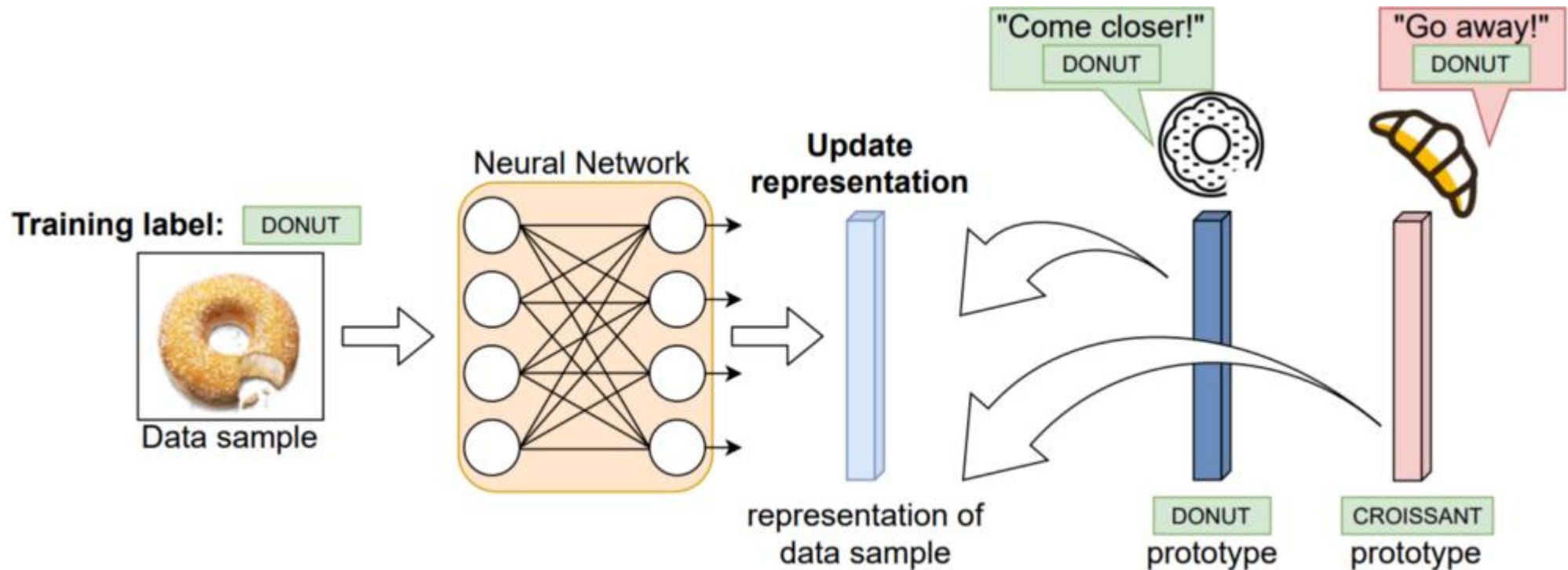
- But, **how** do the prototypes **remain representative**?
  - Ever evolving latent space with each update
  - Non-stationary data → Catastrophic forgetting
- Other 2 components:
  - PPP-loss
  - Balanced replay

# CoPE: Component 2, PPP-loss



# CoPE: Component 2, PPP-loss

How to update representations?



# CoPE: Component 2, PPP-loss

- Pseudo-Prototypical Proxy loss
- Batch  $B$  not only gives supervision about instance category  
→ Also relational information in the latent space!
- Construct per instance, one-against-all subsets:

$$B^c = \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i = c) \in B\} \quad \text{and} \quad B^k$$





# CoPE: Component 2, PPP-loss

- **Main idea**

For each instance  $\mathbf{x}_i^c$  in the batch, we want it to

1. Be close to its prototype and remaining class-instances in the batch

→ Attractor set:  $\mathbb{P}_i^c = \{\mathbf{p}^c\} \cup \{\hat{\mathbf{p}}_j^c = f_\theta(\mathbf{x}_j^c) \mid \forall \mathbf{x}_j^c \in B^c, i \neq j\}$

2. Push other-class instances away

→ Repellor set:  $\mathbb{U}_i^c = \{\mathbf{p}^c, \hat{\mathbf{p}}_i^c = f_\theta(\mathbf{x}_i^c)\}$

# CoPE: Component 2, PPP-loss

The Pseudo-Prototypical Proxy Loss:

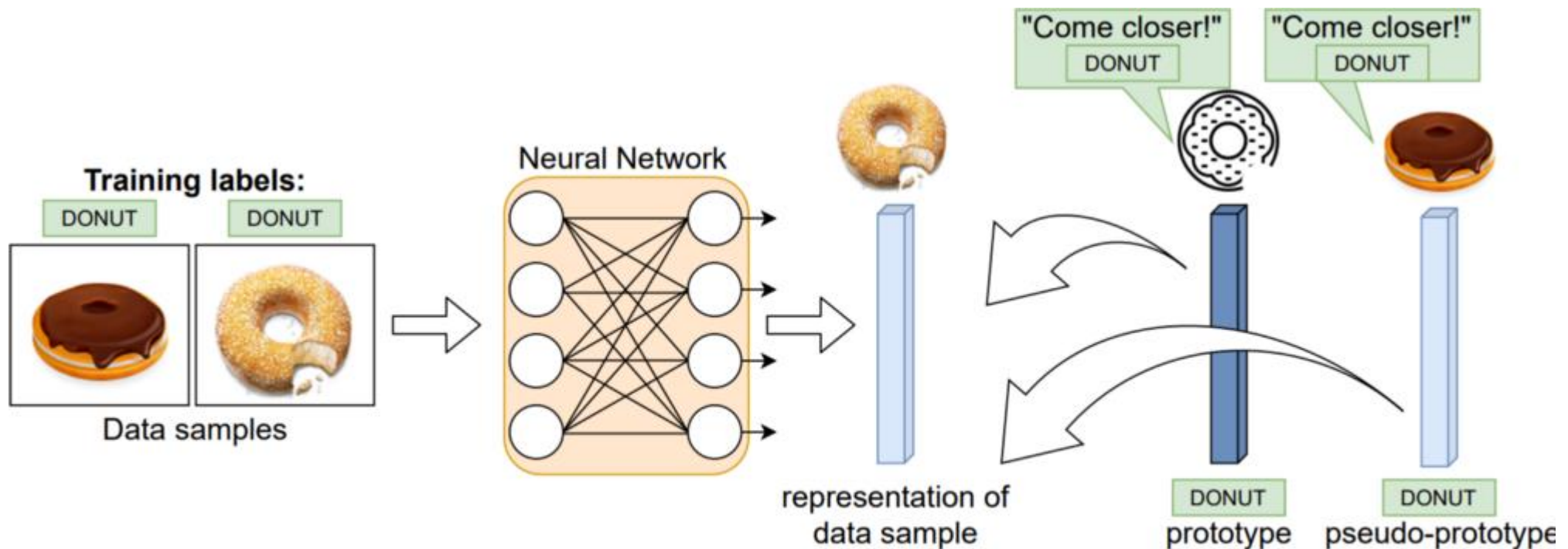
$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{|B|} \left[ \sum_i \log P(c|\mathbf{x}_i^c) + \sum_i \sum_{\mathbf{x}_j^k} \log(1 - P_i(c|\mathbf{x}_j^k)) \right]$$

See paper for details.



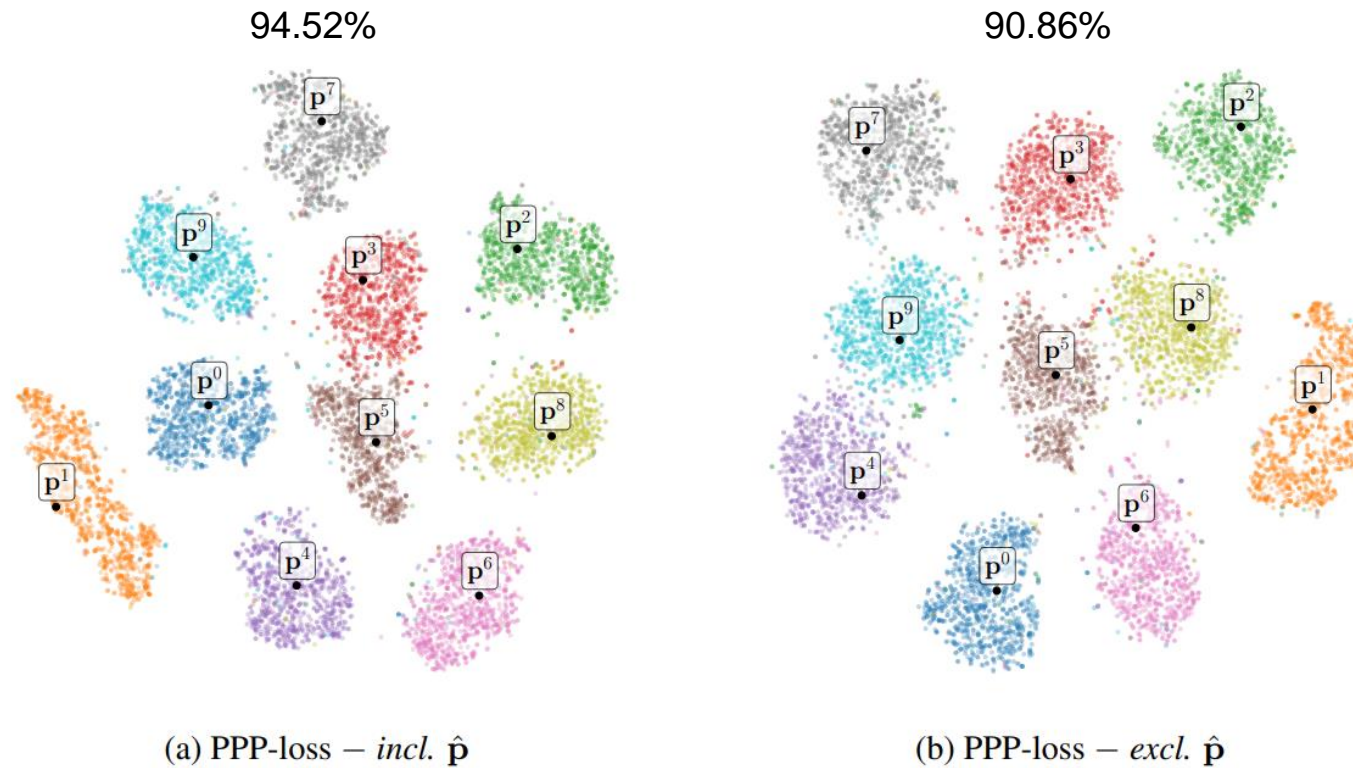
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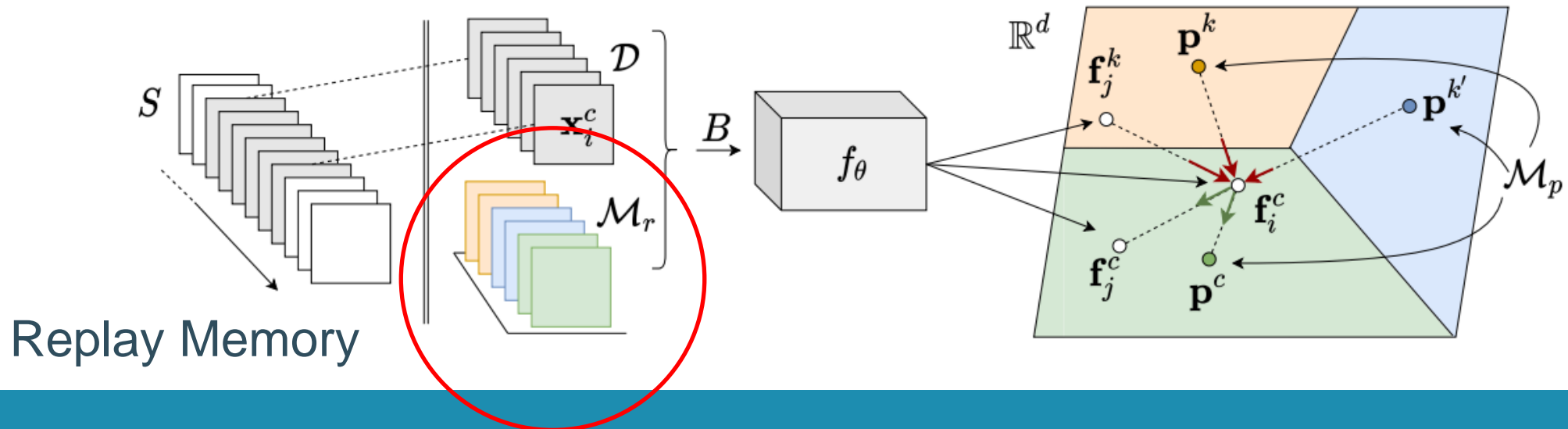


# PPP-loss ablation

- Including/excluding pseudo-prototypes in PPP-loss



# CoPE: Component 3, Balanced replay



# CoPE: Component 3, Balanced replay

- Prior: deem each class equally important
  - **Storage:** Dynamic class memory  $\mathcal{M}_r^c$  based on reservoir sampling
  - **Easy Retrieval:** Uniform = class-balanced batch  
→ Keeps all class-prototypes up-to-date
- **Replay benefits:**
  1. Standard replay: Make input batches more iid



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  1. Standard replay: Make input batches more iid
  2. In representation learning:  
Latent batch information for all classes



# Experiments

- Learner:
  - Online processing with  $|B|=10$
  - $S$  subdivided in task-like sequence (to compare with iCaRL/GEM)  
→ CoPE learner is unaware of this! (not provided)
- Evaluator:
  - held-out dataset of static concepts in  $S_{eval}$ , evaluating with the subset of seen concepts  $Y$  in  $D_{eval}$  using the accuracy metric.





# Prior Work

- **Online data incremental learning** ( $\mathcal{D} = B$ )
  - Replay: Reservoir, GSS , MIR
  - Parameter isolation methods: CURL, CN-DPM
- **Class incremental:** iCaRL, GEM



# Balanced data streams

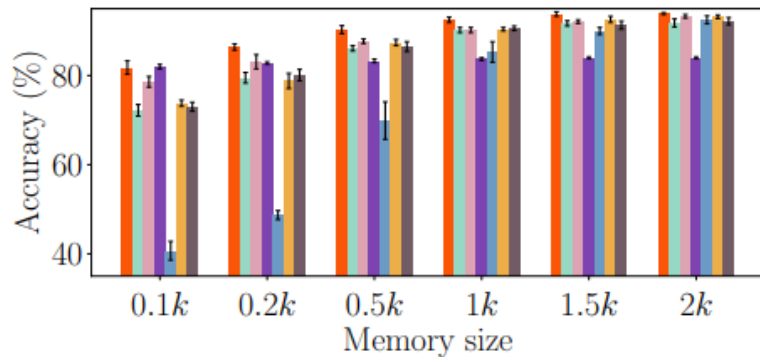
	<b>Split-MNIST</b>	<b>Split-CIFAR10</b>	<b>Split-CIFAR100</b>
iid-offline	98.44 $\pm$ 0.02	83.02 $\pm$ 0.60	50.28 $\pm$ 0.66
iid-online	96.57 $\pm$ 0.14	62.31 $\pm$ 1.67	20.10 $\pm$ 0.90
finetune	19.75 $\pm$ 0.05	18.55 $\pm$ 0.34	3.53 $\pm$ 0.04
GEM	93.25 $\pm$ 0.36	24.13 $\pm$ 2.46	11.12 $\pm$ 2.48
iCARL	83.95 $\pm$ 0.21	37.32 $\pm$ 2.66	10.80 $\pm$ 0.37
CURL (Rao et al., 2019)	92.59 $\pm$ 0.66	—	—
DN-CPM (Lee et al., 2020)	93.23 $\pm$ 0.09	45.21 $\pm$ 0.18	20.10 $\pm$ 0.12
reservoir	92.16 $\pm$ 0.75	42.48 $\pm$ 3.04	19.57 $\pm$ 1.79
MIR	93.20 $\pm$ 0.36	42.80 $\pm$ 2.22	20.00 $\pm$ 0.57
GSS	92.47 $\pm$ 0.92	38.45 $\pm$ 1.41	13.10 $\pm$ 0.94
CoPE-CE	91.77 $\pm$ 0.87	39.73 $\pm$ 2.26	18.33 $\pm$ 1.52
CoPE (ours)	<b>93.94 <math>\pm</math> 0.20</b>	<b>48.92 <math>\pm</math> 1.32</b>	<b>21.62 <math>\pm</math> 0.69</b>



# “Sure dude, but you just tweaked the buffer size?”

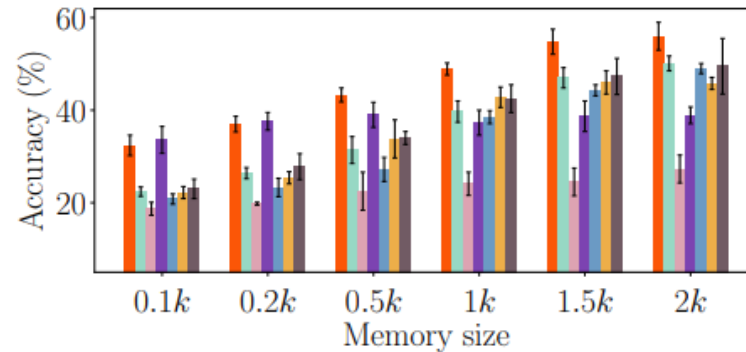
### Split-MNIST

CoPE:  $89.8 \pm 4.8$    iCaRL\*:  $83.3 \pm 0.8$    MIR:  $86.0 \pm 8.0$   
CoPE-CE:  $85.2 \pm 7.9$    GSS:  $71.2 \pm 22.1$    Reservoir:  $85.6 \pm 7.6$   
GEM\*:  $87.5 \pm 5.7$



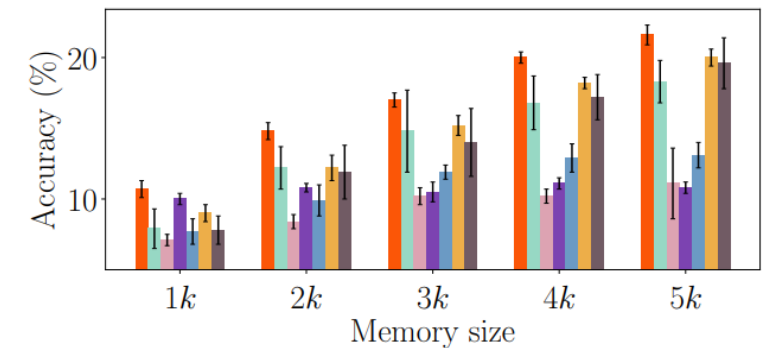
### Split-CIFAR10

CoPE:  $45.4 \pm 8.7$    iCaRL\*:  $37.5 \pm 1.8$    MIR:  $36.0 \pm 9.6$   
CoPE-CE:  $36.2 \pm 10.3$    GSS:  $33.8 \pm 10.7$    Reservoir:  $37.3 \pm 9.8$   
GEM\*:  $22.8 \pm 2.9$



### Split-CIFAR100

CoPE:  $16.8 \pm 4.3$    iCaRL\*:  $10.6 \pm 0.4$    MIR:  $14.9 \pm 4.4$   
CoPE-CE:  $14.0 \pm 4.1$    GSS:  $11.1 \pm 2.3$    Reservoir:  $14.1 \pm 4.6$   
GEM\*:  $9.4 \pm 1.6$



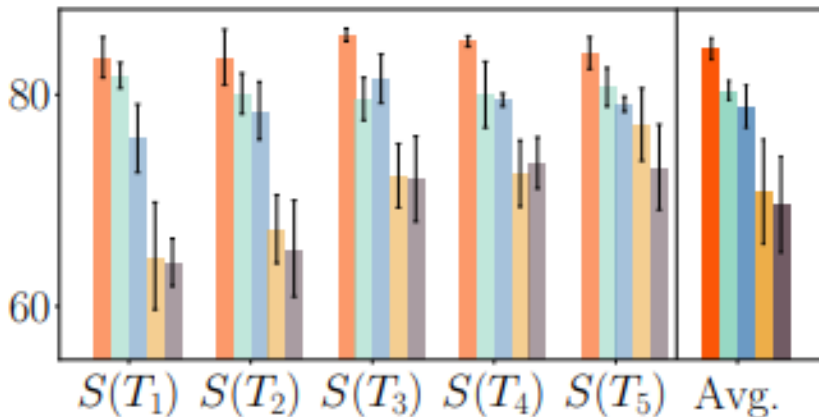
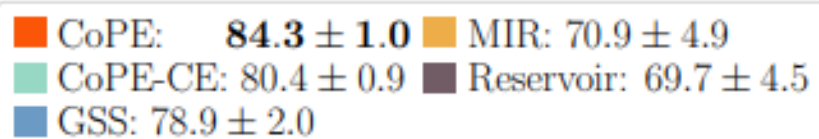
- Discrepancy CoPE-CE / CoPE → Efficacy prototypical approach



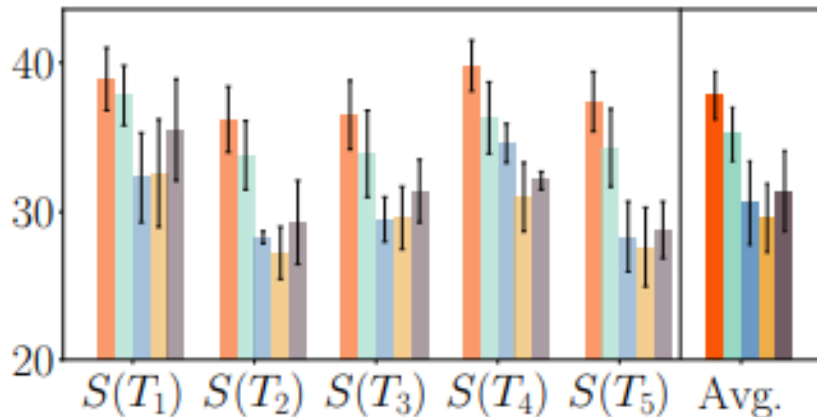
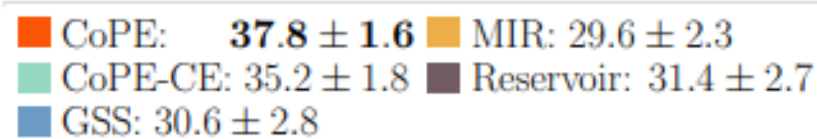
# Imbalanced experiments

- Not just the balancing memory scheme (CoPE-CE)
- The PPP-loss encourages prototype-based clusters each update

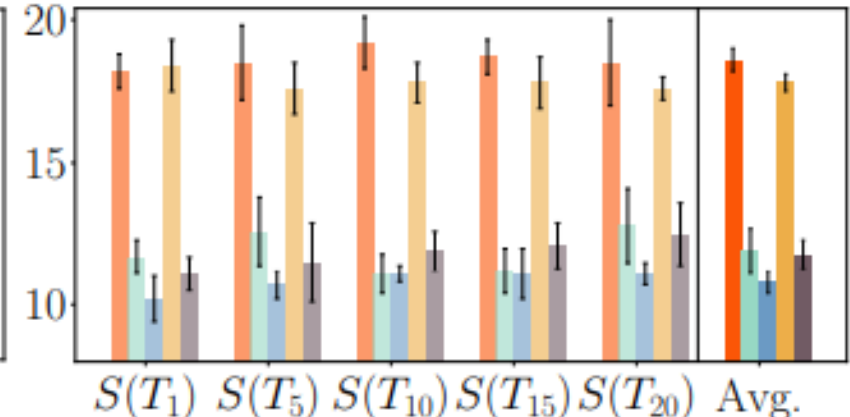
Split-MNIST



Split-CIFAR10



Split-CIFAR100



# Summary

- Learner-evaluator framework → 2 agents, horizon (~~task~~), concept drift
- Data incremental learning → Any data stream (~~task-info~~)
- CoPE
  - Online data incremental
  - Continually evolving prototypes
  - Balanced replay
  - PPP-loss
- Future? → Apply for concept drift, beyond classification/supervised learning



# Code

<https://github.com/mattdl/ContinualPrototypeEvolution>

# Blog

<https://ai.kuleuven.be/stories/post/2021-05-10-continual-learning/>



# ContinualAI

<https://www.continualai.org/>

## Free-Access Workshop CVPR

<https://sites.google.com/view/clvision2021/overview>

