

# A Review of Uncertainty Quantification in Deep Learning: Techniques, Applications and Challenges

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**Abstract**—Uncertainty quantification (UQ) plays a pivotal role in reduction of uncertainties during both optimization and decision making processes. It can be applied to solve a variety of real-world applications in science and engineering. Bayesian approximation and ensemble learning techniques are two most widely-used UQ methods in the literature. In this regard, researchers have proposed different UQ methods and examined their performance in a variety of applications such as computer vision (e.g., self-driving cars and object detection), image processing (e.g., image restoration), medical image analysis (e.g., medical image classification and segmentation), natural language processing (e.g., text classification, social media texts and recidivism risk-scoring), bioinformatics, etc. This study reviews recent advances in UQ methods used in deep learning. Moreover, we also investigate the application of these methods in reinforcement learning (RL). Then, we outline a few important applications of UQ methods. Finally, we briefly highlight the fundamental research challenges faced by UQ methods and discuss the future research directions in this field.

**Index Terms**—Artificial intelligence, Uncertainty quantification, Deep learning, Machine learning, Bayesian statistics, Ensemble learning, Reinforcement learning.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

IN everyday scenarios, we deal with uncertainties in numerous fields, from invest opportunities and medical diagnosis to sporting games and weather forecast, with an objective to make decision based on collected observations and uncertain domain knowledge. Nowadays, we can rely on models developed using machine and deep learning techniques can quantify the uncertainties to accomplish statistical inference [1]. It is very important to evaluate the

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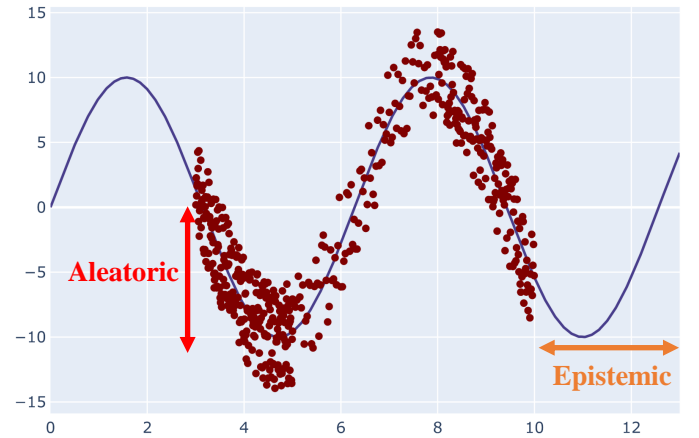


Fig. 1: A schematic view of main differences between aleatoric and epistemic uncertainties.

efficacy of artificial intelligence (AI) systems before its usage [2]. The predictions made by such models are uncertain as they are prone to noises and wrong model inference besides the inductive assumptions that are inherent in case of uncertainty. Thus, it is highly desirable to represent uncertainty in a trustworthy manner in any AI-based systems. Such automated systems should be able to perform accurately by handling uncertainty effectively. Principle of uncertainty plays an important role in AI settings such as concrete learning algorithms [3], and active learning (AL) [4], [5].

The sources of uncertainty occurs when the test and training data are mismatched and data uncertainty occurs because of class overlap or due to the presence of noise in the

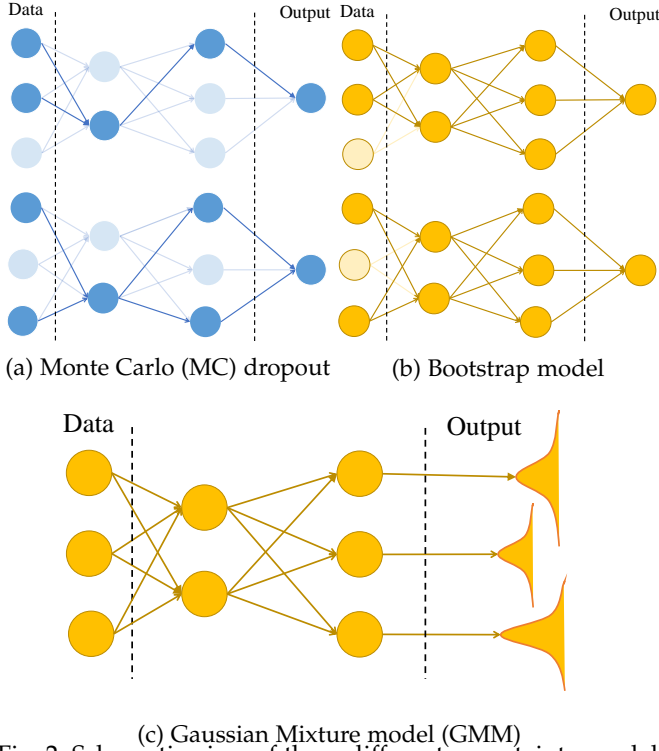


Fig. 2: Schematic view of three different uncertainty models with the related network architectures, reproduced based on [9].

data [6]. Estimating knowledge uncertainty is more difficult compared to data uncertainty which naturally measures it as a result of maximum likelihood training. Sources of uncertainty in prediction are essential to tackle the uncertainty estimation problem [7]. There are two main sources of uncertainty, conceptually called aleatoric and epistemic uncertainties [8] (see Fig. 1).

Irreducible uncertainty in data giving rise to uncertainty in predictions is an aleatoric uncertainty (also known as data uncertainty). This type of uncertainty is not the property of the model, but rather is an inherent property of the data distribution; hence it is irreducible. Another type of uncertainty is epistemic uncertainty (also known as knowledge uncertainty) that occurs due to inadequate knowledge and data. One can define models to answer different human questions poised in model-based prediction. In the case of data-rich problem, there is a collection of massive data but it may be informatively poor [10]. In such cases, AI-based methods can be used to define the efficient models which characterize the emergent features from the data. Very often these data are incomplete, noisy, discordant and multimodal [1].

Uncertainty quantification (UQ) underpins many critical decisions today. Predictions made without UQ are usually not trustworthy and inaccurate. To understand the Deep Learning (DL) [11], [12] process life cycle, we need to comprehend the role of UQ in DL. The DL models start with the collection of most comprehensive and potentially relevant datasets available for decision making process. The DL scenarios are designed to meet some performance goals to select the most appropriate DL architecture after training the model using the labeled data. The iterative training process optimizes different learning parameters, which will

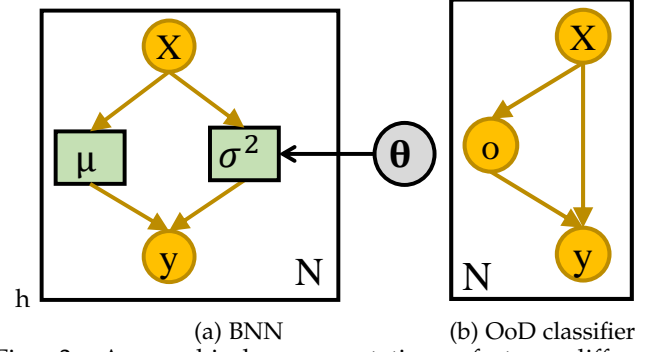


Fig. 3: A graphical representation of two different uncertainty-aware (UA) models, reproduced based on [14].

be ‘tweaked’ until the network provides a satisfactory level of performance.

There are several uncertainties that need to be quantified in the steps involved. The uncertainties that are obvious in these steps are the following: (i) selection and collection of training data, (ii) completeness and accuracy of training data, (iii) understanding the DL (or traditional machine learning) model with performance bounds and its limitations, and (iv) uncertainties corresponds to the performance of the model based on operational data [13]. Data driven approaches such as DL associated with UQ poses at least four overlapping groups of challenges: (i) absence of theory, (ii) absence of casual models, (iii) sensitivity to imperfect data, and (iv) computational expenses. To mitigate such challenges, ad hoc solutions like the study of model variability and sensitivity analysis are sometimes employed. Uncertainty estimation and quantification have been extensively studied in DL and traditional machine learning. In the following, we provide a brief summary of some recent studies that examined the effectiveness of various methods to deal with uncertainties.

A schematic comparison of the three different uncertainty models [9] (MC dropout, Bootstrap model and GMM is provided in Fig. 2. In addition, two graphical representations of uncertainty-aware models (BNN) vs OoD classifier) is illustrated in Fig. 3.

### 1.1 Research Objectives and Outline

In the era of big data, ML and DL, intelligent use of different raw data has an enormous potential to benefit wide variety of areas. However, UQ in different ML and DL methods can significantly increase the reliability of their results. Ning et al. [15] summarized and classified the main contributions of the data-driven optimization paradigm under uncertainty. As can be observed, this paper reviewed the data-driven optimization only. In another study, Kabir et al. [16] reviewed Neural Network-based UQ. The authors focused on probabilistic forecasting and prediction intervals (PIs) as they are among most widely used techniques in the literature for UQ.

We have noticed that, from 2010 to 2020 (end of June), more than 2500 papers on UQ in AI have been published in various fields (e.g., computer vision, image processing, medical image analysis, signal processing, natural language processing, etc.). In one hand, we ignore large number of papers due to lack of adequate connection with the subject

of our review. On the other hand, although many papers that we have reviewed have been published in related conferences and journals, many papers have been found on open-access repository as electronic preprints (i.e. arXiv) that we reviewed them due to their high quality and full relevance to the subject. We have tried our level to best to cover most of the related articles in this review paper. It is worth mentioning that this review can, therefore, serve as a comprehensive guide to the readers in order to steer this fast-growing research field.

Unlike previous review papers in the field of UQ, this study reviewed most recent articles published in quantifying uncertainty in AI (ML and DL) using different approaches. In addition, we are keen to find how UQ can impact the real cases and solve uncertainty in AI can help to obtain reliable results. Meanwhile, finding important chats in existing methods is a great way to shed light on the path to the future research. In this regard, this review paper gives more inputs to future researchers who work on UQ in ML and DL. We investigated more recent studies in the domain of UQ applied in ML and DL methods. Therefore, we summarized few existing studies on UQ in ML and DL. It is worth mentioning that the main purpose of this study is not to compare the performance of different UQ methods proposed because these methods are introduced for different data and specific tasks. For this reason, we argue that comparing the performance of all methods is beyond the scope of this study. For this reason, this study mainly focuses on important areas including DL, ML and Reinforcement Learning (RL). Hence, the main contributions of this study are as follows:

- To the best of our knowledge, this is the first comprehensive review paper regarding UQ methods used in ML and DL methods which is worthwhile for researchers in this domain.
- A comprehensive review of newly proposed UQ methods is provided.
- Moreover, the main categories of important applications of UQ methods are also listed.
- The main research gaps of UQ methods are pointed out.
- Finally, few solid future directions are discussed.

## 2 PRELIMINARIES

In this section, we explained the structure of feed-forward neural network followed by Bayesian modeling to discuss the uncertainty in detail.

### 2.1 Feed-forward neural network

In this section, the structure of a single-hidden layer neural network [17] is explained, which can be extended to multiple layers. Suppose  $x$  is a  $D$ -dimensional input vector, we use a linear map  $W_1$  and bias  $b$  to transform  $x$  into a row vector with  $Q$  elements, i.e.,  $W_1x + b$ . Next a non-linear transfer function  $\sigma(\cdot)$ , such as rectified linear (ReLU), can be applied to obtain the output of the hidden layer. Then another linear function  $W_2$  can be used to map hidden layer to the output:

$$\hat{y} = \sigma(xW_1 + b)W_2 \quad (1)$$

For classification, to compute the probability of  $X$  belonging to a label  $c$  in the set  $\{1, \dots, C\}$ , the normalized score is obtained by passing the model output  $\hat{y}$  through a softmax function  $\hat{p}_d = \exp(\hat{y}_d) / (\sum_{d'} \exp(\hat{y}_{d'}))$ . Then the softmax loss is used:

$$E^{W_1, W_2, b}(X, Y) = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \log(\hat{p}_{i, c_i}) \quad (2)$$

where  $X = (x_1, \dots, x_N)$  and  $Y = (y_1, \dots, y_N)$  are inputs and their corresponding outputs, respectively.

For regression, the Euclidean loss can be used:

$$E^{W_1, W_2, b}(X, Y) = \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{i=1}^N \|y_i - \hat{y}\|^2 \quad (3)$$

### 2.2 Uncertainty Modeling

As mentioned above, there are two main uncertainties: epistemic (model uncertainty) and aleatoric (data uncertainty) [18]. The aleatoric uncertainty has two types: *homoscedastic* and *heteroscedastic* [19].

The predictive uncertainty (PU) consists of two parts: (i) epistemic uncertainty (EU), and (ii) aleatoric uncertainty (AU), which can be written as sum of these two parts:

$$PU = EU + AU. \quad (4)$$

Epistemic uncertainties can be formulated as probability distribution over model parameters. Let  $D_{tr} = \{X, Y\} = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^N$  denotes a training dataset with inputs  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^D$  and their corresponding classes  $y_i \in \{1, \dots, C\}$ , where  $C$  represents the number of classes. The aim is to optimize the parameters, i.e.,  $\omega$ , of a function  $y = f^\omega(x)$  that can produce the desired output. To achieve this, the Bayesian approach defines a model likelihood, i.e.,  $p(y|x, \omega)$ . For classification, the softmax likelihood can be used:

$$p(y = c|x, \omega) = \frac{\exp(f_c^\omega(x))}{\sum_{c'} \exp(f_{c'}^\omega(x))}. \quad (5)$$

and the Gaussian likelihood can be assumed for regression:

$$p(y|x, \omega) = \mathcal{N}(y; f^\omega(x), \tau^{-1}I), \quad (6)$$

where  $\tau$  represents the model precision.

The posterior distribution, i.e.,  $p(\omega|x, y)$ , for a given dataset  $D_{tr}$  over  $\omega$  by applying Bayes' theorem can be written as follows:

$$p(\omega|X, Y) = \frac{p(Y|X, \omega)p(\omega)}{p(Y|X)}. \quad (7)$$

For a given test sample  $x^*$ , a class label with regard to the  $p(\omega|X, Y)$  can be predicted:

$$p(y^*|x^*, X, Y) = \int p(y^*|x^*, \omega)p(\omega|X, Y)d\omega. \quad (8)$$

This process is called inference or marginalization. However,  $p(\omega|X, Y)$  cannot be computed analytically, but it can be approximated by variational parameters, i.e.,  $q_\theta(\omega)$ . The aim is to approximate a distribution that is close to the posterior distribution obtained by the model. As such, the Kullback-Leibler (KL) [20] divergence is needed to be

minimised with regard to  $\theta$ . The level of similarity among two distributions can be measured as follows:

$$KL(q_\theta(\omega)||p(\omega|X,Y)) = \int q_\theta(\omega) \log \frac{q_\theta(\omega)}{p(\omega|X,Y)} d\omega. \quad (9)$$

The predictive distribution can be approximated by minimizing KL divergence, as follows:

$$p(y^*|x^*, X, Y) \approx \int p(y^*|x^*, \omega) q_\theta^*(\omega) d\omega =: q_\theta^*(y^*, x^*), \quad (10)$$

where  $q_\theta^*(\omega)$  indicates the optimized objective.

KL divergence minimization can also be rearranged into the *evidence lower bound* (ELBO) maximization [21]:

$$\mathcal{L}_{VI}(\theta) := \int q_\theta(\omega) \log p(Y|X, \omega) d\omega - KL(q_\theta(\omega)||p(\omega)), \quad (11)$$

where  $q_\theta(\omega)$  is able to describe the data well by maximizing the first term, and be as close as possible to the prior by minimizing the second term. This process is called variational inference (VI). Dropout VI is one of the most common approaches that has been widely used to approximate inference in complex models [22]. The minimization objective is as follows [23]:

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta, p) = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \log p(y_i|x_i, \omega) + \frac{1-p}{2N} \|\theta\|^2 \quad (12)$$

where  $N$  and  $P$  represent the number of samples and dropout probability, respectively.

To obtain data-dependent uncertainty, the precision  $\tau$  in (6) can be formulated as a function of data. One approach to obtain epistemic uncertainty is to mix two functions: predictive mean, i.e.,  $f^\theta(x)$ , and model precision, i.e.,  $g^\theta(x)$ , and the likelihood function can be written as  $y_i = \mathcal{N}(f^\theta(x), g^\theta(x)^{-1})$ . A prior distribution is placed over the weights of the model, and then the amount of change in the weights for given data samples is computed. The Euclidian distance loss function (3) can be adapted as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} E^{W_1, W_2, b} &:= \\ &\frac{1}{2} (y - f^{W_1, W_2, b}(x)) g^{W_1, W_2, b}(x) (y - f^{W_1, W_2, b}(x))^T - \\ &\frac{1}{2} \log \det g^{W_1, W_2, b} + \frac{D}{2} \log 2\pi \\ &= -\log \mathcal{N}(f^\theta(x), g^\theta(x)^{-1}) \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

The predictive variance can be obtained as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{Var}[x^*] &:= \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T g^{\tilde{\omega}_t}(x) \mathbf{I} + f^{\tilde{\omega}_t}(x^*)^T f^{\tilde{\omega}_t}(x^*) \\ &\quad - \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[y^*]^T \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[y^*] \xrightarrow{T \rightarrow \infty} Var_{q_\theta^*(y^*|x^*)}[y^*] \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

### 3 UNCERTAINTY QUANTIFICATION USING BAYESIAN TECHNIQUES

#### 3.1 Bayesian Deep Learning/Bayesian Neural Networks

Despite the success of standard DL methods in solving various real-world problems, they cannot provide information about the reliability of their predictions. To alleviate

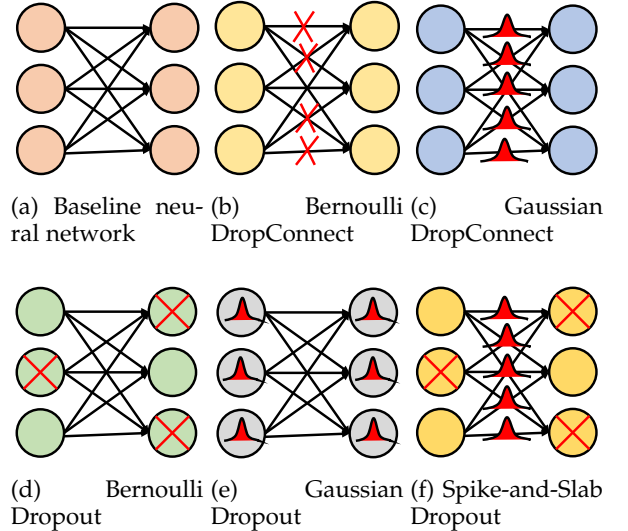


Fig. 4: A graphical representation of several different visualization of variational distributions on a simple NN which is reproduced based on [31].

this issue, BNNs/BDL [24], [25], [26] can be used to interpret the model parameters. BNNs/BDL are robust to overfitting problem and can be trained on both small and big datasets [27].

#### 3.2 Monte Carlo (MC) dropout

As stated earlier, it is difficult to compute the exact posterior inference, but it can be approximated. In this regard, Monte Carlo (MC) [28] is an effective method. Nonetheless, it is a slow and computationally expensive method when integrated into a deep architecture. To combat this, MC (MC) dropout has been introduced, which uses dropout [29] as a regularization term to compute the prediction uncertainty [30]. Dropout is an effective technique that has been widely used to solve overfitting problem in DNNs. During the training process, dropout randomly drops some units of NN to avoid them from co-tuning too much. Assume a NN with  $L$  layers, which  $W_l$ ,  $b_l$  and  $K_l$  denote the weight matrices, bias vectors and dimensions of the  $l$ th layer, respectively. The output of NN and target class of the  $i$ th input  $x_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, N$ ) are indicated by  $\hat{y}_i$  and  $y_i$ , respectively. The objective function using  $L_2$  regularization can be written as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{dropout} := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N E(y_i, \hat{y}_i) + \lambda \sum_{l=1}^L (\|W_l\|_2^2 + \|b_l\|_2^2) \quad (15)$$

Dropout samples binary variables for each input data and every network unit in each layer (except the output layer), with the probability  $p_i$  for  $i$ th layer, if its value is 0, the unit  $i$  is dropped for a given input data. Same values are used in the backward pass to update parameters. Fig. 4 shows several visualization of variational distributions on a simple NN [31].

Several studies used MC dropout [32] to estimate UQ. Wang et al. [33] analyzed epistemic and aleatoric uncertainties for deep CNN-based medical image segmentation problems at both pixel and structure levels. They augmented the input image during test phase to estimate the transformation uncertainty. Specifically, the MC sampling was used to



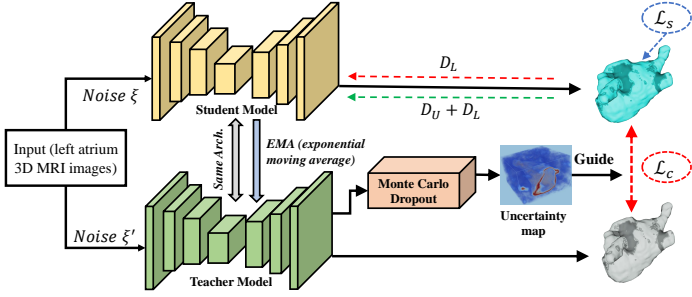


Fig. 5: A general view demonstrating the semi-supervised UA-MT framework applied to LA segmentation which is reproduced based on [36].

estimate the distribution of the output segmentation. Liu et al. [34] proposed a unified model using SGD to approximate both epistemic and aleatoric uncertainties of CNNs in presence of universal adversarial perturbations. The epistemic uncertainty was estimated by applying MC dropout with Bernoulli distribution at the output of neurons. In addition, they introduced the texture bias to better approximate the aleatoric uncertainty. Nasir et al. [35] conducted MC dropout to estimate four types of uncertainties, including variance of MC samples, predictive entropy, and Mutual Information (MI), in a 3D CNN to segment lesion from MRI sequences.

In [37], two dropout methods, i.e. element-wise Bernoulli dropout [29] and spatial Bernoulli dropout [38] are implemented to compute the model uncertainty in BNNs for the end-to-end autonomous vehicle control. McClure and Kriegeskorte [31] expressed that sampling of weights using Bernoulli or Gaussian can lead to have a more accurate depiction of uncertainty in comparison to sampling of units. However, according to the outcomes obtained in [31], it can be argued that using either Bernoulli or Gaussian dropout can improve the classification accuracy of CNN. Based on these findings, they proposed a novel model (called spike-slab sampling) by combining Bernoulli or Gaussian dropout.

Do et al. [39] modified U-Net [40], which is a CNN-based deep model, to segment myocardial arterial spin labeling and estimate uncertainty. Specifically, batch normalization and dropout are added after each convolutional layer and resolution scale, respectively. Later, Teye et al. [41] proposed MC batch normalization (MCBN) that can be used to estimate uncertainty of networks with batch normalization. They showed that batch normalization can be considered as an approximate Bayesian model. Yu et al. [36] proposed a semi-supervised model to segment left atrium from 3D MR images. It consists of two modules including teacher and student, and used them in UA framework called UA self-ensembling mean teacher (UA-MT) model (see Fig. 5). As such, the student model learns from teacher model via minimizing the segmentation and consistency losses of the labeled samples and targets of the teacher model, respectively. In addition, UA framework based on MC dropout was designed to help student model to learn a better model by using uncertainty information obtained from teacher model. Table 1 lists studies that directly applied MC dropout to approximate uncertainty along with their applications.

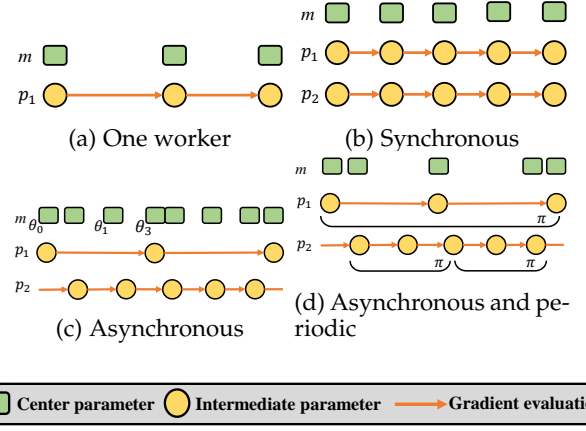


Fig. 6: A graphical implementations of different SG-MCMC models which is reproduced based on [42].

### 3.2.1 Comparison of MC dropout with other UQ methods

Recently, several studies have been conducted to compare different UQ methods. For example, Foong et al. [60] empirically and theoretically studied the MC dropout and mean-field Gaussian VI. They found that both models can express uncertainty well in shallow BNNs. However, mean-field Gaussian VI could not approximate posterior well to estimate uncertainty for deep BNNs. Ng et al. [61] compared MC dropout with BBB using U-Net [40] as a base classifier. Siddhant et al. [62] empirically studied various DAL models for NLP. During prediction, they applied dropout to CNNs and RNNs to estimate the uncertainty. Hubschneider et al. [9] compared MC dropout with bootstrap ensembling-based method and a Gaussian mixture for the task of vehicle control. In addition, Mukhoti [63] applied MC dropout with several models to estimate uncertainty in regression problems. Kennamer et al. [64] empirically studied MC dropout in Astronomical Observing Conditions.

### 3.3 Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)

Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) [65] is another effective method that has been used to approximate inference. It starts by taking random draw  $z_0$  from distribution  $q(z_0)$  or  $q(z_0|x)$ . Then, it applies a stochastic transition to  $z_0$ , as follows:

$$Z_t \sim q(z_t|z_{t-1}, x). \quad (16)$$

This transition operator is chosen and repeated for  $T$  times, and the outcome, which is a random variable, converges in distribution to the exact posterior. Salakhutdinov et al. [66] used MCMC to approximate the predictive distribution rating values of the movies. Despite the success of the conventional MCMC, the sufficient number of iteration is unknown. In addition, MCMC requires long time to converge to a desired distribution [28]. Several studies have been conducted to overcome these shortcomings. For example, Salimans et al. [67] expanded space into a set of *auxiliary random variables* and interpreted the stochastic Markov chain as a variational approximation.

The stochastic gradient MCMC (SG-MCMC) [68], [69] was proposed to train DNNs. It only needs to estimate the gradient on small sets of mini-batches. In addition, SG-MCMC can be converged to the true posterior by decreasing

TABLE 1: A summary of studies that applied the original MC dropout to approximate uncertainty along with their applications (Sorted by year).

| Study                    | Year | Method                             | Application                     | Code |
|--------------------------|------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------|
| Kendal et al. [43]       | 2015 | SegNet [44]                        | semantic segmentation           | ✓    |
| Leibig et al. [45]       | 2017 | CNN                                | diabetic retinopathy            | ✓    |
| Choi et al. [46]         | 2017 | mixture density network (MDN) [47] | regression                      | ×    |
| Jung et al. [48]         | 2018 | full-resolution ResNet [49]        | brain tumor segmentation        | ×    |
| Wickstrom et al. [50]    | 2018 | FCN [51] and SehNet [44]           | polyps segmentation             | ×    |
| Jungo et al. [52]        | 2018 | FCN                                | brain tumor segmentation        | ×    |
| Vandal et al. [53]       | 2018 | Variational LSTM                   | predict flight delays           | ×    |
| Devries and Taylor [54]  | 2018 | CNN                                | medical image segmentation      | ×    |
| Tousignant et al. [55]   | 2019 | CNN                                | MRI images                      | ×    |
| Norouzi et al. [56]      | 2019 | FCN                                | MRI images segmentation         | ×    |
| Roy et al. [57]          | 2019 | Bayesian FCNN                      | brain images (MRI) segmentation | ✓    |
| Filos et al. [58]        | 2019 | CNN                                | diabetic retinopathy            | ✓    |
| Harper and Southern [59] | 2020 | RNN and CNN                        | emotion prediction              | ×    |

the step sizes [70], [71]. Gong et al. [72] combined amortized inference with SG-MCMC to increase the generalization ability of the model. Li et al. [42] proposed an accelerating SG-MCMC to improve the speed of the conventional SG-MCMC (see Fig. 6 for implementation of different SG-MCMC models). However, in short time, SG-MCMC suffers from a bounded estimation error [73] and it loses surface when applied to the multi-layer networks [74]. In this regard, Zhang et al. [75] developed a cyclical SG-MCMC (cSG-MCMC) to compute the posterior over the weights of neural networks. Specifically, a cyclical stepsize was used instead of the decreasing one. Large stepsize allows the sampler to take large moves, while small stepsize attempts the sampler to explore local mode.

Although SG-MCMC reduces the computational complexity by using a smaller subset, i.e. mini-batch, of dataset at each iteration to update the model parameters, those small subsets of data add noise into the model, and consequently increase the uncertainty of the system. To alleviate this, Luo et al. [76] introduced a sampling method called *the thermostat-assisted continuously tempered Hamiltonian Monte Carlo*, which is an extended version of the conventional Hamiltonian MC (HMC) [77]. Note that HMC is a MCMC method [78]. Specifically, they used Nosé-Hoover thermostats [79], [80] to handle the noise generated by mini-batch datasets. Later, dropout HMC (D-HMC) [78] was proposed for uncertainty estimation, and compared with SG-MCMC [68] and SGLD [81].

Besides, MCMC was integrated into the generative based methods to approximate posterior. For example, in [82], MCMC was applied to the stochastic object models, which is learned by generative adversarial networks (GANs), to approximate the ideal observer. In [83], a visual tracking system based on a variational autoencoder (VAE) MCMC (VAE-MCMC) was proposed.

### 3.4 Variational Inference (VI)

The variational inference (VI) is an approximation method that learns the posterior distribution over BNN weights. VI-

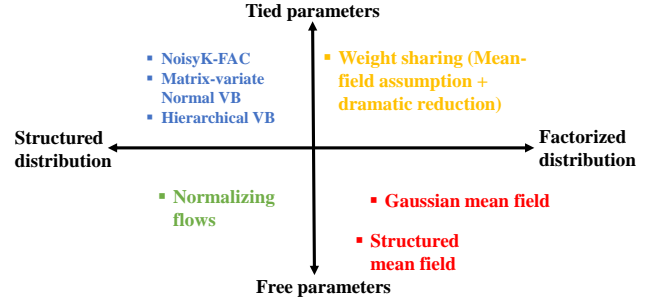


Fig. 7: A summary of various VI methods for BDL which is reproduced based on [84]. Note that *Weight sharing (Mean-field assumption + dramatic reduction)* is added based on the proposed method in [84].

based methods consider the Bayesian inference problem as an optimization problem which is used by the SGD to train DNNs. Fig. 7 summaries various VI methods for BNN [84]. For BNNs, VI-based methods aim to approximate posterior distributions over the weights of NN. To achieve this, the loss can be defined as follows:

$$\mathcal{L}(\Phi) \approx \frac{1}{2|\mathcal{D}|} \sum_{i=1}^{|\mathcal{D}|} \mathcal{L}_R(y^{(i)}, x^{(i)}) + \frac{1}{|\mathcal{D}|} KL(q_\phi(w) \| p(w)) \quad (17)$$

where  $|\mathcal{D}|$  indicates the number of samples, and

$$\mathcal{L}_R(y, x) = -\log(\hat{\tau}_x)^T 1 + \|\sqrt{\hat{\tau}_x} \odot (y - \hat{\mu}_x)\|^2 \quad (18)$$

$$\hat{\mu}_x = \hat{\mu}(x, w_\mu); \quad w \sim q_\phi(w) \quad (19)$$

$$\hat{\tau}_x = \hat{\tau}(x, w_r). \quad (20)$$

where  $\odot$  and  $1$  represent the element-wise product and vector filled with ones, respectively. Eq. (17) can be used to compute (10).

Posch et al. [85] defined the variational distribution using a product of Gaussian distributions along with diagonal covariance matrices. For each network layer, a posterior uncertainty of the network parameter was represented. Later,

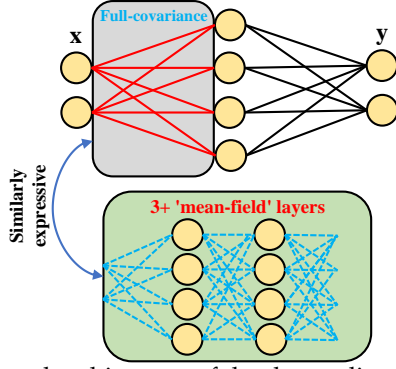


Fig. 8: A general architecture of the deeper linear mean-field network with three mean-field weight layers or more which is reproduced based on [98].

in [86], they replaced the diagonal covariance matrices with the traditional ones to allow the network parameters to correlate with each other. Inspired from transfer learning and empirical Bayes (EB) [87], MOPED [88] used a deterministic weights, which was derived from a pre-trained DNNs with same architecture, to select meaningful prior distributions over the weight space. Later, in [89], they integrated an approach based on parametric EB into MOPED for mean field VI in Bayesian DNNs, and used fully factorized Gaussian distribution to model the weights. In addition, they used a real-world case study, i.e., diabetic retinopathy diagnosis, to evaluate their method. Subedar et al. [90] proposed an uncertainty aware framework based on multi-modal Bayesian fusion for activity recognition. They scaled BDNN into deeper structure by combining deterministic and variational layers. Marino et al. [91] proposed a stochastic modeling based approach to model uncertainty. Specifically, the DBNN was used to learn the stochastic learning of the system. Variational BNN [92], which is a generative-based model, was proposed to predict the superconducting transition temperature. Specifically, the VI was adapted to compute the distribution in the latent space for the model.

Louizos and Welling [93] adopted a stochastic gradient VI [94] to compute the posterior distributions over the weights of NNs. Hubin and Storvik [95] proposed a stochastic VI method that jointly considers both model and parameter uncertainties in BNNs, and introduced a latent binary variables to include/exclude certain weights of the model. Liu et al. [96] integrated the VI into a spatial-temporal NN to approximate the posterior parameter distribution of the network and estimate the probability of the prediction. Ryu et al. [97] integrated the graph convolutional network (GCN) into the Bayesian framework to learn representations and predict the molecular properties. Swiatkowski et al. [84] empirically studied the Gaussian mean-field VI. They decomposed the variational parameters into a low-rank factorization to make a more compact approximation, and improve the SNR ratio of the SG in estimating the lower bound of the variational. Franquhar et al. [98] used the mean-field VI to better train deep models. They argued that a deeper linear mean-field network can provide an analogous distribution of function space like shallowly full-covariance networks. A schematic view of the proposed approach is demonstrated in Fig. 8.

### 3.5 Bayesian Active Learning (BAL)

Active learning (AL) methods aim to learn from unlabeled samples by querying an oracle [99]. Defining the right acquisition function, i.e., the condition on which sample is most informative for the model, is the main challenge of AL-based methods. Although existing AL frameworks have shown promising results in variety of tasks, they lack of scalability to high-dimensional data [100]. In this regard, the Bayesian approaches can be integrated into DL structure to represent the uncertainty, and then combine with deep AL acquisition function to probe for the uncertain samples in the oracle.

DBAL [101], i.e., deep Bayesian AL, combine an AL framework with Bayesian DL to deal with high-dimensional data problems, i.e., image data. DBAL used batch acquisition to select the top  $n$  samples with the highest Bayesian AL by disagreement (BALD) [102] score. Model priors from empirical bayes (MOPED) [103] used BALD to evaluate the uncertainty. In addition, MC dropout was applied to estimate the model uncertainty. Later, Krisch et al. [104] proposed BatchBALD, which uses greedy algorithm to select a batch in linear time and reduce the run time. They modeled the uncertainty by leveraging the Bayesian AL (BAL) using Dropout-sampling. In [105], two types of uncertainty measures namely entropy and BALD [102], were compared.

ActiveHARNet [106], which is an AL-based framework for human action recognition, modeled the uncertainty by linking BNNs with GP using dropout. To achieve this, dropout was applied before each fully connected layer to estimate the mean and variance of BNN. DeepBASS [107], i.e., a deep AL semi-supervised learning, is an expectation-maximization [108]-based technique paired with an AL component. It applied MC dropout to estimate the uncertainty.

Scandalea et al. [109] proposed a framework based on U-Net structure for deep AL to segment biomedical images, and used uncertainty measure obtained by MC dropout, to suggest the sample to be annotated. Specifically, the uncertainty was defined based on the posterior probabilities' SD of the MC-samples. Zheng et al. [110] varied the number of Bayesian layers and their positions to estimate uncertainty through AL on MNIST dataset. The outcome indicated that few Bayesian layers near the output layer are enough to fully estimate the uncertainty of the model.

Inspired from [111], the Bayesian batch AL [112], which selects a batch of samples at each AL iteration to perform posterior inference over the model parameters, was proposed for large-scale problems. Active user training [113], which is a BAL-based crowdsourcing model, was proposed to tackle high-dimensional and complex classification problems. In addition, the Bayesian inference proposed in [114] was used to consider the uncertainty of the confusion matrix of the annotators.

Several generative-based AL frameworks have been introduced. In [115], a semi-supervised Bayesian AL model, which is a deep generative-based model that uses BNNs to give discriminative component, was developed. Tran et al. [116] proposed a Bayesian classification generative deep AL (BGADL) (Fig. 9) for image classification problems. They, firstly used the concept of DBAL to select the must in-

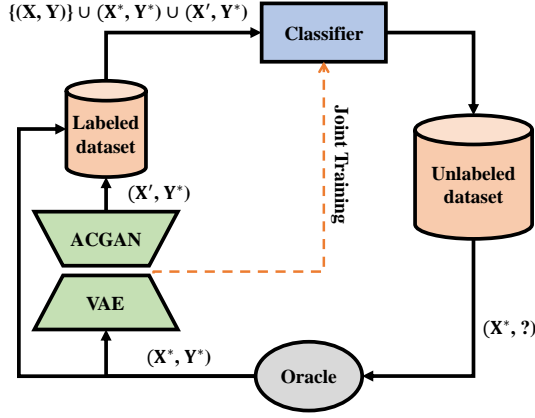


Fig. 9: Bayesian generative active deep learning (Note, ACGAN stands for the Auxiliary-classifier GAN which is reproduced based on [116].

formative samples and then VAE-ACGAN was applied to generate new samples based on the selected ones. Akbari et al. [117] proposed a unified BDL framework to quantify both aleatoric and epistemic uncertainties for activity recognition. They used an unsupervised DL model to extract features from the time series, and then their posterior distributions was learned through a VAE model. Finally, the Dropout [30] was applied after each dense layer and test phase for randomness of the model weights and sample from the approximate posterior, respectively.

### 3.6 Bayes by Backprop (BBB)

The learning process of a probability distribution using the weights of neural networks plays significant role for having better predictions results. Blundell et al. [118] proposed a novel yet efficient algorithm named Bayes by Backprop (BBB) to quantify uncertainty of these weights. The proposed BBB minimizes the compression cost which is known as the variational free energy (VFE) or the lower bound (expected) of the marginal likelihood. To do so, they defined a cost function as follows:

$$F(\mathcal{D}, \theta) = \text{KL}[q(\mathbf{w}|\theta) \| P(\mathbf{w})] - \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{w}, \theta)}[\log P(\mathcal{D}|\mathbf{w})]. \quad (21)$$

The BBB algorithm uses unbiased gradient estimates of the cost function in 21 for learning distribution over the weights of neural networks. In another research, Fortunato et al. [119] proposed a new Bayesian recurrent neural network (BRNNs) using BBB algorithm. In order to improve the BBB algorithm, they used a simple adaptation of truncated back-propagation throughout the time. The proposed Bayesian RNN (BRNN) model is shown in Fig. 10.

Ebrahimi et al. [120] proposed an uncertainty-guided continual approach with BNNs (named UCB which stands for Uncertainty-guided continual learning technique with BNNs). The continual learning leads to learn a variety of new tasks while impound the aforesaid knowledge obtained learned ones. The proposed UCB exploits the predicted uncertainty of the posterior distribution in order to formulate the modification in “important” parameters both in setting a hard-threshold as well as in a soft way. Recognition of different actions in videos needs not only big data but also is a time consuming process. To deal with

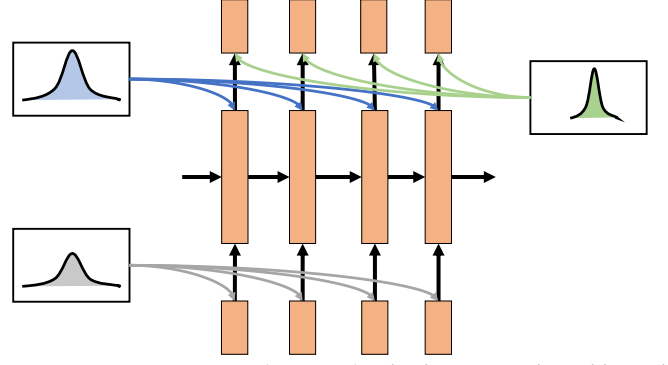


Fig. 10: Bayesian RNNs (BRNNs) which is reproduced based on the proposed model by Fortunato et al. [119].

this issue, de la Riva and Mettes [121] proposed a Bayesian-based deep learning method (named Bayesian 3D ConvNet) to analyze a small number of videos. In this regard, BBB was extended to be used by 3D CNNs and then employed to deal with uncertainty over the convolution weights in the proposed model. To do so, Gaussian distribution was applied to approximate the correct posterior in the proposed 3D Convolution layers using mean and STD (standard deviation) as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \theta = (\mu, \alpha), \\ \sigma^2 = \alpha \cdot \mu^2, \\ q_{\theta}(\mathbf{w}_{ijhwt} | \mathcal{D}) = \mathcal{N}(\mu_{ijhwt}, \alpha_{ijhwt} \mu_{ijhwt}^2), \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

where  $i$  represents the input,  $j$  is the output,  $h$  is the filter height,  $w$  is the filter width and  $t$  is the time dimension. In another research, Ng et al. [61] compared the performance of two well-known uncertainty methods (MC dropout and BBB) in medical image segmentation (cardiac MRI) on a U-Net model. The obtained results showed that MC dropout and BBB demonstrated almost similar performances in medical image segmentation task.

### 3.7 Variational Autoencoders

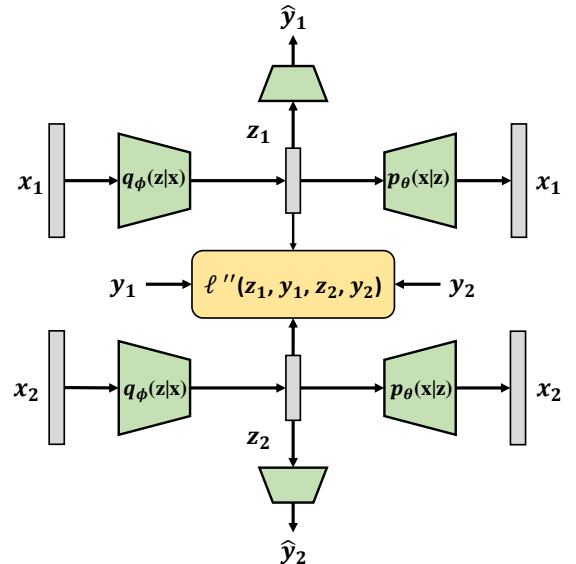


Fig. 11: Pairwise Supervised Hashing-Bernoulli VAE (PSH-BVAE) which is reproduced based on [122].

An autoencoder is a variant of DL that consists of two components: (i) encoder, and (ii) decoder. Encoder aims to



map high-dimensional input sample  $x$  to a low-dimensional latent variable  $z$ . While decoder reproduces the original sample  $x$  using latent variable  $z$ . The latent variables are compelled to conform a given prior distribution  $P(z)$ . Variational Autoencoders (VAEs) [94] are effective methods to model the posterior. They cast learning representations for high-dimensional distributions as a VI problem [123]. A probabilistic model  $P_\theta(x)$  of sample  $x$  in data space with a latent variable  $z$  in latent space can be written as follows:

$$p_\theta(x) = \int_z p_\theta(x|z)p(z), \quad (23)$$

The VI can be used to model the evidence lower bound  $\log p_\theta(x)$  as follows:

$$\log p_\theta(x) = \mathbb{E}_{q_\phi(z|x)}[\log p_\theta(x|z)] - D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x)||p(x)), \quad (24)$$

where  $q_\phi(z|x)$  and  $p_\theta(x|z)$  are the encoder and decoder models, respectively, and  $\phi$  and  $\theta$  indicate their parameters.

Zamani et al. [122] developed a discrete VAE framework with Bernoulli latent variables as binary hashing code (Fig.11). The stochastic gradient was exploited to learn the model. They proposed a pairwise supervised hashing (PSH) framework to derive better hashing codes. PSH maximizes the ELBO with weighted KL regularization to learn more informative binary codes, and adapts a pairwise loss function to reward within-class similarity and between-class dissimilarity to minimize the distance among the hashing codes of samples from same class and vice versa.

Bohm et al. [124] studied UQ for linear inverse problems using VAEs. Specifically, the vanilla VAE with mean-field Gaussian posterior was trained on uncorrupted samples under the ELBO. In addition, the EL<sub>2</sub>O method [125] was adopted to approximate the posterior. Edupuganti et al. [126] studied the UQ tasks in magnetic resonance image recovery (see Fig. 12). As such, a VAE-GAN, which is a probabilistic recovery scheme, was developed to map the low quality images to high-quality ones. The VAE-GAN consists of VAE and multi-layer CNN as generator and discriminator, respectively. In addition, the Stein’s unbiased risk estimator (SURE) was leveraged as a proxy to predict error and estimate the uncertainty of the model.

In [127], a framework based on variational U-Net [128] architecture was proposed for UQ tasks in reservoir simulations. Both simple U-Net and variational U-Net (VUNet) are illustrated in Fig. 13. Cosmo VAE [129], which is a DL, i.e., U-Net, based VAE, was proposed to restore the missing observations of the cosmic microwave background (CMB) map. As such, the variational Bayes approximation was used to determine the ELBO of likelihood of the reconstructed image. Mehra et al. [130] proposed action point process VAE (APP VAE) for action sequences. APP VAE consists of two LSTM to estimate the prior and posterior distributions. Sato et al. [131] proposed a VAE-based UA for anomaly detection. They used MC sampling to estimate posterior.

Since VAEs are not stochastic processes, they are limited to encode finite-dimensional priors. To alleviate this limitation, Mishra et al. [132] developed the prior encoding VAE,

i.e.,  $\pi$ VAE. Inspired by the Gaussian process [133],  $\pi$ VAE is a stochastic process that learns the distribution over functions. To achieve this,  $\pi$ VAE encoder, firstly, transforms the locations to a high-dimensional space, and then, uses a linear mapping to link the feature space to outputs. While  $\pi$ VAE encoder aims to recreate linear mapping from the lower dimensional probabilistic embedding. Finally, the recreated mapping is used to get the reconstruction of the outputs. Guo et al. [134] used VAE to deal with data uncertainty under a just-in-time learning framework. The Gaussian distribution was employed to describe latent space features as variable-wise, and then the KL-divergence was used to ensure that the selected samples are the most relevant to a new sample. Daxberger et al. [135] tried to detect OoD samples during test phase. As such, they developed an unsupervised, probabilistic framework based on a Bayesian VAE. Besides, they estimated the posterior over the decoder parameters by applying SG-MCMC.

## 4 OTHER METHODS

In this section, we discuss few other proposed UQ methods used in machine and deep learning algorithms.

### 4.1 Deep Gaussian processes

Deep Gaussian processes (DGPs) [136], [137], [138], [139], [140], [141], [142] are effective multi-layer decision making models that can accurately model the uncertainty. They represent a multi-layer hierarchy to Gaussian processes (GPs) [143], [144]. GPs is a non-parametric type of Bayesian model that encodes the similarity between samples using kernel function. It represents distributions over the latent variables with respect to the input samples as a Gaussian distribution  $f_x \sim \mathcal{GP}(m(x), k(x, x'))$ . Then, the output  $y$  is distributed based on a likelihood function  $y|f_x \sim h(f_x)$ . However, the conventional GPs can not effectively scale the large datasets. To alleviate this issue, inducing samples can be used. As such, the following variational lower bound can be optimized.

$$\log p(Y) \geq \sum_{y, x \in Y, X} \mathbb{E}_{q(f_x)}[\log p(y|f_x)] - \text{KL}(q(f_z)||p(f_z)), \quad (25)$$

where  $Z$  and  $q(f_x)$  are the location of the inducing samples and the approximated variational to the distribution of  $f_x$ , respectively.

Oh et al. [145] proposed the hedged instance embedding (HIB), which hedges the position of each sample in the embedding space, to model the uncertainty when the input sample is ambiguous. As such, the probability of two samples matching was extended to stochastic embedding, and the MC sampling was used to approximate it. Specifically, the mixture of  $C$  Gaussians was used to represent the uncertainty. Havasi et al. [146] applied SGHMC into DGPs to approximate the posterior distribution. They introduced a moving window MC expectation maximization to obtain the maximum likelihood to deal with the problem of optimizing large number of parameters in DGPs. Maddox et al. [147] used stochastic weight averaging (SWA) [148] to build a Gaussian-based model to approximate the true posterior.

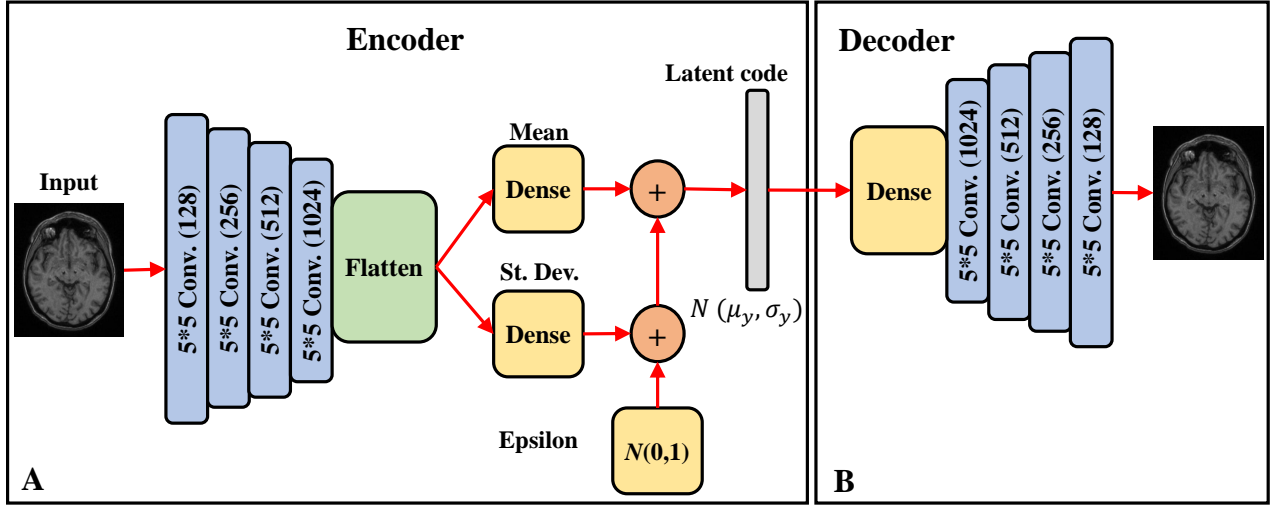


Fig. 12: A schematic view of the proposed VAE model by Edupuganti et al. which is reproduced based on [126].

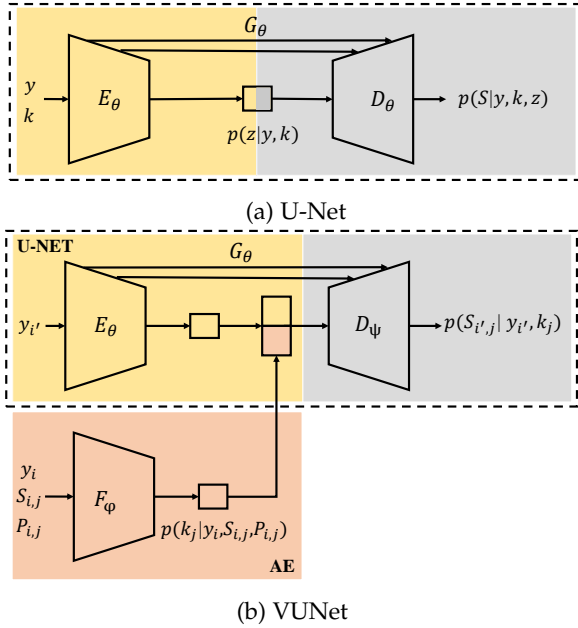


Fig. 13: A general view of U-Net and VUNet which are reproduced based on [127].

Later, they proposed SWA-G [149], which is SWA-Gaussian, to model Bayesian averaging and estimate uncertainty.

Most of the weight perturbation-based algorithms suffer from high variance of gradient estimation due to sharing same perturbation by all samples in a mini-batch. To alleviate this problem, flipout [150] was proposed. Flipout samples the pseudo-independent weight perturbations for each input to decorrelate the gradient within the mini-batch. It is able to reduce variance and computational time in training NNs with multiplicative Gaussian perturbations.

Despite the success of DNNs in dealing with complex and high-dimensional image data, they are not robust to adversarial examples [151]. Bradshaw et al. [152] proposed a hybrid model of GP and DNNs (GPDNNs) to deal with uncertainty caused by adversarial examples (see Fig. 14).

Choi et al. [153] proposed a Gaussian-based model to predict the localization uncertainty in YOLOv3 [154]. As such, they applied a single Gaussian model to the bbox co-

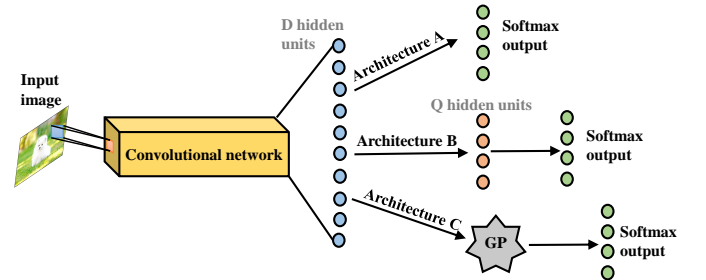


Fig. 14: A general Gaussian-based DNN model proposed by Bradshaw et al. [152] which is reproduced based on the same reference.

ordinates of the detection layer. Specifically, the coordinates of each bbox is modeled as the mean ( $\mu$ ) and variance ( $\Sigma$ ) to predict the uncertainty of bbox.

Khan et al. [155] proposed a natural gradient-based algorithm for Gaussian mean-field VI. The Gaussian distribution with diagonal covariances was used to estimate the probability. The proposed algorithm was implemented within the Adam optimizer. To achieve this, the network weights were perturbed during the gradient evaluation. In addition, they used a vector to adapt the learning rate to estimate uncertainty.

Sun et al. [156] considered structural information of the model weights. They used the matrix variate Gaussian (MVG) [157] distribution to model structured correlations within the weights of DNNs, and introduced a reparametrization for the MVG posterior to make the posterior inference feasible. The resulting MVG model was applied to a probabilistic BP framework to estimate posterior inference. Louizos and Welling [158] used MVG distribution to estimate the weight posterior uncertainty. They treated the weight matrix as a whole rather than treating each component of weight matrix independently. As mentioned earlier, GPs were widely used for UQ in deep learning methods. Van der Wilk et al. [159], Blomqvist et al. [160], Tran et al. [161], Dutordoir et al. [162] and Shi et al. [163] introduced convolutional structure into GP. In another

study, Corbière et al. [164] expressed that the confidence of DNNs and predicting their failures is of key importance for the practical application of these methods. In this regard,

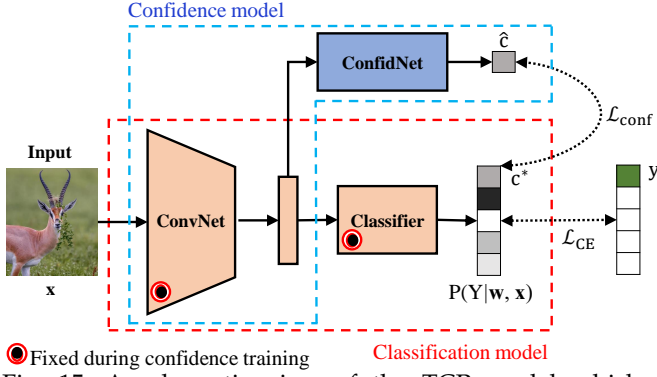


Fig. 15: A schematic view of the TCP model which is reproduced based on the same reference. [164].

they showed that the TCP (*True Class Probability*) is more suitable than the MCP (*Maximum Class Probability*) for failure prediction of such deep learning methods as follows:

$$TCP : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$(x, y^*) \rightarrow P(Y = y^* | w, x), \quad (26)$$

where  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$  represents a  $d$ -dimensional feature and  $y_i^* \in \mathcal{Y} = \{1, \dots, K\}$  is its correct class. Then, they introduced a new normalized type of the TCP confidence criterion:

$$TCP^r(x, y^*) = \frac{P(Y = y^* | w, x)}{P(Y = \hat{y} | w, x)}. \quad (27)$$

A general view of the proposed model in [164] is illustrated by Fig. 15.

In another research, Atanov et al. [165] introduced a probabilistic model and showed that Batch Normalization (BN) approach can maximize the lower bound of its related marginalized log-likelihood. Since inference computationally was not efficient, they proposed the Stochastic BN (SBN) approach for approximation of appropriate inference procedure, as an uncertainty estimation method. Moreover, the induced noise is generally employed to capture the uncertainty, check overfitting and slightly improve the performance via test-time averaging whereas ordinary stochastic neural networks typically depend on the expected values of their weights to formulate predictions. Neklyudov et al. [166] proposed a different kind of stochastic layer called variance layers. It is parameterized by its variance and each weight of a variance layer obeyed a zero-mean distribution. It implies that each object was denoted by a zero-mean distribution in the space of the activations. They demonstrated that these layers presented an upright defense against adversarial attacks and could serve as a crucial exploration tool in reinforcement learning tasks.

## 4.2 Laplace approximations

Laplace approximations (LAs) are other popular UQ methods which are used to estimate the Bayesian inference [167]. They build a Gaussian distribution around true posterior using a Taylor expansion around the MAP,  $\theta^*$ , as follows:

$$p(\theta | D) \approx p(\theta^*) \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}(\theta - \theta^*)' \mathbb{H}_{|\theta^*}(\theta - \theta^*)\right\} \quad (28)$$

where  $\mathbb{H}_{|\theta} = \nabla_{\theta} p(y|\theta) \nabla_{\theta} p(y|\theta)'$  indicates the Hessian of the likelihood estimated at the MAP estimate. Ritter et al. [168]

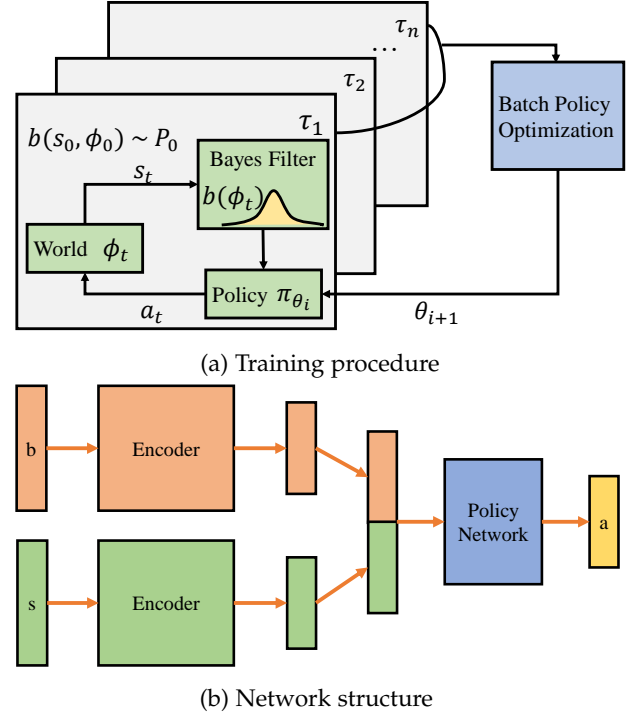


Fig. 16: A general view of BPO which is reproduced based on [171].

introduced a scalable LA (SLA) approach for different NNs. The proposed the model, then compared with the other well-known methods such as Dropout and a diagonal LA for the uncertainty estimation of networks.

## 5 UNCERTAINTY QUANTIFICATION IN REINFORCEMENT LEARNING

In decision making process, uncertainty plays a key role in decision performance in various fields such as Reinforcement Learning (RL) [169]. Different UQ methods in RL have been widely investigated in the literature [170]. Lee et al. [171] formulated the model uncertainty problem as Bayes-Adaptive Markov Decision Process (BAMDP). The general BAMDP defined by a tuple  $\langle S, \Phi, A, T, R, P_0, \gamma \rangle$ , where  $S$  shows the underlying MDP's observable state space,  $\Phi$  indicates the latent space,  $A$  represents the action space,  $T$  is the parameterized transition and finally  $R$  is the reward functions, respectively. Lets  $b_0$  be an initial belief, a Bayes filter updates the posterior as follows:

$$b'(\phi' | s, b, a', s') = \eta \sum_{\phi \in \Phi} b(\phi) T(s, \phi, a', s', \phi') \quad (29)$$

Then, Bayesian Policy Optimization (BPO) method (see Fig. 16) is applied to POMDPs as a Bayes filter to compute the belief  $b$  of the hidden state as follows:

$$b'(s') = \psi(b, a', o') = \eta \sum_{s \in S} b(s) T(s, a', s') Z(s, a', o') \quad (30)$$

In another research, O'Donoghue et al. [172] proposed the uncertainty Bellman equation (UBE) to quantify uncertainty. The authors used a Bellman-based which propagated the uncertainty (here variance) relationship of the posterior distribution of Bayesian. Kahn et al. a [173] presented a new

UA model for learning algorithm to control a mobile robot. A review of past studies in RL shows that different Bayesian approaches have been used for handling parameters uncertainty [174]. Bayesian RL was significantly reviewed by Ghavamzadeh et al. [174] in 2015. Due to page limitation, we do not discuss the application of UQ in RL; but we summarise some of the recent studies here.

Kahn et al. a [173] used both Bootstrapping and Dropout methods to estimate uncertainty in NNs and then used in UA collision prediction model. Besides Bayesian statistical methods, ensemble methods have been used to quantify uncertainty in RL [175]. In this regard, Tschantz et al. [175] applied an ensemble of different point-estimate parameters  $\theta = \{\theta_0, \dots, \theta_B\}$  when trained on various batches of a dataset  $D$  and then maintained and treated by the posterior distribution  $p(\theta|D)$ . The ensemble method helped to capture both aleatoric and epistemic uncertainty. There are more UQ techniques used in RL, however, we are not able to discuss all of them in details in this work due to various reasons, such as page restrictions and the breadth of articles. Table 2 summarizes different UQ methods used in a variety of RL subjects.

## 6 ENSEMBLE TECHNIQUES

Deep neural networks (DNNs) have been effectively employed in a wide variety of machine learning tasks and have achieved state-of-the-art performance in different domains such as bioinformatics, natural language processing (NLP), speech recognition and computer vision [187], [188]. In supervised learning benchmarks, NNs yielded competitive accuracies, yet poor predictive uncertainty quantification. Hence, it is inclined to generate overconfident predictions. Incorrect overconfident predictions can be harmful; hence it is important to handle UQ in a proper manner in real-world applications [189]. As empirical evidence of uncertainty estimates are not available in general, quality of predictive uncertainty evaluation is a challenging task. Two evaluation measures called calibration and domain shift are applied which usually are inspired by the practical applications of NNs. Calibration measures the discrepancy between long-run frequencies and subjective forecasts. The second notion concerns generalization of the predictive uncertainty to domain shift that is estimating if the network knows what it knows. An ensemble of models enhances predictive performance. However, it is not evident why and when an ensemble of NNs can generate good uncertainty estimates. Bayesian model averaging (BMA) believes that the true model reclines within the hypothesis class of the prior and executes soft model selection to locate the single best model within the hypothesis class. On the contrary, ensembles combine models to discover more powerful model; ensembles can be anticipated to be better when the true model does not lie down within the hypothesis class.

The authors in [190] devised Maximize Overall Diversity (MOD) model to estimate ensemble-based uncertainty by taking into account diversity in ensemble predictions across future possible inputs. Gustafsson et al. [191] presented an evaluation approach for measuring uncertainty estimation to investigate the robustness in computer vision domain. Researchers in [192] proposed a deep ensemble echo state net-

work model for spatio-temporal forecasting in uncertainty quantification. Chua et al. [193] devised a novel method called probabilistic ensembles with trajectory sampling that integrated sampling-based uncertainty propagation with UA deep network dynamics approach. The authors in [187] demonstrated that prevailing calibration error estimators were unreliable in small data regime and hence proposed kernel density-based estimator for calibration performance evaluation and proved its consistency and unbiasedness. Liu et al. [194] presented a Bayesian nonparametric ensemble method which enhanced an ensemble model that augmented model's distribution functions using Bayesian nonparametric machinery and prediction mechanism. Hu et al. [195] proposed a model called margin-based Pareto deep ensemble pruning utilizing deep ensemble network that yielded competitive uncertainty estimation with elevated confidence of prediction interval coverage probability and a small value of the prediction interval width. In another study, the researchers [196] exploited the challenges associated with attaining uncertainty estimations for structured predictions job and presented baselines for sequence-level out-of-domain input detection, sequence-level prediction rejection and token-level error detection utilizing ensembles. Ensembles involve memory and computational cost which is not acceptable in many application [197]. There has been noteworthy work done on the distillation of an ensemble into a single model. Such approaches achieved comparable accuracy using ensembles and mitigated the computational costs. In posterior distribution  $p(\theta|D)$ , the uncertainty of model is captured. Let us consider from the posterior sampled ensemble of models  $\{P(y|x^*, \theta^{(m)})\}_{m=1}^M$  as follows [197]:

$$\{P(y|x^*, \theta^{(m)})\}_{m=1}^M \rightarrow \{P(y|\pi^{(m)})\}_{m=1}^M, \\ \pi^m = f(x^*; \theta^{(m)}), \theta^{(m)} \sim p(\theta|D) \quad (31)$$

where  $x^*$  a test is input and  $\pi$  represents the parameters of a categorical distribution  $[P(y = w_1), \dots, P(y = w_k)]^T$ . By taken into account the expectation with respect to the model posterior, predictive posterior or the expected predictive distribution, for a test input  $x^*$  is acquired. And then we have:

$$P(y|x^*, D) = \mathbb{E}_{p(\theta|D)}[P(y|x^*, \theta)] \quad (32)$$

Different estimate of data uncertainty are demonstrated by each of the models  $P(y|x^*, \theta^{(m)})$ . The 'disagreement' or the level of spread of an ensemble sampled from the posterior is occurred due to the uncertainty in predictions as a result of model uncertainty. Let us consider an ensemble  $\{P(y|x^*, \theta^{(m)})\}_{m=1}^M$  that yields the expected set of behaviors, the entropy of expected distribution  $P(y|x^*, D)$  can be utilized as an estimate of total uncertainty in the prediction. Measures of spread or 'disagreement' of the ensemble such as MI can be used to assess uncertainty in predictions due to knowledge uncertainty as follows:

$$\underbrace{\mathcal{M}[y, \theta|x^*, D]}_{\text{Knowledge Uncertainty}} = \underbrace{H[\mathbb{E}_{p(\theta|D)}[P(y|x^*, \theta)]]}_{\text{Total Uncertainty}} - \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{p(\theta|D)}[H[P(y|x^*, \theta)]]}_{\text{Expected Data Uncertainty}} \quad (33)$$



TABLE 2: Further information of some UQ methods used in RL.

| Study                           | Application                              | Goal/Objective   | UQ method  | Code |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|------|
| Tegho et al. [176]              | Dialogue management context              | Dialogue policy optimisation   | BBB propagation deep Q-networks (BBQN)   | ×    |
| Janz et al. [177]               | Temporal difference learning             | Posterior sampling for RL (PSRL)   | Successor Uncertainties (SU)   | ✓    |
| Shen and How [178]              | Discriminating potential threats         | Stochastic belief space policy   | Soft-Q learning  | ×    |
| Benatan and Pyzer-Knapp [179]   | Safe RL (SRL)                            | The weights in RNN using mean and variance weights                       | Probabilistic Backpropagation (PBP)  | ×    |
| Kalweit and Boedecker [180]     | Continuous Deep RL (CDRL)                | Minimizing real-world interaction  | Model-assisted Bootstrapped Deep Deterministic Policy Gradient (MA-BDDPG)                          | ×    |
| Riquelme et al. [181]           | Approximating the posterior sampling     | Balancing both exploration and exploitation in different complex domains | Deep Bayesian Bandits Showdown using Thompson sampling   | ✓    |
| Huang et al. [182]              | Model-based RL (MRL)                     | Better decision and improve performance                                  | Bootstrapped model-based RL (BMRL)   | ×    |
| Eriksson and Dimitrakakis [183] | Risk measures and leveraging preferences | Risk-Sensitive RL (RSRL)   | Epistemic Risk Sensitive Policy Gradient (EPPG)  | ×    |
| Lötjens et al. [184]            | SRL                                      | UA navigation  | Ensemble of MC dropout (EMCD) and Bootstrapping  | ×    |
| Clements et al. [185]           | Designing risk-sensitive algorithm       | Disentangling aleatoric and epistemic uncertainties                      | Combination of distributional RL (DRL) and Approximate Bayesian computation (ABC) methods with NNs | ✓    |
| D'Eramo et al. [186]            | Drive exploration                        | Multi-Armed Bandit (MAB)   | Bootstrapped deep Q-network with TS (BDQNTS)   | ×    |

The total uncertainty can be decomposed into expected data uncertainty and knowledge uncertainty via MI formulation. If the model is uncertain – both in out-of-domain and regions of severe class overlap, entropy of the total uncertainty or predictive posterior is high. If the models disagree, the difference of the expected entropy and entropy of predictive posterior of the individual models will be non-zero. For example, MI will be low and expected and predictive posterior entropy will be similar, and each member of the ensemble will demonstrate high entropy distribution in case of in regions of class overlap. In such scenario, data uncertainty dominates total uncertainty. The predictive posterior is near uniform while the expected entropy of each model may be low that yielded from diverse distributions over classes as a result of out-of-domain inputs on the other hand. In this region of input space, knowledge uncertainty is high because of the model’s understanding of data is low. In ensemble distribution distillation, the aim is not only to capture its diversity but also the mean of the ensemble. An ensemble can be observed as a set of samples from an implicit distribution of output distributions:

$$\{P(y|x^*, \theta^{(m)})\}_{m=1}^M \rightarrow \{P(y|\pi^{(m)})\}_{m=1}^M, \pi^{(m)} \sim p(\pi|x^*, \mathcal{D}). \quad (34)$$

Prior Networks, a new class model was proposed that explicitly parameterize a conditional distribution over output distributions  $p(\pi|x^*, \hat{\theta})$  utilizing a single neural network parameterized by a point estimate of the model parameters  $\hat{\theta}$ . An ensemble can be emulated effectively by a Prior Networks and hence illustrated the same measure of uncertainty. By parameterizing the Dirichlet distribution,

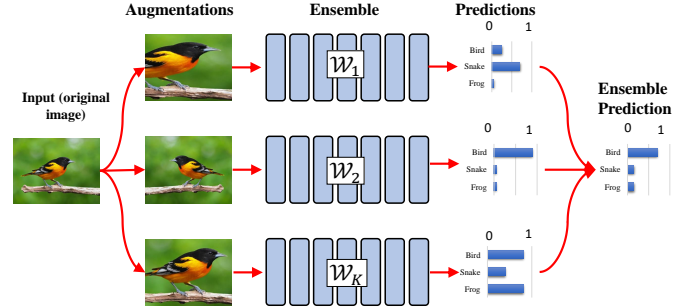


Fig. 17: A schematic view of TTA for ensembling techniques which is reproduced based on [198].

the Prior Network  $p(\pi|x^*, \hat{\theta})$  represents a distribution over categorical output distributions. Ensembling performance is measured by uncertainty estimation. Deep learning ensembles produces benchmark results in uncertainty estimation. The authors in [198] exploited in-domain uncertainty and examined its standards for its quantification and revealed pitfalls of prevailing matrices. They presented the deep ensemble equivalent score (DEE) and demonstrated how an ensemble of trained networks which is only few in number can be equivalent to many urbane ensembling methods with respect to test performance. For one ensemble, they proposed the test-time augmentation (TTA) in order to improve the performance of different ensemble learning techniques (see Fig. 17).

However, deep ensembles [199] are a simple approach that presents independent samples from various modes of the loss setting. Under a fixed test-time computed budget, deep ensembles can be regarded as powerful baseline for the performance of other ensembling methods. It is a

challenging task to compare the performance of ensembling methods. Different values of matrices are achieved by different models on different datasets. Interpretability is lacking in values of matrices as performance gain is compared with dataset and model specific baseline. Hence, Ashukha et al. [198] proposed DDE with an aim to introduce interpretability and perspective that applies deep ensembles to compute the performance of other ensembling methods. DDE score tries to answer the question: what size of deep ensemble demonstrates the same performance as a specific ensembling technique? The DDE score is based on calibrated log-likelihood (CLL). DDE is defined for an ensembling technique ( $m$ ) and lower and upper bounds are depicted as below [198]:

$$DEE_m(k) = \min\{l \in R, l \geq 1 | CLL_{DE}^{mean}(l) \geq CLL_m^{mean}(k)\}, \quad (35)$$

$$DEE_m^{upper/lower}(k) = \min\{l \in R, l \geq 1 | CLL_{DE}^{mean}(l) \mp CLL_{DE}^{std}(l) \geq CLL_m^{mean}(k)\}, \quad (36)$$

where the mean and standard deviation of the calibrated log-likelihood yielded by an ensembling technique  $m$  with  $l$  samples is dubbed as  $CLL_m^{mean/std}(l)$ . They measured  $CLL_{DE}^{std}(l)$  and  $CLL_{DE}^{mean}(l)$  for natural numbers  $l \in \mathbb{N}_{>0}$  and linear interpolation is applied to define them for real values  $l \geq 1$ . They depict  $DDE_m(k)$  for different number of samples  $k$  for different methods  $m$  with upper and lower bounds  $DEE_m^{upper}(k)$  and  $DEE_m^{lower}(k)$ .

Different sources of model uncertainty can be taken care by incorporating a presented ensemble technique to propose a Bayesian nonparametric ensemble (BNE) model devised by Liu et al. [194]. Bayesian nonparametric machinery was utilized to augment distribution functions and prediction of a model by BNE. The BNE measure the uncertainty patterns in data distribution and decompose uncertainty into discrete components that are due to error and noise. The model yielded precise uncertainty estimates from observational noise and demonstrated its utility with respect to model's bias detection and uncertainty decomposition for an ensemble method used in prediction. The predictive mean of BNE can be expressed as below [194]:

$$E(y|X, \omega, \delta, G) = \sum_{k=1}^K f_k(X)\omega_k + \underbrace{\delta(X)}_{\text{Due to } \delta} + \underbrace{\int_{y \in \dagger} \left[ \Phi((y|X, \mu) - G[\Phi((y|X, \mu)] dy \right]}_{\text{Due to } G}. \quad (37)$$

The predictive mean for the full BNE is comprised of three sections:

- 1) The predictive mean of original ensemble  $\sum_{k=1}^K f_k(X)\omega_k$ ;
- 2) BNE's direct correction to the prediction function is represented by the term  $\delta$ ; and
- 3) BNE's indirect correction on prediction derived from the relaxation of the Gaussian assumption in the model cumulative distribution function is represented by the term  $\int \left[ \Phi((y|X, \mu) -$

$G[\Phi((y|X, \mu)] dy$ . In addition, two error correction terms  $\mathcal{D}_\delta(y|X)$  and  $\mathcal{D}_G(y|X)$  are also presented.

To denote BNE's predictive uncertainty estimation, the term  $\Phi_{\varepsilon, \omega}$  is used which is the predictive cumulative distribution function of the original ensemble (i.e. with variance  $\sigma_\varepsilon^2$  and mean  $\sum_k f_k \omega_k$ ). The BNE's predictive interval is presented as [194]:

$$U_q(y|X, \omega, \delta, G) = \left[ \Phi_{\varepsilon, \omega}^{-1} \left( G^{-1} \left( 1 - \frac{q}{2} |X \right) \right) + \delta(x), \right. \\ \left. \Phi_{\varepsilon, \omega}^{-1} \left( G^{-1} \left( 1 + \frac{q}{2} |X \right) \right) + \delta(x) \right]. \quad (38)$$

Comparing the above equation to the predictive interval of original ensemble  $\left[ \Phi_{\varepsilon, \omega}^{-1} \left( G^{-1} \left( 1 - \frac{q}{2} |X \right) \right), \Phi_{\varepsilon, \omega}^{-1} \left( G^{-1} \left( 1 + \frac{q}{2} |X \right) \right) \right]$ , it can be observed that the residual process  $\delta$  adjusts the locations of the BNE predictive interval endpoints while  $G$  calibrates the spread of the predictive interval.

As an important part of ensemble techniques, loss functions play a significant role of having a good performance by different ensemble techniques. In other words, choosing the appropriate loss function can dramatically improve results. Due to page limitation, we summarise the most important loss functions applied for UQ in Table 3.

## 6.1 Deep Ensemble

Deep ensemble, is another powerful method used to measure uncertainty and has been extensively applied in many real-world applications [195]. To achieve good learning results, the data distributions in testing datasets should be as close as the training datasets. In many situations, the distributions of test datasets are unknown especially in case of uncertainty prediction problem. Hence, it is tricky for the traditional learning models to yield competitive performance. Some researchers applied MCMC and BNNs that relied on the prior distribution of datasets to work out the uncertainty prediction problems [190]. When these approaches are employed into large size networks, it becomes computationally expensive. Model ensembling is an effective technique which can be used to enhance the predictive performance of supervised learners. Deep ensembles are applied to get better predictions on test data and also produce model uncertainty estimates when learns are provided with OoD data. The success of ensembles depends on the variance-reduction generated by combining predictions that are prone to several types of errors individually. Hence, the improvement in predictions is comprehended by utilizing a large ensemble with numerous base models and such ensembles also generate distributional estimates of model uncertainty. A deep ensemble echo state network (D-EESN) model with two versions of the model for spatio-temporal forecasting and associated uncertainty measurement presented in [192]. The first framework applies a bootstrap ensemble approach and second one devised within a hierarchical Bayesian framework. Multiple levels of uncertainties and non-Gaussian data types were accommodated by general hierarchical Bayesian approach. The authors in [192]

TABLE 3: Main loss functions used by ensemble techniques for UQ.

| Study                         | Dataset type                  | Base classifier(s)           | Method's name   | Loss equation   | Code |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|------|
| TV et al. [200]               | Sensor data                   | Neural Networks (LSTM)       | Ordinal Regression (OR)                                 | $\mathcal{L}_{OR}(y, \hat{y}) = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^K y_j \cdot \log(\hat{y}_j) + (1 - y_j) \cdot \log(1 - \hat{y}_j)$  | ×    |
| Sinha et al. [201]            | Image                         | Neural Networks              | Diverse Information Bottleneck in Ensembles (DIBS)      | $L_G = \mathbb{E}_{\hat{z}_1 \sim q(\hat{z}_1 x), \hat{z}_2 \sim q(\hat{z}_2 x)} [\log \mathcal{D}(\hat{z}_1, \hat{z}_2)] + \mathbb{E}_{\hat{z}_1 \sim r(\hat{z}_1), \hat{z}_2 \sim q(\hat{z}_2 x)} [\log(1 - \mathcal{D}(\hat{z}_1, \hat{z}_2))] + \mathbb{E}_{\hat{z}_1 \sim q(\hat{z}_1 x), \hat{z}_2 \sim q(\hat{z}_2 x)} [\log 1 - \mathcal{D}(\hat{z}_1, \hat{z}_2)]$ | ✓    |
| Zhang et al. [187]            | Image                         | Neural Networks              | Mix-n-Match Calibration                                 | $\mathbb{E} \ z - y\ _2^2$ (the standard square loss)   | ×    |
| Lakshminarayanan et al. [189] | Image                         | Neural Networks              | Deep Ensembles  | $\mathcal{L}(\theta) = -S(p_\theta, q)$   | ×    |
| Jain et al. [190]             | Image and Protein DNA binding | Deep Ensembles               | Maximize Overall Diversity (MOD)                        | $L(\theta_m; x_n, y_n) = -\log p_{\theta_m}(y_n   x_n)$   | ×    |
| Gustafsson et al. [191]       | Video                         | Neural Networks              | Scalable BDL  | Regression: $L(\theta) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{(y_i - \hat{\mu}(x_i))^2}{\sigma^2(x_i)} + \log \sigma^2(x_i) + \frac{1}{N} \theta^\top \theta$ , Classification: $L(\theta) = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^C y_{i,k} \log \hat{s}(x_i)_k + \frac{1}{2N} \theta^\top \theta$  | ✓    |
| Chua et al. [193]             | Robotics (video)              | Neural Networks              | Probabilistic ensembles with trajectory sampling (PETS) | $lossp(\theta) = -\sum_{n=1}^N \log \tilde{f}_\theta(s_{n+1}   s_n, a_n)$   | ✓    |
| Hu et al. [195]               | Image and tabular data        | Neural Networks              | margin-based Pareto deep ensemble pruning (MBPEP)       | $Loss_{multi} = W_{CVAE} * Loss_{CVAE} + W_{CRNN} * Loss_{CRNN}$  | ×    |
| Malinin et al. [197]          | Image                         | Neural Networks              | Ensemble Distribution Distillation ( $EnD^2$ )          | $\mathcal{L}(\phi, D_{ens}) = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \ln \Gamma(\hat{\alpha}_0^{(i)}) + \sum_{c=1}^K \ln \Gamma(\hat{\alpha}_c^{(i)}) + \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \sum_{c=1}^K (\hat{\alpha}_0^{(i)} - 1) \ln \pi_{c(im)} \right]$   | ✓    |
| Ashukha et al. [198]          | Image                         | Neural Networks              | Deep ensemble equivalent score (DEE)                    | $L(w) = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \log \hat{p}(y_i^*   x_i, w) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \ w\ ^2 \rightarrow \min_w$  | ✓    |
| Pearce et al. [202]           | Tabular data                  | Neural Networks              | Quality-Driven Ensembles (QD-Ens)                       | $Loss_{QD} = \frac{MPIW_{capt.}}{\lambda \frac{n}{\alpha(1-\alpha)} \max(0, (1-\alpha) - PIP)^2} +$   | ✓    |
| Ambrogioni et al. [203]       | Tabular data                  | Bayesian logistic regression | Wasserstein variational gradient descent (WVG)          | $\mathcal{L}(z^1) = -\mathbb{E}_{z \sim p(z x)} [c(z^1, z)]$  | ×    |
| Hu et al. [204]               | Image                         | Neural Networks              | Bias-variance decomposition                             | $\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \exp(-s(x)) \frac{\sum_r \ y_r(x) - \hat{y}(x)\ ^2}{R} + \frac{1}{2} s(x)$   | ×    |

broadened some of the deep ESN technique constituents presented by Antonelo et al. [205] and Ma et al. [206] to fit in a spatio-temporal ensemble approach in the D-EESN model to contain such structure. As shown in previous section, in the following , we summarise few loss functions of deep ensembles in Table 4.

## 6.2 Deep Ensemble Bayesian

The expressive power of various ensemble techniques extensively shown in the literature. However, traditional learning techniques suffered from several drawbacks and limitations as listed in [210]. To overcome these limitations, Fersini et al. [210] utilized the ensemble learning approach to mitigate the noise sensitivity related to language ambiguity and more accurate prediction of polarity can be estimated. The proposed ensemble method employed Bayesian model averaging, where both reliability and uncertainty of each single model were considered.

Study [211] presented one alteration to the prevailing approximate Bayesian inference by regularizing parameters about values derived from a distribution that could be set equal to the prior. The analysis of the process suggested that the recovered posterior was centered correctly but leaned to have an overestimated correlation and underestimated marginal variance. To obtain uncertainty estimates, one of the most promising frameworks is Deep BAL (DBAL) with MC dropout. Pop et al. [199] argued that in variational inference methods, the mode collapse phenomenon was responsible for overconfident predictions of DBAL methods. They devised Deep Ensemble BAL that addressed the mode collapse issue and improved the MC dropout method. In another study, Pop et al. [212] proposed a novel AL technique especially for DNNs. The statistical properties and expressive power of model ensembles were employed to enhance the state-of-the-art deep BAL technique that suffered from the mode collapse problem.

TABLE 4: Main loss functions used by deep ensemble techniques for UQ.

| Study                       | Dataset type | Base classifier(s) | Method's name                     | Loss equation   | Code |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---|------|
| Fan et al. [207]            | GPS-log      | Neural Networks    | Online Ensemble Learning (ODEL)   | $\mathcal{L} = H(F_{ensemble}(X_{t-T:t-1}), one\_hot(X_t))$   | ×    |
| Yang et al. [208]           | Smart grid   | K-means            | Least shrinkage selection (LASSO) | $\mathcal{L}(y_i^m, \hat{y}_i^{m,q}) = \frac{1}{Q} \sum_{q \in Q} \max((q - 1)H_\varepsilon(y_i^m, \hat{y}_i^{m,q}), qH_\varepsilon(y_i^m, \hat{y}_i^{m,q}))$ | ×    |
| van Amersfoort et al. [209] | Image        | Neural Networks    | Deterministic (DUQ)               | $L(x, y) = -\sum_c y_c \log(K_c) + (1 - y_c) \log(1 - K_c)$   | ×    |

In another research, Pearce et al. [213] a new ensemble of NNs, approximately Bayesian ensembling approach, called “*anchoredensembling*”. The proposed approach regularises the parameters regarding values attracted from a distribution.

### 6.3 Uncertainty Quantification in Traditional Machine Learning domain using Ensemble Techniques

It is worthwhile noting that UQ in traditional machine learning algorithms have extensively been studied using different ensemble techniques and few more UQ methods (e.g. please see [214]) in the literature. However, due to page limitation, we just summarized some of the ensemble techniques (as UQ methods) used in traditional machine learning domain. For example, Tzelepis et al. [214] proposed a maximum margin classifier to deal with uncertainty in input data. The proposed model is applied for classification task using SVM (Support Vector Machine) algorithm with multi-dimensional Gaussian distributions. The proposed model named SVM-GSU (SVM with Gaussian Sample Uncertainty) and it is illustrated by Fig. 18: In another research, Pereira

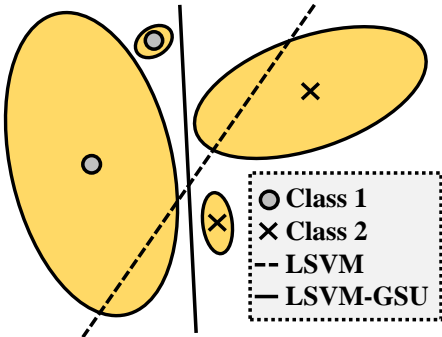


Fig. 18: A schematic view of SVM-GSU which is reproduced based on [214].

et al. [215] examined various techniques for transforming classifiers into uncertainty methods where predictions are harmonized with probability estimates with their uncertainty. They applied various uncertainty methods: Venn-ABERS predictors, Conformal Predictors, Platt Scaling and Isotonic Regression. Partalas et al. [216] presented a novel measure called Uncertainty Weighted Accuracy (UWA), for ensemble pruning through directed hill climbing that took care of uncertainty of present ensemble decision. The experimental results demonstrated that the new measure to prune

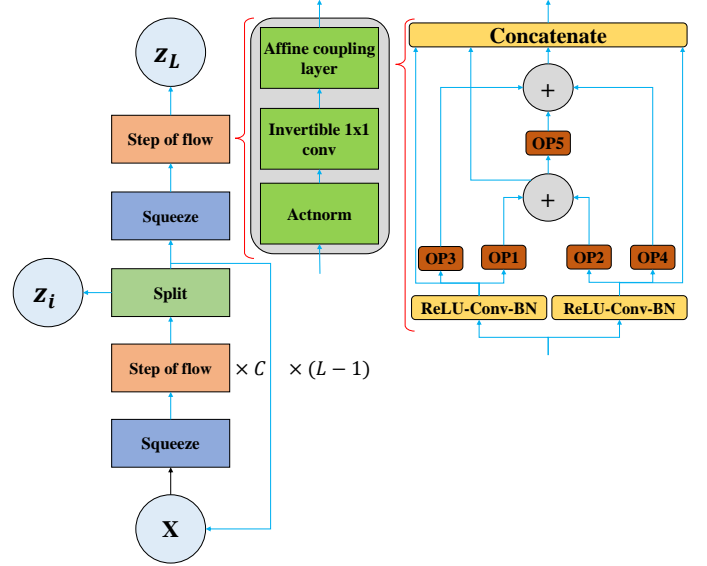


Fig. 19: A single block diagram for searching space in the architecture which is reproduced based on [218].

a heterogeneous ensemble significantly enhanced the accuracy compared to baseline methods and other state-of-the-art measures. Peterson et al. [217] exploited different types of errors that might creep in atomistic machine learning, and addressed how uncertainty analysis validated machine-learning predictions. They applied a bootstrap ensemble of neural network based calculators, and exhibited that the width of the ensemble can present an approximation of the uncertainty.

## 7 FURTHER STUDIES OF UQ METHODS

In this section, we cover other methods used to estimate the uncertainty. In this regard, presented a summary of the proposed methods, but not the theoretical parts. Due to the page limitation and large number of references, we are not able to review all the details of the methods. For this reason, we recommend that readers check more details of each method in the reference if needed.

The OoD is a common error appears in machine and deep learning systems when training data have different distribution. To address this issue, Ardywibowo et al. [218] introduced a new UA architecture called *Neural Architecture Distribution Search (NADS)*. The proposed NADS finds an appropriate distribution of different architectures which accomplish significantly good on a



specified task. A single block diagram for searching space in the architecture is presented by Fig. 19.

Unlike previous designing architecture methods, NADS allows to recognize common blocks amongst the entire UA architectures. On the other hand, the cost functions for the uncertainty oriented neural network (NN) are not always converging. Moreover, an optimized prediction interval (PI) is not always generated by the converged NNs. The convergence of training is uncertain and they are not customizable in the case of such cost functions. To construct optimal PIs, Kabir et al. [219] presented a smooth customizable cost function to develop optimal PIs to construct NNs. The PI coverage probability (PICP), PI-failure distances and optimized average width of PIs were computed to lessen the variation in the quality of PIs, enhance convergence probability and speed up the training. They tested their method on electricity demand and wind power generation data. In the case of non-Bayesian deep neural classification, uncertainty estimation methods introduced biased estimates for instances whose predictions are highly accurate. They argued that this limitation occurred because of the dynamics of training with SGD-like optimizers and possessed similar characteristics such as overfitting. Geifman et al. [220] proposed an uncertainty estimation method that computed the uncertainty of highly confident points by utilizing snapshots of the trained model before their approximations were jittered. The proposed algorithm outperformed all well-known techniques. In another research, Tagasovska et al. [221] proposed single-model estimates for DNNs of epistemic and aleatoric uncertainty. They suggested a loss function called Simultaneous Quantile Regression (SQR) to discover the conditional quantiles of a target variable to assess aleatoric uncertainty. Well-calibrated prediction intervals could be derived by using these quantiles. They devised Orthonormal Certificates (OCs), a collection of non-constant functions that mapped training samples to zero to estimate epistemic uncertainty. The OoD examples were mapped by these certificates to non-zero values.

van Amersfoort et al. [209], [222] presented a method to find and reject distribution data points for training a deterministic deep model with a single forward pass at test time. They exploited the ideas of RBF networks to devise deterministic UQ (DUQ) which is presented in Fig. 20. They scaled training in this with a centroid updating scheme and new loss function. Their method could detect out of distribution data consistently by utilizing a gradient penalty to track changes in the input. Their method is able to enhance deep ensembles and scaled well to huge databases. Tagasovska et al. [223] demonstrated frequentist estimates of epistemic and aleatoric uncertainty for DNNs. They proposed a loss function, simultaneous quantile regression to estimate all the conditional quantiles of a given target variable in case of aleatoric uncertainty. Well-calibrated prediction intervals could be measured by using these quantiles. They proposed a collection of non-trivial diverse functions that map all training samples to zero and dubbed as training certificates for the estimation of epistemic uncertainty. The certificates signalled high epistemic uncertainty by mapping OoD examples to non-zero values. By using Bayesian deep networks, it is possible to know what the DNNs do not know in the domains where safety is a major concern. Flawed

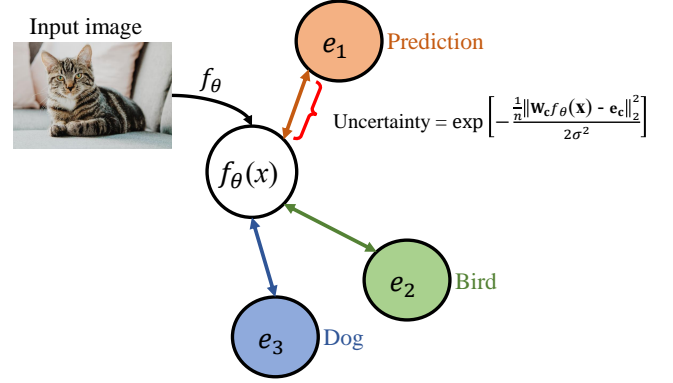


Fig. 20: A general view of the DUQ architecture which is reproduced based on [209], [222].

decision may lead to severe penalty in many domains such as autonomous driving, security and medical diagnosis. Traditional approaches are incapable of scaling complex large neural networks. Mobiny et al. [224] proposed an approach by imposing a Bernoulli distribution on the model weights to approximate Bayesian inference for DNNs. Their framework dubbed as MC-DropConnect demonstrated model uncertainty by small alternation in the model structure or computed cost. They validated their technique on various datasets and architectures for semantic segmentation and classification tasks. They also introduced a novel uncertainty quantification metrics. Their experimental results showed considerable enhancements in uncertainty estimation and prediction accuracy compared to the prior approaches.

Uncertainty measures are crucial estimating tools in machine learning domain, that can lead to evaluate the similarity and dependence between two feature subsets and can be utilized to verify the importance of features in clustering and classification algorithms. There are few uncertainty measure tools to estimate a feature subset including rough entropy, information entropy, roughness, and accuracy etc. in the classical rough sets. These measures are not proper for real-valued datasets and relevant to discrete-valued information systems. Chen et al. [225] proposed the neighborhood rough set model. In their approach, each object is related to a neighborhood subset, dubbed as a neighborhood granule. Different uncertainty measures of neighborhood granules were introduced, that were information granularity, neighborhood entropy, information quantity, and neighborhood accuracy. Further, they confirmed that these measures of uncertainty assured monotonicity, invariance and non-negativity. In the neighborhood systems, their experimental results and theoretical analysis demonstrated that information granularity, neighborhood entropy and information quantity performed superior to the neighborhood accuracy measure. On the other hand, reliable and accurate machine learning systems depends on techniques for reasoning under uncertainty. The UQ is provided by a framework using Bayesian methods. But Bayesian uncertainty estimations are often imprecise because of the use of approximate inference and model misspecification. Kuleshov et al. [226] devised a simple method for calibrating any regression algorithm; it was guaranteed to provide calibrated uncertainty estimates having enough data when used to probabilistic and Bayesian models. They assessed

their technique on recurrent, feedforward neural networks, and Bayesian linear regression and located outputs well-calibrated credible intervals while enhancing performance on model-based RL and time series forecasting tasks.

Gradient-based optimization techniques have showed its efficacy in learning overparameterized and complex neural networks from non-convex objectives. Nevertheless, generalization in DNNs, the induced training dynamics, and specific theoretical relationship between gradient-based optimization methods are still unclear. Rudner et al. [227] examined training dynamics of overparameterized neural networks under natural gradient descent. They demonstrated that the discrepancy between the functions obtained from non-linearized and linearized natural gradient descent is smaller in comparison to standard gradient descent. They showed empirically that there was no need to formulate a limit argument about the width of the neural network layers as the discrepancy is small for overparameterized neural networks. Finally, they demonstrated that the discrepancy was small on a set of regression benchmark problems and their theoretical results were steady with empirical discrepancy between the functions obtained from non-linearized and linearized natural gradient descent. Patro et al. [228] devised gradient-based certainty estimates with visual attention maps. They resolved visual question answering job. The gradients for the estimates were enhanced by incorporating probabilistic deep learning techniques. There are two key advantages: 1. enhancement in getting the certainty estimates correlated better with misclassified samples and 2. state-of-the-art results obtained by improving attention maps correlated with human attention regions. The enhanced attention maps consistently improved different techniques for visual question answering. Improved certainty estimates and explanation of deep learning techniques could be achieved through the presented method. They provided empirical results on all benchmarks for the visual question answering job and compared it with standard techniques.

BNNs have been used as a solution for neural network predictions, but it is still an open challenge to specify their prior. Independent normal prior in weight space leads to weak constraints on the function posterior, permit it to generalize in unanticipated ways on inputs outside of the training distribution. Hafner et al. [14] presented noise contrastive priors (NCPs) to estimate consistent uncertainty. The prime initiative was to train the model for data points outside of the training distribution to output elevated uncertainty. The NCPs relied on input prior, that included noise to the inputs of the current mini batch, and an output prior, that was an extensive distribution set by these inputs. The NCPs restricted overfitting outside of the training distribution and produced handy uncertainty estimates for AL. BNNs with latent variables are flexible and scalable probabilistic models. They can record complex noise patterns in the data by using latent variables and uncertainty is accounted by network weights. Depeweg et al. [229] exhibited the decomposition and derived uncertainty into aleatoric and epistemic for decision support systems. That empowered them to detect informative points for AL of functions with bimodal and heteroscedastic noises. They further described a new risk-sensitive condition to recognize policies for RL that balanced noise aversion, model-bias and expected cost

by applying decomposition.

Uncertainty modelling in DNNs is an open problem despite advancements in the area. BNNs, where the prior over network weights is a design choice, is a powerful solution. Frequently normal or other distribution supports sparsity. The prior is agnostic to the generative process of the input data. This may direct to unwarranted generalization for out-of-distribution tested data. Rohekar et al. [230] suggested a confounder for the relation between the discriminative function and the input data given the target label. They proposed for modelling the confounder by sharing neural connectivity patterns between the discriminative and generative networks. Hence, a novel deep architecture was framed where networks were coupled into a compact hierarchy and sampled from the posterior of local causal structures (see Fig. 21).

They showed that sampling networks from the hierarchy,

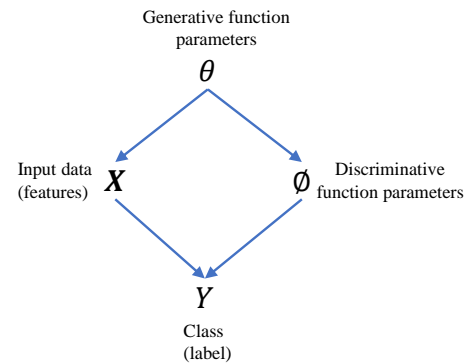


Fig. 21: A causal view demonstrating the main assumptions taken by Rohekar et al. [230] (this figure is reproduced based on the reference).

an efficient technique, was proportional to their posterior and different types of uncertainties could be estimated. It is a challenging job to learn unbiased models on imbalanced datasets. The generalization of learned boundaries to novel test examples are hindered by concentrated representation in the classification space in rare classes. Khan et al. [231] yielded that the difficulty level of individual samples and rarity of classes had direct correlation with Bayesian uncertainty estimates. They presented a new approach for uncertainty based class imbalance learning that exploited two-folded insights: 1. In rare (uncertain) classes, the classification boundaries should be broadened to evade overfitting and improved its generalization; 2. sample's uncertainty was defined by multivariate Gaussian distribution with a covariance matrix and a mean vector that modelled each sample. Individual samples and its distribution in the feature space should be taken care by the learned boundaries. Class and sample uncertainty information was used to obtain generalizable classification techniques and robust features. They formulated a loss function for max-margin learning based on Bayesian uncertainty measure. Their technique exhibited key performance enhancements on six benchmark databases for skin lesion detection, digit/object classification, attribute prediction and face verification.

Neural networks do not measure uncertainty meaningfully as it leans to be overconfident on incorrectly labelled, noisy or unseen data. Variational approximations such as Multiplicative Normalising Flows or BBB are utilized by

BDL to overcome this limitation. However, current methods have shortcomings regarding scalability and flexibility. Pawlowski et al. [232] proposed a novel technique of variational approximation, termed as Bayes by Hypernet (BbH) that deduced hypernetworks as implicit distributions. It naturally scaled to deep learning architectures and utilized neural networks to model arbitrarily complex distributions. Their method was robust against adversarial attacks and yielded competitive accuracies. On the other hand, significant increase in prediction accuracy records in deep learning models, but it comes along with the enhancement in the cost of rendering predictions. Wang et al. [233] speculated that for many of the real world inputs, deep learning models created recently, it tended to “over-think” on simple inputs. They proposed “I Don’t Know” (IDK) prediction cascades approach to create a set of pre-trained models systematically without a loss in prediction accuracy to speed up inference. They introduced two search based techniques for producing a new cost-aware objective as well as cascades. Their IDK cascade approach can be adopted in a model without further model retraining. They tested its efficacy on a variety of benchmarks.

Yang et al. [234] proposed a deep learning approach for propagating and quantifying uncertainty in models inspired by non-linear differential equations utilized by physics-informed neural networks. Probabilistic representations for the system states were produced by latent variable models while physical laws described by partial differential equations were satisfied by constraining their predictions. It also forwards an adversarial inference method for training them on data. A regularization approach for efficiently training deep generative models was provided by such physics-informed constraints. Surrogates of physical models in which the training of datasets was usually small, and the cost of data acquisition was high. The outputs of physical systems were characterized by the framework due to noise in their observations or randomness in their inputs that bypassed the need of sampling costly experiments or numerical simulators. They proved efficacy of their method via a series of examples that demonstrated uncertainty propagation in non-linear conservation laws and detection of constitutive laws. For autonomous driving, 3D scene flow estimation techniques generate 3D motion of a scene and 3D geometry. Brickwedde et al. [235] devised a new monocular 3D scene flow estimation technique dubbed as Mono-SF that assessed both motion of the scene and 3D structure by integrating single-view depth information and multi-view geometry. A CNN algorithm termed as ProbDepthNet was devised for combining single-view depth in a statistical manner. The new recalibration technique, ProbDepth-Net, was presented for regression problems to guarantee well-calibrated distributions. ProbDepthNet design and Mono-SF method proved its efficacy in comparison to the state-of-the-art approaches.

Mixup is a DNN training technique where extra samples are produced during training by convexly integrating random pairs of images and their labels. The method had demonstrated its effectiveness in improving the image classification performance. Thulasidasan et al. [236] investigated the predictive uncertainty and calibration of models trained with mixup. They revealed that DNNs trained with mixup were

notably better calibrated than trained in regular technique. They tested their technique in large datasets and observed that this technique was less likely to over-confident predictions using random-noise and OoD data. Label smoothing in mixup trained DNNs played a crucial role in enhancing calibration. They concluded that training with hard labels caused overconfidence observed in neural networks. The transparency, fairness and reliability of the methods can be improved by explaining black-box machine learning models. Model’s robustness and users’ trust raised concern as the explanation of these models exhibited considerable uncertainty. Zhang et al. [237] illustrated the incidence of three sources of uncertainty, viz. variation in explained model credibility, variation with sampling proximity and randomness in the sampling procedure across different data points by concentrating on a specific local explanation technique called Local Interpretable Model-Agnostic Explanations (LIME). Even the black-box models with high accuracy yielded uncertainty. They tested the uncertainty in the LIME technique on two publicly available datasets and synthetic data.

In the incidence of even small adversarial perturbations, employment of DNNs in safety-critical environments is rigorously restricted. Sheikholeslami et al. [238] devised a randomized approach to identify these perturbations that dealt with minimum uncertainty metrics by sampling at the hidden layers during the DNN inference period. Adversarial corrupted inputs were identified by the sampling probabilities. Any pre-trained DNN at no additional training could be exploited by new detector of adversaries. The output uncertainty of DNN from the BNNs perspectives could be quantified by choosing units to sample per hidden layer where layer-wise components denoted the overall uncertainty. Low-complexity approximate solvers were obtained by simplifying the objective function. These approximations associated state-of-the-art randomized adversarial detectors with the new approach in addition to delivering meaningful insights. Moreover, consistency loss between various predictions under random perturbations is the basis of one of the effective strategies in semi-supervised learning. In a successful student model, teachers’ pseudo labels must possess good quality, otherwise learning process will suffer. But the prevailing models do not evaluate the quality of teachers’ pseudo labels. Li et al. [239] presented a new certainty-driven consistency loss (CCL) that employed predictive uncertainty information in the consistency loss to learn students from reliable targets dynamically. They devised two strategies i.e. Temperature CCL and Filtering CCL to either pay less attention on the uncertain ones or filter out uncertain predictions in the consistency regularization. They termed it FT-CCL by integrating the two strategies to enhance consistency learning approach. The FT-CCL demonstrated robustness to noisy labels and enhancement on a semi-supervised learning job. They presented a new mutual learning technique where one student was detached with its teacher and gained additional knowledge with another student’s teacher.

Englesson et al. [240] introduced a modified knowledge distillation method to achieve computationally competent uncertainty estimates with deep networks. They tried to yield competitive uncertainty estimates both for out and

in-of-distribution samples. Their major contributions were as follows: 1. adapting and demonstrating to distillation’s regularization effect, 2. presenting a new target teacher distribution, 3. OoD uncertainty estimates were enhanced by a simple augmentation method, and 4. widespread set of experiments were executed to shed light on the distillation method. On the other hand, well calibrated uncertainty and accurate full predictive distributions are provided by Bayesian inference. High dimensionality of the parameter space limits the scaling of Bayesian inference methods to DNNs. Izmailov et al. [241] designed low-dimensional subspaces of parameter space that comprised of diverse sets of high performing approaches. They applied variational inference and elliptical slice sampling in the subspaces. Their method yielded well-calibrated predictive uncertainty and accurate predictions for both image classification and regression by exploiting Bayesian model averaging over the induced posterior in the subspaces.

Csaji et al. [242] introduced a data-driven strategy for uncertainty quantification of models based on kernel techniques. The method needed few mild regularities in the computation of noise instead of distributional assumptions such as dealing with exponential families or GPs. The uncertainty about the model could be estimated by perturbing the residuals in the gradient of the objective function. They devised an algorithm to make it distribution-free, non-asymptotically guaranteed and exact confidence regions for noise-free and ideal depiction of function that they estimated. For the symmetric noises and usual convex quadratic problems, the regions were star convex centred on a specified small estimate, and ellipsoidal outer approximations were also efficiently executed. On the other hand, the uncertainty estimates can be measured while pre-training process. Hendrycks et al. [243] demonstrated that pre-training enhanced the uncertainty estimates and model robustness although it might not improve the classification metrics. They showed the key gains from pre-training by performing empirical experiments on confidence calibration, OoD detection, class imbalance, label corruption and adversarial examples. Their adversarial pre-training method demonstrated approximately 10% enhancement over existing methods in adversarial robustness. Pre-training without task-specific techniques highlighted the need for pre-training, surpassed the state-of-the-art when examining the future techniques on uncertainty and robustness.

Trustworthy confidence estimates are required by high-risk domains from predictive models. Rigid variational distributions utilized for tractable inference that erred on the side of overconfidence suffered from deep latent variable models. Veeling et al. [244] devised Stochastic Quantized Activation Distributions (SQUAD) that executed a tractable yet flexible distribution over discretized latent variables. The presented technique is sample efficient, self-normalizing and scalable. Their method yielded predictive uncertainty of high quality, learnt interesting non-linearities, fully used the flexible distribution. Multi-task learning (MTL) is another domain that the impact of the importance of uncertainty methods on it can be considered. For example, MTL demonstrated its efficacy for MR-only radiotherapy planning as it can jointly automate contour of organs-at-risk - a segmentation task – and simulate a synthetic CT (synCT) scan - a regression task

from MRI scans. Bragman et al. [245] suggested utilizing a probabilistic deep-learning technique to estimate the parameter and intrinsic uncertainty. Parameter uncertainty was estimated through a approximate Bayesian inference whilst intrinsic uncertainty was modelled using a heteroscedastic noise technique. This developed an approach for uncertainty measuring over prediction of the tasks and data-driven adaptation of task losses on a voxel-wise basis. They demonstrated competitive performance in the segmentation and regression of prostate cancer scans. More information can be found in Tables 5 and 6.

As discussed earlier, GP is a powerful technique used for quantifying uncertainty. However, it is complex to form a Gaussian approximation to the posterior distribution even in the context of uncertainty estimation in huge deep-learning models. In such scenario, prevailing techniques generally route to a diagonal approximation of the covariance matrix in spite of executing low uncertainty estimates by these matrices. Mishkin et al. [368] designed a novel stochastic, low-rank, approximate natural-gradient (SLANG) technique for VI in huge deep models to tackle this issue. Their technique computed a “diagonal plus low-rank” structure based on back-propagated gradients of the network log-likelihood. Their findings indicate that the proposed technique in forming Gaussian approximation to the posterior distribution. As a fact, the safety of the AI systems can be enhanced by estimating uncertainty in predictions. Such uncertainties arise due to distributional mismatch between the training and test data distributions, irreducible data uncertainty and uncertainty in model parameters. Malinin et al. [326] devised a novel framework for predictive uncertainty dubbed as Prior Networks (PNs) that modelled distributional uncertainty explicitly. They achieved it by parameterizing a prior distribution over predictive distributions. Their work aimed at uncertainty for classification and scrutinized PNs on the tasks of recognizing OoD samples and identifying misclassification on the CIFAR-10 and MNIST datasets. Empirical results indicate that PNs, unlike non-Bayesian methods, could successfully discriminate between distributional and data uncertainty.

## 7.1 Other UQ Techniques

In this sub-section, we aim to summary few other UQ techniques applied in the literature. We have selected the most relevant ones for this part of study. BNNs have been reinvigorating research interest by enhancing accurate predictions presented by neural networks with well-calibrated predictive uncertainties. But selection of model and number of nodes remain a challenge. Ghosh et al. [369] exploited the horseshoe, continuous shrinkage priors and the regularized horseshoe distributions for selection of model in BNNs (see Fig. 22). The strong shrinkage provided by the horseshoe was effective in turning of nodes that did not help explaining data when placed over node pre-activations and coupled with appropriate variational approximations. Their model selection technique over the number of nodes did not come at the expense of computational or predictive performance.

In another research, Hernandez-Lobato et al. [370] introduced a novel approximate inference method based on the minimization of  $\alpha$ -divergences termed as black-box alpha



TABLE 5: More UQ methods in the main three categories proposed in the literature. Note that we provide in the row related to other methods the names of the proposed UQ methods for each reference. But, because of the importance of mentioning the proposed method, we also did the same in some other parts (General information).

| UQ category | Studies  |
|-------------|--|
| Bayesian    | Balan et al. [246] (BPE: Bayesian parameter estimation), Houthooft et al. [247] (VIME: VI Maximizing Exploration), Springenberg et al. [248], Ilg et al. [249], Heo et al. [250], Henderson et al. [251], Ahn et al. [252], Zhang et al. [253], Sensoy et al. [254], Khan et al. [155], Acerbi [255] (VBMC: Variational Bayesian Monte Carlo), Haufmann et al. [256], Gong et al. [72], De Ath et al. [257], Foong et al. [258], Hasanzadeh et al. [259], Chang et al. [260], Stoean et al. [261], Xiao et al. [262], Repetti et al. [263], Tóthová et al. [264], Moss et al. [265], Dutordoir et al. [266], Luo et al. [267], Gafni et al. [268], Jin et al. [269], Han et al. [270], Stoean et al. [271], Oh et al. [272], Dusenberry et al. [273], Havasi et al. [274], Krishnan et al. [275] (MOPED: MOdel Priors with Empirical Bayes using DNN), Jesson et al. [276], Filos et al. [277], Huang et al. [278], Amit and Meir [279], Bhattacharyya et al. [280], Yao et al. [281], Laves et al. [282] (UCE: uncertainty calibration error), Yang et al. [283] (OC-BNN: Output-Constrained BNN), Thakur et al. [284] (LUNA: Learned UA), Yacoby et al. [285] (NCAI: Noise Constrained Approximate Inference), Masood and Doshi-Velez [286] (PVI Particle-based VI), Abdolshah et al. [287] (MOBO: Multi-objective Bayesian optimisation), White et al. [288] (BO), Balandat et al. [289] (BOTORCH), Galy-Fajou et al. [290] (CMGGPC: Conjugate multi-class GP classification), Lee et al. [291] (BTAML: Bayesian Task Adaptive Meta Learning), Vadera and Marlin [292] (BDK: Bayesian Dark Knowledge), Siahkoobi et al. [293] (SGLD: stochastic gradient Langevin dynamics), Sun et al. [294], Patacchiola et al. [295], Cheng et al. [296], Caldeira and Nord [297], Wandzik et al. [298] (MCSD: Monte Carlo Stochastic Depth), Deng et al. [299] (DBSN: DNN Structures), González-López et al. [300], Foong et al. [301] (ConvNP: Convolutional Neural Process), Yao et al. [302] (SI: Stacked inference), Prijatelj et al. [303], Herzog et al. [304], Prokudin et al. [305] (CVAE: conditional VAE), Tuo and Wang [306], Acerbi [307] (VBMC+EIG (expected information gain)/VIQR (variational interquantile range)), Zhao et al. [308] (GEP: generalized expectation propagation), Li et al. [309] (DBGP: deep Bayesian GP), He et al. [310] (NTK: Neural Tangent Kernel), Wang and Ročková [311] (Gaussian approximability)  |
| Ensemble    | Zhang et al. [253], Chang et al. [260], He et al. [310] (BDE: Bayesian Deep Ensembles), Schwab et al. [312], Smith et al. [313], Malinin and Gales [314], Jain et al. [315], Valdenegro-Toro [316], Juraska et al. [317], Oh et al. [318], Brown et al. [319], Salem et al. [320], Wen et al. [321]  |
| Others      | Jiang et al. [2] (Trust score), Qin et al. [322] (infoCAM: informative class activation map), Wu et al. [323] (Deep Dirichlet mixture networks), Qian et al. [324] (Margin preserving metric learning), Gomez et al. [325] (Targeted dropout), Malinin and Gales [326] (Prior networks), Dunlop et al. [327] (DGP: deep GP), Hendrycks et al. [328] (Self-supervision), Kumar et al. [329] (Scaling-binning calibrator), [330] (AugMix as a data processing approach), Mozejko et al. [331] (Softmax output), Boiarov et al. [332] (SPSA: Simultaneous Perturbation Stochastic Approximation), Ye et al. [333] (Lasso bootstrap), Monteiro et al. [334] (SSNs: Stochastic Segmentation Networks), Maggi et al. [335] (Superposition semantics), Amiri et al. [336] (LCORPP: learning-commonsense reasoning and probabilistic planning), Sensoy et al. [337] (GEN: Generative Evidential Neural Network), Belakaria, et al. [338] (USEMO: UA Search framework for optimizing Multiple Objectives), Liu et al. [339] (UaGGP: UA Graph GP), Northcutt et al. [340] (CL: Confident learning), Manders et al. [341] (Class Prediction Uncertainty Alignment), Chun et al. [342] (Regularization Method), Mehta et al. [343] (Uncertainty metric), Liu et al. [344] (SNGP: Spectral-normalized Neural GP), Scillitoe et al. [345] (MF's: Mondrian forests), Ovadia et al. [346] (Dataset shift), Biloš et al. [347] (FD-Dir (Function Decomposition-Dirichlet) and WGP-LN (Weighted GP-Logistic-Normal)), Zheng and Yang [348] (MR: memory regularization), Zelikman et al. [349] (CRUDE: Calibrating Regression Uncertainty Distributions Empirically), Da Silva et al. [350] (RCMP: Requesting Confidence-Moderated Policy advice), Thiagarajan et al. [351] (Uncertainty matching), Zhou et al. [352] (POMBU: Policy Optimization method with Model-Based Uncertainty), Standvoss et al. [353] (RGNN: recurrent generative NN), Wang et al. [354] (TransCal: Transferable Calibration), Grover and Ermon [355] (UAE: uncertainty autoencoders), Cakir et al. [356], [357] (MI), Yildiz et al. [358] ( $ODE^2VAE$ : Ordinary Differential Equation VAE), Titsias, Michalis et al. [359] and Lee et al. [360] (GP), Ravi and Beatson [361] (AVI: Amortized VI), Lu et al. [362] (DGPM: DGP with Moments), Wang et al. [363] (NLE loss: negative log-likelihood error), Tai et al. [364] (UIA: UA imitation learning), Selvan et al. [365] (cFlow: conditional Normalizing Flow), Poggi et al. [366] (Self-Teaching), Cui et al. [367] (MMD: Maximum Mean Discrepancy) |

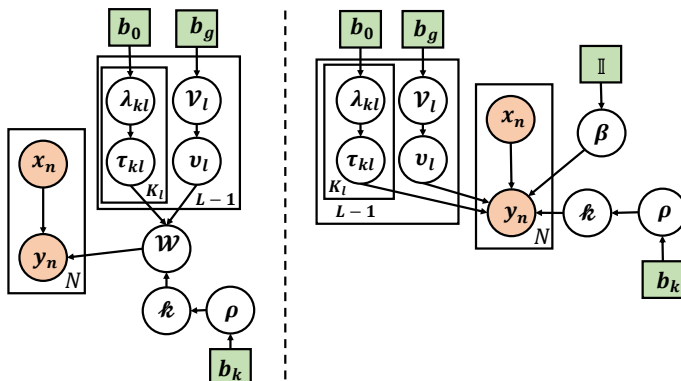


Fig. 22: A summary of graphical models for the conditional dependencies of BNNs with Horseshoe priors which is reproduced based on [369]. Note, the left part of the image is the centered parameterization and the right part is the on-centered parameterization.

(BB- $\alpha$ ). It could be implemented using stochastic gradient descent as BB- $\alpha$  scaled to large datasets. Only the likelihood function and its gradients were required as input to im-

plement BB- $\alpha$  in complex probabilistic models. Automatic differentiation could be applied to obtain these gradients. Their method was able to interpolate between variational Bayes and an algorithm similar to expectation propagation by changing the divergence parameter  $\alpha$ .

Patro et al. [371] presented a probabilistic approach for solving the task of ‘Visual Dialog’. Common sense knowledge to answer and understanding and reasoning of language modality, and visual modality are required to solve this task. They believed that the sources of uncertainty were critical in solving this task. Their framework helped a varied generation of answers and in estimating uncertainty. Their framework comprised of probabilistic representation module that provided representations for conversation history, question and image and an uncertainty representation module that selected the appropriate answer that minimized uncertainty. They achieved an enhanced visual dialog system that is also more explainable utilizing the presented probabilistic approach. Farquhar et al. [372] introduced a variational approximate posterior for BNNs termed as Radial BNNs which scales well to large models.

Radial BNNs maintained full support: avoiding the a priori implausibility of discrete support and letting them acted as a prior for continual learning. Their technique evaded a sampling issue in mean-field variational inference (MFVI) occurred due to ‘soap-bubble’ pathology of multivariate Gaussians. They demonstrated that Radial BNNs are robust to hyperparameters unlike MFVI and proved its efficacy in real world tasks without needing intensive tuning and ad-hoc tweaks.

Novak et al. [373] proposed neural tangents; a library intended to facilitate research into infinite-width neural networks. It permitted a high-level API for denoting hierarchical and complex neural network architectures. These networks could be trained and estimated either in their infinite-width or at finite-width limit as usual. Infinite-width networks can be trained analytically using gradient descent or using exact Bayesian inference via the Neural Tangent Kernel. All computations were distributed automatically over several accelerators with near-linear scaling in the different devices. Yıldız et al. [358] proposed Ordinary Differential Equation Variational Auto-Encoder ( $ODE^2VAE$ ), a latent second order ODE model for high-dimensional sequential data. Their model could concurrently learn the embedding of high dimensional trajectories and deduce capriciously complex continuous-time latent dynamics. Their approach explicitly decomposed the latent space into position and momentum components and cracked a second order ODE system that was contrary to RNN based time series approaches and recently presented black-box ODE methods. They further presented probabilistic latent ODE dynamics parameterized by deep BNN for tackling uncertainty. They tested their method on bouncing balls, image rotation and motion capture datasets.

Liu et al. [374] proposed a novel technique to train a robust neural network against adversarial attacks. They observed that although fusing randomness could enhance the robustness of neural networks, incorporating noise blindly to all the layers was not the optimal way to add randomness. They formally learnt the posterior distribution of models in a scalable way by modelling randomness under the framework of BNN. They devised the mini-max problem in BNN to learn the best model distribution under adversarial attacks. Their method yielded state-of-the-art performance under strong attacks. As mentioned earlier, DNNs have yielded outstanding performances in several noteworthy domains including autonomous driving, security and medical diagnosis. In these domains, safety is very crucial, hence knowing what DNNs do not know is highly desirable. Most BNNs are trained by minimizing a suitable ELBO on a variational approximation or sampled through MC methods because of the intractability of the resulting optimization problem. Pomponi et al. [375] devised a variant of former and replaced KL divergence in the ELBO term with a Maximum Mean Discrepancy (MMD) estimator. Their method based on the properties of the MMD exhibited numerous advantages including robustness to the choice of a prior over the weights, better calibrated and higher accuracy. They estimated the uncertainty as well as it performed in a robust manner against the injection of noise and adversarial attacks over their inputs. BNNs show promising results in enhancing UQ and robustness of modern DL methods.

However, they have problem with parameter efficiency and underfitting at scale. On the contrary, deep ensembles outperformed BNNs on certain problems, but they also have efficiency issues. The strengths of these two approaches need to be combined to remedy their common problems. Dusenberry et al. [273] devised a rank-1 parameterization of BNNs and also utilized mixture approximate posteriors to capture multiple modes. Rank-1 BNNs demonstrated state-of-the-art performance across out of distribution variants, calibration on the test sets, accuracy and log-likelihood.

Indeed, there are different types of uncertainties in machine and deep learning domains which are needed to be handled in different ways. Harang et al. [376] investigated three types of uncertainties- open set uncertainty, intrinsic data uncertainty, and model capacity uncertainty and review methods to address each one. They proposed a unified hierarchical technique that integrated techniques from invertible latent density inference, Bayesian inference and discriminative classification in a single end-to-end DNN topology to demonstrate competent per-sample uncertainty estimation in a detection context. Their method could accommodate base/prior rates for binary detection and addressed all three uncertainties. In addition, it is critical for the safety of using an AI application to know the reliability of different classification accuracies. The standard procedure to access it is to use the confidence score of the classifier. Jiang et al. [2] presented a novel score dubbed as trust score that estimated the agreement between a modified nearest-neighbor classifier and classifier on the testing example. They empirically demonstrated that high trust score exhibited high precision at recognizing correctly classified examples, outperforming the classifier’s confidence score and other baselines as well. In another work, Rohekar et al. [377] introduced a technique that covers both model selection and model averaging in the same framework. Their technique combined bootstrap with constraint-based learning to tackle prime limitation of constraint-based learning—sensitivity to errors in the independence tests. They formulated an algorithm for learning a tree, in which each node denoted a scored CPDAG for a subset of variables and the level of the node correspond to the maximal order of conditional independencies that were encoded in the graph. Greater computational efficiency was guaranteed by reusing stable low order independencies. Their algorithm learnt better MAP models, scaled well to hundreds of variables and more reliable causal relationships between variables.

The Bayesian probabilistic framework presents an ethical way to perform model comparison and derive meaningful metrics for guiding decisions. However, many models are intractable with standard Bayesian methods, as their likelihood is computationally too expensive to evaluate or lack a closed-form likelihood function. Radev et al. [378] presented a new approach for performing Bayesian model comparison using specialized deep learning architectures. They also introduced a new way to measure epistemic uncertainty in model comparison problems. They argued that their measure of epistemic uncertainty offers a distinctive proxy to quantify absolute evidence even in a framework which believed that the true data-generating model was within a finite set of candidate models. In another study, Belakaria et al. [338] tackled the issue of multi-objective (MO) blackbox

utilizing expensive function evaluations, where the goal was to approximate the true Pareto set of solutions while reducing the number of function evaluations. They introduced a new UA search framework called as USeMO to select efficiently the sequence of inputs for assessment to crack this issue. The selection process of USeMO comprised of cracking a cheap MO optimization problem via surrogate models of the true functions to recognize the most potential candidates and choosing the best candidate based on a measure of uncertainty. They also presented theoretical analysis to characterize the efficiency of their method.

Extensive tuning of hyperparameters are required in many machine learning models to perform well. BO and variety of other methods are utilized to expedite and automate this process. As tuning usually requires repeatedly fully training models, hence it remains tremendously costly. Ariaifar et al. [379] introduced to hasten the Bayesian optimization method by applying the relative amount of information supplied by each training example. They leveraged importance sampling (IS) to do so. That enhanced the quality of the black-box function evaluations and their run-time and hence must be executed carefully. Indeed, NNs with binary weights are hardware-friendly and computation-efficient, but as it involves a discrete optimization problem, their training is challenging. Applying gradient-based methods, such as Straight-Through Estimator and ignoring the discrete nature of the problem surprisingly works well in practice. Meng et al. [380] presented a principled approach that justified such methods applying Bayesian learning rule. The rule resulted in an algorithm when applied to compute a Bernoulli distribution over the binary weights. The algorithm enabled uncertainty estimation for continual learning to avoid catastrophic forgetting and also achieved state-of-the-art performance.

UQ methods have also been used in semi-supervised learning, zero-shot learning as well as meta learning. Semi-supervised learning models, such as co-training, could present a powerful method to influence unlabeled data. Xia et al. [381] introduced a new approach, UMCT (UA multi-view co-training), to address semi-supervised learning on 3D data, such as volumetric data from medical imaging. Co-training was attained by exploring multi-viewpoint consistency of 3D data. They produced different views by permuting or rotating the 3D data and used asymmetrical 3D kernels to support diversified features in different sub-networks. Additionally, they presented an uncertainty-weighted label fusion technique to measure the reliability of each view's prediction with BDL. On the other hand, many models in generalized zero-shot learning depend on cross-modal mapping between the class embedding space and the image feature space. Schönfeld et al. [382] devised an approach where class embeddings and a shared latent space of image features were learned by modality-specific aligned VAE (named CADA-VAE). The key to their model is that they aligned the distributions learned from images and from side-information to produce latent features that contained the essential multi-modal information associated with unseen classes. They examined their learned latent features on several benchmark datasets and confirmed a novel state-of-the-art on generalized on few-shot or zero-shot learning. The general view and detailed CADA-VAE

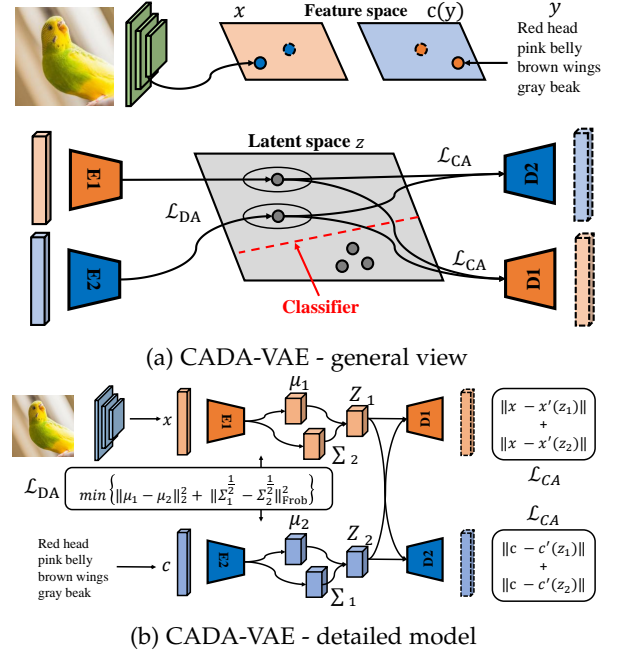


Fig. 23: A schematic view of CADA-VAE (Cross- and Distribution Aligned VAE) which is reproduced based on [382].

model is illustrated by Fig. 23.

Meta-learning models [383] are subject to overfitting when there are no enough training tasks for the metalearners to generalize. Tseng et al. [384] proposed an effective and simple approach to mitigate the risk of overfitting for gradient-based meta-learning. They randomly dropped the gradient in the inner-loop optimization during the gradient-based adaptation stage such that the augmented gradients enhanced generalization to novel tasks. They proposed a general form of the presented gradient dropout regularization and demonstrated that this term could be sampled from either the Gaussian or Bernoulli distribution. They empirically yielded that the gradient dropout regularization alleviated the overfitting issue and enhanced the performance on different gradient-based meta-learning frameworks. There are some more UQ methods which have been proposed in the literature. For example, Variational Bayes (VB) is computationally efficient, theoretically grounded and generally applicable among methods to realize probabilistic inference in DNNs. Wu et al. [385] devised two methods to turn VB into a robust inference tool for BNNs. First method presented a new deterministic method to approximate moments in neural networks, got rid of gradient variance. Second method proposed a hierarchical prior for parameters and a new Empirical Bayes technique for automated selection of prior variances. The resulting method combining these two methods is very robust and efficient. Another research direction is related to GP models for using in BNNs. A flexible and simple technique to generating expressive priors in GP models produces new kernels from a combination of basic kernels. Despite the link between BNNs and GPs, the BNN analogue of this has not yet been investigated. Pearce et al. [386] explored BNN architectures mirroring such kernel combinations. They showed further how BNNs could generate periodic kernels that were often helpful in this context. Their empirical experiments demonstrated



the practical value of these ideas in reinforcement and supervised settings. On the other hand, two prime obstacles in adoption of variational BNN are the high parameter overhead and difficulty of implementation that occurred due to “programming overhead”. MC dropout tackles these obstacles well, but has limitation in model performance when applied in networks with batch normalization layers. Chang et al. [260] designed a general variational family for ensemble-based BNN that included dropout as a special case. They further proposed two members of the family that worked well with batch normalization layers while preserving the advantages of low parameter and programming overhead.

Bayesian inference facilitates a general framework for incorporating specific properties or prior knowledge into machine learning techniques through selecting a prior distribution carefully. Atanov et al. [387] presented a novel type of prior distributions for CNN, deep weight prior (DWP), that examined generative models to persuade a certain structure of trained convolutional filters. They devised a technique for VI with implicit priors and denoted DWP in a form of an implicit distribution. The experimental results empirically showed that DWP enhanced the performance of BNN when training data is small and initialization of weights with samples from DWP hastened training of CNN. The catastrophic forgetting is an unavoidable issue in continual learning models for dynamic environments. Li et al. [388] introduced a technique termed as Continual Bayesian Learning Networks (CBLN) to address this problem that facilitates the networks to distribute supplementary resources to acclimatize to new tasks without forgetting the formerly learned tasks. CBLN preserved a mixture of Gaussian posterior distributions that are combined with diverse tasks utilizing a BNN. The presented technique did not require accessing the past training data and could select proper weights to classify the data points during the test time automatically based on an uncertainty criterion. Along with all listed UQ methods, there are some other effective UQ methods which we would include them here as well. Alaa and van der Schaar [389] developed the discriminative jackknife (DJ) procedure. The proposed DJ approach is flexible procedure which is usable to a wide range of DL methods.

Shekhovtsov et al. [390] exploited the cause of enhanced the generalization performance of deep networks due to Batch Normalization (BN). They argued that randomness of batch statistics was one of the prime reasons. The randomness emerged in the parameters rather than in activations and declared an explanation as a handy Bayesian learning. They utilized the idea to other deterministic normalization methods that were ignorant of the batch size. One of the prime drawbacks of NN-based UQ is the high memory requirement during training; which hinders their application to processing shallower architectures and/or smaller field-of-views (FOVs). Gantenbein et al. [391] examined the efficacy of applying reversible blocks for constructing memory-efficient NN for quantification of segmentation uncertainty. The reversible architecture yielded memory saving by precisely computing the activations from the outputs of the successive layers during backpropagation instead of accumulating the activations for each layer. They incorporated the reversible blocks into an architecture termed as PHiSeg

that was devised for UQ in medical image segmentation. The reversible architecture, RevPHiSeg, permitted training NNs for quantifying segmentation uncertainty on GPUs with restricted memory and processing larger FOVs.

The authors in [10] reengineered DeepLab-v3+, to produce its Bayesian counterpart applying Concrete dropout (CD) and MC dropout inference techniques. The UQ and surrogate modeling job for PDE systems are considered as supervised learning problems in most of the circumstances where output and input pairs are used for training [392]. Yang et al. [393] designed a framework for UQ for image registration using a low-rank Hessian approximation, a pathological image registration using an image synthesis deep network and predicted registration parameter with a patch-based deep learning approach by applying image appearances only. Their network predicted the initial momentum for the Deformation Diffeomorphic Metric Mapping (LDDMM) model for both multi-modal and uni-modal registration problems. The researchers in [394] proposed a BDL model that integrated epistemic uncertainty with input-dependent aleatoric uncertainty. Their explicit uncertainty formulation produced a novel loss functions that could be interpreted as learned attenuation.

Zhu et al. [392] devised a physics-constrained deep learning model for high-dimensional UQ and surrogate modeling without labeled data. The ensembles of DNNs that belong to the mixture models class can be employed to quantify the prediction uncertainty [395]. Vishnu et al. [200] presented deep learning framework for prognostics with UQ that were helpful in conditions where (i) inherent noise was there in the sensor readings, (ii) operational conditions for future were not estimated, and (iii) labeled failure data was rare because of scarcity of failures. Constructing a Gaussian distribution over the weights, and sample it to produce a distribution over the categorical output are employed for approximation of distributions over the output of classification neural networks in BDL, however, the process is costly [396]. Begoli et al. [13] presented the challenges for the adoption of UQ due to the absence of sound underlying theory and new research opportunities for the advancement of theoretical methods and practical approaches of UQ in the area of AI assisted medical decision making.

Kendall et al. [397] proposed a real-time robust six-degree of freedom monocular visual relocalization system by applying a Bayesian convolutional neural network to single RGB images to regress the 6 degrees of freedom (6-DOF) camera pose. They obtained an estimation of relocalization uncertainty of their system and enhanced the state-of-the-art localization accuracy on an outdoor database of large scale in nature. Semantic segmentation with Bayesian Deep Learning (BDL) has been revolutionary to attain uncertainty maps from deep models in semantic class prediction [10]. To estimate whether a BDL model records an improved uncertainty estimates than another model, we need new metrics. The authors in [395] utilized both variational Bayesian inference and maximum likelihood to train compound density networks, and demonstrated that they can obtain competitive uncertainty estimates on out-of-distribution (OoD) data which are robust in terms of adversarial examples. To guarantee high operational availability of equipment and condition-based maintenance, multi-sensor time series data



extracted from Remaining Useful Life (RUL) or prognostics estimation are crucial. Hobbhahn et al. [396] utilized the Dirichlet approximation to devise a lightweight uncertainty-aware output ranking for the setup of ImageNet. In this regard, they used the *LaplaceBridge* to map a Gaussian distribution onto a Dirichlet one. Bayesian neural networks (BNNs) do not scale well to computer vision jobs as it is tricky to train and show meager generalization under dataset-shift [201]. This generates the need of effective ensembles that can generalize and produce trustworthy uncertainty estimates. The authors [201] obtained diversity in the output predictions used for multi-modal data modeling by optimizing the diversity inducing adversarial loss for learning latent variables. The novel BDL tools make it possible to model epistemic uncertainty in computer vision [394].

## 8 APPLICATIONS

In this section, we discuss few most important applications of different UQ techniques used in machine and deep learning methods. In this regard, we first summarise the application of UQ techniques in image processing and computer vision followed by medical image analysis. Afterwards, we show how UQ has been applied to Natural Language Processing (NLP) and some more applications of UQ techniques in the following.

### 8.1 Image Processing and Computer Vision

Nowadays, deep learning algorithms are being vastly used to map high dimensional data to output arrays, while these mappings can be inaccurate in many cases, e.g. the wrong identification of two African Americans as gorillas in an image classification system [398], has lead to racial discrimination [394]. Therefore, it's important to take uncertainty into account, where the predictions made by deep learning based computer vision algorithms. To date, there have been number of studies addressed uncertainty in deep learning algorithms for various applications including but not limited to image/video retrieval [399], [400], depth estimation [401], [402], object detection [403], [404], [405], semantic segmentation and scene understanding [406], [407], [408], [409], [10], optical flow estimation and motion prediction [249], [410], [411], human pose estimation and pedestrian localization [412], [413], [305], person re-identification and face recognition [414], [415], [416], camera re-localization [397], avoiding adversarial attacks [417], [418], during the years 2016 to 2020.

As a fact, most of research studies in deep learning applications are concentrating on prediction accuracy. Unlike those studies, untangling the complexity of various DNNs and addressing uncertainty for a variety of computer vision tasks has attracted significant interest [419]. There still has been a good record of using Bayesian neural networks (BNNs) and Monte Carlo dropout (MC dropout) for uncertainty estimation on use of deep learning architectures. Nine studies have reported MC dropout as the most effective uncertainty quantity technique [397], [43], [249], [420], [394], [413], [10], [411], [418], applicable on various deep learning architectures. Kendall et al showed that uncertainty of their Bayesian convolutional neural networks model came from appearance and pose dissimilarity of images to the training

set and could estimate the model's re-localization uncertainty, which improved localization accuracy on a large outdoor dataset [397]. Same authors have developed a measure of model uncertainty by MC sampling with dropout and enhanced the semantic segmentation performance compared to the state-of-the-art methods in 2016 [43]. Eldesokey et al. [421] proposed an UA model for CNNs and tested on the KITTI dataset. The proposed model identified disturbed measurements of the input data after learning an input confidence estimator in a self-supervised procedure using the normalized CNNs (NCNNs).

Indeed, epistemic uncertainty estimation is a challenging problem, and while several scalable techniques lately have appeared, no widespread assessment has been carried out in a real-world setting. Gustafsson et al. [422] devised a comprehensive assessment framework for scalable epistemic uncertainty estimation techniques in deep learning. Their framework tested for the robustness needed in real-world computer vision applications. They also utilized their framework to compare conclusively and extensively two scalable techniques: MC-dropout and ensembling. Postels et al. [409] proposed a sampling-free method for estimating the epistemic uncertainty of a neural network. Epistemic uncertainty is crucial in safety-critical applications, since it denotes the reliability of predictions using new data. Their prime contribution was the approximation of epistemic uncertainty estimated by these techniques which did not necessitate sampling, thus remarkably mitigating the computational overhead. They used their method to volumetric visual jobs to showcase the advantages of their techniques in terms of computational overhead as well as uncertainty estimates. Cai et al. [423] worked on the hand segmentation generalization issue without using segmentation labels in the target domain. They designed a Bayesian CNN-based model adaptation approach for hand segmentation, which devised and considered two vital factors: 1) general information about hand shapes shared across domains and 2) prediction uncertainty when the model was used in a new domain. Accordingly, they introduced iterative self-training strategy hand segmentation in the novel domain, which was directed by the model uncertainty approximated by a Bayesian CNN. But Bayesian techniques have not been exploited extensively for 3D modalities such as point clouds often utilized for autonomous systems and robots. Bhandary et al. [424] examined three uncertainty quantification techniques viz. MC-DropConnect, MC dropout and deep ensemble on the DarkNet21Seg 3D semantic segmentation model and analyzed the impact of different parameters such as drop probability values on task performance, number of models in ensembles or forward passes and uncertainty estimate quality. They demonstrated that deep ensembles generated better results than other methods in terms of uncertainty metrics and performance.

Weakly-supervised semantic segmentation using image-level labels is accomplished by acquiring object response maps. However, prevailing techniques depend on the classifier that can result in a response map only attending on discriminative object regions as the network does not require seeing the complete object for optimizing the classification loss. Chang et al. [425] introduced a principled and end-to-end trainable approach to let the network paying attention

to other parts of the object, while generating a more uniform and complete response map. They proposed specifically Mixup data augmentation strategy into the classification network and devised two uncertainty regularization terms to better act together with the Mixup scheme. More information regarding different UQ methods applied in computer vision and image processing tasks is illustrated in Table 7.

## 8.2 Medical Applications

An automated analysis of medical image has come into existence as soon as it was possible load and scan medical images into the computer [426]. At the outset, from the 1970s to the 1990s, medical image analysis was done with sequential application of low-level pixel processing (region growing, edge and line detector filters) and mathematical modeling (fitting lines, ellipses and circles) to build compound rule-based systems that solved particular tasks. It is analogous to expert systems with many if-then-else statements that were popular in artificial intelligence in the same period. At the end of the 1990s, supervised methods, where training samples are used to develop a system, is becoming gradually more popular in medical image analysis. Examples include active shape models, atlas, concept of feature extraction and use of statistical classifiers. This machine learning approach is still very popular and forms the foundation for various booming commercially available medical image analysis systems. Hence, there is a shift from systems that are entirely devised by humans to systems that are trained by computers utilizing example data from which feature vectors are derived. Computer algorithms establish the optimal decision boundary in the high-dimensional feature space. Both monetary and ethical costs of erroneous predictions can be noteworthy in medicine, and the complexity of the issue imposes progressively more complex models. Although DL methods have achieved outstanding performances in medical image analysis, most of them have not been employed in extremely automated disease monitoring systems due to lack of reliability of the model [427]. For example, Dusenberry et al. [428] studied the role of model uncertainty strategies in the medical domain. They demonstrated that population-level metrics, such as calibration error, log-likelihood, AUC-ROC and AUC-PR did not capture model uncertainty and was shown by applying RNN ensembles and different BRNNs. They showcased that RNNs with only Bayesian embeddings could be a competent way to tackle model uncertainty compared to ensembles.

As we all know, medical well-annotated data is extremely expensive for conducting medical image segmentation. However, unlabeled data are very appropriate solution which can be used both in semi-supervised and unsupervised learning domains. As discussed earlier, Xia et al. [429] introduced the UMCT model as a semi-supervised framework and tested it on various medical image datasets. They extended the Dice loss for ULF (uncertainty-weighted label fusion) as follows:

$$\mathcal{L}_{Dice} = \frac{1}{D} \sum_{d=0}^D \frac{2 \sum_{i=1}^N y_i^d \hat{y}_i^d}{\sum_{i=1}^N (y_i^d)^2 + \sum_{i=1}^N (\hat{y}_i^d)^2}, \quad (39)$$

According to the obtained results, the proposed UMCT method outperformed the other applied methods to the

same datasets. As a result, they concluded that having a proper uncertainty method can assist having a better medical image analysis performance.

Blood oxygen saturation ( $sO_2$ ) measurement by optical imaging oximetry offers insight into local tissue metabolism and functions. Traditional methods for quantifying  $sO_2$  suffer from uncertainties due to variations in the experimental conditions, systemic spectral bias, light spectral bias, tissue geometry and biological variability. Liu et al. [430] devised deep spectral learning (DSL), a novel data-driven approach to yield oximetry that was robust to experimental variations and also facilitated uncertainty quantification for each  $sO_2$  prediction. Predictions calculated by DSL were highly adaptive to the depth-dependent backscattering spectra as well as to experimental variabilities. The DSL-predicted  $sO_2$  demonstrated notably lower mean-square errors than those of the traditional least-squares fitting method. Inherent ambiguities cause many real-world vision problems. It is difficult to access for example which region contains cancerous tissue from a CT scan in clinical applications. Kohl et al. [431] devised a generative segmentation model based on the combination of a U-Net with a conditional VAE which is capable of generating large number of plausible hypotheses. They exhibited that on a Cityscapes segmentation task and a lung abnormalities segmentation task approach regenerated all the possible segmentation variants as well as the frequencies with which they outperformed the existing methods.

In another research, Araújo et al. [432] proposed an uncertainty-aware deep learning model (named DR—GRADUATE) for grading diabetic retinopathy (DR) using eye fundus images. In this regard, they introduced a new Gaussian-sampling technique on a Multiple Instance Learning (MIL) framework and used the proposed system as a second-opinion DR diagnostic system.

UQ methods have also been used in prostate cancer domain. Karimi et al. [433] studied the prostate cancer using ultrasound images. In this regard, they proposed a robust and accurate deep learning (CNN) segmentation model. Moreover, due to the importance of uncertainty in medical image analysis, they computed the uncertainty as follows:

$$Q = 1 - \bar{p}^2 - (1 - \bar{p})^2, \quad (40)$$

where  $\bar{p}$  is the average of the applied probability maps. The obtained results confirmed that adding uncertainty resulted to having better prostate cancer segmentation outcomes. As discussed above, the MC dropout has demonstrated impressive performance for quantifying uncertainty in deep learning methods. Combalia et al. [434] applied the MC dropout in DNNs for UQ of dermoscopic (skin lesion) image classification. Their results indicated that using different uncertainty metrics are appropriate solution to explore difficult and OoD samples.

The cardiovascular disease detection by machine and deep learning is another research topic for application of UQ methods. 2D echocardiography is a widespread imaging modality for cardiovascular diseases. Deep learning techniques have widely been used in 2D echocardiography for structural and functional assessment and automated view classification. Most of the models do not estimate uncertainty in this regard which is very crucial. Dahal et

al. [435] compared three ensemble based uncertainty techniques utilizing four different metrics to achieve an insight of uncertainty modeling for left ventricular segmentation from Ultrasound (US) images. They further showed how uncertainty estimation could be utilized to reject inferior quality images and hence enhanced the segmentation results.

Registration is a basic task in medical image analysis which can be used in numerous tasks including motion analysis, multi-modal image alignment, intra-operative tracking and image segmentation. Zhu et al. [436] proposed a neural registration framework (NeurReg) with a hybrid loss of displacement fields and data similarity, which considerably enhanced the existing state-of-the-art of registrations. They simulated different transformations by a registration simulator which created fixed image and displacement field ground truth for training. They devised three segmentation frameworks based on the proposed registration framework: 1) MTL with atlas-based segmentation as an intermediate feature, 2) joint learning of both registration and segmentation tasks, and 3) atlas-based segmentation. Different probable ailments can be detected by accurate and automatic segmentation of anatomical structures on medical images. Bian et al. [437] introduced an uncertainty-aware domain alignment approach to tackle the domain shift issue in the cross-domain UDA (Unsupervised Domain Adaptation) task. Domain shift is an issue related to performance of the segmentation of various deep neural networks and segmentation task may deteriorate several devices or modalities due to the noteworthy dissimilarity across the domains. In this regard, they devised specifically an UESM (Uncertainty Estimation and Segmentation Module) to attain the uncertainty map estimation. Then, they proposed a new UCE (Uncertainty-aware Cross Entropy) loss to leverage the uncertainty information to enhance the performance of segmentation on extremely uncertain regions. The optimal target samples by uncertainty guidance were selected by an UST (Uncertainty-aware Self- Training) method to further boost the performance in the UDA task.

Kohl et al. [438] devised a segmentation network with a conditional variational auto-encoder (cVAE) termed it as Hierarchical Probabilistic U-Net that applied a hierarchical latent space decomposition. They demonstrated that their model formulation permitted reconstruction and sampling of segmentations with high fidelity while providing the flexibility to learn complex structured distributions across scales. Their model split automatically an inductive bias that they estimated useful in structured output prediction tasks beyond segmentation. In another research, Yin et al. [439] stated that uncertainty related to FFR (fractional flow reserve) of coronary artery disease (CAD) in few properties such as anatomic and physiologic is common. For this reason, they proposed a predictive probabilistic model for FFR using the BO approach. The obtained outcomes clearly acknowledge the importance of dealing with uncertainty in the diagnosis of CAD.

Li et al. [440] exploited uncertainty calibration within an AL framework for medical image segmentation. Uncertainty estimation is specifically crucial in the data-driven AL setting where the goal is to attain definite accuracy with least labeling effort. The model learns to choose the

most enlightening unlabeled samples for annotation derived from its estimated uncertainty. Different acquisition strategies and uncertainty estimation techniques were explored. They argued that choosing regions to annotate instead of full images led to more well-calibrated models. We provide further information about UQ methods applied in different medical application tasks in Table 8.

### 8.3 Natural Language Processing and Text Mining

Natural language processing (NLP) focuses on understanding, analysing and generating languages that humans utilize naturally [441]. In recent years, significant and practical real-world problems have been addressed and large-scale systems are also deployed in this research domain. Novel machine and deep learning approaches such as continuous space methods and DNNs have inferred language patterns from the huge data of real world and make accurate predictions about the new data. One noteworthy challenge is to describe a language in a form that can be effectively processed by a learning system. NLP is an interdisciplinary field between linguistics and artificial intelligence [442]. One of the most broadly studied areas of NLP is text mining (TM) that collects vital information from free (unstructured) texts. In this way, new knowledge can be extracted from a huge amount of texts. But the acquisition of reliable information from texts is not straightforward because of human linguistic ability of speaking about non-existing and non-realistic things or events. There are some propositions whose truth value cannot be unambiguously determined as these propositions are uncertain and they may be false true in some possible worlds but may be true in other ones.

Uncertainty is a significant linguistic incident that is pertinent in many fields of language processing. In most general case, it can be termed as lack of information as the reader or listener is uncertain for a piece of information. Hence, uncertain propositions are those whose reliability or truth value cannot be determined due to lack of information. Distinguishing between uncertain and factual (i.e. true or false) propositions is of prime importance both in natural language processing and linguistics applications. It is essential to recognize linguistic cues of uncertainty since the target and source language may differ in their framework to express uncertainty in machine translation. In clinical document classification, medical reports can be grouped depending on whether the patient probability suffers, does not suffer or suffers from an ailment. There are several different NLP applications that try to investigate uncertainty in natural language texts in a couple of domains (e.g. news or biomedical texts). Most of these approaches use annotated databases for assessment. Various uncertainty corpora like the CoNLL-2010 Shared Task, FactBank, Genia and BioScope corpora has been produced in the recent years. Comparison of these corpora is not possible for the lack of unified annotation principles. The prevailing uncertainty detectors can hardly be applied across domains, and novel resource creation for each domain is costly and time consuming. Instead, a unified widespread approach is needed that can be adapted to a particular need of each domain without much effort and language independence of the model would also be preferred. But we reported a table which includes a



summary of the most important UQ methods applied in NLP domain in Table 9.

#### 8.4 Summary of some applied UQ methods in NLP

In this part of review, we briefly summarize some studies have been conducted on UQ in the domain of NLP. It should be noted that we do not disclose the details of the methods due to page limitations. For this reason, we strongly recommend that if the readers need more information of the proposed UQ methods, they can refer to the main sources.

A high-dimensional hidden layer and a large dictionary size make training of the RNN- language model (RNN-LM) as an ill-posed challenge. Chien et al. [441] proposed a Bayesian approach to regularize the RNN-LM and utilized it for continuous speech recognition. The uncertainty of the estimated model parameters that was presented by a Gaussian prior was compensated by penalizing the too complicated RNN-LM. The Gaussian hyperparameter was estimated by maximizing the marginal likelihood and regularized parameters were computed with reference to maximum a posterior criterion was utilized to construct regularized model. A small set of salient outer-products were selected to devise the Bayesian RNN-LM (BRNN-LM) by developing a rapid approximation to a Hessian matrix. As we know, clinical named entity recognition (NER) is one of the basic tasks for devising clinical NLP systems. Domain experts are required for annotating large amount of samples to achieve good performance by a machine learning (ML) system. This is an expensive exercise. A sample selection technique called active learning (AL) tries to mitigate the annotation cost. Chen et al. [443] introduced and examined both novel and existing AL techniques for a clinical NER job to recognize medical treatments, problems and laboratory tests from the clinical notes. They simulated the AL experiments by applying different novel and prevailing algorithms in three categories including baseline sampling, diversity-based, and uncertainty-based techniques. Based on number of sentences vs. the learning curves of F-measure, uncertainty sampling performed superior to all its counterparts in terms of the area under the learning curve (ALC) score. Most diversity-based techniques yielded better performance than random sampling in ALC. In another research, Kong et al. [444] introduced a novel theoretical perspective of data noising in RNN language models. They demonstrated that variants of data noising were instances of Bayesian RNN with a particular variational distribution. They presented natural extensions to data noising under the variational framework and a more principled method to apply at prediction time by utilizing this insight. They devised an element-wise variational smoothing technique and variational smoothing with tied input and output embedding matrices. Their model was empirically tested on two language modelling datasets and exhibited superior performance than the prevailing data noising techniques. As we know, factuality is a major concern in many domains especially in social media where informal texts are in abundance. The dependence of the existing methods in social media is on lexical cues where phrases are either omitted from the sentences or is expressed in substandard

form. Han et al. [445] introduced ANFU, an Attention-based Neural Framework for Uncertainty identification on social media texts. ANFU incorporated CNN to capture the most vital semantics and attention-based Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks to denote the semantics of words. The experiments were performed on four benchmark datasets (2 English + 2 Chinese). Their proposed ANFU method performed better than any state-of-the-art techniques in terms of F1 score using four social media datasets. Zhang et al. [446] demonstrated that a huge deep learning model could utilize dropout variational inference to predict price movements from limit order books (LOBs), the data source with pricing and trading movements. To enhance profits by avoiding needless trades and position sizing, uncertainty information extracted from posterior predictive distributions could be applied. Their experimental results showcased that Bayesian techniques enhanced predictive performance as stochastic regularisers and uncertainty information could be utilised in trading. In another research, the authors in [447] designed a measure of uncertainty for long sequences of discrete random variables related to the words in the output sentence. This measure took care of epistemic uncertainty similar to the MI that is applied for single discrete random variables such as in classification. Their uncertainty measures cracked a prime intractability in the raw application of prevailing methods on long sentences. They utilized Europarl and WMT 13 for German- English translation task to train a Transformer model with dropout.

As we know, machine translation is a hot topic in neural sequence-to-sequence models. A lack of diversity is observed in the final translations and performance degradation is reported with large beams. The study [448] tried to uncover extrinsic uncertainty caused by noisy training data and related to some of the concerns associated to the inherent uncertainty of the task, due to the existence of numerous valid translations for a single source sentence. They proposed metrics and tools to examine how uncertainty in the data was recorded by the model distribution and the effects of searching techniques in translation. They also presented tools for examining model calibration and some limitations of the current models could be fixed by it. The authors in [116] designed a module for rapid experimentation with neural network uncertainty and dubbed it as Bayesian Layers. Neural network libraries with drop-in replacements for common layers were extended by it. These layers recorded activations ("stochastic output layers"), pre-activation units (dropout), uncertainty overweight (Bayesian neural nets) or the function itself (GP). They fused a 5-billion parameter "Bayesian Transformer" on 512 TPUv2 cores for uncertainty in a Bayesian dynamics and machine translation model for model-oriented planning. Bayesian Layers could be utilized for probabilistic programming with stochastic processes used within the Edward2 language. On the other hand, the complexity of machine learning models pose uncontrolled risks, the lack of control and knowledge of the internals of each component applied generate unavoidable effects, such as difficulty in auditability and lack of transparency. Mena et al. [449] presented a wrapper that given a black-box model augmented its output prediction with an assessment



of uncertainty. Decision rejection mechanism was employed to lessen the uncertainty or risk. They advocated for a rejection system based on the resulting uncertainty measure that discarded more uncertain predictions but selected more confident predictions; hence improved trustability of the system. They empirically showcased their method in simulated sentiment analysis framework for different domains.

As we know, reliable UQ is a prime step towards devising accountable, transparent, and explainable artificial intelligent systems and BDL plays a crucial role in such quantification. Xiao et al. [450] presented new strategies to examine the data uncertainties and the benefits of characterizing model for NLP tasks. They utilized recurrent and CNN models to experiment empirically on language modelling, named entity recognition, and sentiment analysis to demonstrate that explicitly modelling uncertainties was not only improved model performances but also essential to compute output confidence levels in different NLP tasks. More studies have been conducted on the impact of Bayesian methods in improving the results of deep learning methods in NLP. The authors in [119] investigated a variational Bayes scheme for RNN. At first, they demonstrated that good quality uncertainty estimates and superior regularisation could be adapted by using truncated backpropagation with an extra computational cost during training and also mitigating the number of parameters by 80%. Secondly, they illustrated that the performance of Bayesian RNNs could be enhanced further by employing a new kind of posterior approximation. The current batch statistics could be sharpened by incorporating local gradient information into the approximate posterior. This technique could be utilized broadly in training of BNNs. They empirically yielded that Bayesian RNNs performed better on an image captioning task and a language modelling benchmark than traditional RNNs. The authors in [451] proposed an intelligent framework to enhance en-route flight safety by trajectory prediction where a Bayesian approach was utilized for model prediction uncertainty. Four steps were employed. In the first step, huge raw messages were processed with a distributed computing engine Apache Spark to derive trajectory information efficiently. Two deep learning models were then trained to predict the flight trajectory from different perspectives. The deep learning models were blended together to create multi-fidelity prediction in the third step. Then, the multi-fidelity technique was expanded to multiple flights to examine safety based on vertical and horizontal separation distance between two flights. The blended models showed promising results in en-route safety and flight trajectory prediction.

## 8.5 Further Applications

In this section, we summarize more applications of various UQ methods. This section tries to cover few most important recent studies.

As mentioned in the previous sections, BDL has been dealing with both epistemic and aleatoric uncertainties in predictions and successful in different domains such as climate

change. Vandal et al. [452] devised a discrete-continuous BDL technique with lognormal and Gaussian likelihoods for uncertainty quantification. They presented a super-resolution based DL model dubbed as “DeepSD” for Statistical Downscaling (SD) in climate utilized in precipitation that followed highly skewed distribution. Their discrete-continuous models performed superior to Gaussian distribution with respect to uncertainty calibration and predictive accuracy. As a fact, traditional ANNs lack the capability to model uncertainty and hence not suitable for long-term planning tasks. ANN long-term estimations are deviated from the real behaviour of the system due to approximation errors and process noise. In another research, Nalisnick et al. [453] presented two structured priors—automatic depth determination (ADD) and joint automatic relevance determination (ARD)-ADD—to permit Bayesian reasoning about a neural network’s depth. The implementation led to runtime costs or little extra memory to BBB. Future work includes the use of structured variational approximations, comparison against other variational inference strategies and experiments on larger datasets. Dusenberry et al. [428] examined the role of model uncertainty techniques in the medical domain. They demonstrated that population-level metrics, such as calibration error, log-likelihood, AUC-ROC and AUC-PR did not capture model uncertainty by applying different BRNNs and RNN ensembles. The need for estimating model uncertainty was motivated by considerable variability in patient-specific optimal decisions and predictions. They further demonstrated that RNNs with only Bayesian embeddings yielded better results in model uncertainty compared to ensembles.

As we know, new challenges come up in prevailing pixel-based prediction techniques with the advancement of remote sensing imagery. Although deep learning methods achieved a breakthrough in semantic segmentation of high-resolution images, most of the methods yielded predictions with poor boundaries. Bischke et al. [454] proposed a novel cascaded multi-task loss for preserving semantic segmentation boundaries in satellite imagery. Their method outperformed the state-of-the-art techniques by 8.3% without an extra post-processing step. However, in autonomous driving, object detection plays a crucial role. Localizing the objects and recognize objects perfectly is infeasible due to incomplete data and sensor noise. Hence, the uncertainty associated with the predictions should be computed by the detector. Meyer et al. [455] devised a method that enhanced the learning of probability distribution by taking into account potential noise in the ground-truth labeled data. Their method enhanced not only the object detection performance but also the accuracy of the learned distribution. RNNs have been applied to forecast increasingly complicated systems. Although the RNN literature is highly developed and expansive, UQ is often not taken into account. If considered, then also the uncertainty is usually quantified without the utilization of a rigorous approach. McDermott et al. [456] proposed a Bayesian RNN model for nonlinear spatio-temporal forecasting while quantifying uncertainty in a more formal framework. Unique nature of nonlinear spatio-temporal data was accommodated by modifying the basic RNN. They tested their model with two nonlinear spatio-temporal forecasting frameworks and a Lorenz simulation.

On the other hand, RNN language models (RNNLMs) have proved its superiority in several different tasks including speech recognition. Learning appropriate representation of contexts for word prediction can be achieved through the hidden layers of RNNLMs. Fixed hidden vectors and deterministic model parameters in conventional RNNLMs have limitation in modelling the uncertainty over hidden representations. Yu et al. [457] presented a comparative study of hidden and parametric representation uncertainty modelling techniques based variational RNNLMs and Bayesian gates respectively was examined on gated recurrent units (GRU) and LSTM language models. Performance improvements were observed over conventional RNNLMs by their model in terms of word error rate and perplexity.

Predictive accuracy in black-box turbulence models is enhanced by tuning Reynolds-Averaged Stokes (RANS) simulations and applying machine learning algorithms. Geneva et al. [458] presented a new data-driven approach to provide probabilistic bounds for fluid quantities and enhanced RANS predictions. The anisotropic tensor component of Reynolds stress was predicted by using an invariant BDNN. Stein variational gradient decent algorithm was applied to train the model. Based on the proposed method, the associated probabilistic bounds and prediction enhancement of the data-driven model were addressed. Following the research for dealing with uncertainty, we came across the study of Feng et al. [459] which proposed a novel extreme learning machine (ELM) termed as rough ELM (RELM). RELM utilized rough set to divide data into lower approximation set and upper approximation set, and they were used to train lower approximation neurons and upper approximation neurons. RELM showed a comparable accuracy and repeatability in most classification tasks. In another study, Walmsley et al. [460] applied Bayesian CNN and a new generative model of Galaxy Zoo volunteer responses to infer posteriors for the visual morphology of galaxies. The probability of each possible label can be predicted by using Bayesian CNN to learn from galaxy images with uncertain labels. Their posteriors were reliable for practical use as they were well-calibrated. They utilized BALD AL strategy applying their posteriors to request volunteer responses for the subset of galaxies. They demonstrated that training their Bayesian CNNs utilizing AL needed up to 35-60% fewer labelled galaxies relying on the morphological features.

The distribution of states at execution time may differ from the distribution observed during training makes learning a policy utilizing only observational data a challenging task. Henaff et al. [461] introduced to train a policy by unrolling a learned model of environment dynamics over multiple time steps while explicitly penalizing two costs. The original cost the policy sought to optimize, and an uncertainty cost that represented its divergence from the states it was trained on. They examined their strategy utilizing huge observational dataset of driving behaviour recorded from traffic cameras. In drug discovery, as another application of UQ methods, it is a challenge to predict physical properties and bioactivity of small molecules. Zhang et al. [462] used Bayesian semi-supervised graph convolutional neural networks to achieve UQ and AL. Sampling from the posterior distribution was applied in the Bayesian approach that estimates uncertainty in a statistically principled way. Semi-supervised learning

untangled regression and representation learning allowing the model to start AL from a small training data and keeping uncertainty estimates accurate in the low data limit. Their method highlighted the promise of BDL for chemistry.

According to the literature, it is obvious that machine learning has the prospective to present valuable assistance in clinical decision making especially in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of a hospital. Traditional machine learning models do not take into account uncertainty in predictions. Ruhe et al. [463] exhibited how the predictive uncertainty and Bayesian modelling could be utilized to recognize out-of-domain examples and reduce the risk of faulty predictions. They utilized BNN to predict risk of mortality of ICU patients. Their empirical results show that uncertainty could detect out-of-domain patients and avert probable errors. Many machine learning techniques need human supervision to yield optimal performance. The quality of manual annotations essentially limited in tasks such as DensePose. Neverova et al. [464] addressed the issue by augmenting neural network predictors with the ability to output a distribution over labels, thus introspectively and explicitly capturing the aleatoric uncertainty in the annotations. A new state-of-the-art accuracy in the benchmark could be achieved by understanding uncertainty better and hence solving the original DensePose task more accurately. The uncertainty estimates produced by multiple models could be used in fusing predictions in a better way to model ensembling that could enhance the accuracy further.

As mentioned earlier, uncertainty estimates in RL tasks and large vision models can be obtained via dropout. A grid-search over the dropout probabilities is essential — an impossible one with RL and a prohibitive operation with large models. Gal et al. [465] devised a novel dropout variant that provided better performance and improved calibrated uncertainties. They used a continuous relaxation of dropout's discrete masks depending on the recent advancements in BDL. They analysed their variant on several tasks and provided insights into usual practice in the area where larger dropout probabilities are often utilized in deeper model layers.

Mobile robots for indoor use depend on 2D laser scanners for navigation, localization and mapping. These sensors are unable to measure the full occupancy of complex objects and cannot detect transparent surfaces. These estimates are prone to uncertainty and thus make the evaluation of confidence a significant issue for autonomous navigation and mapping. Verdoja et al. [466] proposed a solution to the problem using fully CNN, as another application of UQ methods. They demonstrated that uncertainty over obstacle distances was however better modelled with a Laplace distribution. They created maps based on DNN uncertainty models. Their algorithm was used to create a map that included information over obstacle distance estimates while taking care of the level of uncertainty in each estimate. Traditional high-dimensional data reduction methods such as projection pursuit regression (PPR), reduced rank regression (RRR), partial least squares (PLS), and principal component analysis (PCA) are all shallow learners. Polson et al. [467] examined DL counterparts that exploited multiple deep layers of data reduction and provided predictive performance gains. Dropout regularization and SGD training

optimisation provided variable selection and estimation. They illustrated their technique by providing an analysis of international bookings on Airbnb.

Energy (e.g. electricity markets) is another common domain for application of different UQ methods with machine and deep learning. A successful participation to liberalized electricity markets can be achieved by forecasting accurate day-ahead energy prices. Brusafferri et al. [468] presented a new approach based on BDL strategies for probabilistic energy price forecast. Scalability to complex network was guaranteed by executing a specific training method. They examined their system on two day-ahead markets characterized by different behaviours. Robust performance of the system was achieved by providing forecast uncertainty indications in out-of-sample conditions. Moreover, class imbalance in remote sensing poses a challenge for land cover mapping where small objects get less attention to yield better accuracy. Uncertainty quantification on pixel level using CNN is another issue in remote sensing. Kampffmeyer et al. [469] devised a deep CNN in remote sensing images for land cover mapping with prime aim on urban areas. Their method tried to achieve good accuracy for small objects. They applied recent technologies for UQ in the domain of remote sensing. They yielded overall classification accuracy of 87%. On the other hand, accurately predicting net load arising from distributed photovoltaic (PV) generation is a great challenge. Sun et al. [470] presented a new probabilistic day-ahead net load forecasting technique to capture both aleatoric uncertainty and epistemic uncertainty utilizing BDL. The performance of aggregated net load forecasting was improved by considering residential rooftop PV outputs as input features and exploited clustering in subprofiles. The proposed scheme proved its efficacy with high PV visibility and subprofile clustering.

## 9 LITERATURE GAPS AND OPEN ISSUES

We reviewed most of UQ works in machine and deep learning methods and briefly discussed them in the previous sections. Nevertheless, there are several important literature gaps and open issues. In the following, we list the most important gaps and open issues that should be addressed in the near future. Furthermore, we have listed few future research directions for further studies. The most important gaps, open issues and future directions are discussed in the following.

- This review shows that most of the proposed UQ methods are presented in the supervised, followed by unsupervised learning methods. However, we realized that there are fewer studies on the semi-supervised learning methods. We believe that this is an important gap in the domain of UQ which could be filled in the future.
- Our findings reveal that most of UQ methods have been proposed overwhelmingly for different types of NNs, especially DL methods. However, there are many other methods in the field of ML that uncertainty has either not been investigated or superficially discussed. The probable reason for this possibility is that DL methods have been able to be almost the best (SOTA: the State Of The Art) methods

in various fields (e.g. computer vision, medical image analysis, NLP, time series analysis, signal processing, etc.). But as a matter of fact, it can be claimed that different types of traditional ML methods have a significant performance on the analysis of small data whereas DL is almost incapable.

- Fusion-based methods (e.g., multi-modal Bayesian fusion [90], multi-level fusion [471], image fusion [472], data fusion [473], etc.) have shown great ability to optimize different machine and deep learning methods. This led us to investigate the effects of a variety of fusion-based methods to deal with uncertainty in machine and deep learning methods. We realized that fusion-based methods have significant potential to address the uncertainty of models. Therefore, we would suggest that more fusion-based methods can be used in future work for quantifying uncertainty.
- The results of our research show that although a variety of ensemble methods [474], [475], [476], [477], [478], [479], [480] also have a high ability to deal with uncertainty along with good performance and optimizing the performance of other methods, these high capabilities of these methods have not been used more significantly. In other words, we noticed that these methods have performed remarkably well in few studies. But we realized that the ensemble methods are less commonly used in recent studies. Therefore, we strongly recommend further studies on ensemble methods and their substantial impact on quantifying uncertainty in machine and deep learning domain. For example, Caldeira and Nord [297] presented a comparative study to compare the performance of the three UQ important methods: BNN, CD and DE. Based on the obtained outcomes, they recommend DE for further investigations and applications as it achieved the best or comparable results in the study.
- Decision-making is a cognitive process which results in choosing the best possible action/belief among all other alternative options. There are few well-known theories such as three-way decisions [481] and Info-Gap (IG) decision [482], [483] which can be used as UQ methods. Our findings reveal that these theories have been able to significantly help in dealing with uncertainty. For this reason, we think using various decision-making theories can be used during the decision-making process of machine and deep learning methods.
- Active learning (AL, also sometimes called optimal experimental design) plays a key role in dealing with lack of labeled data to label new data with the desirable outputs. As most researchers in the domain of machine and deep learning are aware that having labeled data is very difficult, costly and time consuming. In few very extremely sensitive areas such as healthcare and self-driving cars, this importance becomes more apparent. We have reviewed several good studies in this area, including: Gordon et al. [484], Lee et al. [291], Nguyen et al. [485], Hu et al. [486], Qu et al. [487] and some few more. Our

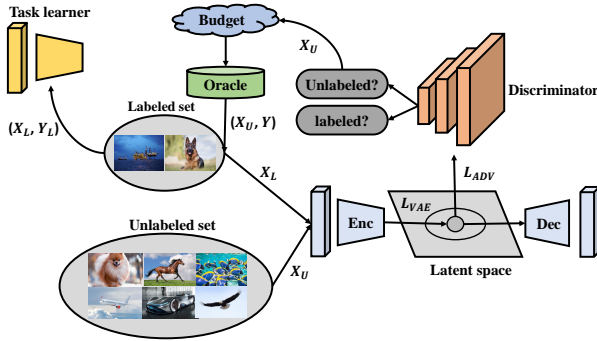


Fig. 24: A schematic view of the VAAL model which is reproduced based on [488].

reviews; however, reveal that although uncertainty in this area is quite important, but very few studies have been done in this subject. For example, Sinha et al. [488] proposed a new AI in an adversarial manner which is called VAAL (Variational Adversarial AL). The proposed model trained a latent space by using a VAE and an adversarial network trained to discriminate between labeled and unlabeled data (see Fig. 24). They showed the dramatic impact of this type of method on UQ. For this reason, we believe that researchers can fill this gap with further studies in order to improve the data labeling quality by having far more certainty than previous studies.

- Transfer learning is an idea technique to deal with well-training of different machine and deep learning methods whereas there is no enough data to train the models properly. In other words, transfer learning is a technique for repurposing and reusing already trained machine and deep learning methods in a set of new situations. Based on our review study, this technique also has uncertainties. Hence, we would recommend conducting more research on this area and proposing new UQ methods for transfer learning.
- Neural architecture search (NAS) methods are a set of techniques for automatically designing of ANNs. Uncertainty awareness of such methods is an important and sensitive area for the use of UQ methods. However, the results of our research reveal that very few studies have been done so far. Hence, we list this case as another open research gap for further investigations. Moreover, neural ensemble search methods [489] are well-developed techniques for uncertainty calibration.
- Self supervised learning (SSL) [243], [490] is an important subset of unsupervised learning for generating output labels from different data objects by finding a relationship between various parts of the object, or a variety of views of the given object. We think that the SSL methods have several uncertainties and therefore further investigation of these methods has a high potential as an important research gap of UQ.
- The attention mechanism [491], [492] is a powerful strategy in NNs and DL methods to concentrate on adequate parts of the input data more than the unnecessary (irrelevant) parts while conducting a prediction task. However, we found that selecting

relevant and irrelevant parts of data is accompanied by uncertainty. Our reviews show that fewer studies of UQ have been conducted in this area. For this reason, we also list this area as a research gap for further investigations.

- The OoD [493], [494], [495], [496], [497] inputs (samples) can improve different models robustness as well as uncertainty. For example, Lee et al. [291] a new model called BTAML for dealing with imbalanced data and also detection OoD samples. According to previous studies, we can see that detection of OoD can help for outstanding performance of different NN and DL methods.

## 9.1 Future Directions

UQ methods have been achieving highly regarded achievement and obtaining distinguished performance when applied to different machine and deep learning methods. However, there are some open challenges that should be addressed. We provide several future directions of UQ methods for the three main research topics: computer vision and image processing, medical image processing and NLP.

**Computer vision and image processing:** As discussed earlier, computer vision and image processing are two main research domains for the application of different UQ methods. Although various studies have been conducted in these areas, but there are certainly still many open research directions which should be considered in the future researches. In the following, we aim to list few most important future directions in these domains.

Theoretical analysis and a more resilient inference methodology of various UQ methods should be investigated in future studies. For example, integration of semi-supervised and AL can be developed for acquiring new samples. In addition, data labelling is a time consuming and costly process in all domains not only for computer vision and image processing. Therefore, we recommend further studies on automated data labelling techniques and investigating the impact of UQ methods. Applications of the cascade structures have proven to be a powerful mechanism for improving various machine and deep learning methods. However, we think that simplifying these methods and their integration with UQ methods for different computer vision and image processing tasks is valuable. Moreover, integration of dynamic/multi-modal image restoration issues with some advanced inversion approaches (e.g. different plug-and-play type schemes) for applying UQ methods for revealing relevant point estimates, is another interesting future direction. In addition, the review outcomes reveal that ensemble methods are still among the best approaches especially for detecting epistemic uncertainties (OoD issue). For this reason, application of new ensemble methods is another interesting research direction in computer vision and image processing.

Integration of UQ methods with different human pose architectures and then use the estimated uncertainty in future frame prediction and motion tracking issues, is another engaging open research direction. Also, although we mentioned above some UQ methods for BAL, but we noticed that better uncertainty estimates in BAL as well as more



complex methods should be proposed in this domain. In addition, we found that detecting adversarial samples is an interesting challenge for BNNs [498]. Thus, we highly recommend further studies to develop more effective UQ methods for detecting adversarial samples. Sampling-free learning methods (e.g. Bayesian quantized networks (BQNs) [499], Sampling-free VI [500]) are powerful techniques for learning an appropriate posterior distribution over their discrete parameters with truly-calibrated uncertainty. Furthermore, embedding techniques have obtained outstanding performance in different computer vision and image processing tasks. However, we found that there are very few studies on probabilistic embedding strategies [501], [502] to quantify uncertainties. We also noticed that even though Bayesian methods (i.e., Variational Bayes [503] have been used for UQ in capsule routing methods, but calibrated uncertainty estimates of predictions by using different capsule networks is an open future work direction. Online applications of different BNNs is an open issue for future investigations due to various reasons such as the limitations of variational techniques and having risks for selecting appropriate approximations of batch posteriors [504]. Uncertainty of continual learning (CL) [252] is another open research direction in computer vision and image processing. For example, Nguyen et al. [505], [506] proposed variational CL (VCL) to deal with uncertainty and showed the effectiveness of such a approach.

**Medical image analysis:** One possible research direction that could be considered in the future is a closer collaboration between medical and artificial intelligence researchers. Due to the high sensitivity in this field of science, we strongly recommend collecting larger medical data in the domain. This can be very helpful in resolving uncertainty, as a result, the proposed machine and deep learning methods can perform better in predicting various diseases and cancers. As we know, ground truth data for medical image segmentation plays a critical role in the correctness of the obtained results. For this reason, closer cooperation between the two groups can provide platforms for optimizing existing machine and deep learning models. Furthermore, referral of incorrect predicted data to specialists has a great role in dealing with uncertainty. Hence, there is a need for close collaboration between medical and computer researchers in the field of medical image segmentation.

We also noticed that various fusion methods have good potential for segmentation uncertainty predictions of medical images. Moreover, we found out that in most of previous studies standard losses for medical segmentation have been used whereas there are some new, yet effective, losses which could be used. On the other hand, combining both visualization of uncertainty and medical image segmentation can be used within AL computer assisted diagnostic (CAD) systems to improve the segmentation output. Another important future direction can be concentrated on big medical data collection. As we know, having a bigger data can dramatically improve the performance of various deep and machine learning methods. Our comprehensive review reveals that the problem of having enough medical data is still open. But if this is not possible, transfer learning techniques can be an ideal solution for improving the training process. Using this technique we can properly tune the applied DL

methods; however, we know there are few uncertainties. As mentioned above, this can be considered as an open gap for future researchers.

The development of different semi-supervised-based methods for medical image segmentation is another promising approach for dealing with medical data shortages. We found out that UQ methods can have great impact in semi-supervised-based medical image segmentation which is another interesting research direction for future investigations. Along with all of these open directions in medical data analysis, MTL have also showed promising performance for medical data analysis. But as Nguyen et al. [507] showed adding UQ methods to MTL can significantly quantify uncertainty for prediction of clinical risks. However, as Gast and Roth [410] stated although probabilistic approaches have widely been used for several years; however, probabilistic approaches have not been comprehensively applied in practice since sampling techniques are frequently too slow. To solve this issue, development of proper probabilistic approaches [410] can be used in the real medical applications.

**Natural language processing (NLP):** There are few NLP-based subjects such as neural machine translation [508] and some other interdisciplinary subjects such as image captioning [509], [510], [511], [512], visual question answering (VQA) [513], [514], [515], [516], [517] which are closely associated with NLP. Finding the right caption for an image has always been a challenge in computer science. Especially since this issue can be accompanied by some uncertainties due to the merging of two important disciplines (i.e., image processing and NLP). On the other hand, medical VQA is a very important task for health organisations to find out the most appropriate answers to the given questions. Indeed, this topic handles both image processing and NLP tasks at the same time. We believe that because of the essence of the matter, adding methods to deal with uncertainties can greatly contribute to the productivity of this branch. In addition, classification of the data stream text environments is an interesting domain for application of UQ methods for finding the uncertain sentences.

**Further directions:** In this phase, we discuss few research directions in various subjects such as RL, numerical data analysis, signal processing, toy and synthetic data, etc. For instance, application of meta RL (MRL) is effective and efficient in optimizing decision performance. However, decision making process is always come with uncertainty. Hence, we suggest adding UQ methods with various MRL models can yield better decisions with more certainty. The proposed natural-gradient approach [155] can be generalized with some other approximation types (e.g., exponential-family distributions) and apply it on RL and stochastic optimization. Moreover, proper understanding of the interaction between choosing the inference algorithm and approximating family is another future research direction for synthetic data (regression task). Developing various stochastic regularization methods is another open direction for researchers. We also noticed that leveraging proper weights of the Frank-Wolfe optimization algorithm [112] and finding how this technique interacts with some alternative procedures approximate inference can be interesting avenues for further investigations.

Moreover, the digital healthcare is a very important research area which can help to make medicine more precise and personalized. Quantifying uncertainty of the digital healthcare and deploy them in some real-world clinical settings is another open research path. Approximate Bayesian inference in the continual learning and sequential decision making applications should be used as an inner procedure of a larger method. And this procedure needs robust version of BNNs. Hence, application of Deterministic VI [385] with different BNNs is an ideal approach. Accordingly, learning of different BNNs [518], [156] can be optimized using various Assumed Density Filtering (ADF) techniques [519] and apply them for different machine and deep learning tasks (e.g. NLP, computer vision and image processing, signal processing and many more). In addition, ensemble-based sampling [520], [521] methods have shown the capability to approximate sampling techniques (i.e., Thompson sampling) and properly deal with uncertainty in complex methods such as different NNs. Finally, quantifying uncertainties for multi-agent systems [522], [523] is also another important future direction since an individual agent cannot solve problems as are impossible or difficult.

## 9.2 Lack of Data and Code Availability

As we know, availability of data and codes play significant role for improving prior methods. In other words, having data and codes will assist researchers to go through proposed methods and find main gaps. Our comprehensive review shows that most of previous studies (especially medical case studies) do not share their data and codes with others. We understand that because of few cases the authors may not be able to make the data/code public, but we believe sharing both data and code will be very helpful to improve the quality and performance of different machine and deep learning methods. In other words, having a code and data of a research paper will accelerate the optimization of the code in the study.

## 10 CONCLUSION

Uncertainty quantification is one of the key parts of decision making process. The UQ methods are becoming popular to evaluate the uncertainty in various real-life applications. Nowadays, uncertainty has become an inseparable part of traditional machine and deep learning methods. This study has comprehensively reviewed the most important UQ methods which have been applied in traditional machine learning and deep learning. Hence, we provided a comprehensive description and comparative analysis of current state-of-the-art UQ approaches. Also, in this study we reviewed many important UQ perspectives, including common UQ applications, in-depth discussions, main research gaps, ending by presenting several solid future research directions in the area. We believe that this review paper focusing on the use of the UQ methods in artificial intelligence will benefit researchers in a variety of fields, and may be considered as a guideline for the use of UQ in deep learning-based applications.

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TABLE 6: More information regarding additional UQ techniques proposed in the literature (Detailed information, sorted by year).

| Study                     | Year | Subject                                      | # datasets | Uncertainty method's name  | Code |
|---------------------------|------|--|------------|--|------|
| Balan et al. [246]        | 2015 | Image processing, toy and numerical data and | 4          | PBE  | ×    |
| Houthooft et al. [247]    | 2016 | Toy data (regression)                        | 1          | VIME   | ✓    |
| Springenberg et al. [248] | 2016 | Numerical data (regression)                  | 4          | BNN  | ✓    |
| Zhang et al. [253]        | 2017 | Image processing                             | 7          | UCF (uncertain convolutional features)   | ✓    |
| Khan et al. [155]         | 2018 | Numerical data                               | 8          | Vadam  | ✓    |
| Malinin et al. [326]      | 2018 | Image processing                             | 2          | PN   | ✓    |
| Ilg et al. [249]          | 2018 | Computer vision                              | 1          | FlowNetH-Pred-Merged   | ×    |
| Heo et al. [250]          | 2018 | Medical signal                               | 3          | UA   | ✓    |
| Sensoy et al. [254]       | 2018 | Image processing                             | 2          | EDL  | ✓    |
| Prokudin et al. [305]     | 2018 | Image processing                             | 3          | CVAE   | ✓    |
| Smith et al. [313]        | 2018 | Image processing                             | 2          | MI   | ✓    |
| Qian et al. [324]         | 2018 | Image processing                             | 4          | MaPML  | ×    |
| Dunlop et al. [327]       | 2018 | Synthetic data                               | 2          | DGP  | ×    |
| Manders et al. [341]      | 2018 | Image processing                             | 2          | CPUA   | ×    |
| Lee et al. [360]          | 2018 | Image processing                             | 2          | GP   | ✓    |
| Acerbi [255]              | 2018 | N/A  | 2          | VBMC   | ✓    |
| Zhang et al. [524]        | 2018 | Numerical data                               | 10         | $S^2VGD$ : Structural Stein Variational Gradient Descent                         | ×    |
| Gong et al. [72]          | 2019 | Numerical data                               | 5          | Icebreaker   | ✓    |
| Sun et al. [294]          | 2019 | Numerical data                               | 10         | functional BNNs(fbNNs)   | ✓    |
| Vadera and Marlin [292]   | 2019 | Image processing                             | 1          | BDk  | ×    |
| Patacchiola et al. [295]  | 2019 | Image processing                             | 2          | GP   | ✓    |
| Cheng et al. [296]        | 2019 | Image processing                             | 2          | DIP: deep image prior  | ✓    |
| Ravi and Beatson [361]    | 2019 | Image processing                             | 2          | AVI  | ✓    |
| Hendrycks et al. [243]    | 2019 | Image processing                             | 2          | Self-supervision   | ✓    |
| Ilg et al. [249]          | 2019 | Computer vision                              | 1          | SGDR (Stochastic Gradient Descent with warm Restarts) and Bootstrapped ensembles | ×    |
| Ahn et al. [252]          | 2019 | Image processing                             | 2          | UCL  | ✓    |
| Haußmann et al. [256]     | 2019 | Image processing                             | 2          | BEDL (Bayesian Evidential DL) + Reg (Regularization)                             | ✓    |
| Foong et al. [258]        | 2019 | Numerical data                               | 9          | Laplace approximation  | ×    |
| Abdolshah et al. [287]    | 2019 | Image processing                             | 1          | MOBO   | ×    |
| White et al. [288]        | 2019 | Image processing                             | 1          | BO   | ✓    |
| Balandat et al. [289]     | 2019 | Geographical data                            | 1          | BOTORCH  | ✓    |
| Galy-Fajou et al. [290]   | 2019 | Toy datasets                                 | 7          | CMGGPC   | ✓    |
| Lee et al. [291]          | 2019 | Image processing                             | 4          | BTAML  | ✓    |
| Schwab et al. [312]       | 2019 | Image processing                             | 2          | CXPlain  | ✓    |

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TABLE 6 – Continued from previous page

| Study                   | Year | Subject                             | # datasets | Uncertainty method's name                         | Code |
|-------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------------|---|------|
| Malinin and Gales [314] | 2019 | Image processing                    | 5          | N/A   | ✓    |
| Wu et al. [323]         | 2019 | Medical image processing            | 1          | DDMN: deep Dirichlet mixture networks             | ×    |
| Gomez et al. [325]      | 2019 | Image processing                    | 3          | Targeted dropout                                  | ✓    |
| Northcutt et al. [340]  | 2019 | Image processing                    | 2          | CL  | ✓    |
| Ovadia et al. [346]     | 2019 | Image, text and categorical data    | 3          | Data shift  | ✓    |
| Biloš et al. [347]      | 2019 | Toy data                            | 2          | FD-Dir and WGP-LN                                 | ✓    |
| Zheng and Yang [348]    | 2019 | Image processing                    | 2          | MR  | ✓    |
| Yildiz et al. [358]     | 2019 | Image processing                    | 3          | ODE <sup>2</sup> VAE                              | ✓    |
| Wang et al. [363]       | 2019 | Time series                         | 1          | NLE loss  | ✓    |
| Tai et al. [364]        | 2019 | Computer vision                     | 1          | UIA   | ×    |
| De Ath et al. [257]     | 2020 | Synthetic data                      | 10         | $\epsilon$ -shotgun                               | ×    |
| Foong et al. [301]      | 2020 | Image processing                    | 5          | ConvNP  | ×    |
| Yao et al. [302]        | 2020 | Image processing and Numerical data | 3          | SI  | ✓    |
| Prijatelj et al. [303]  | 2020 | Image processing                    | 4          | Bayesian evaluation                               | ✓    |
| Herzog et al. [304]     | 2020 | Medical image analysis              | 1          | Bayesian aggregation                              | ×    |
| Tuo and Wang [306]      | 2020 | N/A                                 | N/A        | BO  | ×    |
| Acerbi [307]            | 2020 | N/A                                 | 5          | VBMC+EIG/VIQR                                     | ✓    |
| Zhao et al. [308]       | 2020 | Numerical data                      | 5          | GEP   | ×    |
| Li et al. [309]         | 2020 | Care (network) data                 | 1          | DBGP  | ×    |
| He et al. [310]         | 2020 | Image processing and toy data       | 3          | NTK   | ✓    |
| Salem et al. [320]      | 2020 | Numerical data                      | 10         | SNM-QD+: split normal mixture-quality-driven loss | ×    |
| Hendrycks et al. [330]  | 2020 | Image processing                    | 3          | AugMix  | ✓    |
| Boiarov et al. [332]    | 2020 | NLP                                 | 1          | SPSA  | ×    |
| Chun et al. [342]       | 2020 | Image processing                    | 7          | Regularization techniques                         | ×    |
| Wang et al. [354]       | 2020 | Image processing                    | 5          | TransCal  | ×    |
| Lu et al. [362]         | 2020 | Numerical data                      | 2          | DGPM  | ×    |
| Selvan et al. [365]     | 2020 | Medical image analysis              | 2          | cFlow   | ✓    |
| Poggi et al. [366]      | 2020 | Computer vision                     | 1          | Self-Teaching                                     | ✓    |
| Cui et al. [367]        | 2020 | Time series                         | 5          | MMD   | ×    |

Note: UA: Uncertainty-aware attention, EDL: Evidential Deep Learning, Vadam: Variational Adam, MaPML: Margin Preserving Metric Learning

TABLE 7: A summary of various UQ methods applied in computer vision and image processing tasks (sorted by year)50

| Study                | Year | Data source   | Application             | # Images/video  | # Classes                                 | Classifier   | UQ method   | Code |
|----------------------|------|---|-------------------------|---|---|--|---|------|
| Kendall et al. [397] | 2016 | aCambridge Landmarks dataset (outdoor), 7 Scenes dataset (indoor)       | Camera Re-localization  | covering a ground area of up to 50,000 m <sup>2</sup> including 1920×1080 images, 640×480 images  | 4 classes, 7 classes                      | Bayesian CNN   | Averaging MC dropout samples obtained from the posterior Bernoulli distribution of the Bayesian CNN's weights | ✓    |
| Kendall et al. [43]  | 2016 | SUN RGB-D (Indoor), CamVid (Outdoor)                                    | Scene understanding     | SUN 5285 training and testing images, while images were resized to 224x224, CamVid: 367 training images and 233 testing images of day and dusk scenes, while images were resized to 360x480 | CamVid: 11 classes, SUN RGB-D: 37 classes | Bayesian SegNet  | MC sampling with dropout  | ✓    |
| Kendall et al. [394] | 2017 | CamVid and NYU v2, Make3D   | Semantic segmentation   | 600 and 1449, 534   | 11 and 40                                 | BDL  | MC dropout  | ✓    |
| Gal et al. [465]     | 2017 | Synthetic dataset, UCI datasets, MNIST                                  | RL                      | N/A   | N/A                                       | NNs  | Continuous relaxation of dropout's discrete masks, using BDL  | ✓    |
| Ilg et al. [249]     | 2018 | Sintel train clean, Sintel train final, KITTI 2012+2015, FlyingThings3D | Optical flow estimation | N/A   | N/A                                       | Multi-headed network architecture that yields multiple hypotheses in a single network without the need of sampling | Uncertainty estimates efficiently a single forward pass and without the need for sampling or ensembles        | ✓    |

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| Study                      | Year | Data source                             | Application                                  | # Images/video  | # Classes                 | Classifier  | UQ method  | Code |
|----------------------------|------|---|--|---|---------------------------|---|--|------|
| Bhattacharyya et al. [420] | 2018 | Cityscapes dataset                      | Long-term on-board prediction Of people      | 2975 training, 500 validation and 1525 test video sequences of length 1.8 seconds (30 frames) having resolution of $2048 \times 1024$ pixels    | 20                        | RNN encoder-decoder + CNN + LSTM-Bayesian                                     | MC and minimizing the KL divergence of its approximate weight distribution   | ×    |
| Gast and Roth [410]        | 2018 | FlyingChairs, Sintel, CIFAR10 and MNIST | Uncertainty prediction on CNN                | N/A   | N/A                       | Lightweight probabilistic CNNs (FlowNet-tADF and FlowNet-ProbOut and ProbOut) | Apply uncertainty propagating layers using Gaussians (Building upon standard maximum conditional likelihood learning while concentrating on probabilistic outputs)   | ×    |
| Lambert et al. [525]       | 2018 | ImageNet, Multi-30K                     | Image classification and machine translation | N/A   | 30 thousand Flickr images | CNN+LSTM  | Proposed LUPI (Learning Under Privileged Information) which makes variance of a function of the privileged information. Then using the privileged information in heteroscedastic dropout to estimate uncertainty | ✓    |
| Kendall et al. [526]       | 2018 | CityScapes                              | Scene geometry and semantics                 | 2,975 training and 500 validation images at $2048 \times 1024$ resolution. 1,525 images are withheld for testing on an online evaluation server | 20                        | Deep convolutional encoder followed by convolutional decoders                 | A principled loss function which can learn a relative weighting automatically from the data and is robust to the weight initialization   | ✓    |

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TABLE 7 – Continued from previous page

| Study                 | Year | Data source   | Application                                      | # Images/video  | # Classes | Classifier   | UQ method  | Code |
|-----------------------|------|---|--|---|-----------|--|--|------|
| Dorta et al. [400]    | 2018 | Splines and Ellipses (synthetic), CelebA, CIFAR10               | Image reconstruction                             | CelebA (202,599 images of faces), CIFAR10(182,637, 19,962)  | N/A       | Deep probabilistic generative models (AE and VAE)  | Structured Gaussian (Gaussian random field)  | ✓    |
| Prokudin et al. [305] | 2018 | PASCAL 3D+, IDIAP, CAVIAR-o, Town-Centre coarse gaze estimation | Pose estimation                                  | 36000, (42304 images for training, 11995 images for validation, 11996 images for testing), (10802 images for training, 5444 images for validation, 5445 images for testing), (6916 images for training, 874 images for validation, 904) | 12        | Probabilistic deep learning model on top of Bitermion network approach and the finite VM mixture model | Probabilistic deep learning model by extending von Mises distributions             | ✓    |
| Le et al. [404]       | 2018 | KITTI   | Object detection in safety-critical applications | N/A   | N/A       | Single Shot Detector (SSD)   | A MC integration by sampling the network outputs through the softmax function      | ×    |
| Pascual et al. [407]  | 2018 | DeepGlobe Land Cover classification challenge                   | Land cover semantic segmentation                 | 1.146 satellite RGB images of size 2448x2448 pixels, split into training/validation/test, each with 803/171/172 images  | 7         | Gated Convolutional Network (GCN)  | Uncertainty GCNN   | ×    |
| Huang et al. [406]    | 2018 | CamVid  | Semantic segmentation in videos                  | Total 701 labeled frames split into 367 training frames, 101 validation frames and 233 test frames  | 11        | Bayesian SegNet model, Tiramisu model, FlowNet for optical flow estimation                             | TA-MC (Temporal aggregation method) and RTA-MC (Region-Based Temporal Aggregation) | ×    |

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| Study                | Year | Data source   | Application                                | # Images/video   | # Classes | Classifier   | UQ method   | Code |
|----------------------|------|---|--|--|-----------|--|---|------|
| Taha et al. [399]    | 2019 | Clothing1M, Honda driving   | Image and video retrieval                  | 1M images, 104 hours of driving  | 14        | CNN+LSTM   | Extension to triplet loss that models data uncertainty for each input. Also, it models local noise in the embedding space.                  | ×    |
| Zheng [414]          | 2019 | Cast Search in Movies (CSM), IARPA Janus Surveillance Video Benchmark (IJB-S) | Video-based face recognition               | N/A  | 2         | CNN  | Uncertainty-Gated Graph (UGG) which conducts graph-based identity propagation between tracklets, which are represented by nodes in a graph. | ×    |
| Yasarla et al. [527] | 2019 |   | Single image de-raining                    | 12700 images   | 2         | UMRL (Uncertainty guided Multi-scale Residual Learning) method based on cycle Spinning+RNN | UMRL  | ✓    |
| Xue et al. [528]     | 2019 | ISIC  | Skin lesion classification                 | 3,582 images for training  | 2         | CNN  | OUSM (Online uncertainty sample mining method)  | ×    |
| Hama et al. [509]    | 2019 | MS COCO, Flickr30k  | Image-caption embedding-and-retrieval task | COCO (113,287 images for training, 5,000 images for validation, and 5,000 images for testing), Flickr30k (30,000 images for training, 1,000 images for validation, and 1,000 images for testing) | 5         | DNN+CNN  | Model averaging obtained over feature uncertainty+model averaging achieved over posterior uncertainty                                       | ×    |

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TABLE 7 – Continued from previous page

| Study                   | Year | Data source   | Application                                  | # Images/video  | # Classes   | Classifier  | UQ method   | Code |
|-------------------------|------|---|--|---|---|---|---|------|
| Mukhoti et al. [10]     | 2019 | Cityscapes dataset  | Semantic segmentation                        | 2975 images for training, 500 images for validation, 1525 images for testing  | 50  | Bayesian DeepLab  | MC dropout  | ×    |
| Harakeh et al. [403]    | 2019 | Berkley Deep Drive (BDD) 100K Dataset (BDD), KITTI, MS COCO, Pascal VOC | Object detection                             | BDD: 80K frames (70K/10K training/validation), KITTI: 7; 481 frames, MS COCO: 223K frames (118K/5K training/testing), Pascal VOC: 5823 frames (testing) | BDD and KITTI: 7 common road scene, MS COCO: 81, Pascal VOC: 20 | DNN   | BayesOD (Bayesian-based object detectors)   | ✓    |
| He et al. [405]         | 2019 | MS-COCO, PASCAL VOC 2007  | Object detection                             | For PASCAL VOC: 20075k voc_2007_trainval images and 5k voc_2007_test images   | N/A   | Faster R-CNN+FPN (Feature Pyramid Network)+ Mask-RCNN                                   | A new bounding box regression loss (modeling bounding box predictions as well as ground-truth bounding boxes as Gaussian distribution and Dirac delta function, respectively) | ✓    |
| Liu et al. [402]        | 2019 | Multiple indoor and outdoor datasets                                    | Depth estimation for 3D scene reconstruction | N/A   | N/A   | D-Net (CNNbased) + K-net (Kalman filter) + R-Net (based on U-Net with skip connections) | BDL   | ×    |
| Abbasnejad et al. [529] | 2019 | GuessWhat dataset   | Asking goal-oriented questions               | 155,281 dialogues related to 821, 955 question/answer pairs with vocabulary size of 11,465 on 66,537 images as well as 134,074 objects                  | N/A   | RNN+LSTM  | Bayesian-based model  | ×    |

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TABLE 7 – Continued from previous page

| Study                  | Year | Data source   | Application   | # Images/video   | # Classes    | Classifier  | UQ method  | Code |
|------------------------|------|---|---|--|--------------|---|--|------|
| Peterson et al. [417]  | 2019 | CIFAR10H (for training), CIFAR10, IFAR10.1v6,v4, attacks, CINIC10, ImageNet-Far for testing | Improving robustness of adversarial attacks   | 10,000 images, 50,000, 210,000, N/A images   | N/A          | CNN   | Increasing distributional shift                              | ✓    |
| Bertoni et al. [413]   | 2019 | KITTI, nuScenes   | 3d pedestrian localization  | 7,481 training images, N/A   | N/A          | DNN (2D joints) + a light-weight feed-forward network (the 3D location) | MC dropout   | ✓    |
| Asai et al. [401]      | 2019 | NYU depth dataset V2  | Depth estimation  | N/A  | N/A          | CNN Pixel-wise regression   | Formulating regression with estimation of uncertainty as MTL | ×    |
| Loquercio et al. [411] | 2019 | Udacity dataset   | End-to-end steering angle prediction, obstacle motion prediction and closed-loop control of a Quadrotor | N/A  | N/A          | DNN   | Bayesian inference MC  | ×    |
| Martinez, et al. [408] | 2019 | CT scans of woven composite materials   | Automatically segmenting a diverse set of Volumetric CT scans of woven composite materials              | They divided entire 1001x1150x1150 volume into a set of 48 sub-volume for training and sets of 8 for both validation and testing steps | 2            | CNN (VNet 3D)   | MC dropout both during training and inference                | ×    |
| Postels et al. [409]   | 2019 | CamVid  | Semantic segmentation and depth regression  | N/A  | 11 out of 32 | CNN   | Sampling free noise injection                                | ✓    |
| He et al. [412]        | 2019 | Human 3.6M, MPII validation   | Human pose estimation   | N/A  | N/A          | CNN   | Multivariate Gaussian  | ×    |

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TABLE 7 – *Continued from previous page*

| Study                     | Year | Data source   | Application  | # Images/video  | # Classes | Classifier   | UQ method   | Code |
|---------------------------|------|---|--|---|-----------|--|---|------|
| Peretroukhin et al. [530] | 2019 | Synthetic dataset, 7-Scenes, KITTI                      | Probabilistic regression of elements of SO(3)                                      | DNN called HydraNet (extended version of multi-headed networks) | N/A       | N/A  | Regression units  | ×    |
| Yu et al. [415]           | 2019 | Market-1501, DukeMTMC-ReID, CUHK01, CUHK03              | Person re-identification   | N/A   | 2         | Distribution Net (CNN, with random feature vectors)                  | Gaussian distribution   | ✓    |
| Zhang et al. [531]        | 2019 | Train400, Test12, Berkeley segmentation dataset (BSD68) | Image restoration  | N/A   | N/A       | PRL (Probabilistic Residual Learning)                                | UQ (aleatoric) with CVAE (Conditional Variational Auto-encoders) loss | ✓    |
| Carbone et al. [418]      | 2020 | MNIST and Fashion MNIST                                 | Gradient-based adversarial attacks   | 1000 test images from both datasets                             | N/A       | BNNs   | HMC and VI support  | ×    |
| Harris et al. [532]       | 2020 | CIFAR-10, Fashion MNIST, ImageNet                       | Image, audio, text and point cloud classification (mixed sample data augmentation) | N/A   | N/A       | MixUp, FMix, FastText-300d, CNN, FastText, bi-directional LSTM, BERT | Relative entropy objective  | ✓    |
| Miolane and Holmes [533]  | 2020 | Synthetic datasets                                      | Representation learning  | N/A   | N/A       | VAE  | Riemannian VAE  | ×    |
| Zhou et al. [534]         | 2020 | Synthetic and GTAV, SYNTHA and Cityscapes datasets      | Cross-domain semantic segmentation   | N/A   | N/A       | Teacher-student network  | UA consistency regularization and uncertainty-guided consistency loss | ×    |
| Zhang et al. [535]        | 2020 | Six challenging benchmark datasets                      | RGB-D saliency detection   | N/A   | N/A       | Conditional VAE  | UC-Net  | ×    |



TABLE 8: A summary of various UQ methods applied in medical application tasks (sorted by year).

| Study                    | Year | Classifier        | Application                 | Disease/cancer  | # datasets | UQ method  | Code |
|--------------------------|------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|------------|--|------|
| Leibig et al. [45]       | 2017 | CNN               | Classification              | Diabetic Retinopathy  | 3          | MC dropout   | ×    |
| Jungo et al. [536]       | 2017 | CNN               | Segmentation                | Brain tumor   | 1          | MC dropout   | ×    |
| Ozdemir et al. [537]     | 2017 | Bayesian CNN      | Segmentation                | Nodule detection  | 1          | VI   | ×    |
| Tanno et al. [538]       | 2017 | CNN               | Classification              | Brain tumor   | 2          | VI   | ×    |
| Jungo et al. [52]        | 2018 | CNN               | Segmentation                | Brain tumor   | 1          | MC dropout   | ×    |
| Kwon et al. [539]        | 2018 | BNNs              | Classification              | Cardiovascular  | 2          | VI   | ×    |
| Ayhan and Berens [540]   | 2018 | DNNs (ResNet50)   | Data aug-<br>mentation      | Fundus images   | 1          | MC dropout   | ×    |
| Jungo et al. [541]       | 2018 | U-net             | Segmentation                | Brain tumor   | 2          | MC dropout   | ×    |
| Wang et al. [542]        | 2018 | CNN               | Segmentation                | Brain tumor   | 1          | Weighted loss function, network-based uncertainty (Softmax output) and scribble-based uncertainty (the geodesic distance to different scribbles) | ×    |
| Moccia et al. [543]      | 2018 | CNN               | Classification and tagging  | Surgical data of various diseases                               | 2          | Superpixel (Spx)-based classification of anatomical structure  | ×    |
| Wang et al. [33]         | 2019 | CNN               | Segmentation                | Brain tumor   | 1          | Ensemble   | ×    |
| Tousignant et al. [55]   | 2019 | CNN               | Classification              | Disability progression (brain)                                  | 2          | MC dropout   | ×    |
| Roy et al. [57]          | 2019 | Bayesian QuickNAT | Segmentation                | Brain segmentation  | 4          | MC samples for voxel-wise model  | ✓    |
| Jungo and Reyes [544]    | 2019 | U-Net             | Segmentation                | Brain tumor   | 2          | Softmax entropy, dropout, Ensembles  | MC ✓ |
| Orlando et al. [545]     | 2019 | U-Net             | Segmentation                | OCT scans   | 2          | MC dropout   | ×    |
| Ghesu et al. [546]       | 2019 | DenseNet-121      | Classification              | Thoracic disease  | 2          | MC dropout   | ×    |
| Baumgartner et al. [547] | 2019 | U-Net             | Segmentation                | Thoracic and prostate   | 2          | Ensemble   | ✓    |
| Raczkowski et al. [548]  | 2019 | Bayesian CNN      | Classification              | Colorectal cancer   | 1          | VI   | ×    |
| Xue et al. [528]         | 2019 | ResNet-101        | Classification              | Skin cancer   | 1          | Ensemble   | ×    |
| Eaton-Rosen et al. [549] | 2019 | U-Net             | Segmentation and regression | Histopathological cell and white matter hyperintensity counting | 2          | MC dropout   | ×    |

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| Study                        | Year | Classifier                    | Application                          | Disease/cancer  | # datasets | UQ method   | Code |
|------------------------------|------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|------------|---|------|
| di Scandalea et al. [550]    | 2019 | U-Net                         | Segmentation                         | Axon myelin   | 2          | MC dropout  | ✓    |
| Filos et al. [551]           | 2019 | BDL                           | Classification                       | DR  | 1          | MC dropout, ensembles and VI                                | ×    |
| Ravanbakhsh et al. [552]     | 2019 | conditional GAN (cGAN)        | Semantic segmentation                | Cardiovascular disease                                | 1          | The scores generated by using the adversarial discriminator | ×    |
| Jena and Awate. [553]        | 2019 | Bayesian DNN                  | Segmentation                         | Brain tumor, cell membrane and chest Radiograph organ | 3          | MC dropout  | ×    |
| Tanno et al. [554]           | 2019 | CNN                           | Classification                       | Brain tumour (Glioma) and MS (multiple sclerosis)     | 4          | VI  | ×    |
| Soberanis-Mukul et al. [555] | 2019 | CNN and GCN                   | Segmentation                         | Organ segmentation (pancreas)                         | 1          | MC dropout  | ×    |
| Hu et al. [556]              | 2019 | Probabilistic U-Net           | Segmentation                         | Lung nodule CT dataset and MICCAI2012 prostate MRI    | 2          | VI  | ×    |
| Hu et al. [204]              | 2020 | U-net and the Adaptive-CS-Net | MRI reconstruction and Curve fitting | Knee and brain MRI                                    | 2          | MC dropout and deep ensembles                               | ×    |
| Luo et al. [557]             | 2020 | DCN (Deep commensal network)  | Segmentation                         | Cardiovascular disease                                | 4          | MC dropout  | ×    |
| Hoebel et al. [558]          | 2020 | U-Net                         | Segmentation                         | Lung disease  | 1          | MC dropout  | ×    |
| Liu et al. [430]             | 2019 | CNN                           | Classification                       | $sO_2$  | 2          | DSL (deep spectral learning)                                | ×    |
| Seeböck et al. [559]         | 2019 | Bayesian U-Net                | Segmentation                         | Retinal OCT scans                                     | 3          | MC dropout  | ×    |
| Hiasa et al. [560]           | 2019 | Bayesian U-Net                | Segmentation                         | Cancer  | 2          | MC dropout  | ×    |
| Xue et al. [561]             | 2019 | BNN and U-Net                 | Classification                       | Gigapixel phase images                                | 1          | MC dropout and ensembles                                    | ×    |
| LaBonte et al. [562]         | 2019 | 3D Bayesian CNN               | Segmentation                         | Material data (CT scans)                              | 2          | MC dropout  | ×    |
| Liao et al. [563]            | 2019 | DenseNet, LSTM                | Regression                           | Cardiovascular diseases                               | 1          | MC dropout  | ×    |
| Raghu et al. [564]           | 2019 | N/A                           | Classification                       | DR  | 1          | DUP (Direct Uncertainty Prediction)                         | ✓    |
| Zhang et al. [565]           | 2019 | ResNet                        | Reconstruction and classification    | Knee MRI  | 2          | Active acquisition  | ×    |

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TABLE 8 – *Continued from previous page*

| Study                   | Year | Classifier   | Application                       | Disease/cancer  | # datasets | UQ method  | Code |
|-------------------------|------|--|-----------------------------------|---|------------|--|------|
| Ye et al. [333]         | 2020 | Separable dictionary-LSTM                            | Tissue micro-structure estimation | Brain dMRI (diffusion magnetic resonance imaging) scans | 1          | Residual bootstrap strategy  | ×    |
| Xia et al. [381]        | 2020 |  | Segmentation                      | Pancreas and liver tumor                                | 2          | UMCT   | ×    |
| Gantenbein et al. [391] | 2020 | Reversible PHiSeg                                    | Segmentation                      | Lung and prostate                                       | 2          | Variational function   | ×    |
| Bian et al. [437]       | 2020 | CNN  | Segmentation                      | Cardiovascular and retinal OCT                          | 2          | UESM (Uncertainty Estimation and Segmentation Module) + UCE (Uncertainty-aware Cross Entropy) loss | ×    |
| Donnat et al. [566]     | 2020 | Hierarchical bayesian network                        | Classification                    | COVID-19  | 1          | Stochastic Expectation-Maximization  | ×    |
| Mehrtash et al. [567]   | 2020 | U-Net  | Segmentation                      | Brain, heart and prostate                               | 5          | Ensembles  | ×    |
| Wickstrøm et al. [568]  | 2020 | CNN  | Segmentation                      | Colorectal cancer                                       | 1          | MC dropout   | ×    |
| Carneiro et al. [569]   | 2020 | ResNet, DenseNet                                     | Classification                    | Polyp   | 2          | MC integration   | ×    |
| Natekar et al. [570]    | 2020 | DenseUnet, ResUnet, SimUnet                          | Segmentation                      | Brain tumor   | 1          | TTD (test time dropout) for VI   | ×    |
| Li and Alstrøm [440]    | 2020 | ResNet   | Segmentation                      | Colon and skin cancers                                  | 2          | MC dropout   | ×    |
| Dahal et al. [435]      | 2020 | ResNet   | Segmentation                      | Cardiovascular disease                                  | 2          | TTA, HSE (Horizontal stacked ensemble), MC dropout   | ×    |
| Li et al. [571]         | 2020 | MLP (Multilayer Perceptron)                          | Segmentation                      | Autism  | 2          | DistDeepSHAP (Distribution-based Deep Shapley value explanation)                                   | ✓    |
| Zheng et al. [572]      | 2020 | ag-FCN (attention gated fully convolutional network) | Segmentation                      | Glands and infant brain tissues                         | 2          | dd-AL (Distribution discrepancy-based AL)  | ×    |
| Wang et al. [573]       | 2020 | ResNet   | Classification                    | Lung disease and DR                                     | 2          | DRLA (Deep Reinforcement AL)   | ×    |
| Quan et al. [574]       | 2020 | ResNet   | Classification                    | EGD (Esophagogastroduodenoscopy)                        | 2          | Bayesian uncertainty estimates and ensemble  | ×    |
| Yuan et al. [575]       | 2020 | DNNs   | Classification                    | Brain cell  | 2          | Bayesian uncertainty   | ×    |
| Chiou et al. [576]      | 2020 | CycleGAN   | Segmentation                      | Prostate lesion   | 2          | Gaussian sampling  | ×    |
| Wang et al. [577]       | 2020 | Teacher-student model                                | Segmentation                      | Left Atrium and kidney segmentation                     | 2          | Double-uncertainty weighted  | ×    |

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TABLE 8 – *Continued from previous page*

| Study                  | Year | Classifier                  | Application    | Disease/cancer                             | # datasets | UQ method                                    | Code |
|------------------------|------|-----------------------------|----------------|--|------------|--|------|
| Li et al. [578]        | 2020 | ResUNet                     | Segmentation   | Organ and skin lesion segmentation         | 2          | Self-loop uncertainty                        | ×    |
| Yang et al. [579]      | 2020 | Deep learning and Dual-UNet | Segmentation   | Catheter segmentation                      | 1          | Hybrid constraints                           | ×    |
| Venturini et al. [580] | 2020 | U-Net                       | Segmentation   | Brain volumes and healthy pregnant females | 2          | test-time augmentation and test-time dropout | ×    |
| Yu et al. [581]        | 2020 | ResNet                      | Classification | Glaucoma                                   | 2          | FusionBranch                                 | ×    |
| Huang et al. [582]     | 2020 | ReLayNet                    | Segmentation   | OCT (Optical coherence tomography)         | 1          | MC dropout                                   | ×    |



TABLE 9: A summary of various UQ methods used in NLP (sorted by year).

| Study                     | Year | Published  | # dataset | Classifier                       | UQ method  | Code |
|---------------------------|------|------------|-----------|----------------------------------|--|------|
| Chien et al. [441]        | 2015 | IEEE TNNLS | 3         | Bayesian learning                | R-BRNN-LM  | ×    |
| Chen et al. [443]         | 2015 | JB         | 1         | Active learning                  | Uncertainty sampling                             | ×    |
| Ott et al. [448]          | 2018 | ICML       | 3         | Deep learning                    | Beam search and sampling                         | ✓    |
| Zhang et al. [446]        | 2018 | NeurIPS    | 5         | Deep learning                    | BDLOB  | ×    |
| Yijun et al. [450]        | 2019 | AAAI       | 4         | Deep learning                    | N/A  | ×    |
| Kong et al. [444]         | 2019 | ICLR       | 2         | Deep learning                    | Element-wise variational smoothing               | ×    |
| Tran et al. [116]         | 2019 | NeurIPS    | 1         | Deep learning                    | Bayesian layers                                  | ×    |
| Fortunato et al. [119]    | 2019 | arXiv      | 1         | Deep learning                    | BBB (Bayesian RNN)                               | ✓    |
| Zhang et al. [237]        | 2019 | ICML       | 2         | Deep learning                    | LIME   | ×    |
| Roldán et al. [449]       | 2019 | ACM FAccT  | 3         | Black-box models (Deep learning) | Uncertainty wrapper using Dirichlet distribution | ×    |
| Xiao et al. [447]         | 2019 | NeurIPS    | 2         | Deep learning                    | Variational transformers                         | ×    |
| Han et al. [445]          | 2019 | TST        | 4         | Deep learning                    | ANFU   | ×    |
| Zhang and Mahadevan [451] | 2020 | DSS        | 1         | Deep learning                    | BNN  | ×    |