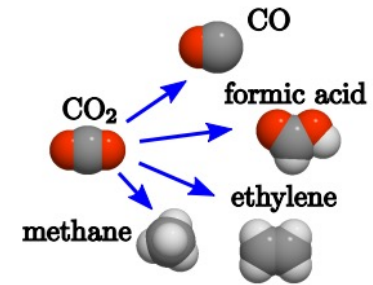
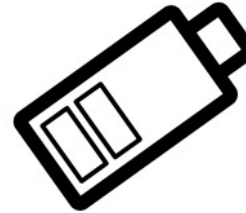
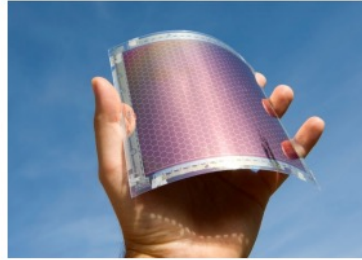


Meta-learning Adaptive Deep Kernel Gaussian Processes for Molecular Property Prediction

Wenlin Chen, Austin Tripp, José Miguel Hernández-Lobato

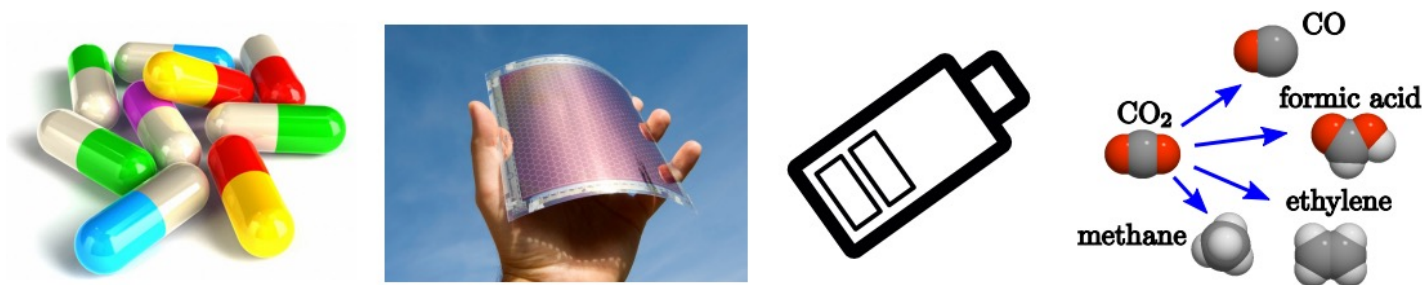
Motivation: Molecular Design

Goal: find novel molecules with desirable biochemical/physicochemical properties.



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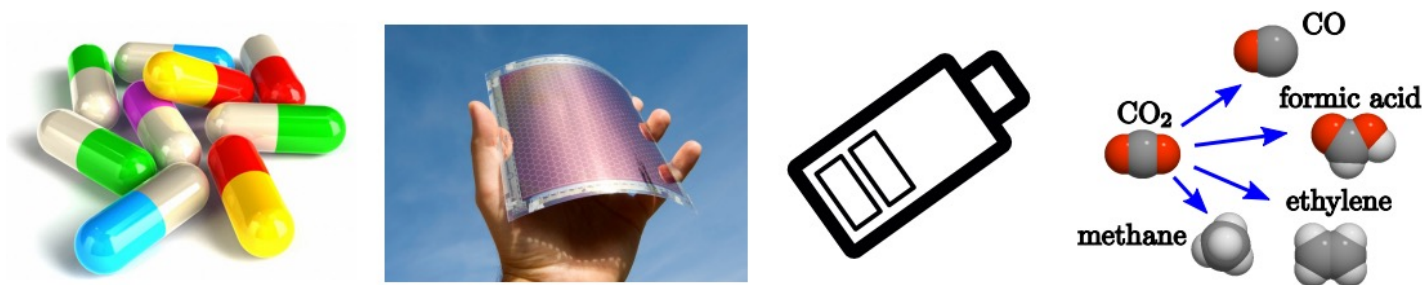


Challenge:

- Evaluating molecular properties is slow and expensive: small datasets are ubiquitous.
- Chemical space is huge and complex: exhaustive search is prohibitive.

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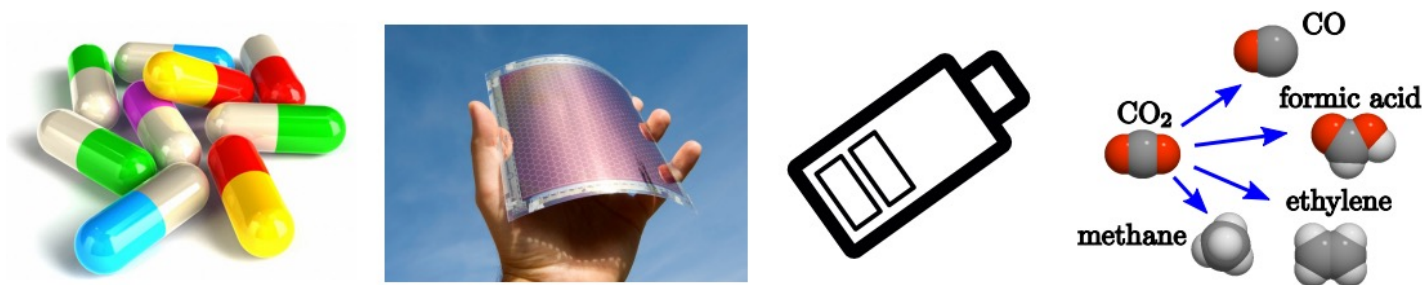
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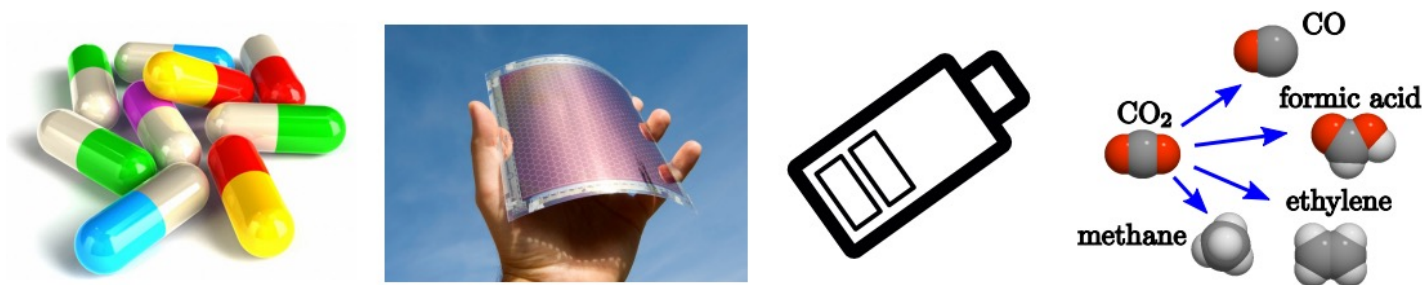
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We want better GP models for molecules!

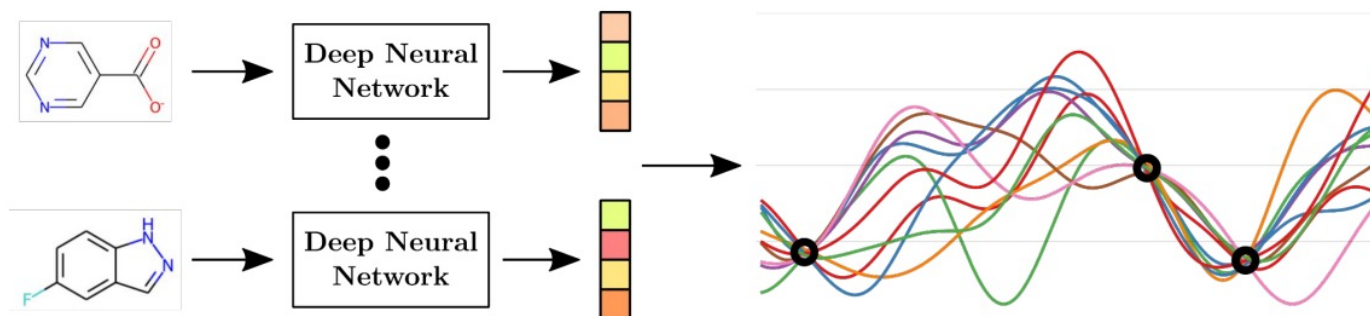
Model: Deep Kernel Gaussian Processes

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Deep kernel GPs operate on features learned by a DNN.

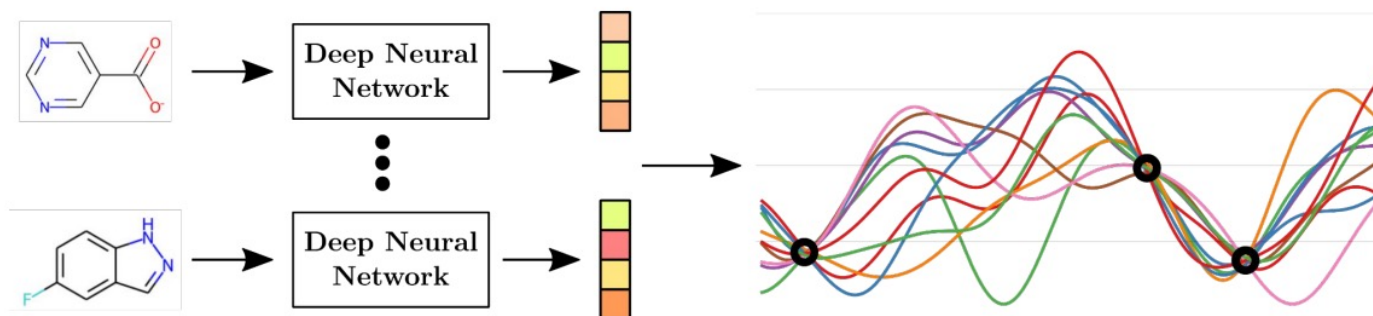


Representation learning (DNN) + Uncertainty (GP)

Model: Deep Kernel Gaussian Processes

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Representation learning (DNN) + **Uncertainty (GP)**

$$k_{\theta, \phi}(x, x') = c_{\theta}(\mathbf{f}_{\phi}(x), \mathbf{f}_{\phi}(x'))$$

↑ ↑ ↑

deep kernel base kernel DNN feature

learnable parameters $\psi = (\theta, \phi)$ (e.g., RBF) extractor

Previous Methods for Training Deep Kernel GPs

1. Deep Kernel Learning (DKL, Wilson et al., 2016)

- All parameters are learned by minimizing the negative log marginal likelihood (NLML) **on a single dataset**.

$$\psi^* = \arg \min_{\psi} \text{NLML}(\psi, \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{T}})$$

- Pure **single-task learning** (a separate deep kernel GP is trained for each task).

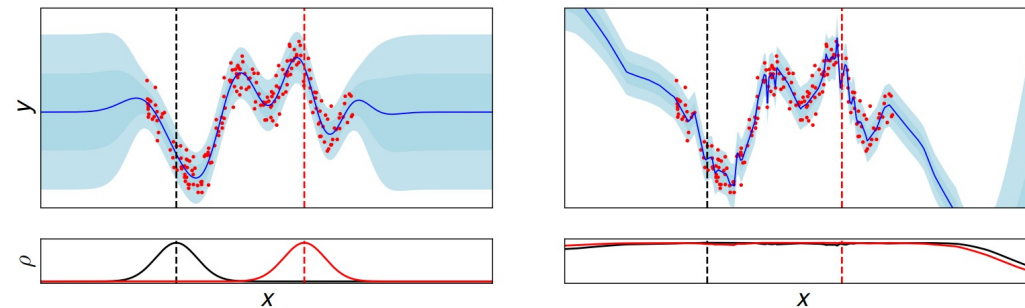
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- Pure **single-task learning** (a separate deep kernel GP is trained for each task).
- ✗ **Severe overfitting** (Ober et al., 2021) on **small datasets** despite the use of type-II ML.



(a) SE kernel

(b) Exact DKL kernel

DKL makes all output values strongly correlated!

Previous Methods for Training Deep Kernel GPs

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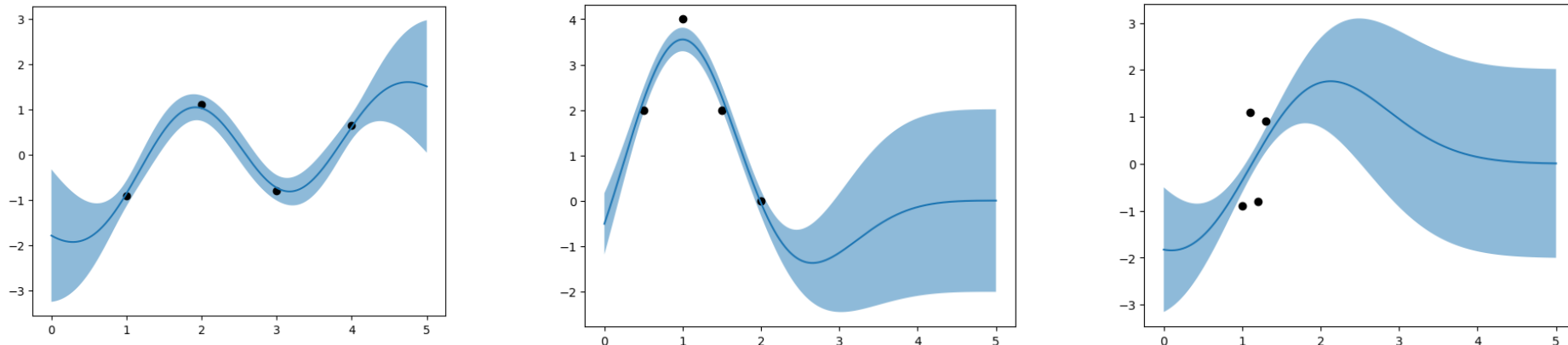
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✗ **Underfitting due to model mis-specification.**



It's unrealistic to assume all datasets are drawn from an identical GP with the same noise, signal variance, characteristic lengthscales!

Adaptive Deep Kernel Fitting with Implicit Function Theorem (ADKF-IFT)

- **ADKF-IFT** interpolates between DKL and DKT:

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$$\psi_{adapt}^*(\psi_{meta}, \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{T}}) = \arg \min_{\psi_{adapt}} \mathcal{L}_T(\psi_{meta}, \psi_{adapt}, \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{T}}).$$

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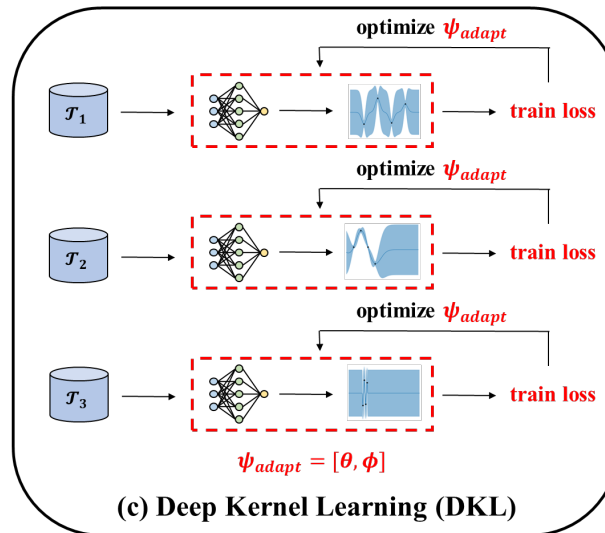
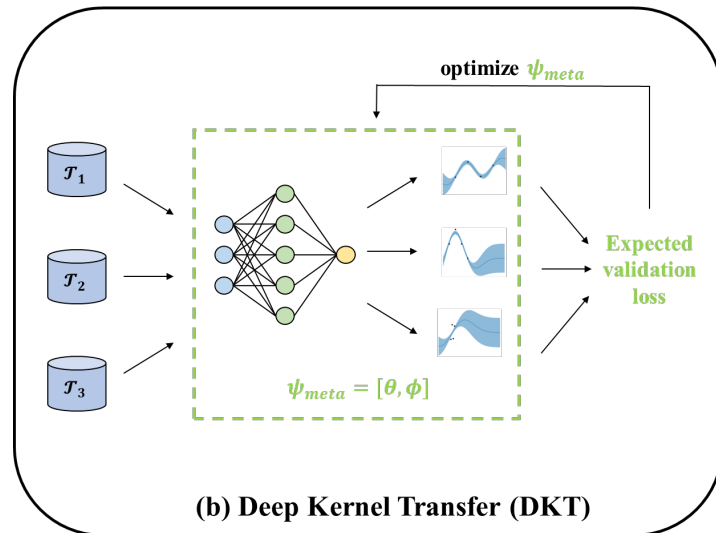
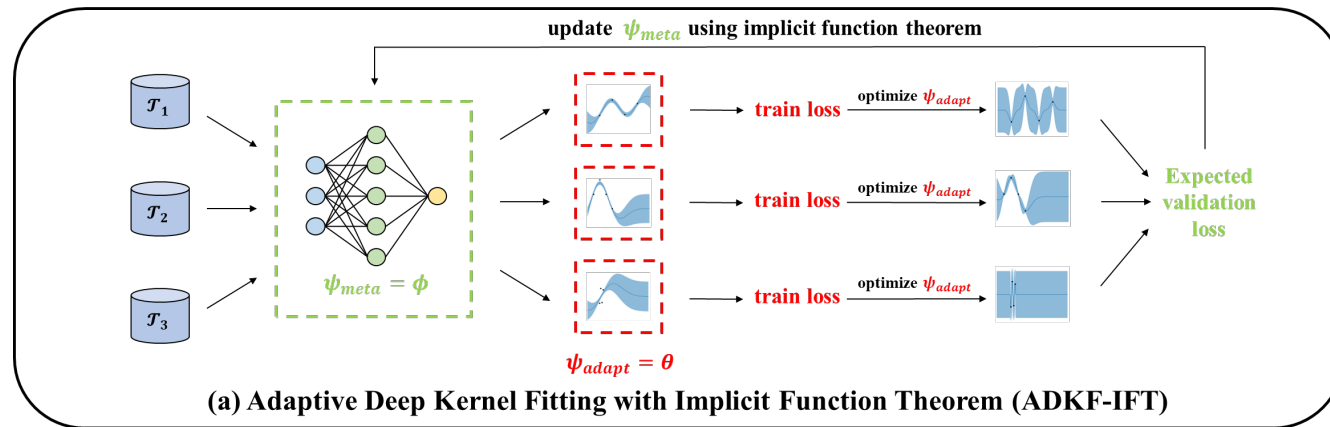
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$$\begin{aligned} \psi_{meta}^* &= \arg \min_{\psi_{meta}} \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathcal{T})} [\mathcal{L}_V(\psi_{meta}, \psi_{adapt}^*(\psi_{meta}, \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{T}}), \mathcal{T})], \\ \text{s.t. } \psi_{adapt}^*(\psi_{meta}, \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{T}}) &= \arg \min_{\psi_{adapt}} \mathcal{L}_T(\psi_{meta}, \psi_{adapt}, \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{T}}). \end{aligned}$$

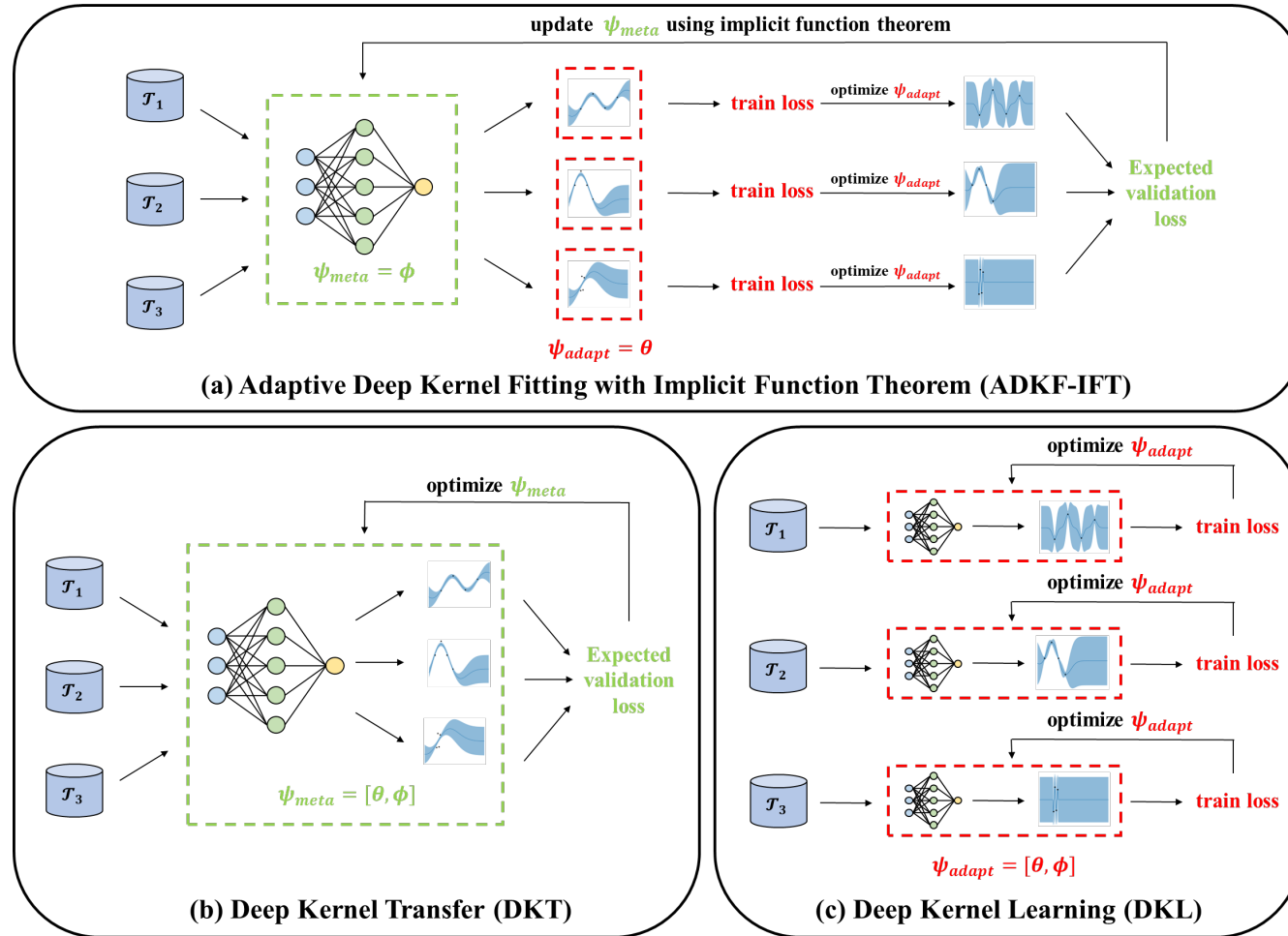
best response function for a given task \mathcal{T} and ψ_{meta}

- **Interpretation:** DNN meta-learns generally useful features across tasks, such that a task-specific GP operates on top of such features achieves the highest predictive performance on average.

Contrast DKL, DKT and ADKF-IFT

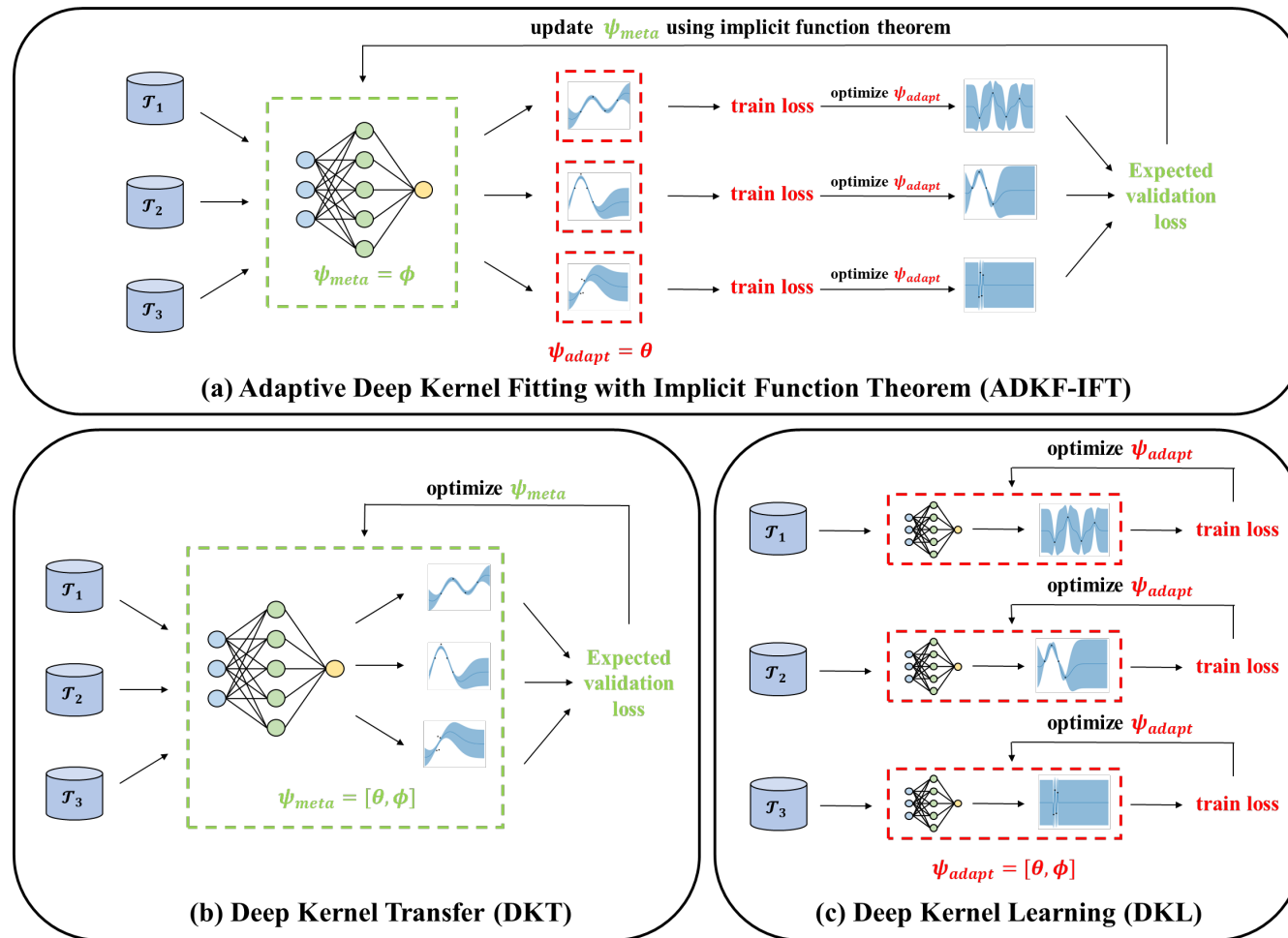


Contrast DKL, DKT and ADKF-IFT



Justification: two related tasks are more likely to have different noise levels, signal variances, or characteristic lengthscales than to require substantially different feature representations.

Contrast DKL, DKT and ADKF-IFT



- **ADKF-IFT** reduces **overfitting**:

- ✓ It regularizes the feature extractor using meta-learning.
- ✓ It learns feature extractor and base kernel parameters on different subsets (train/test) of a dataset.

- **ADKF-IFT** reduces **underfitting**:

- ✓ It adapts base kernel parameters separately to each task.

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- ✗ The best response function ψ_{adapt}^* is defined by an **argmin function!** How to differentiate it?
- ✗ Auto-diff requires tracking the gradients through many iterations of the inner optimization (**intractable**)!

Solve the Bilevel Optimization Problem by Implicit Function Theorem

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where $\psi'_{adapt} = \psi_{adapt}^*(\psi'_{meta}, \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{T}'})$.

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IFT:

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- ✓ Common GP based kernels (e.g., RBF) contains only a handful of parameters $\psi_{adapt} = \theta$.
- ✓ The inverse Hessian in IFT can be computed exactly without any approximation!

General Framework vs. Specific Instantiations

ADKF-IFT can be formalized as a **bi-level optimization** problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_{\text{meta}}^* &= \arg \min_{\psi_{\text{meta}}} \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathcal{T})} [\mathcal{L}_V(\psi_{\text{meta}}, \psi_{\text{adapt}}^*(\psi_{\text{meta}}, \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{T}}), \mathcal{T})], \\ \text{s.t. } \psi_{\text{adapt}}^*(\psi_{\text{meta}}, \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{T}}) &= \arg \min_{\psi_{\text{adapt}}} \mathcal{L}_T(\psi_{\text{meta}}, \psi_{\text{adapt}}, \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{T}}). \end{aligned}$$

- ✓ $\psi_{\text{adapt}}, \psi_{\text{meta}}, \mathcal{L}_T, \mathcal{L}_V$ could be anything, which makes **ADKF-IFT** a **general framework**.
- ✓ Any particular choice of $\psi_{\text{adapt}}, \psi_{\text{meta}}, \mathcal{L}_T, \mathcal{L}_V$ is an **instantiation** of the general framework.
- ✓ **DKL** and **DKT** are special instantiations (**extreme cases**) of this general framework!

The General Framework Unifies Previous Methods (DKL and DKT)

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$$\psi_{\text{adapt}} = \psi = [\theta, \phi]$$

$$\psi_{\text{meta}} = \emptyset$$

$$\mathcal{L}_T = \text{NLML}$$

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Deep Kernel Learning (DKL)

$$\psi_{\text{meta}} = \psi = [\theta, \phi]$$

$$\mathcal{L}_V = \text{NLML}$$

$$\psi_{\text{adapt}} = \emptyset$$

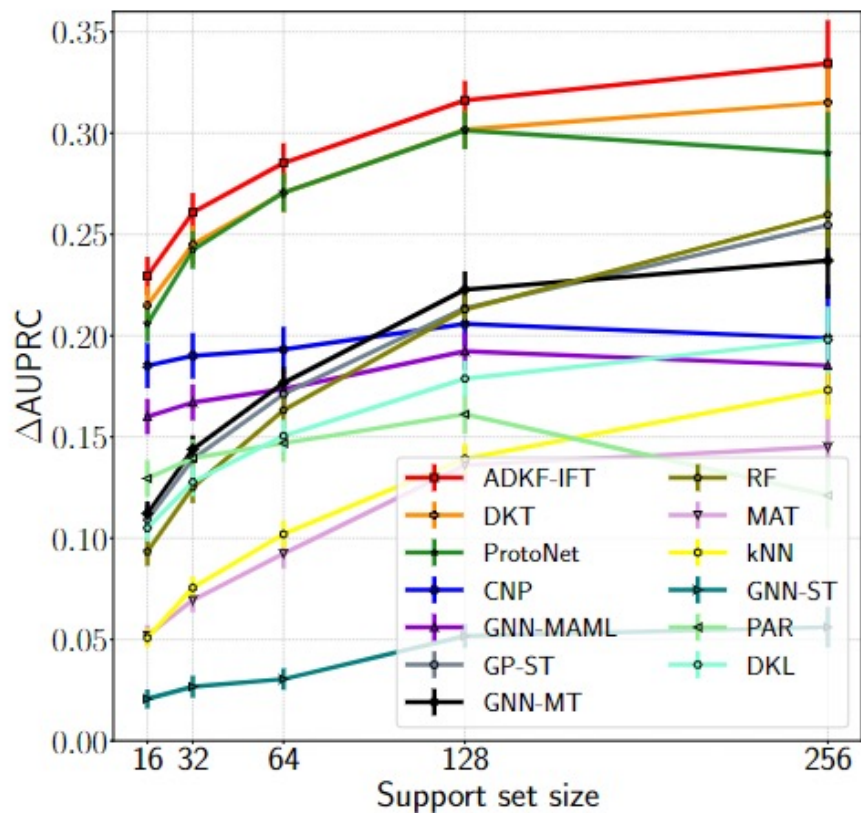
$$\psi^* = \arg \min_{\psi} \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathcal{T})} [\text{NLML}(\psi, \mathcal{T})]$$

Deep Kernel Transfer (DKT)

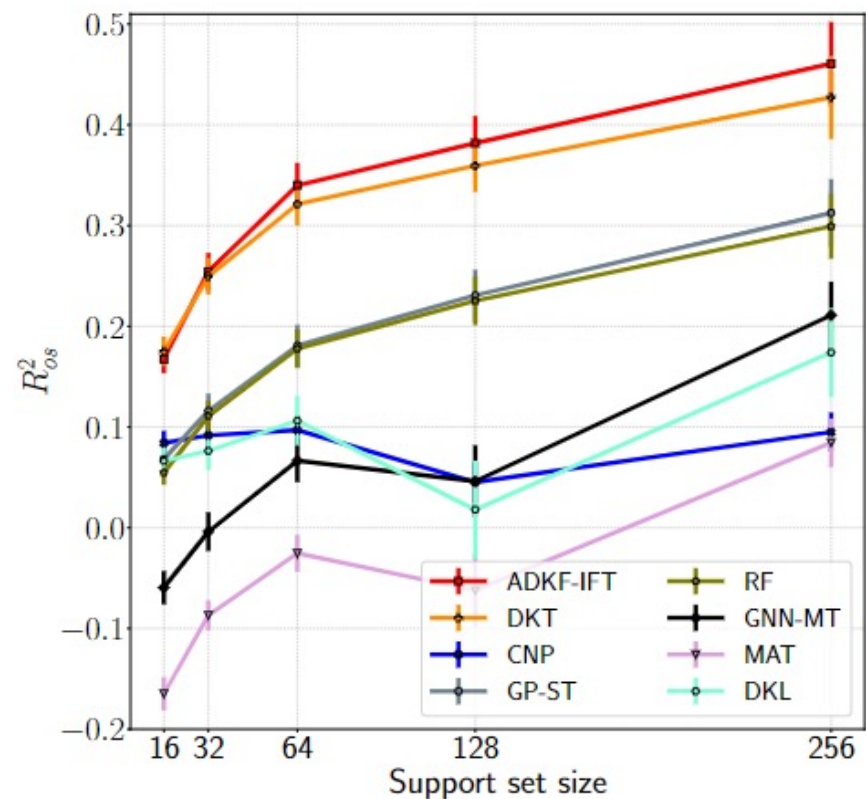
(NLML: negative log marginal likelihood)

Experiment 1: Few-shot Molecular Property Prediction on FS-Mol

- **FS-Mol** (Stanley et al., 2021): 4,938 training tasks, 40 validation tasks, 157 test tasks; 233,786 unique compounds.



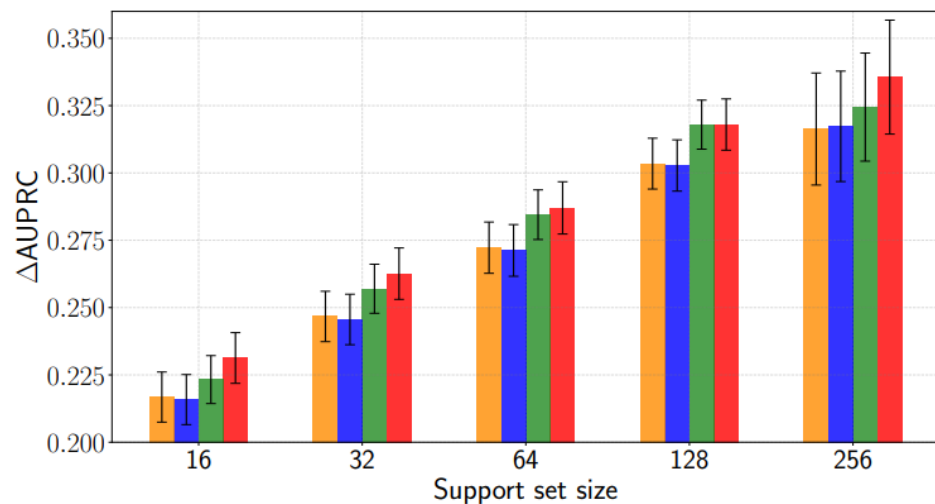
(a) Classification (157 tasks).



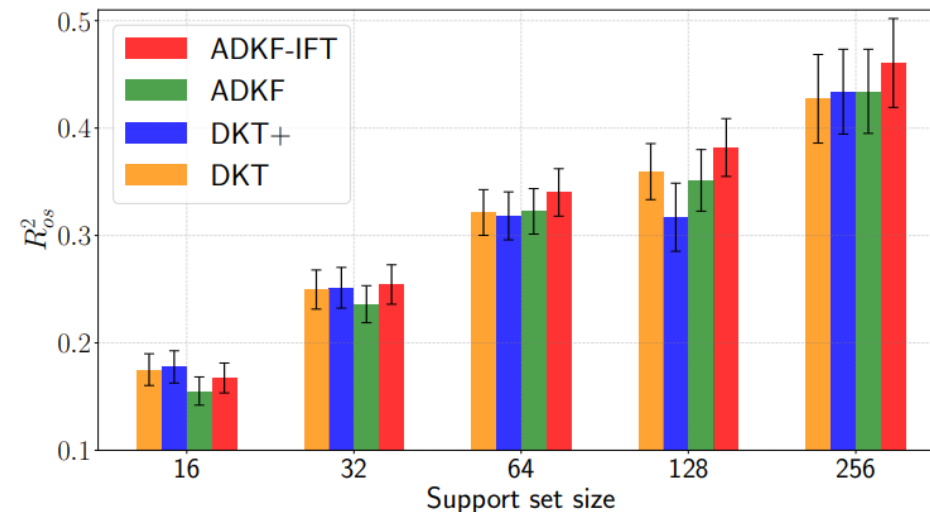
(b) Regression (111 tasks).

✓ The improvements of ADKF-IFT over other methods are **statistically significant!**

Experiment 1: Ablation Study and Analysis on FS-Mol



(a) Classification (157 tasks).



(b) Regression (111 tasks).

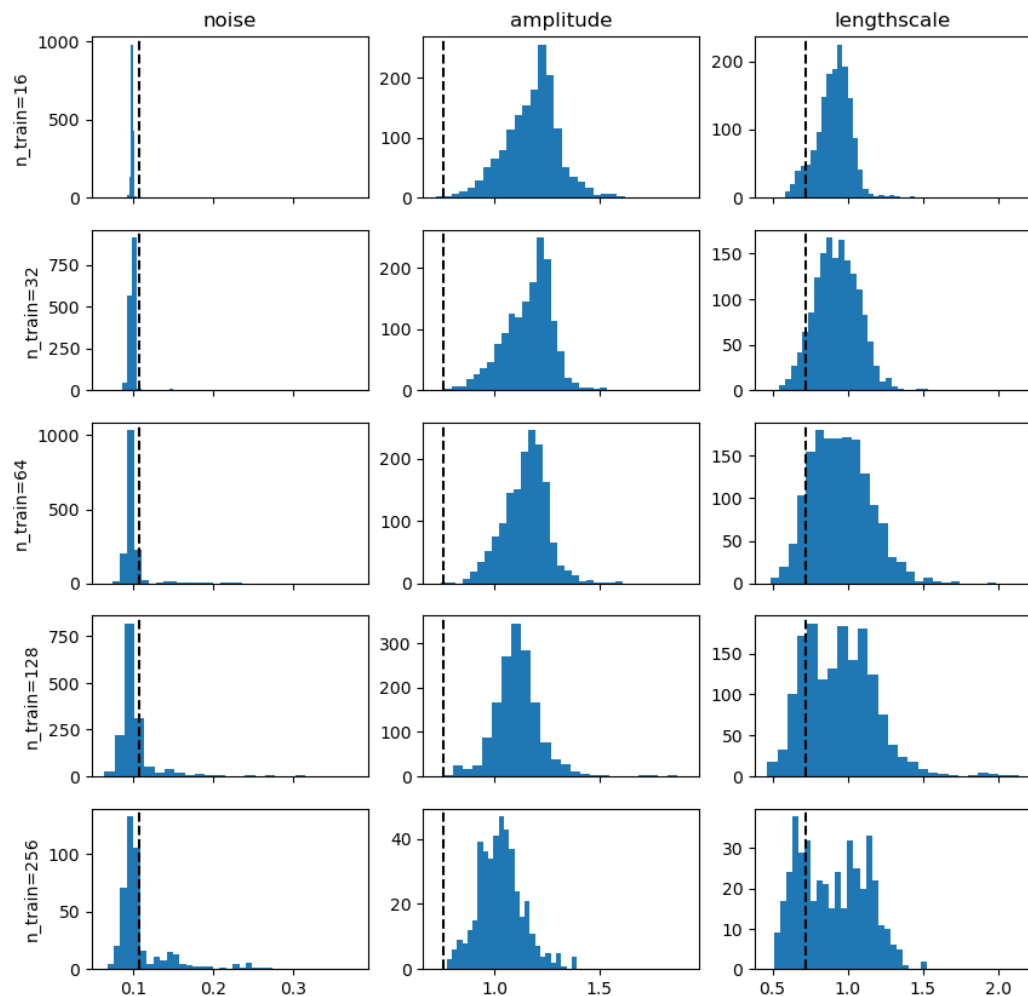
✓ **DKT** \approx **DKT+** \leq **ADKF** $<$ **ADKF+**

- **DKT+** is like **DKT** but tuning the base kernel parameters θ for each task during meta-testing.
- **ADKF** is like **ADKF+** but ignoring the gradient through the best response function ψ_{adapt}^* .

$$\frac{d\mathcal{L}_V}{d\psi_{meta}} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_V}{\partial \psi_{meta}} + \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_V}{\partial \psi_{adapt}^*} \frac{\partial \psi_{adapt}^*}{\partial \psi_{meta}},$$

0

Experiment 1: Ablation Study and Analysis on FS-Mol



- Blue histogram: the distribution of the base kernel parameters θ across different tasks learned by ADKF-IFT.

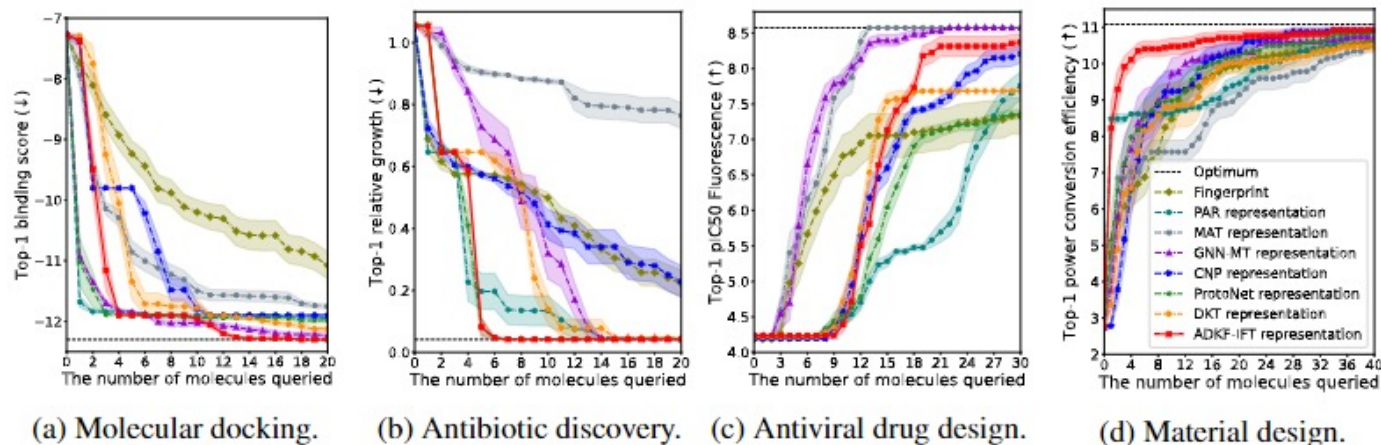
- Dotted vertical line: the base kernel parameters θ shared across all tasks learned by DKT.

- ✓ The base kernel parameters θ do vary across tasks!

- ✓ ADKF-IFT achieves better signal-to-noise ratio!

Experiment 2: OOD Molecular Property Prediction and Optimization

- Bayesian optimization (BO)



- Test predictive negative log likelihood (NLL)

Feature representation	Out-of-domain molecular design task			
	Molecular docking	Antibiotic discovery	Antiviral drug design	Material design
Fingerprint	1.138 \pm 0.014	1.669 \pm 0.075	4.601 \pm 0.086	1.091 \pm 0.011
PAR	1.270 \pm 0.019	2.185 \pm 0.115	4.840 \pm 0.086	1.283 \pm 0.017
MAT	1.528 \pm 0.028	2.390 \pm 0.104	4.797 \pm 0.088	2.198 \pm 0.063
GNN-MT	1.994 \pm 0.050	3.692 \pm 0.225	6.399 \pm 0.181	7.254 \pm 0.217
CNP	1.493 \pm 0.028	2.537 \pm 0.162	5.005 \pm 0.086	1.741 \pm 0.043
ProtoNet	1.147 \pm 0.013	1.615 \pm 0.094	5.060 \pm 0.086	1.032 \pm 0.009
DKT	1.167 \pm 0.012	1.602 \pm 0.073	4.975 \pm 0.092	1.026 \pm 0.009
ADKF-IFT	1.137 \pm 0.011	1.496 \pm 0.043	4.781 \pm 0.087	0.996 \pm 0.007

- **Surrogate model:** GP operating on top of the features extracted by DNNs meta-trained on FS-Mol by different methods.

- **Evaluation:** four OOD molecular design tasks outside of FS-Mol.

✓ ADKF-IFT enables **fastest discovery of top performing molecules!**

✓ ADKF-IFT achieves **competitive test predictive performance!**

Summary

Our proposed **Adaptive Deep Kernel Fitting with Implicit Function Theorem (ADKF-IFT)** approach:

- ✓ meta-learns feature representations that facilitate the adaptation of task-specific GP models;
- ✓ generalizes DKL and DKT for training deep kernel GPs using a bilevel optimization framework;
- ✓ efficiently solve the bilevel optimization problem by implicit function theorem;
- ✓ produces state-of-the-art results on few-shot molecular property prediction benchmarks;
- ✓ achieves great performance on OOD molecular property prediction and optimization tasks;
- ✓ produces well-calibrated models for fully-automated high-throughput experimentation that could accelerate drug discovery and material design.

Thank you!

Limitations and Future Work Directions

1. Use ARD for the lengthscale parameter in the base kernel for automatic feature selection.
2. Adapt the feature extractor to each task by allowing small deviations from a meta-learned prior.
3. Adopt a more principled approximate inference method for GP classification.
4. Inject domain expertise from drug discovery into the base kernel with hand-curated features and kernel combination.
5. Consider other application domains such as few-shot image classification.

Appendix 1: Mean ranks of Compared Methods on FS-Mol

Table 4: Mean ranks of all compared methods in terms of their performance on all FS-Mol test tasks.

(a) Classification (157 tasks).

Method	Support set size				
	16	32	64	128	256
GNN-ST	11.29	11.53	11.75	11.85	12.19
kNN	10.89	10.48	10.33	10.15	9.37
MAT	10.43	10.44	10.19	9.69	9.70
RF	8.15	7.89	7.06	6.25	4.47
PAR	7.70	7.98	8.30	8.83	10.81
GNN-MT	7.33	7.18	7.08	6.59	6.53
DKL	7.28	7.49	7.98	8.42	8.21
GP-ST	6.71	6.57	6.28	6.18	5.14
GNN-MAML	6.36	6.92	7.42	7.89	8.90
CNP	5.00	5.81	6.36	6.91	7.78
ProtoNet	4.00	3.40	3.11	2.98	3.85
DKT	3.44	3.19	2.99	2.99	2.67
ADKF-IFT	2.41	2.12	2.14	2.26	1.38

(b) Regression (111 tasks).

Method	Support set size				
	16	32	64	128	256
MAT	7.60	7.45	7.26	7.06	7.19
GNN-MT	6.61	6.40	6.15	5.95	5.58
RF	5.00	4.47	4.16	3.72	3.56
DKL	4.42	5.16	5.63	6.10	6.35
GP-ST	4.23	4.14	3.87	3.37	3.07
CNP	3.88	4.45	4.95	5.73	6.47
DKT	2.12	2.08	2.29	2.32	2.43
ADKF-IFT	2.12	1.86	1.68	1.74	1.36

ADKF-IFT consistently ranks the best in all settings!

Appendix 2: Statistical Comparisons on FS-Mol

Table 5: p -values from the two-sided Wilcoxon signed-rank test for statistical comparisons between ADKF-IFT and DKT/DKT+/ADKF. The null hypothesis is that the median of their performance differences on all FS-Mol test tasks is zero. The significance level is set to $\alpha = 0.05$.

Compared models	Task type	Support set size				
		16	32	64	128	256
ADKF-IFT vs DKT	Classification	1.4×10^{-12}	8.1×10^{-14}	2.3×10^{-12}	1.0×10^{-8}	3.4×10^{-7}
	Regression	8.2×10^{-2}	9.6×10^{-2}	3.7×10^{-5}	7.1×10^{-5}	9.8×10^{-7}
ADKF-IFT vs DKT+	Classification	3.2×10^{-13}	7.0×10^{-15}	2.3×10^{-13}	1.2×10^{-9}	1.6×10^{-6}
	Regression	3.2×10^{-2}	4.2×10^{-1}	3.4×10^{-5}	5.2×10^{-10}	1.2×10^{-5}
ADKF-IFT vs ADKF	Classification	1.7×10^{-2}	1.1×10^{-1}	4.8×10^{-1}	8.3×10^{-1}	1.6×10^{-3}
	Regression	2.8×10^{-3}	4.2×10^{-4}	1.3×10^{-3}	4.1×10^{-6}	1.3×10^{-5}

The improvements of ADKF-IFT over other methods are **statistically significant!**

Appendix 3: Sub-benchmark Performance on FS-Mol

Table 6: Mean performance with standard errors of top performing methods on FS-Mol test tasks within each sub-benchmark (broken down by EC category) at support set size 64 (the median of all considered support sizes). Note that class 2 is most common in the FS-Mol training set ($\sim 1,500$ training tasks), whereas classes 6 and 7 are least common in the FS-Mol training set (< 50 training tasks each).

(a) Classification (ΔAUPRC).

FS-Mol sub-benchmark (EC category)			Method				
Class	Description	#tasks	RF	GP-ST	ProtoNet	DKT	ADKF-IFT
1	oxidoreductases	7	0.156 ± 0.044	0.152 ± 0.040	0.137 ± 0.037	0.145 ± 0.040	0.160 ± 0.045
2	kinases	125	0.152 ± 0.009	0.161 ± 0.009	0.285 ± 0.010	0.282 ± 0.010	0.299 ± 0.010
3	hydrolases	20	0.229 ± 0.032	0.230 ± 0.032	0.245 ± 0.034	0.254 ± 0.034	0.262 ± 0.033
4	lysases	2	0.276 ± 0.182	0.284 ± 0.189	0.265 ± 0.211	0.272 ± 0.206	0.279 ± 0.201
5	isomerases	1	0.166 ± 0.040	0.212 ± 0.052	0.172 ± 0.044	0.204 ± 0.058	0.198 ± 0.046
6	ligases	1	0.149 ± 0.035	0.199 ± 0.028	0.170 ± 0.028	0.229 ± 0.013	0.231 ± 0.022
7	translocases	1	0.128 ± 0.039	0.109 ± 0.049	0.099 ± 0.028	0.122 ± 0.022	0.109 ± 0.033
all enzymes			0.163 ± 0.009	0.171 ± 0.009	0.271 ± 0.009	0.271 ± 0.010	0.285 ± 0.010

(b) Regression (R_{os}^2).

FS-Mol sub-benchmark (EC category)			Method				
Class	Description	#tasks	RF	GP-ST	CNP	DKT	ADKF-IFT
1	oxidoreductases	6	0.108 ± 0.087	0.103 ± 0.076	-0.012 ± 0.011	0.098 ± 0.078	0.116 ± 0.079
2	kinases	82	0.160 ± 0.019	0.162 ± 0.022	0.127 ± 0.017	0.343 ± 0.022	0.363 ± 0.024
3	hydrolases	19	0.256 ± 0.058	0.267 ± 0.061	0.014 ± 0.015	0.295 ± 0.063	0.310 ± 0.062
4	lysases	2	0.418 ± 0.405	0.417 ± 0.416	0.100 ± 0.068	0.440 ± 0.418	0.442 ± 0.403
5	isomerases	1	0.125 ± 0.077	0.086 ± 0.082	-0.012 ± 0.010	0.209 ± 0.113	0.226 ± 0.063
6	ligases	1	0.182 ± 0.040	0.202 ± 0.079	0.002 ± 0.004	0.277 ± 0.035	0.279 ± 0.043
all enzymes			0.178 ± 0.019	0.181 ± 0.021	0.097 ± 0.014	0.321 ± 0.021	0.340 ± 0.022

Appendix 4: Meta-testing Cost on FS-Mol

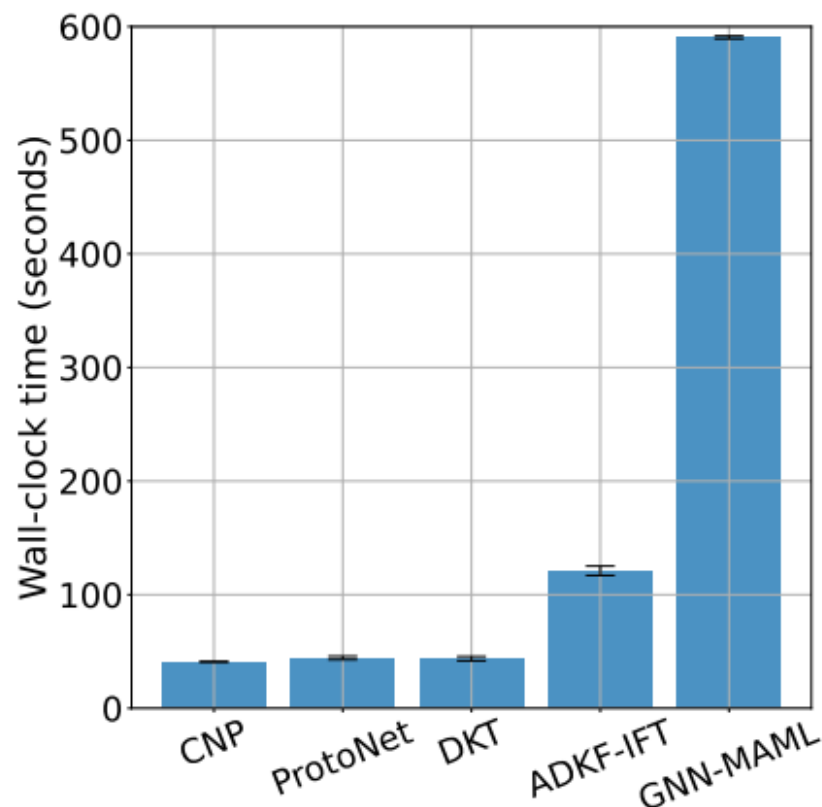


Figure 5: Wall-clock time consumed (with standard errors) when meta-testing on a pre-defined set of FS-Mol classification tasks using each of the compared meta-learning methods.

Appendix 6: Few-shot Molecular Property Prediction on MoleculeNet (Wu et al., 2018)

Table 1: Mean test performance (AUROC%) with standard deviations of all compared methods on MoleculeNet benchmark tasks at support set size 20 (i.e., 2-way 10-shot).

Method	MoleculeNet benchmark task (#compounds in total)			
	Tox21 (8,014)	SIDER (1,427)	MUV (93,127)	ToxCast (8,615)
Siamese	80.40 \pm 0.35	71.10 \pm 4.32	59.59 \pm 5.13	-
ProtoNet	74.98 \pm 0.32	64.54 \pm 0.89	65.88 \pm 4.11	63.70 \pm 1.26
MAML	80.21 \pm 0.24	70.43 \pm 0.76	63.90 \pm 2.28	66.79 \pm 0.85
TPN	76.05 \pm 0.24	67.84 \pm 0.95	65.22 \pm 5.82	62.74 \pm 1.45
EGNN	81.21 \pm 0.16	72.87 \pm 0.73	65.20 \pm 2.08	63.65 \pm 1.57
IterRefLSTM	81.10 \pm 0.17	69.63 \pm 0.31	45.56 \pm 5.12	-
PAR	82.06 \pm 0.12	74.68 \pm 0.31	66.48 \pm 2.12	69.72 \pm 1.63
ADKF-IFT	82.43 \pm 0.60	67.72 \pm 1.21	98.18 \pm 3.05	72.07 \pm 0.81
Pre-GNN	82.14 \pm 0.08	73.96 \pm 0.08	67.14 \pm 1.58	73.68 \pm 0.74
Meta-MGNN	82.97 \pm 0.10	75.43 \pm 0.21	68.99 \pm 1.84	-
Pre-PAR	84.93 \pm 0.11	78.08 \pm 0.16	69.96 \pm 1.37	75.12 \pm 0.84
Pre-ADKF-IFT	86.06 \pm 0.35	70.95 \pm 0.60	95.74 \pm 0.37	76.22 \pm 0.13