

# Learning Conditional Invariances through Non-Commutativity



**ICLR**  
International Conference on  
Learning Representations



Abhra Chaudhuri



University  
of Exeter



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Anjan Dutta



UNIVERSITY OF  
SURREY

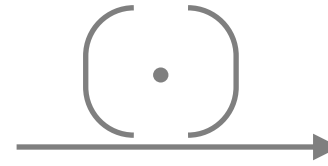
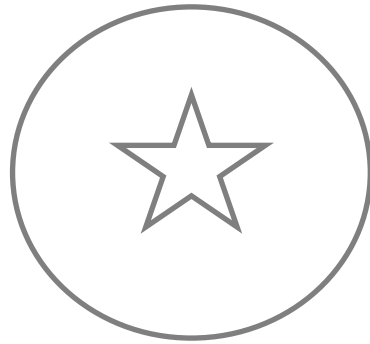
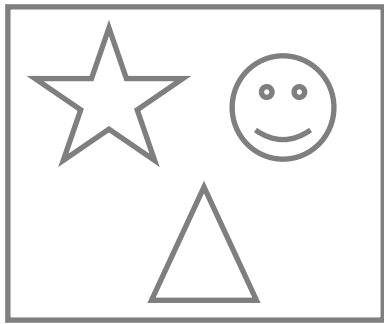
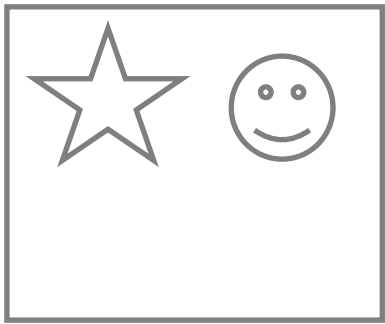
# Outline

- Foundations
- Formalization
- Implementation
- Experiments
- Conclusion and Open Problems

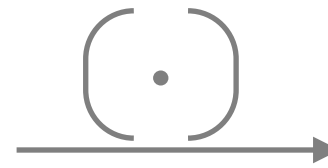
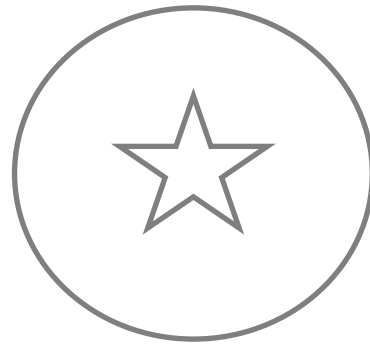
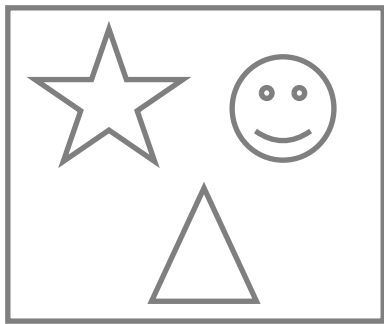
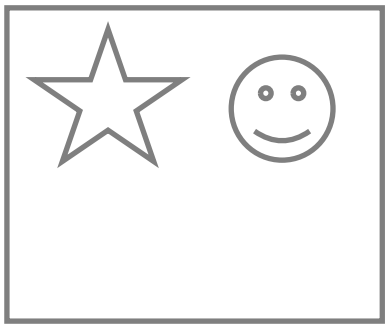
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# Invariants

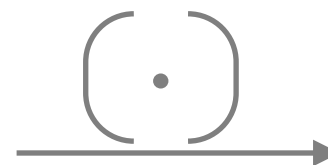
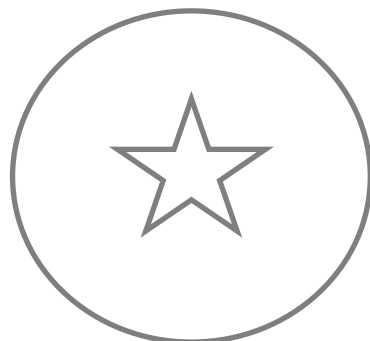
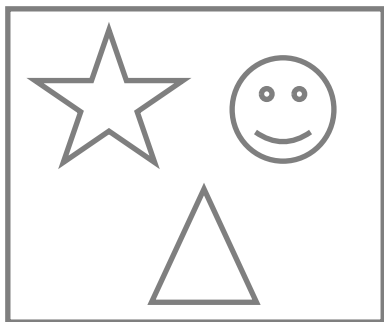
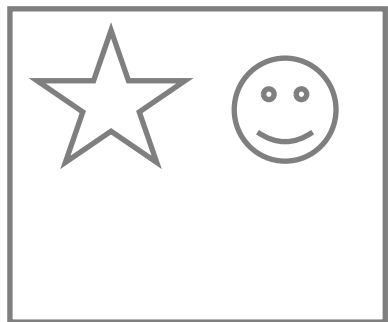


# Invariants

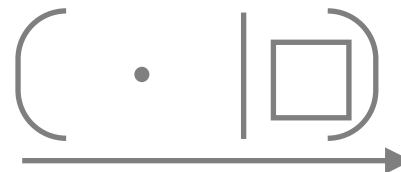
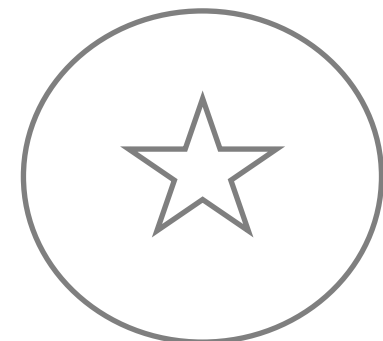
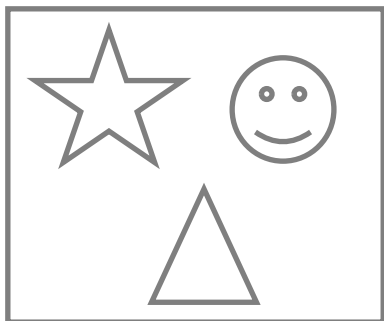
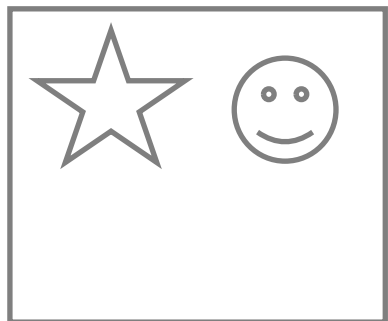


Unconditional Invariant

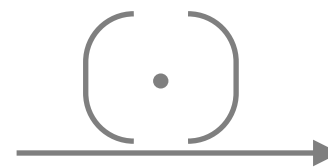
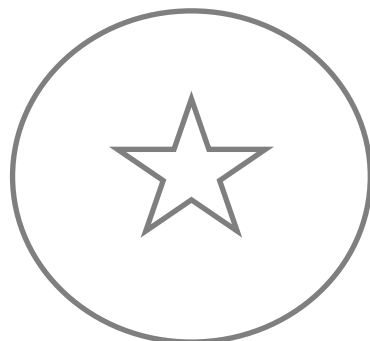
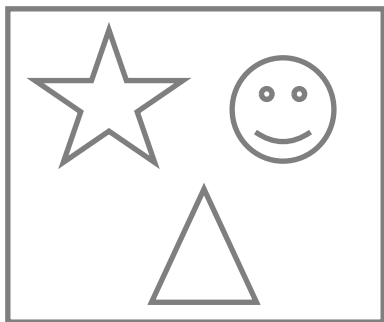
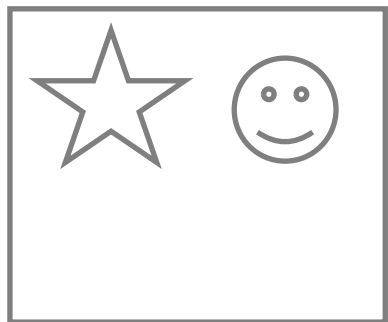
# Invariants



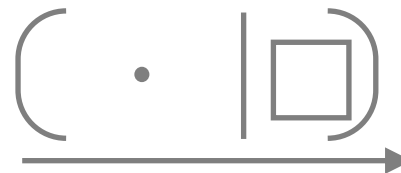
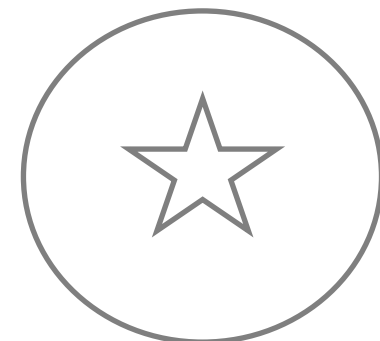
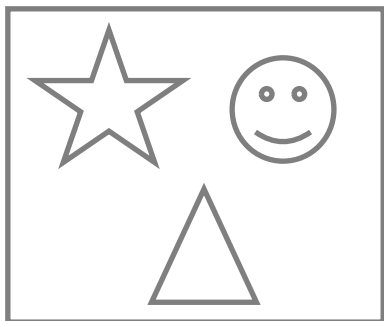
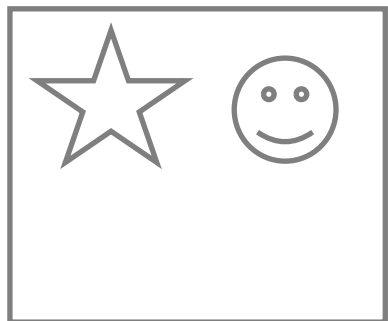
Unconditional Invariant



# Invariants

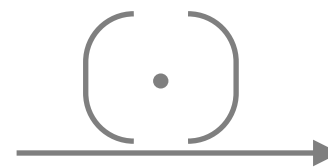
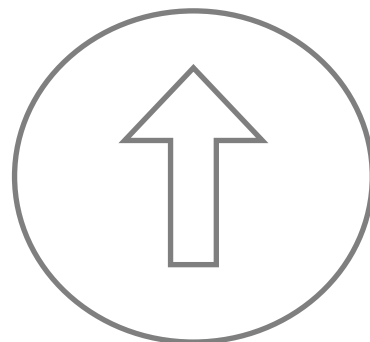
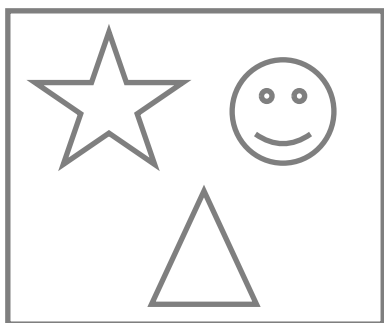
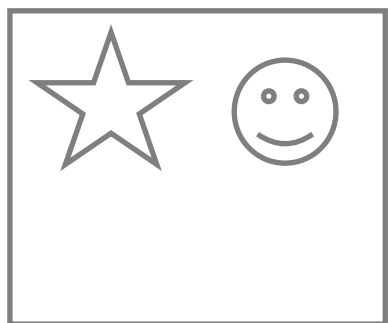


Unconditional Invariant



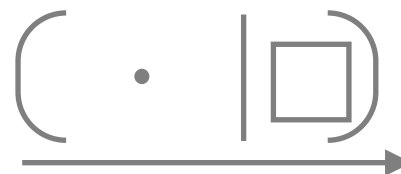
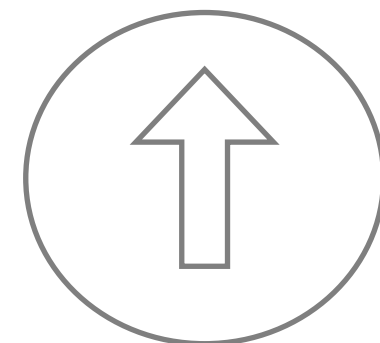
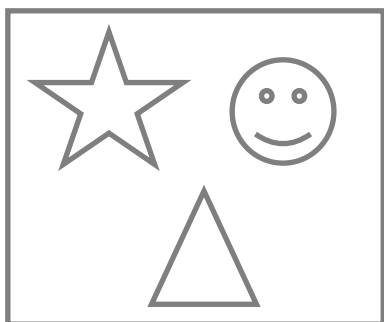
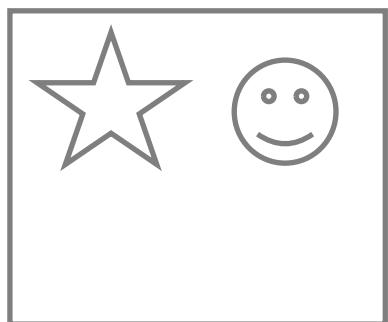
Conditional Invariants

# Invariants



$\{\emptyset\}$

Unconditional Invariant



Conditional Invariant



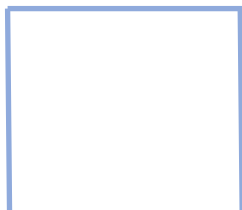
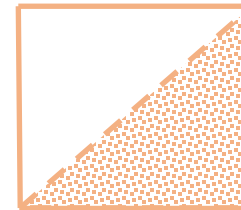
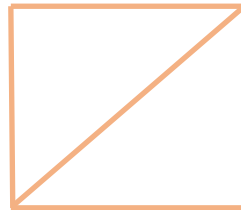
# Problem: Geometry Estimation

Samplers: edges1(), edges2()

Error rates ( $\eta$ ): 0.25, 0.3

Sample Complexity: 2

Samples per sampler: 2



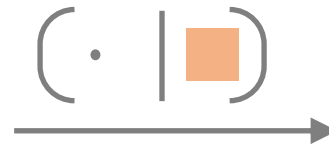
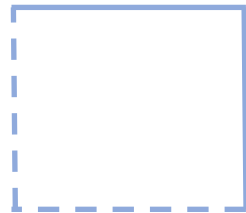
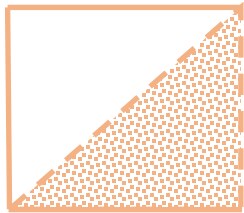
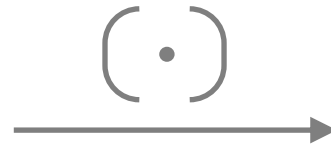
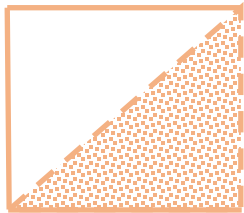
# Problem: Geometry Estimation

Samplers: `edges1()`, `edges2()`

Error rates ( $\eta$ ): 0.25, 0.3

Sample Complexity: 2

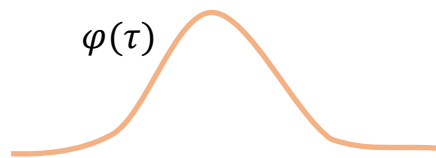
Samples per sampler: 2



# Outline

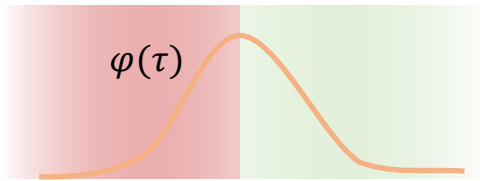
- Foundations
- **Formalization**
- Implementation
- Experiments
- Conclusion and Open Problems

# Commutative Invariance



Target

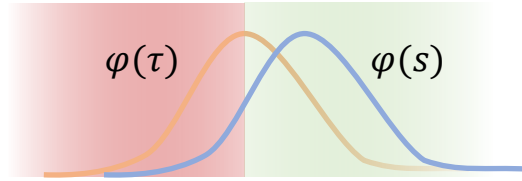
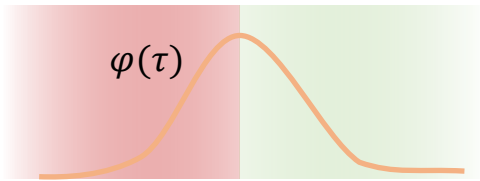
# Commutative Invariance



Target

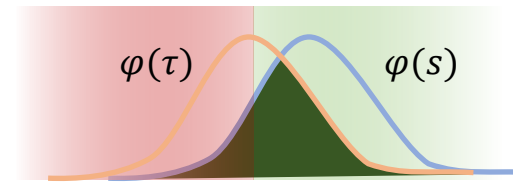
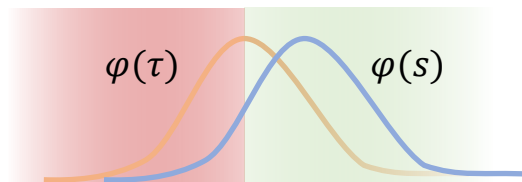
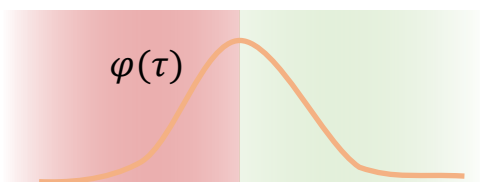
Spurious Causal

# Commutative Invariance



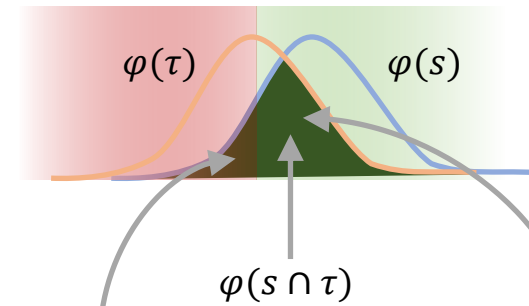
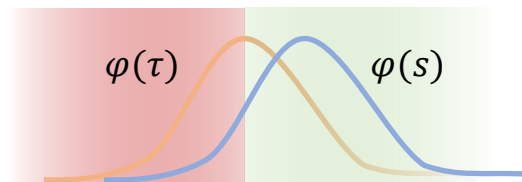
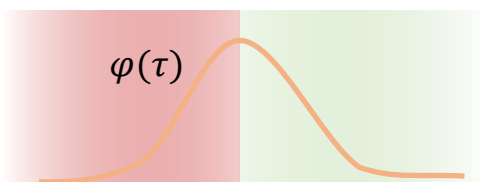
Target Source Spurious Causal

# Commutative Invariance



Target Source Spurious Causal

# Commutative Invariance



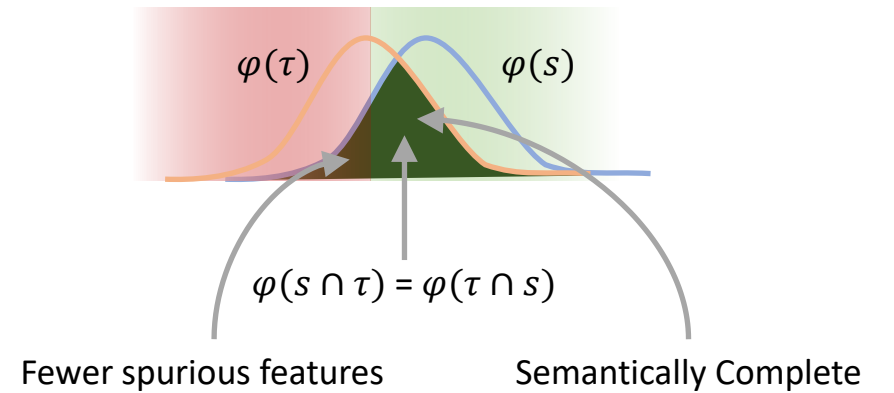
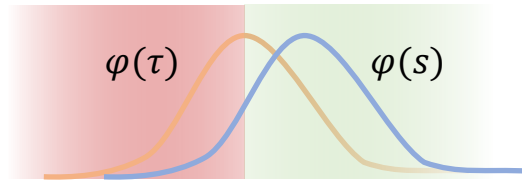
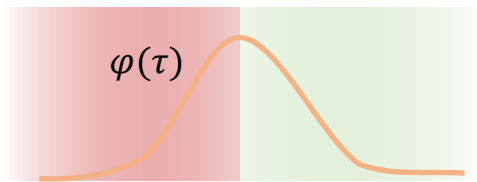
Fewer spurious features

Semantically Complete

Target Source Spurious Causal

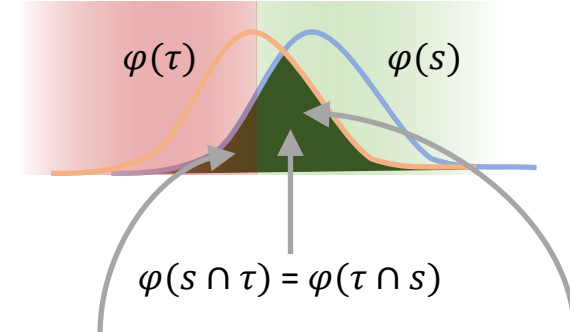
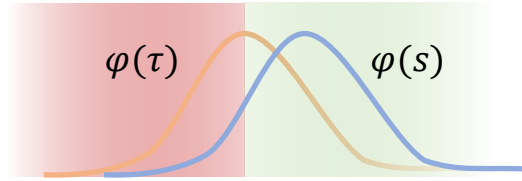
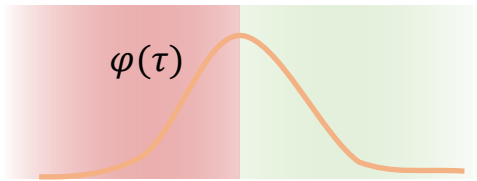


# The Commutativity in Commutative Invariance



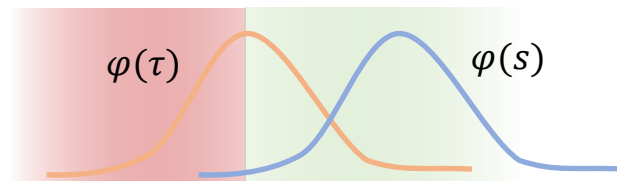
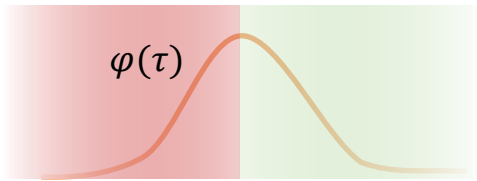
Target Source Spurious Causal

# Divergent Source and Target



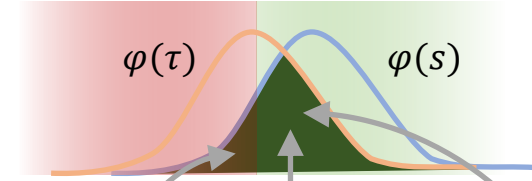
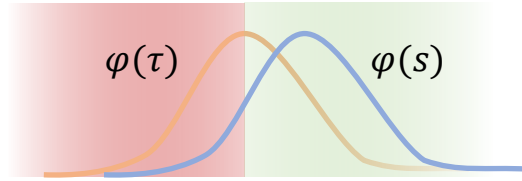
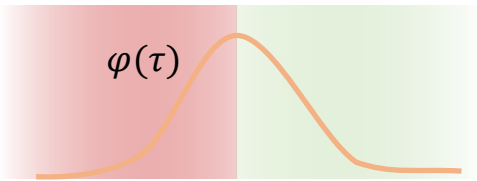
Fewer spurious features

Semantically Complete



Target Source Spurious Causal

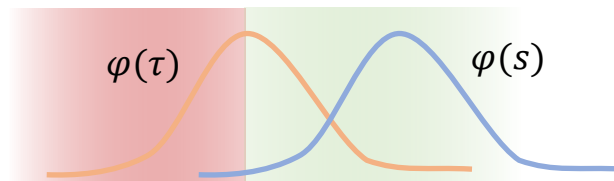
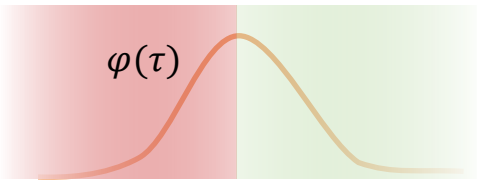
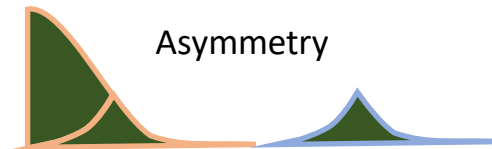
# Asymmetry



$$\varphi(s \cap \tau) = \varphi(\tau \cap s)$$

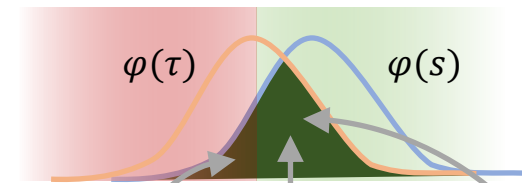
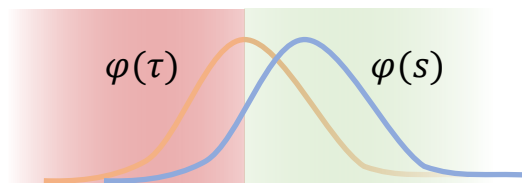
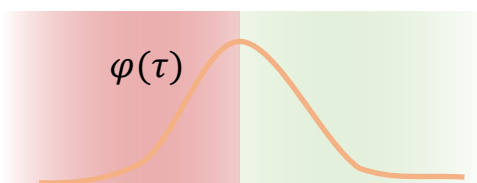
Fewer spurious features

Semantically Complete



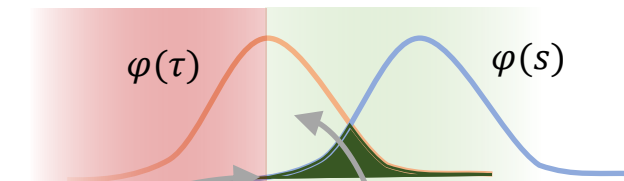
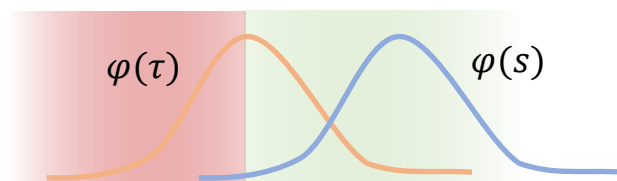
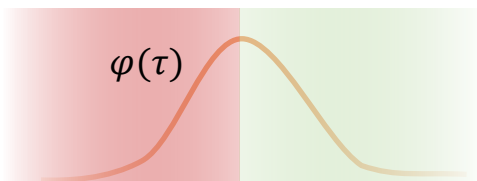
Target Source Spurious Causal

# Commutative Invariance under Asymmetry



Fewer spurious features

Semantically Complete

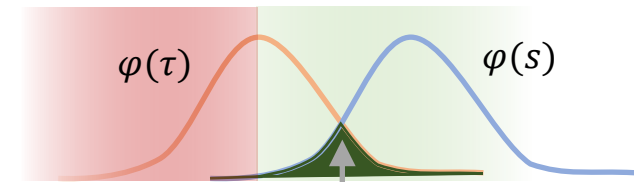
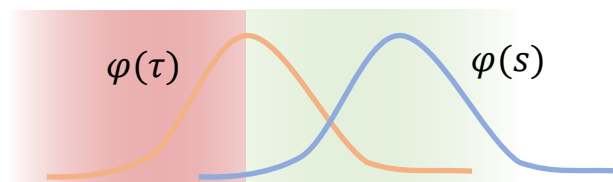
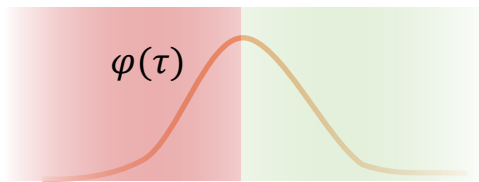


Even fewer spurious features!

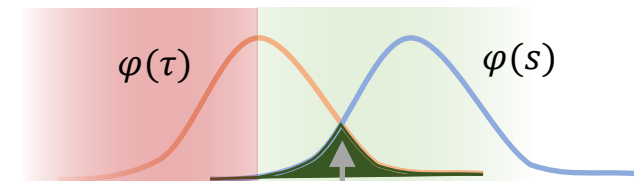
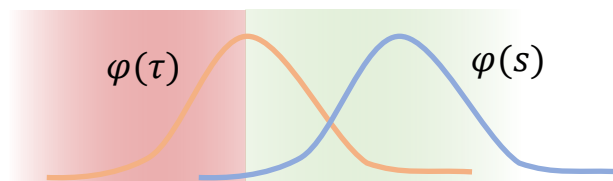
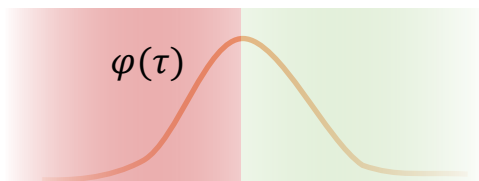
But a lot of missed semantics ☹️

Target Source Spurious Causal

# Commutative Invariance under Asymmetry



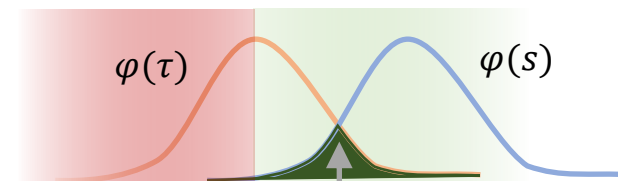
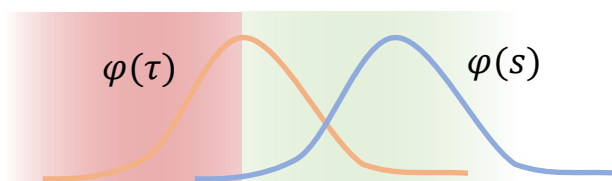
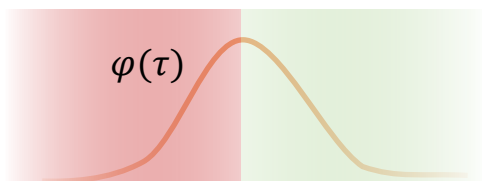
$$\varphi(s \cap \tau) = \varphi(\tau \cap s)$$



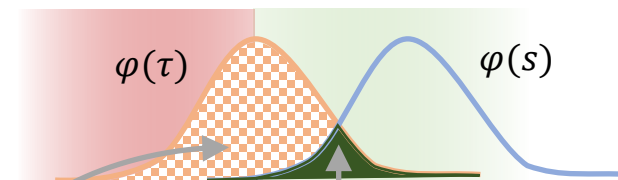
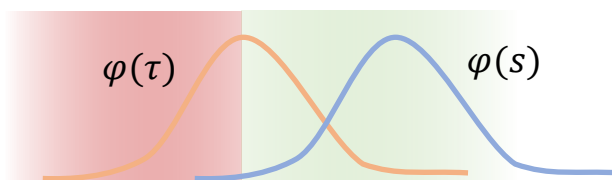
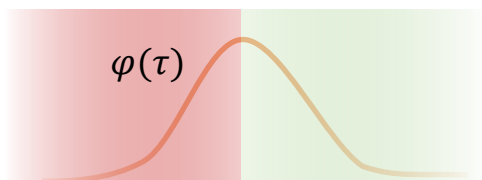
$$\varphi(s \cap \tau) = \varphi(\tau \cap s)$$

Target Source Spurious Causal

# Commutative vs. Non-Commutative Invariance (NCI)



$$\varphi(s \cap \tau) = \varphi(\tau \cap s)$$

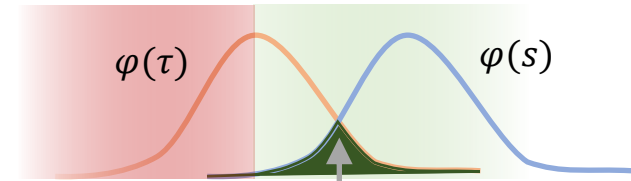
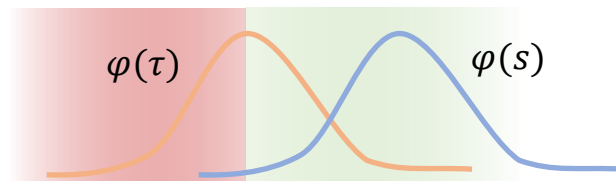
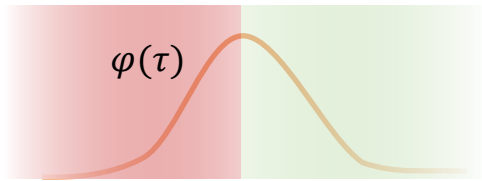


Preserve target domain features

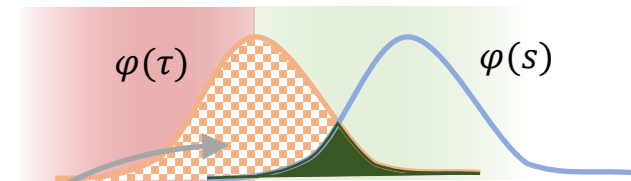
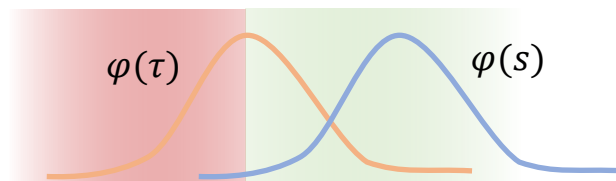
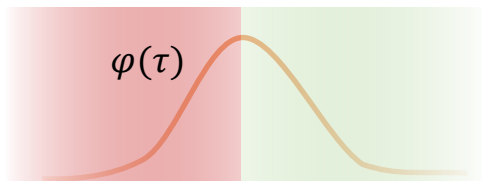
$$\varphi(s \cap \tau) = \varphi(\tau \cap s)$$

Target Source Spurious Causal

# Gains from NCI



$$\varphi(s \cap \tau) = \varphi(\tau \cap s)$$

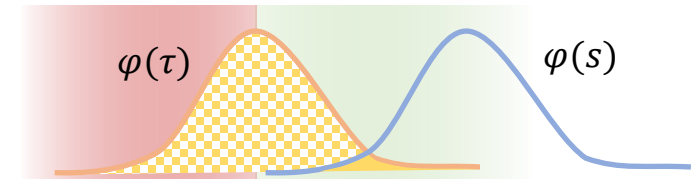
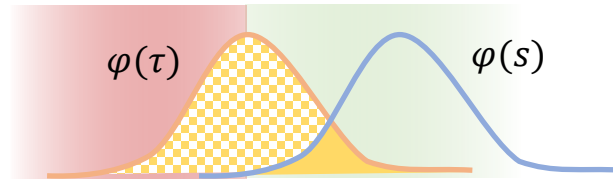
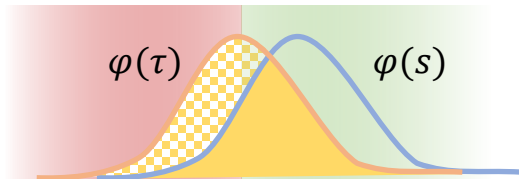
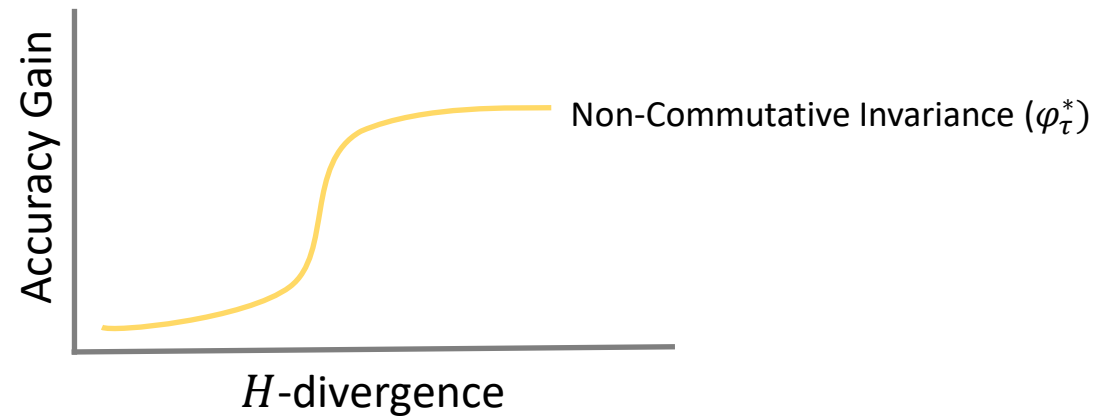


Gain from NCI  
(Theorem 2)

$$\varphi(\tau \cup \varphi(s \cap \tau))$$

Target Source Spurious Causal

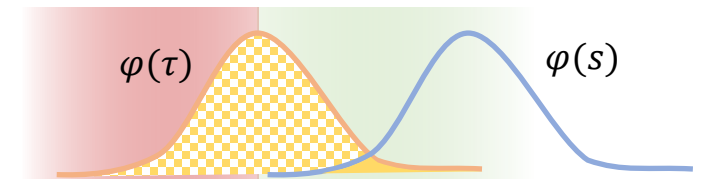
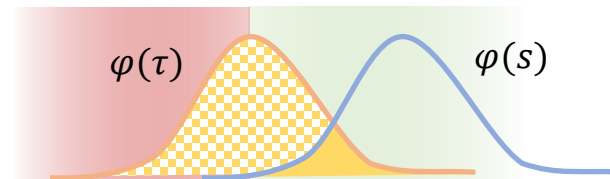
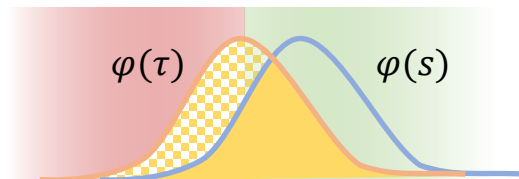
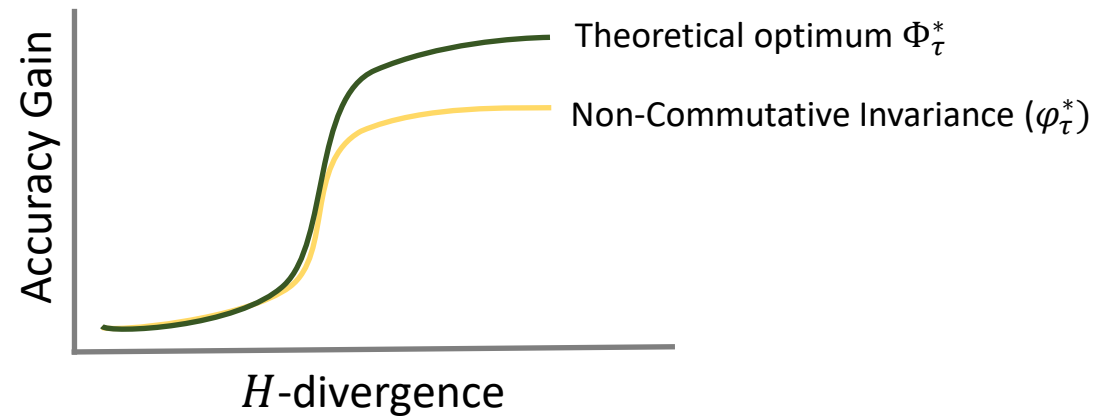
# NCI with Increasing Separation between Domains



Target Source Spurious Causal

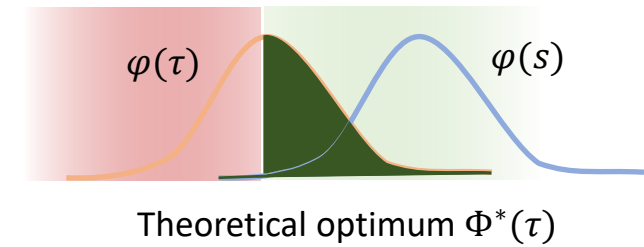
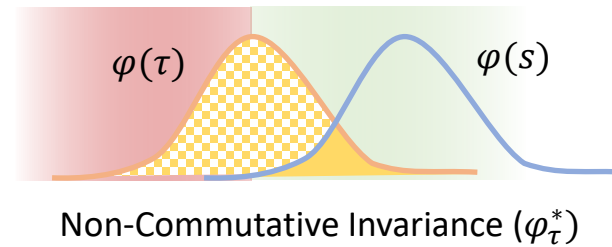
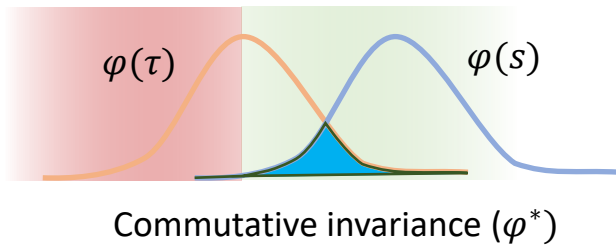
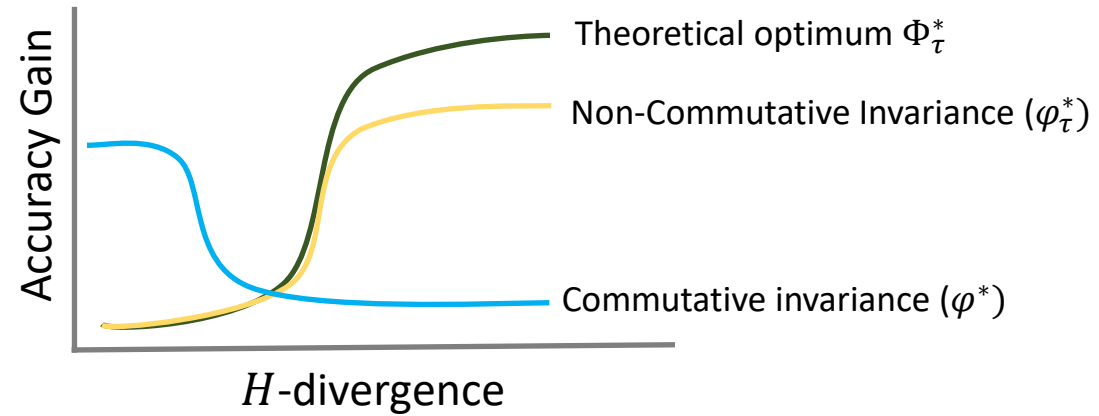


# NCI with Increasing Separation between Domains



Target Source Spurious Causal

# Spectrum of Invariance Learners

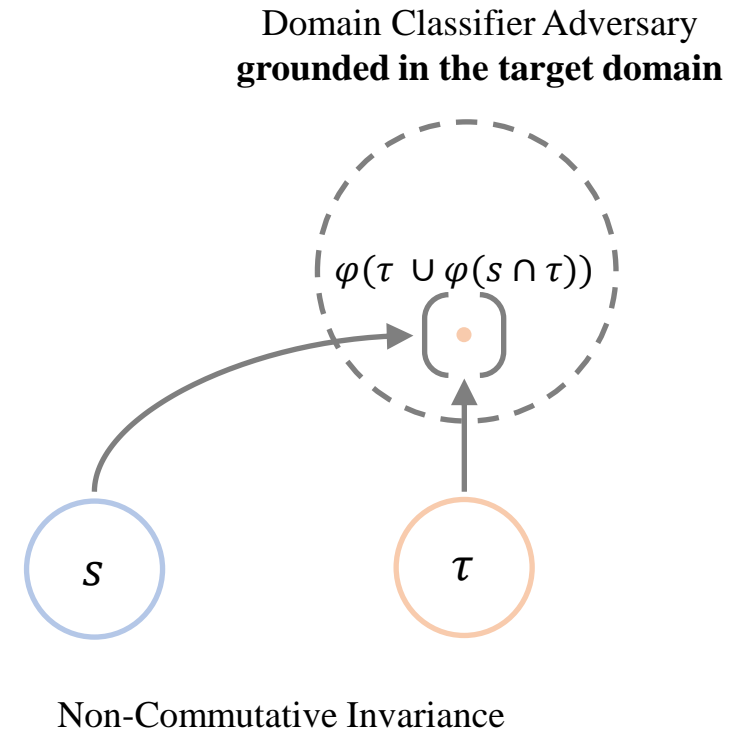
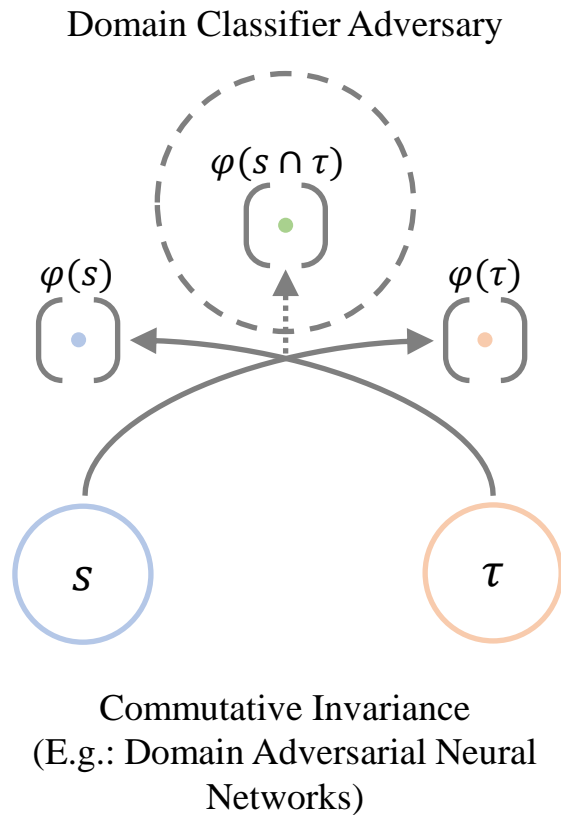


Target Source Spurious Causal

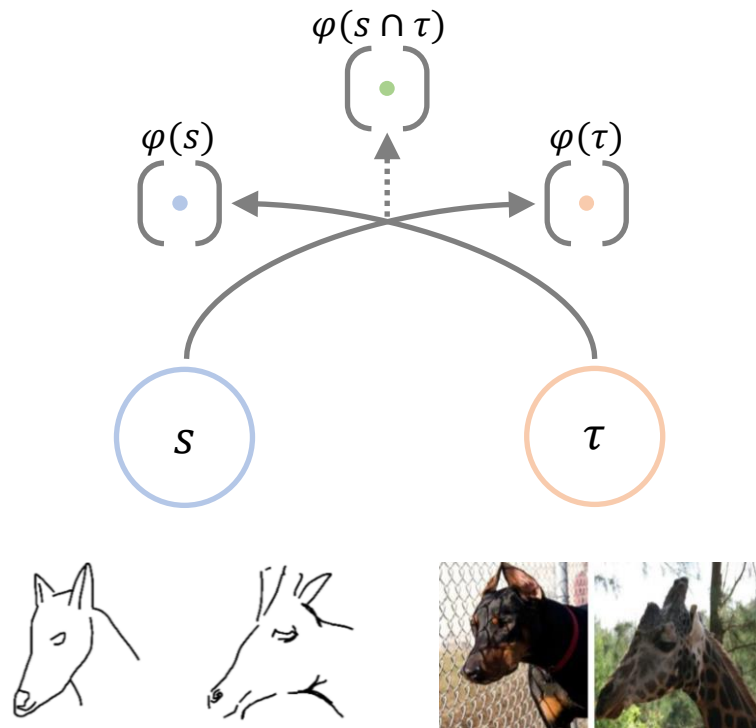
# Outline

- Foundations
- Formalization
- **Implementation**
- Experiments
- Conclusion and Open Problems

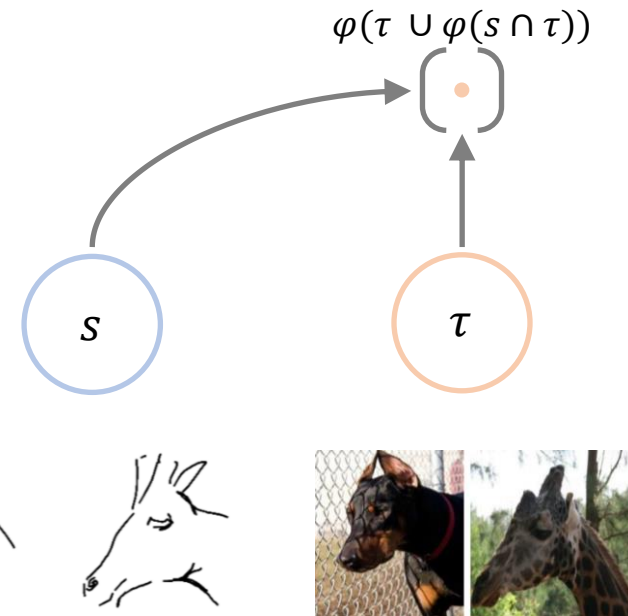
# Learning Non-Commutative Invariances



# Learning Non-Commutative Invariances (Example)



Commutative Invariance



Non-Commutative Invariance

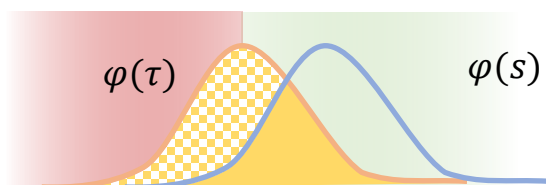
# Outline

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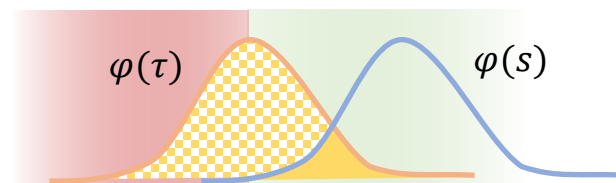
# Comparison with SOTA

Method	PACS				Office-Home			
	Photo	Art	Cartoon	Sketch	Photo	Clipart	Product	Real
ERM (Wiley 1998)	81.33	77.60	88.76	78.30	49.15	45.66	54.32	60.60
DANN (ICML'15)	78.86	75.32	90.37	80.66	47.31	46.15	54.79	58.17
CDANN (ECCV'18)	78.95	76.72	90.02	80.00	47.64	46.02	54.50	59.45
MDAN (NeurIPS'18)	79.37	77.05	88.90	79.15	48.00	45.77	54.45	60.90
MDD (ICML'19)	79.55	77.62	87.61	79.48	47.99	45.31	54.37	59.16
CICyc (GCPR'21)	80.02	76.67	89.35	78.86	48.96	45.50	55.11	60.02
IB-IRM (NeurIPS'21)	77.01	75.11	90.78	80.95	45.40	46.91	55.25	57.96
EQRM (NeurIPS'22)	80.35	78.00	90.11	78.10	49.55	45.10	55.21	60.90
CIRCE (ICLR'23)	80.78	79.48	89.72	80.55	48.20	44.97	54.21	60.75
SDAT+ELS (ICLR'23)	81.25	80.21	89.32	80.27	48.50	45.43	55.39	60.97
<b>NCI (Ours)</b>	<b>83.40</b>	<b>81.55</b>	<b>91.05</b>	<b>81.37</b>	<b>50.02</b>	<b>47.90</b>	<b>56.00</b>	<b>63.50</b>

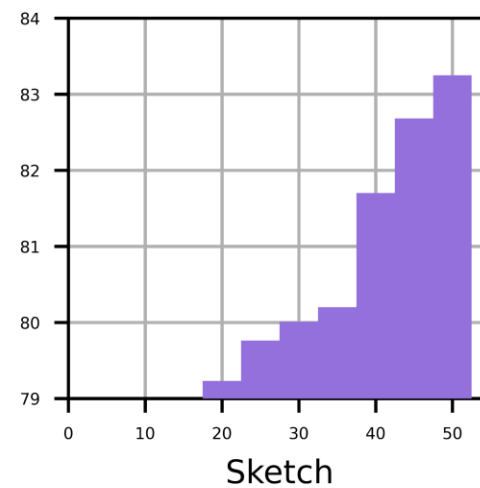
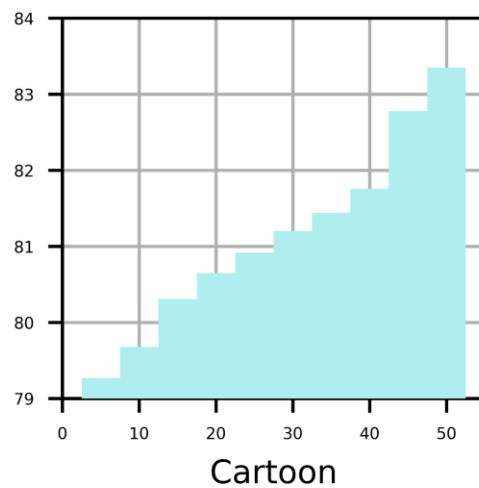
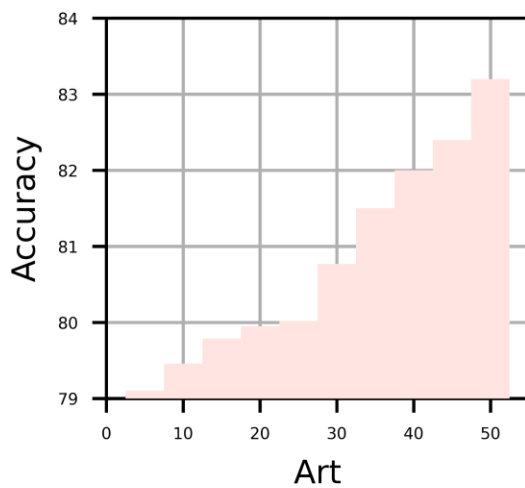
# Leveraging Complementary Semantics



Low Complementarity



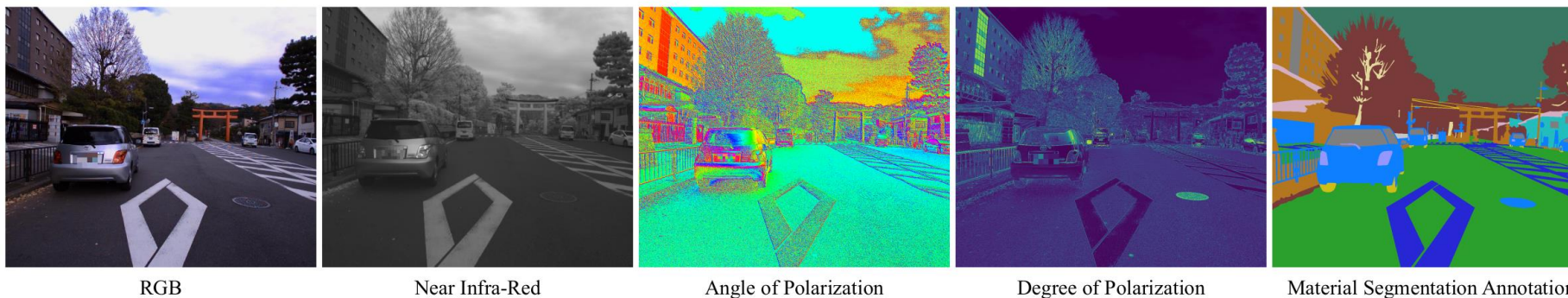
High Complementarity





# Asymmetries & Comparison with Oracle

Backbone	Standalone				NCI				Oracle
	Image	AOLP	DOLP	NIR	Image	AOLP	DOLP	NIR	
TopFormer (CVPR'22)	<u>45.10</u>	33.60	29.80	28.77	<b>48.10</b>	39.30	35.82	29.60	48.44
DPT (ICCV'21)	<u>37.86</u>	30.55	23.86	23.40	<b>42.72</b>	32.33	27.52	25.23	43.50
SegFormer (NeurIPS'21)	<u>41.81</u>	24.90	29.00	22.99	<b>46.37</b>	34.33	36.24	35.81	47.25
FPN (CVPR'19)	<u>30.20</u>	28.68	<u>33.21</u>	26.79	39.86	32.79	<b>41.35</b>	29.22	41.68
DeepLabV3+ (ECCV'18)	<u>35.86</u>	27.76	22.56	25.87	<b>41.96</b>	30.76	29.82	30.50	42.90
PSPNet (CVPR'17)	<u>27.99</u>	25.71	<u>32.50</u>	23.60	37.68	30.50	<b>39.20</b>	27.45	40.06
UNet (MICCAI'15)	<u>29.00</u>	26.02	23.51	21.27	<b>36.93</b>	31.58	27.29	25.63	37.70



Yupeng Liang, Ryosuke Wakaki, Shohei Nobuhara, and Ko Nishino. “Multimodal material segmentation”. In CVPR, 2022.

# Improvements over Flatness-based OoD Generalizers

Method	PACS				Office-Home			
	Photo	Art	Cartoon	Sketch	Photo	Clipart	Product	Real
Fishr (ICML'22)	81.19	80.06	89.05	79.68	48.25	45.15	54.39	59.92
+ NCI	<b>84.90</b>	<b>82.22</b>	<b>92.00</b>	<b>82.55</b>	<b>51.37</b>	<b>48.07</b>	<b>56.86</b>	<b>64.02</b>
SDAT (ICML'22)	81.00	79.95	88.11	79.32	48.07	45.20	54.55	60.37
+ NCI	<b>83.80</b>	<b>82.06</b>	<b>91.92</b>	<b>82.07</b>	<b>51.44</b>	<b>48.05</b>	<b>56.95</b>	<b>64.22</b>
Model Soups (ICML'22)	81.26	79.37	89.76	79.05	48.55	45.71	54.48	60.91
+ NCI	<b>85.09</b>	<b>82.56</b>	<b>92.77</b>	<b>82.62</b>	<b>51.95</b>	<b>48.49</b>	<b>57.20</b>	<b>64.50</b>

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  - Relationship with class-conditional invariance learning.

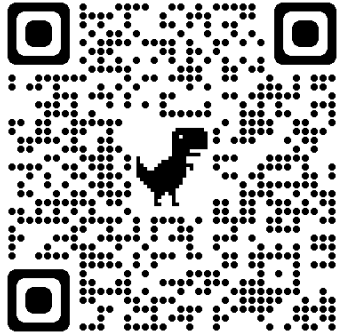


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- NCI drives the optimization towards the true minimizer of the target risk  $\Phi_{\tau}^*$ .
- **Open Problems:**
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  - Does  $\varphi_{\tau}^*$  approach  $\Phi_{\tau}^*$  in a measure-theoretic sense?
  - Relationship with class-conditional invariance learning.
  - Provable orthogonality to flatness-based OoD generalizers?

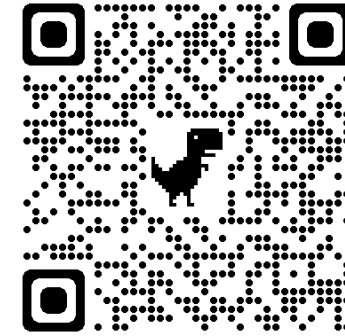
# Learning Conditional Invariances through Non-Commutativity

arXiv



<https://arxiv.org/abs/2402.11682>

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Abhra Chaudhuri  
[ac1151@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:ac1151@exeter.ac.uk)



<https://github.com/abhrac/nci>