

# **Meta Learning in Decentralized Neural Networks Towards More General AI**

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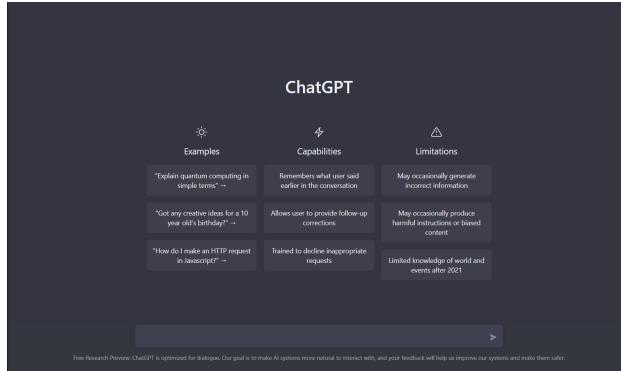
**The University of Tokyo  
RIKEN**

# The state of deep learning

## Go



## Large language model



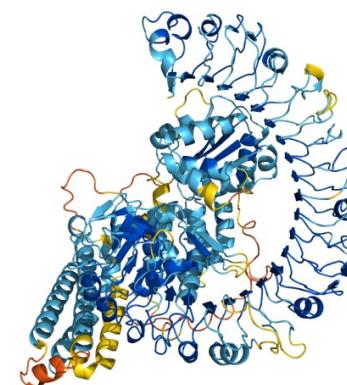
## Self-driving car



## Text to video

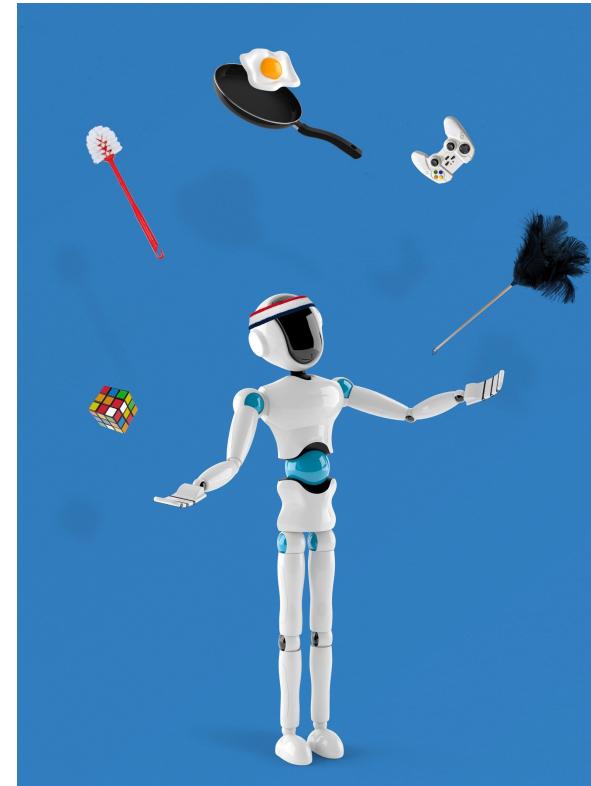


## Protein folding



# Out-of-distribution generalization

- Training to test
- Distribution difference
- Undesired performance with unseen data

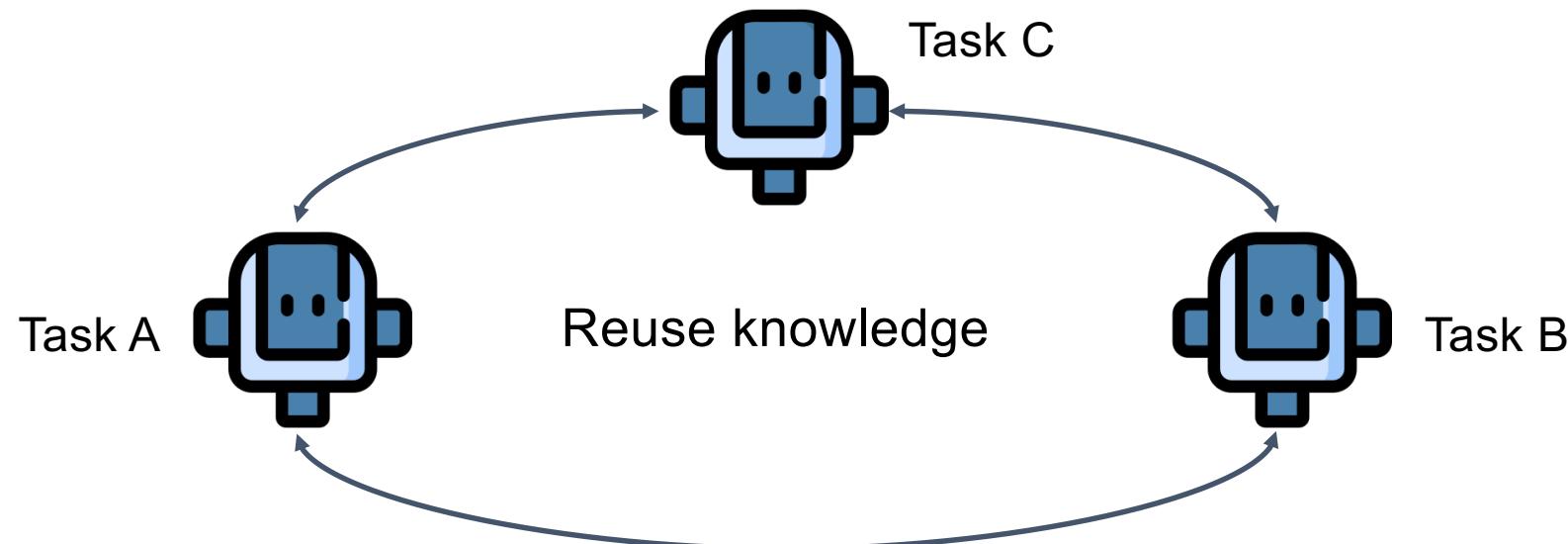


ACM

Beyond the training distribution

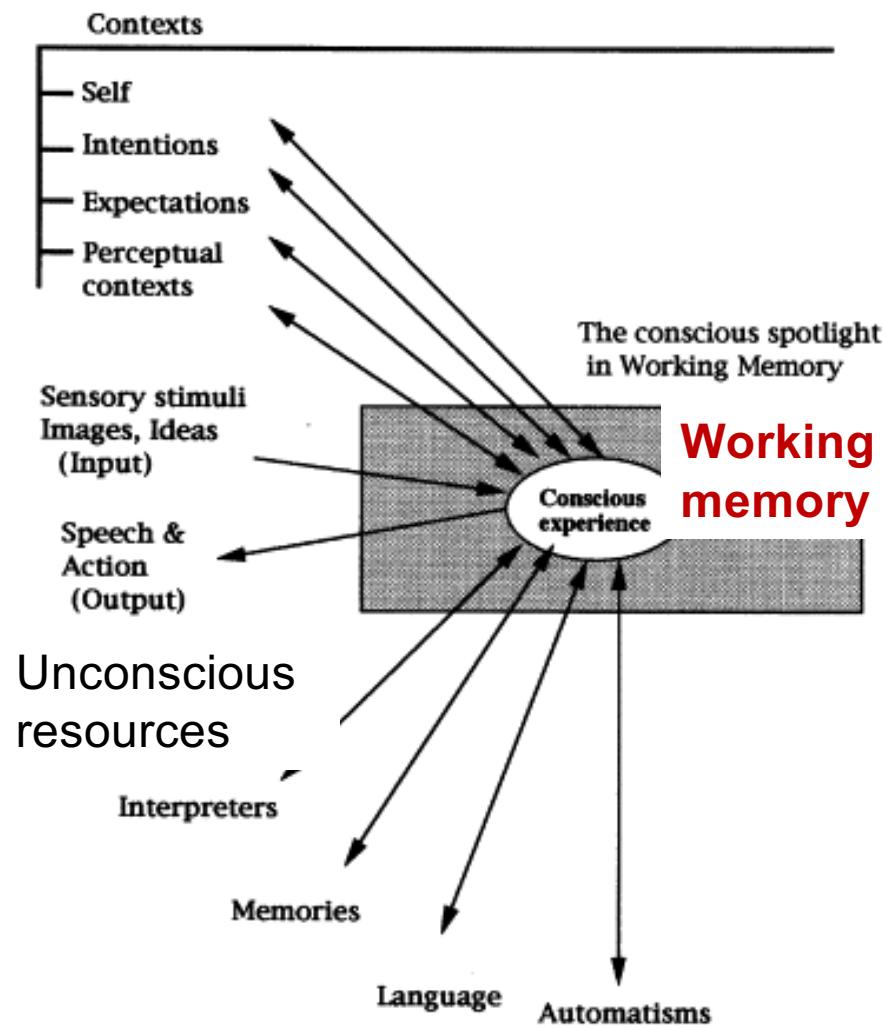
# Why meta learning?

- Learning different perspectives with multiple agents (models)
- Meta learning selects and combines learning algorithms to tackle a new task [Pratt, 1991]
- Extract information from past experiences and tasks
- Reusable features and models



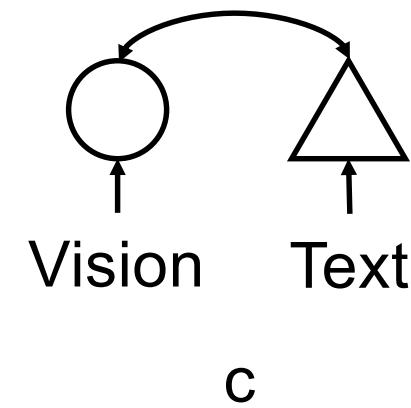
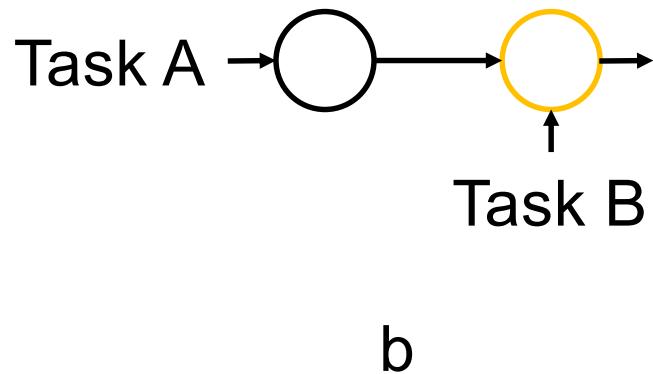
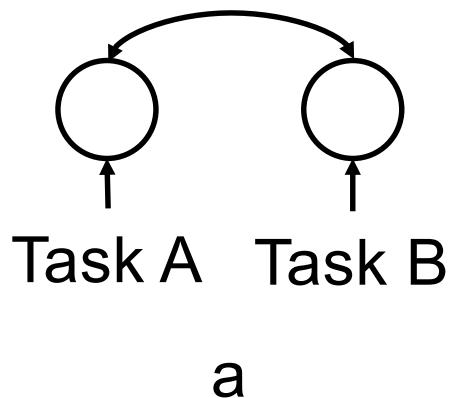
# Cooperating and competing neural networks

- Global workspace theory [Baars, 1988]
- Cooperating and competing neural network models
- Specialized processors
- Selection and reuse of processors

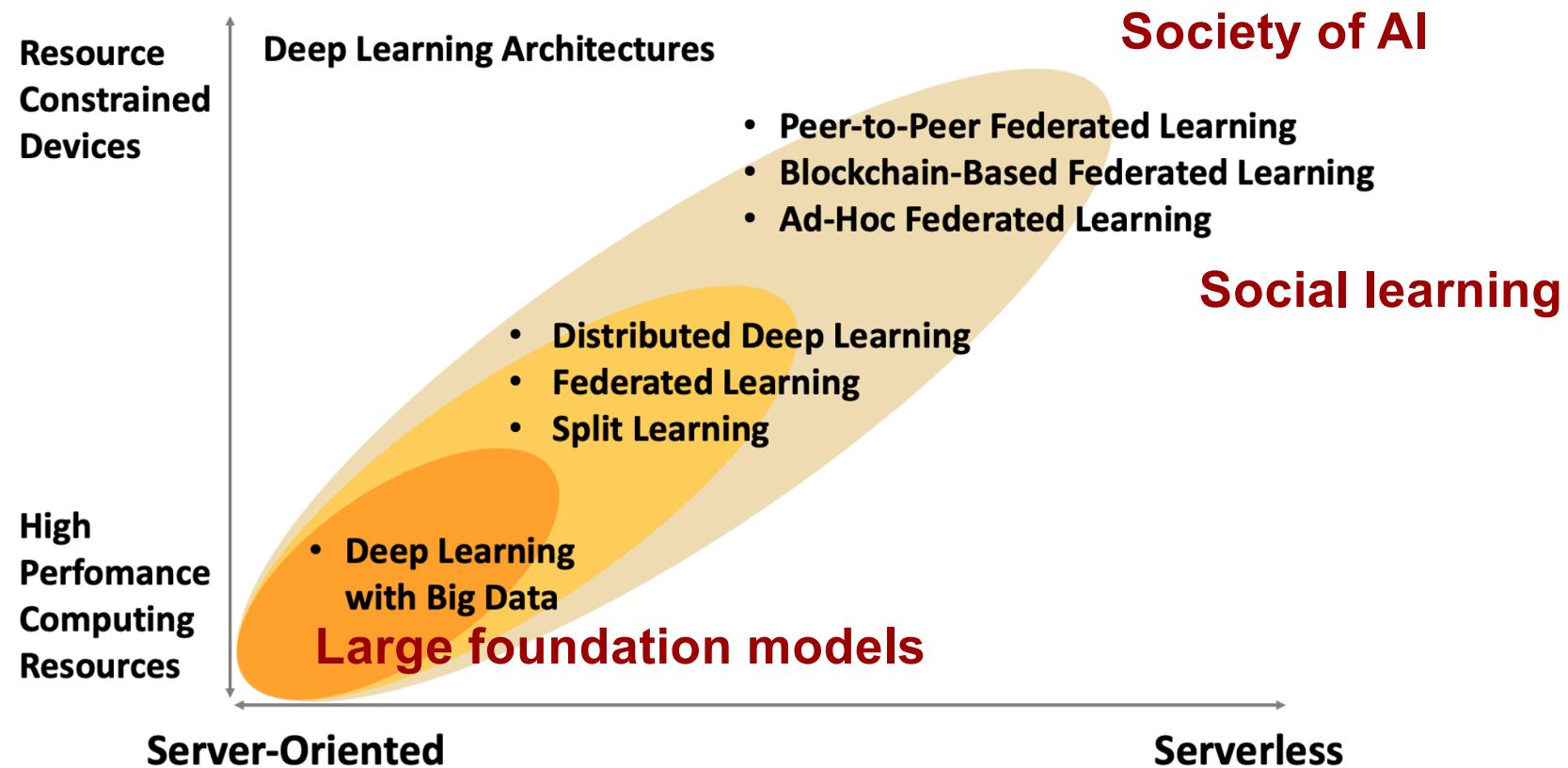


# Reusable knowledge representation learning

- Improve neural networks generalization through knowledge transfer
- Discussion on replica neural networks (a), hierarchy of neural networks (b), and multi-modal models (c) as key approaches

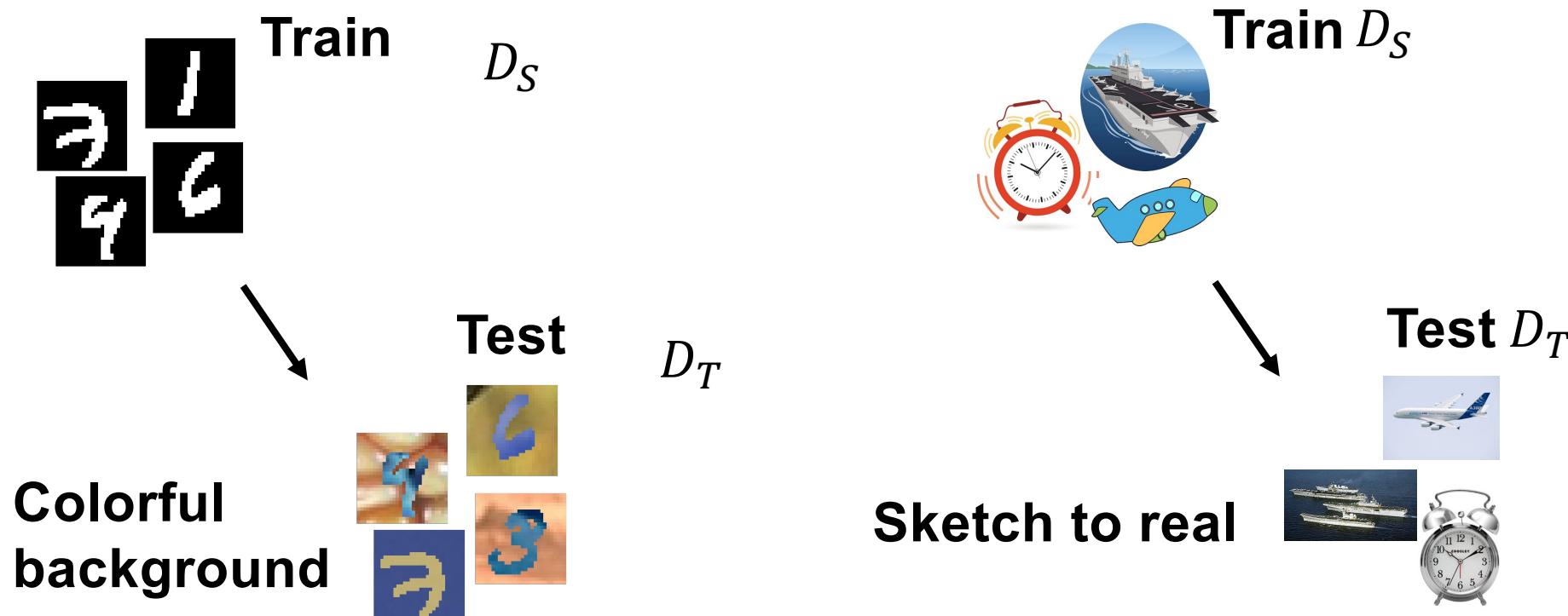


# Replica neural networks in multi-agent settings

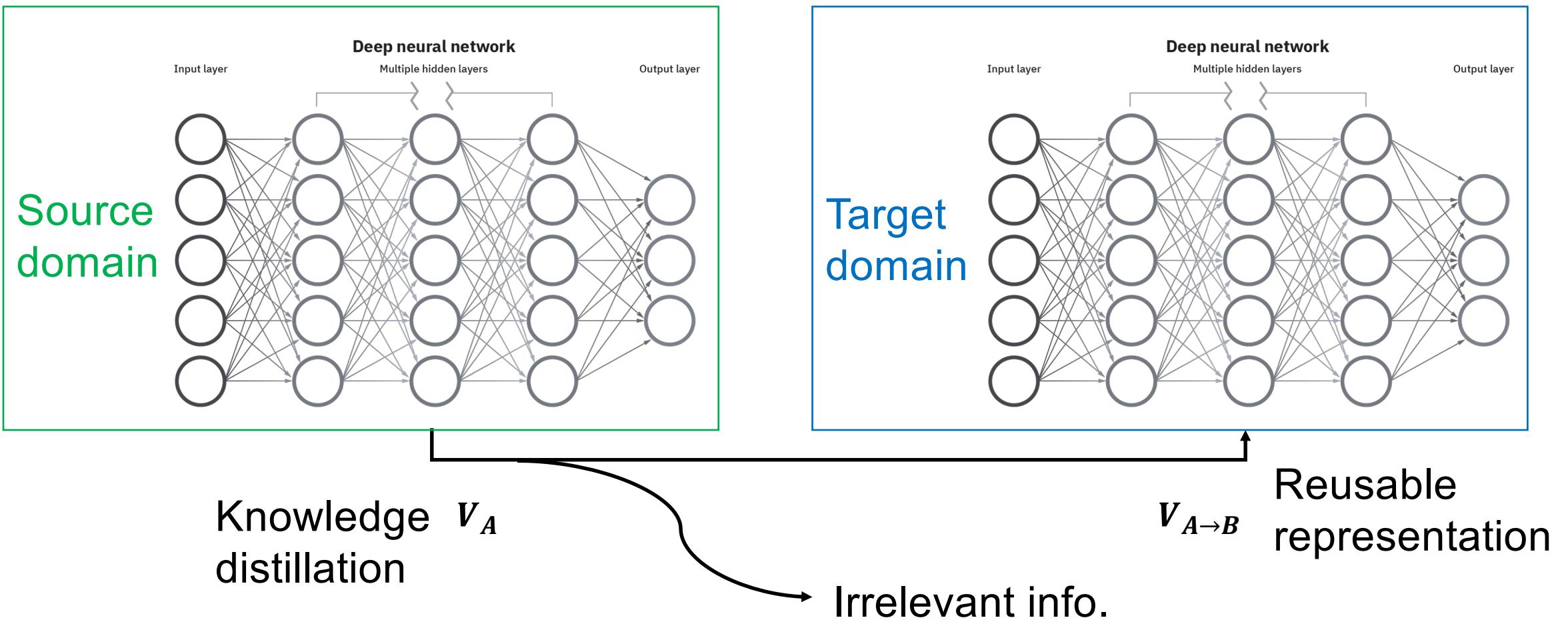


# Distributional shift between train and test dataset

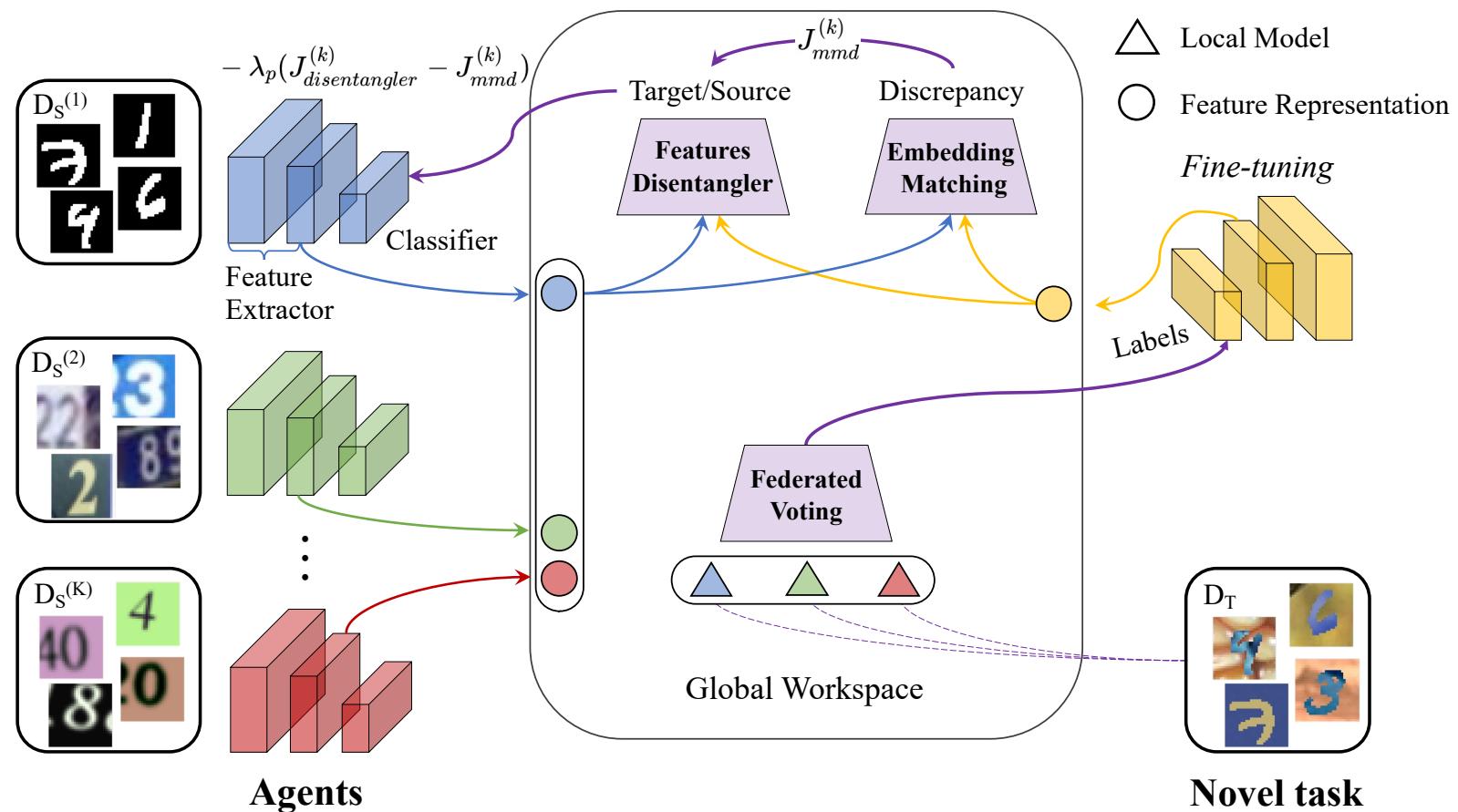
- Good in-distribution performance
- Struggle in out-of-distribution (OOD) settings
- Given  $D_S = (X_S, Y_S)$  and  $D_T = (X_T)$ , find  $P(Y_T|X_T)$



# Reusable representation sharing



# Feature distribution matching for federated domain generalization



# Datasets

Digit-Five [Ganin, 2015]

	<i>mt</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	Target
	<i>mm</i>						Amazon
	<i>sv</i>						DSLR
	<i>sy</i>						Webcam
	<i>up</i>						Caltech

Source ↑

Office-Caltech10 [Gong, 2012]



Amazon review [Blitzer, 2007]

**Book:** This book turns the entire concept of intelligence inside out

**DVD:** This is a great DVD for all collections

**Electronics:** This is perfect for my iPod and keeps it totally secure while driving

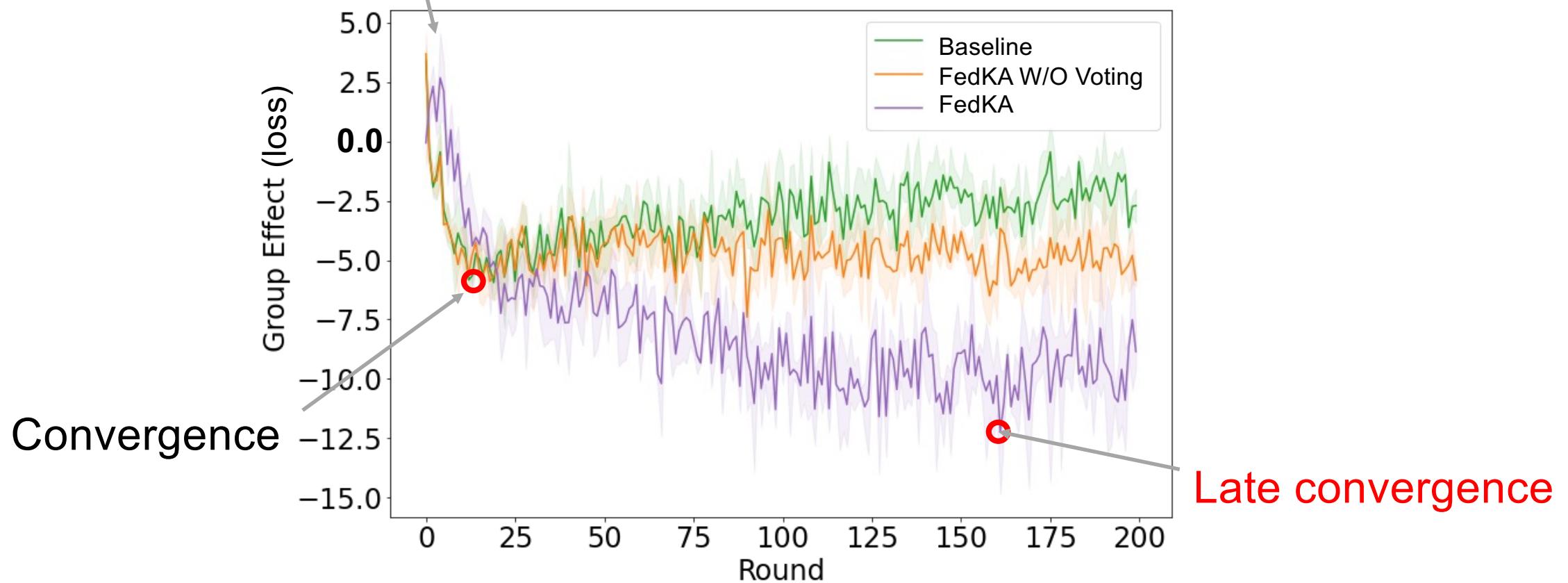
**Kitchen:** Simple, straight forward to use, very easy to clean, and durable

# Late convergence

Initialized, high loss

**Group Effect:**

$$\text{GE}_t = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k \in \{1, 2, \dots, K\}} \text{TTA}_f(G_t + \Delta_t^{(k)}) - \text{TTA}_f(G_{t+1})$$



# Performance evaluation

Digit Five

+4.0%

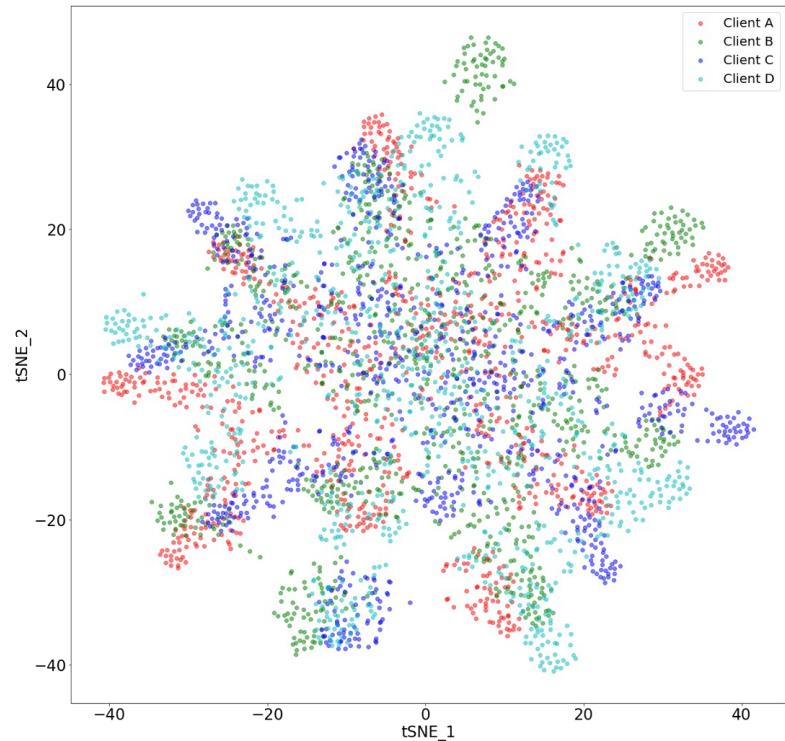
Models/Tasks	→mt	→mm	→up	→sv	→sy	Avg
FedAvg	<u>93.5</u> ±0.15	62.5±0.72	90.2±0.37	12.6±0.31	40.9±0.50	59.9
f-DANN	89.7±0.23	70.4±0.69	88.0±0.23	11.9±0.50	43.8±1.04	60.8
f-DAN	<u>93.5</u> ±0.26	62.1±0.45	90.2±0.13	12.1±0.56	41.5±0.76	59.9
Voting-S	<b>93.7</b> ±0.18	63.4±0.28	<b>92.6</b> ±0.25	14.2±0.99	45.3±0.34	61.8
Voting-L	<u>93.5</u> ±0.18	64.8±1.01	<u>92.3</u> ±0.21	14.3±0.42	45.6±0.57	62.1
Disentangler + Voting-S	91.8±0.20	71.2±0.40	91.0±0.58	14.4±1.09	48.7±1.19	63.4
Disentangler + Voting-L	92.1±0.16	<u>71.8</u> ±0.48	90.9±0.36	<u>15.1</u> ±0.91	<u>49.1</u> ±1.03	<u>63.8</u>
Disentangler + MK-MMD	90.0±0.49	70.4±0.86	87.5±0.25	12.2±0.70	44.3±1.18	60.9
FedKA-S	91.8±0.19	<u>72.5</u> ±0.91	90.6±0.14	<b>15.2</b> ±0.46	<u>48.9</u> ±0.48	<u>63.8</u>
FedKA-L	92.0±0.26	<b>72.6</b> ±1.03	<u>91.1</u> ±0.24	<u>14.8</u> ±0.41	<b>49.2</b> ±0.78	<b>63.9</b>

Office-Caltech10

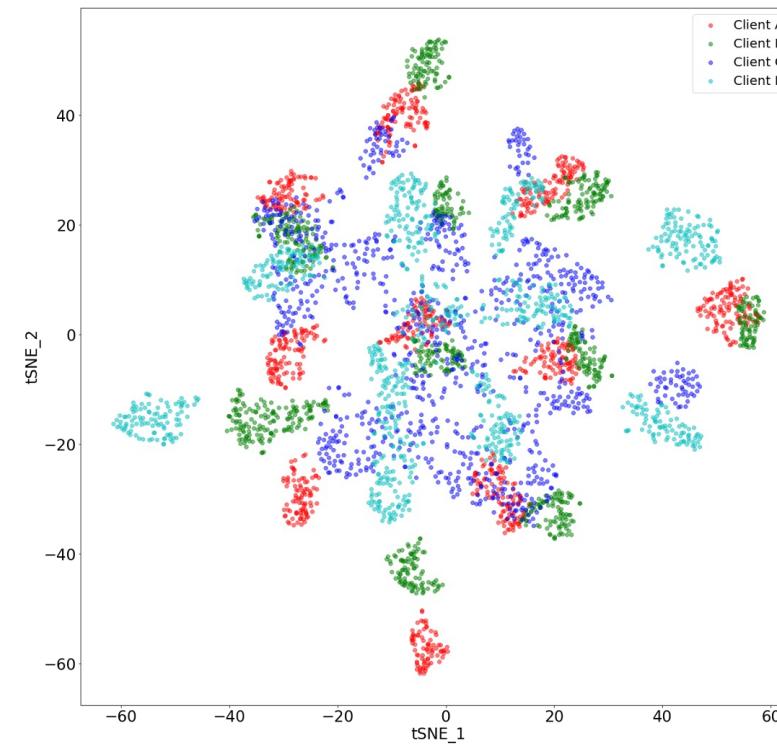
+2.3%

Models/Tasks	C,D,W→A	A,D,W→C	C,A,W→D	C,D,A→W	Avg
FedAvg	56.4 ±1.23	<u>40.2</u> ±0.69	28.7±1.21	22.7±1.85	37.0
f-DANN	58.3 ±1.53	40.0 ±1.50	<u>30.7</u> ±3.59	22.3±1.29	37.8
f-DAN	56.7±0.71	38.7±0.75	30.2±1.64	<u>23.9</u> ±1.70	37.4
Voting	56.5 ±1.88	<u>40.2</u> ±0.58	29.8±1.45	<b>24.1</b> ±0.69	37.7
Disentangler + Voting	<b>61.4</b> ±2.51	<b>40.4</b> ±1.01	<u>31.5</u> ±3.11	<u>23.9</u> ±1.89	<b>39.3</b>
Disentangler + MK-MMD	<u>59.5</u> ±0.41	37.8±0.93	<b>32.2</b> ±3.21	22.3 ±1.00	<u>38.0</u>
FedKA	<u>59.9</u> ±1.44	39.7±0.81	30.2 ±1.71	23.4 ±1.45	<u>38.3</u>

# T-SNE visualization of representation distributions

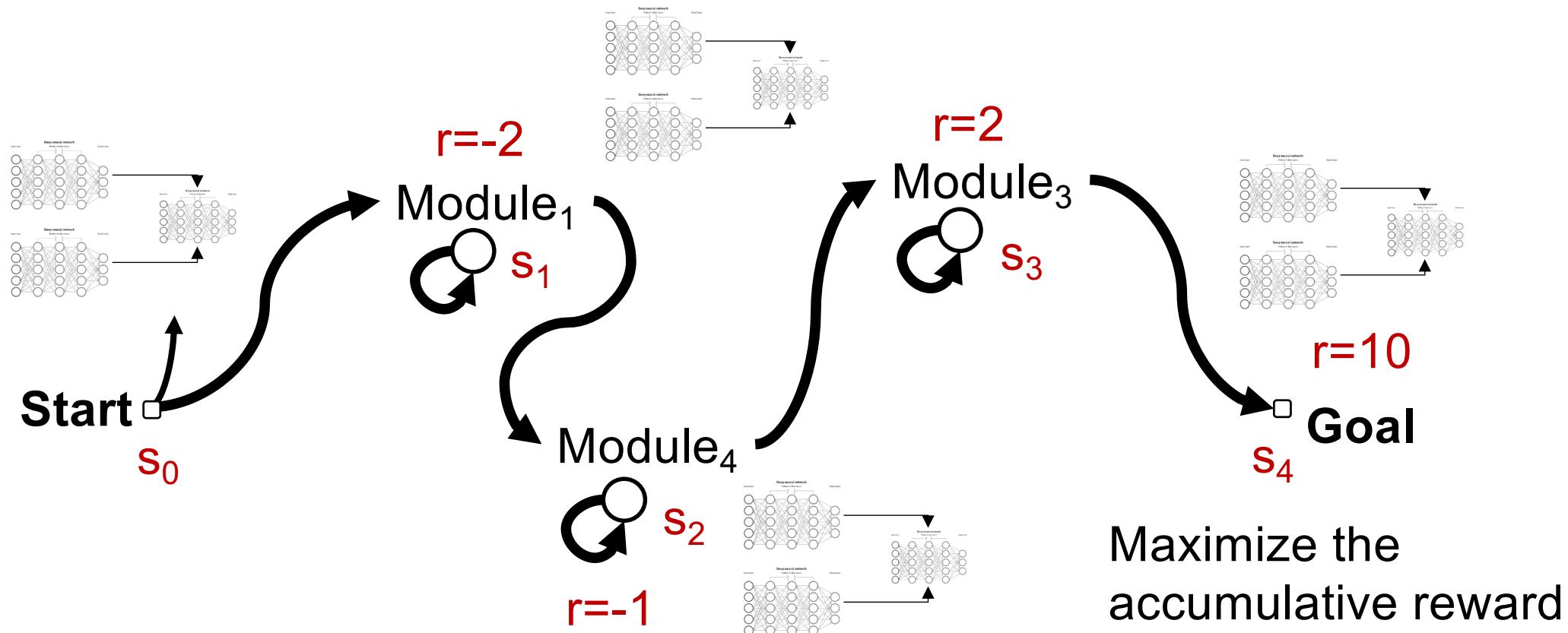


Without knowledge transfer

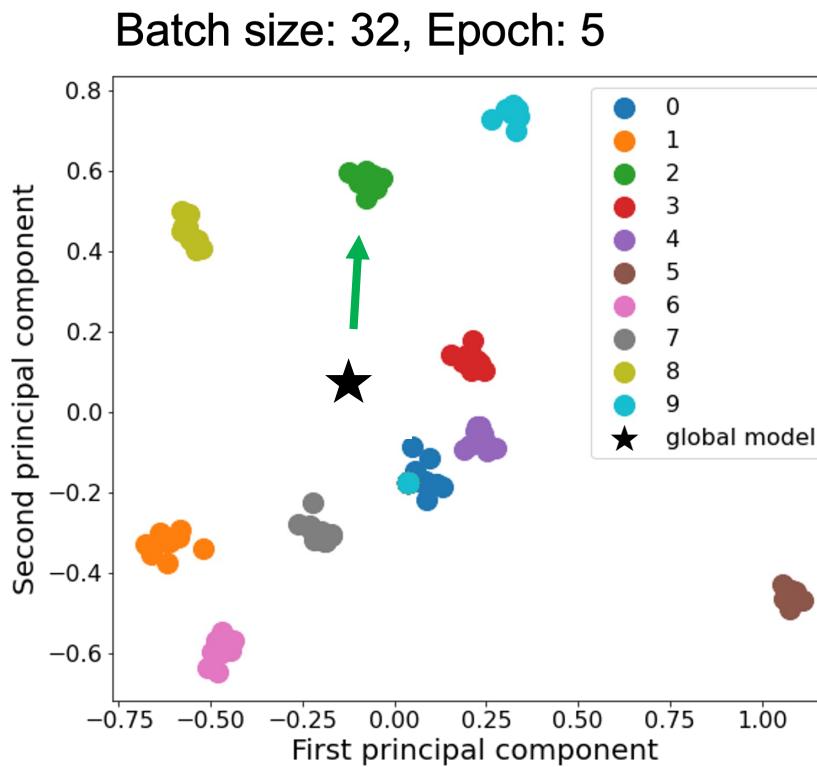


With knowledge transfer

# Hierarchical learning as a Markov decision process

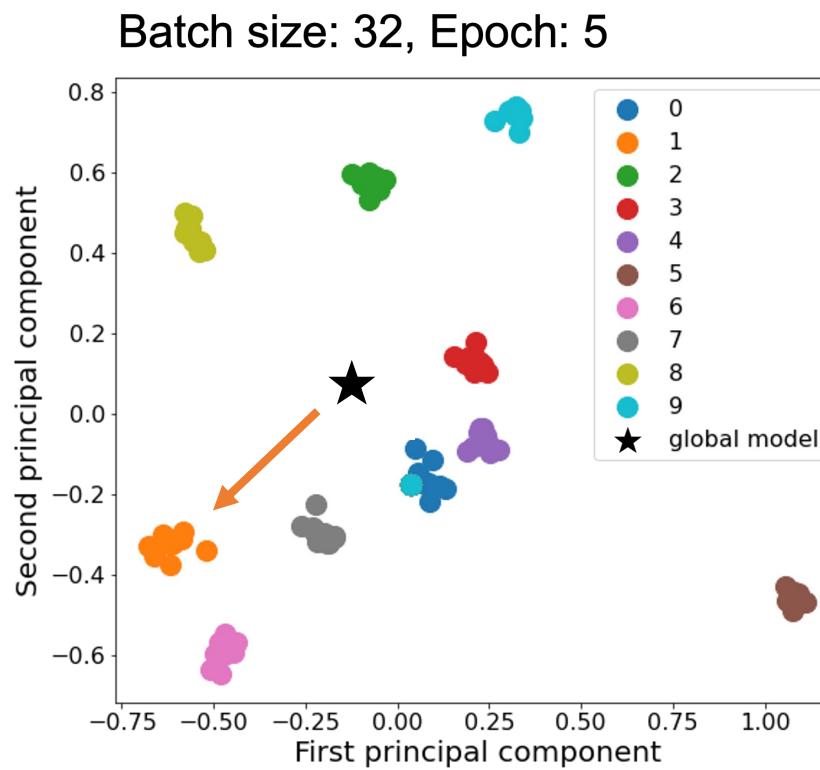


# Neural states of modules

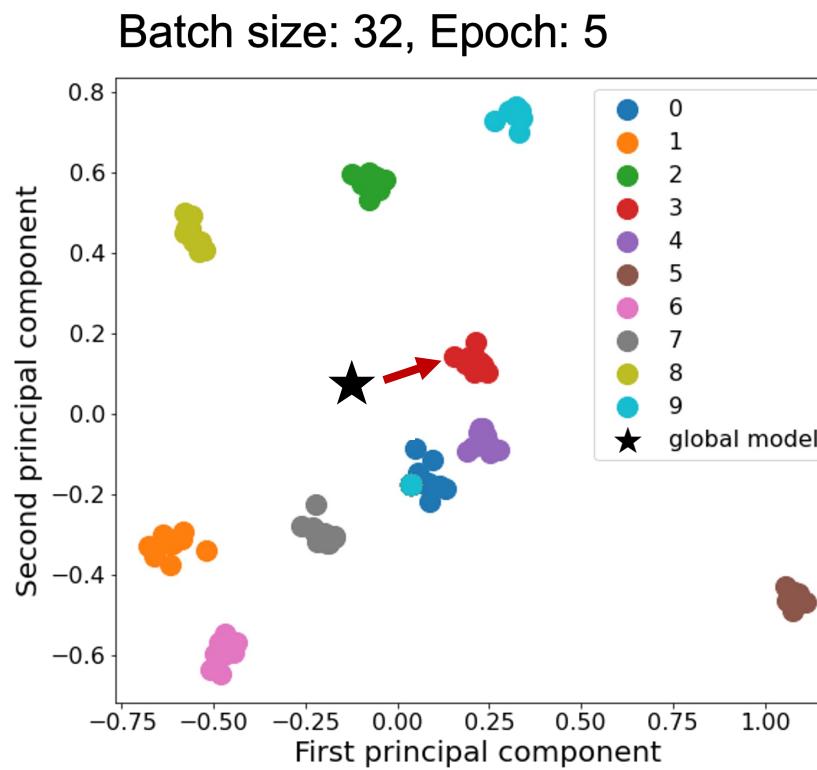


- Problem: Non-independent and identically distributed data (non-IID)
- Cluster: Compressed weights of modules with similar training data classes
- Reliable incremental measures of progress

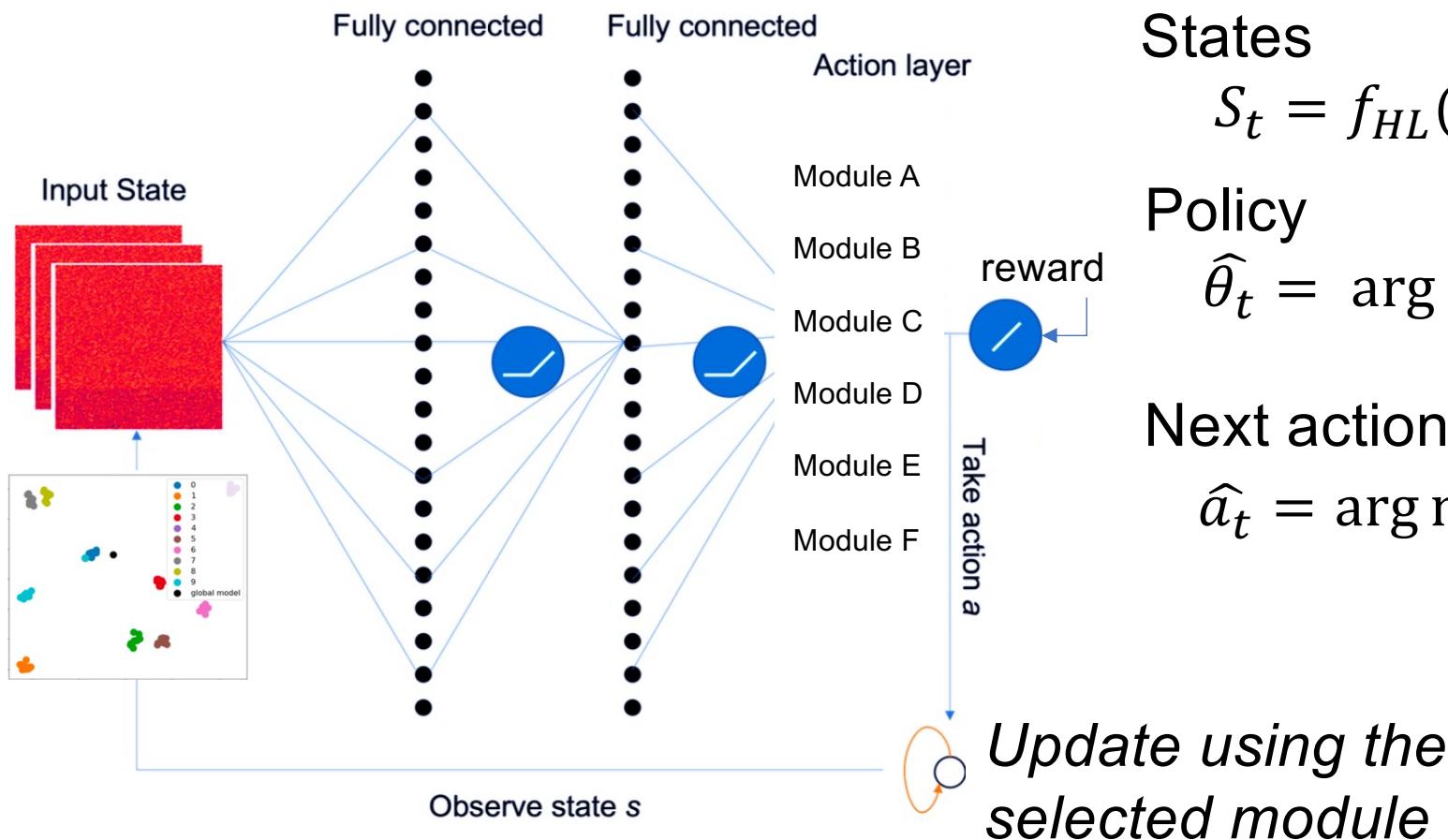
# Neural states of modules



# Neural states of modules



# Outer loop reinforcement learning



States      Previous action

$$S_t = f_{HL}(S_{t-1}, \hat{a}_{t-1})$$

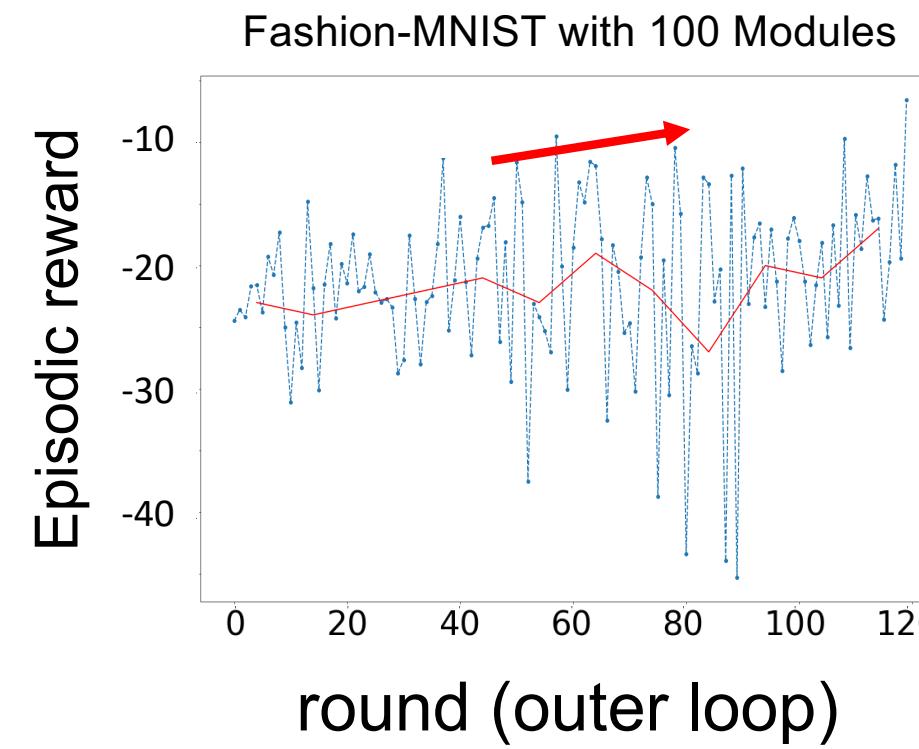
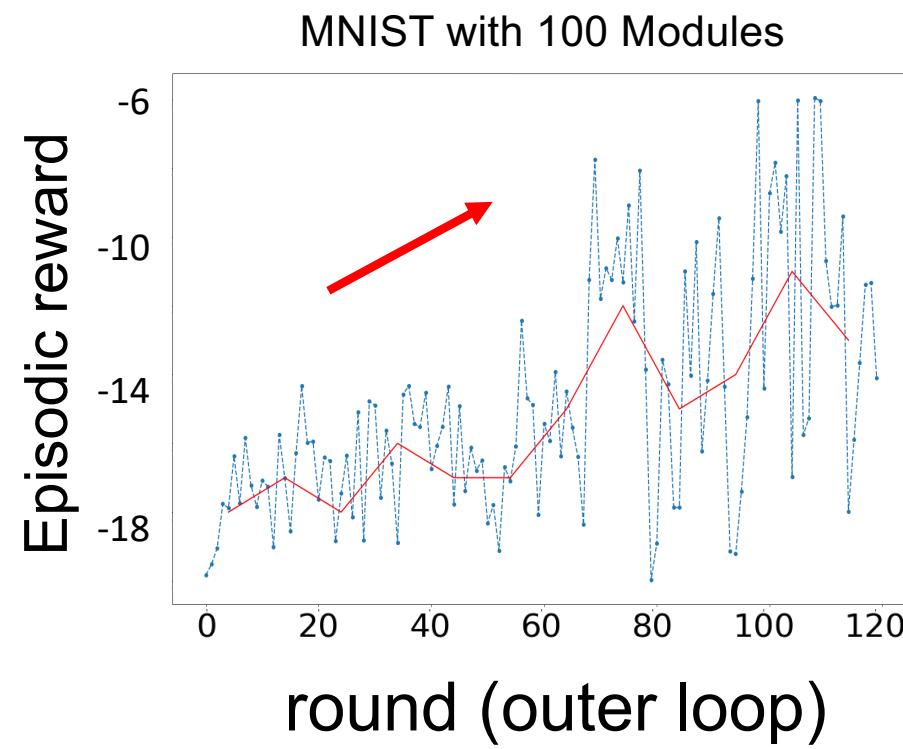
Policy      Reward

$$\hat{\theta}_t = \arg \max_{\theta_t} (r_t(S_t) + \gamma \cdot \hat{r}_{t+1}(S_{t+1}))$$

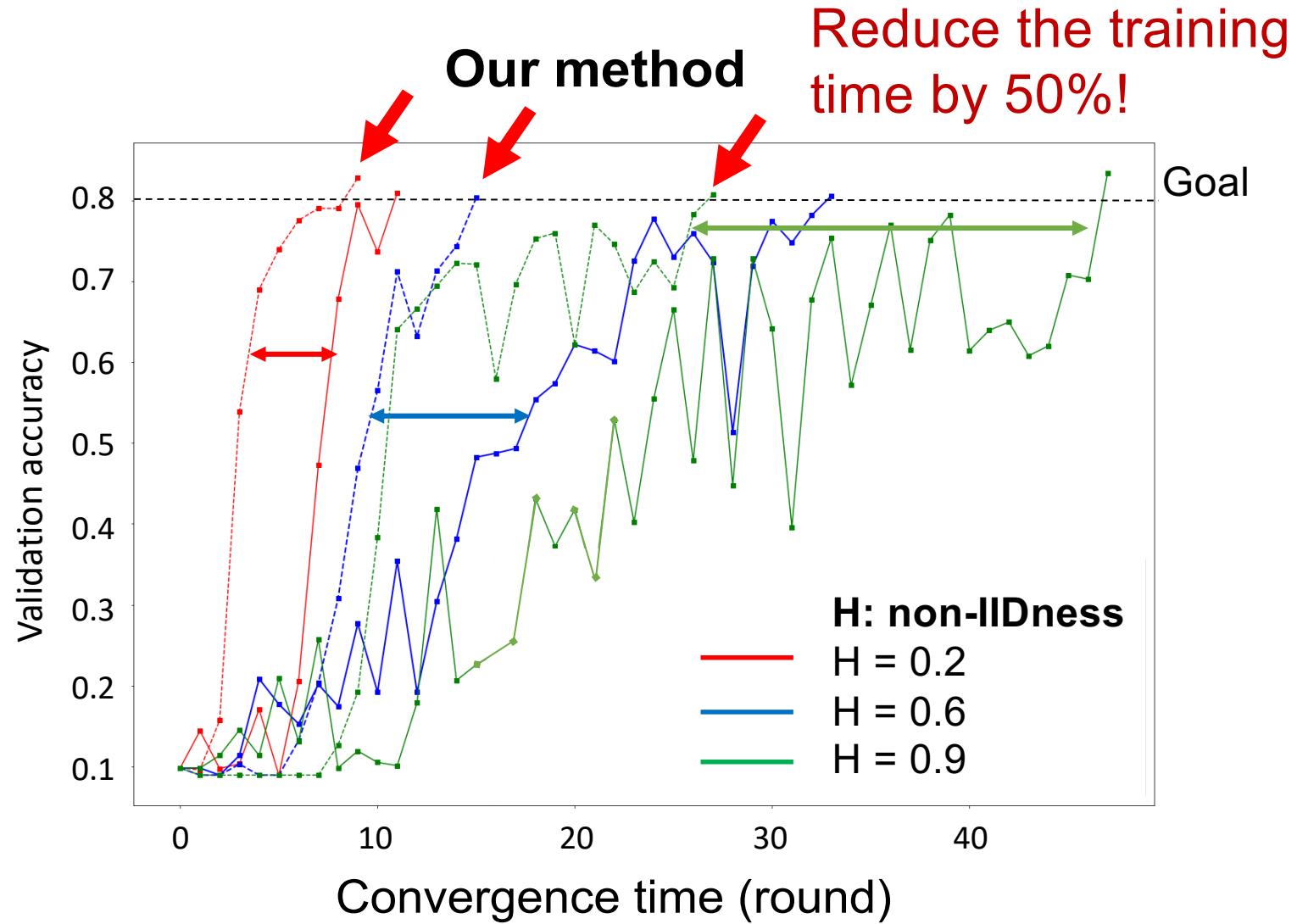
Next action

$$\hat{a}_t = \arg \max_{a_t} (f_{RL}(S_t, \hat{\theta}_t))$$

# Reward learning



# Reduced convergence time



# Cross-modal knowledge transfer

- World model with different modalities
- Cross-modal knowledge transfer
- Visual Question Answering tasks



**Question:**

What shape are the pizzas?

**Answer:** square

# Multi-agent Visual Question Answering



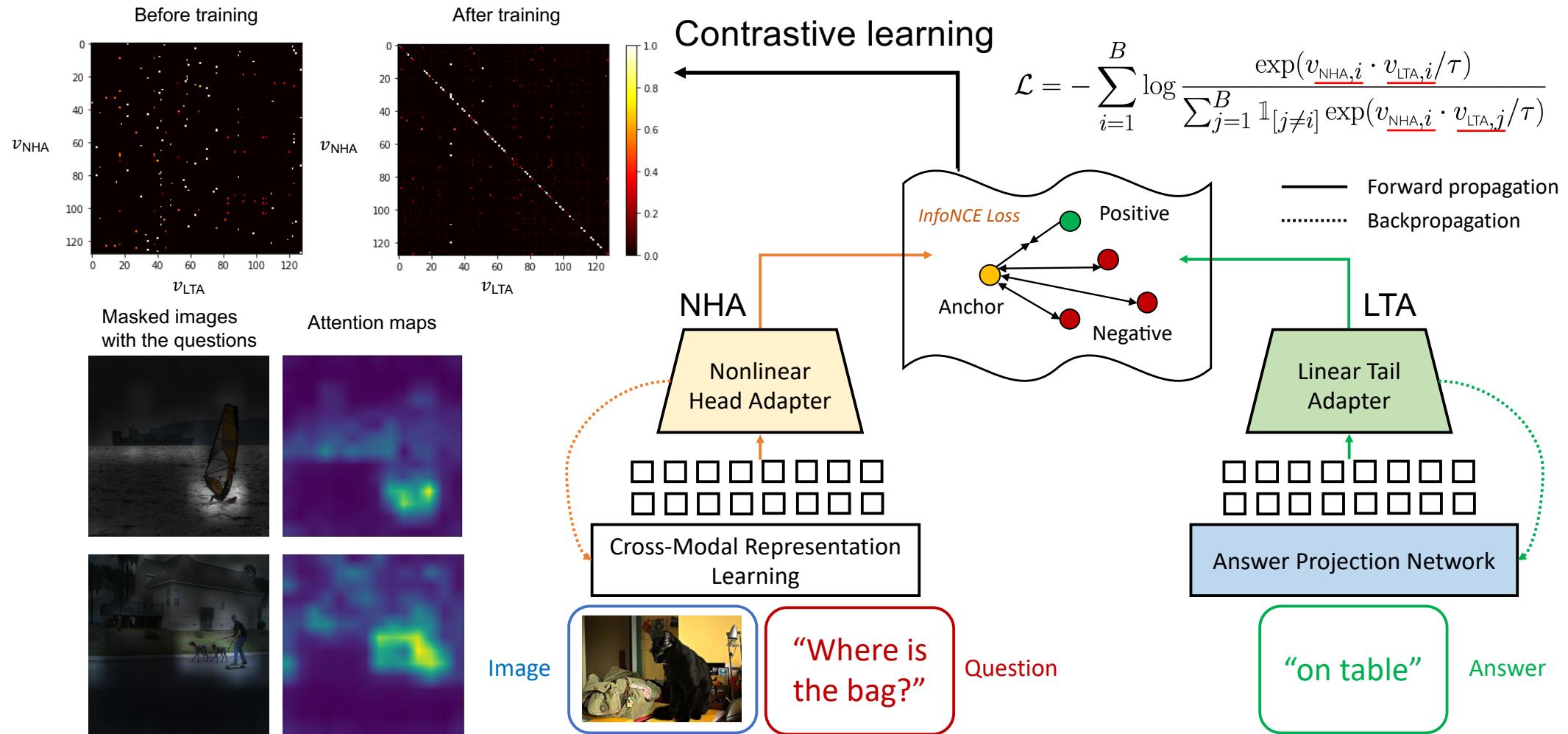
VS.



Transferred  
knowledge

- Training on the entire distribution
- Subsets representing different perspectives

# Modality alignment with self-supervised learning



# Evaluation

VQA Models	Contrastive learning-based VQA (%)			
	Overall	Yes/No	Number	Other
BAN	36.23	66.90	12.71	19.11
BUTD	45.08	75.82	29.27	25.86
MFB	46.98	73.95	32.81	30.20
MCAN-s	53.18	81.06	41.95	34.93
MCAN-1	53.32	<b>81.21</b>	42.66	34.90
MMNas-s	51.54	78.06	39.76	34.46
MMNas-1	<b>53.82</b>	80.06	<b>42.86</b>	<b>36.75</b>

VQA Models	UniCon (%)			
	Overall	Yes/No	Number	Other
BAN	35.11	63.84	11.06	19.61
BUTD	40.96	66.98	13.34	28.74
MFB	42.43	68.65	23.33	27.52
MCAN-s	48.42	74.93	30.88	32.89
MCAN-1	48.44	<b>77.44</b>	30.72	32.01
MMNas-s	45.14	70.55	28.04	30.33
MMNas-1	<b>49.89</b>	74.85	<b>36.88</b>	<b>34.33</b>



Q: Which room is this?

A: **bedroom**

Ground Truth: bedroom

Q: How many pictures on the wall?

A: **6**

Ground Truth: 7

# Conclusions

- Limitation: Out-of-distribution generalization ability of NNs
- Benefits of knowledge sharing and social learning among NN models in unseen tasks
- Network of interconnected NN models with similar architecture
- Hierarchical NNs with a meta model to optimize policy
- Self-supervised learning for cross-modal knowledge transfer without labels

# Reusable modular knowledge for systematic generalization

- Decompose high-level knowledge into **reusable components**
- Attention mechanism
- Switch from System 1 to System 2 processing
- **Routing** of reusable components to tackle the OOD problem
- Graph-structured elements of **causality**
- Interventions, effects, and **interpretability**



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