



ICLR



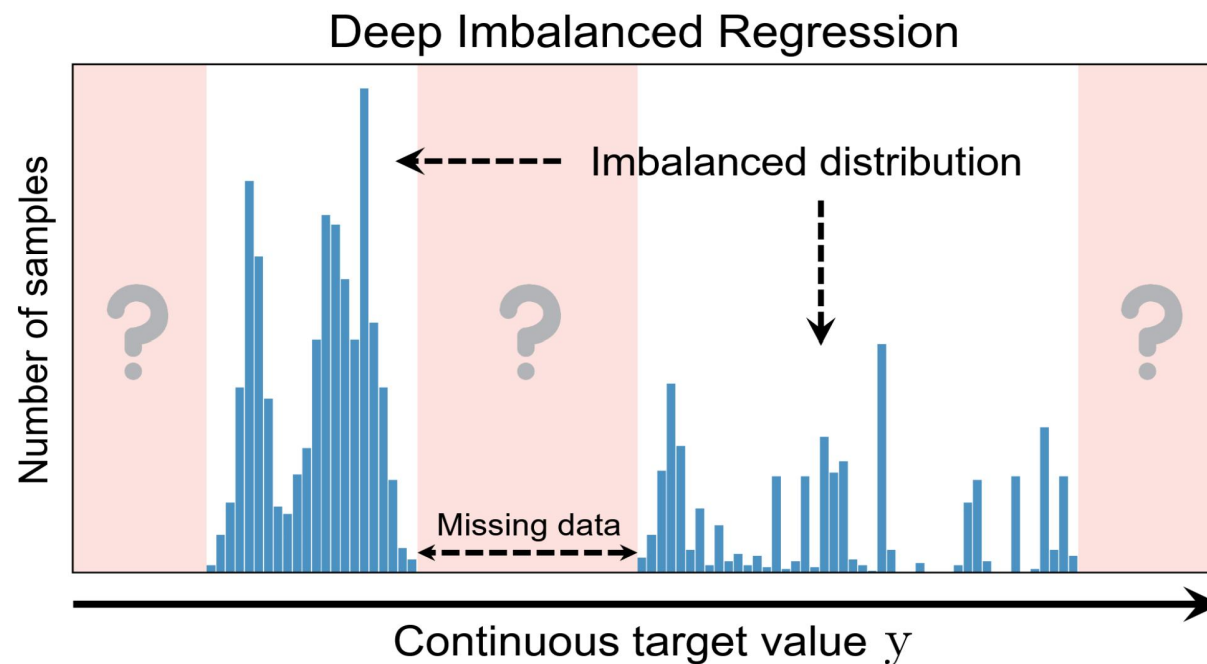
北京大学 健康医疗大数据
国家研究院
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH
DATA SCIENCE AT PEKING UNIVERSITY

Dist Loss: Enhancing Regression in Few-Shot Region Through Distribution Distance Constraint

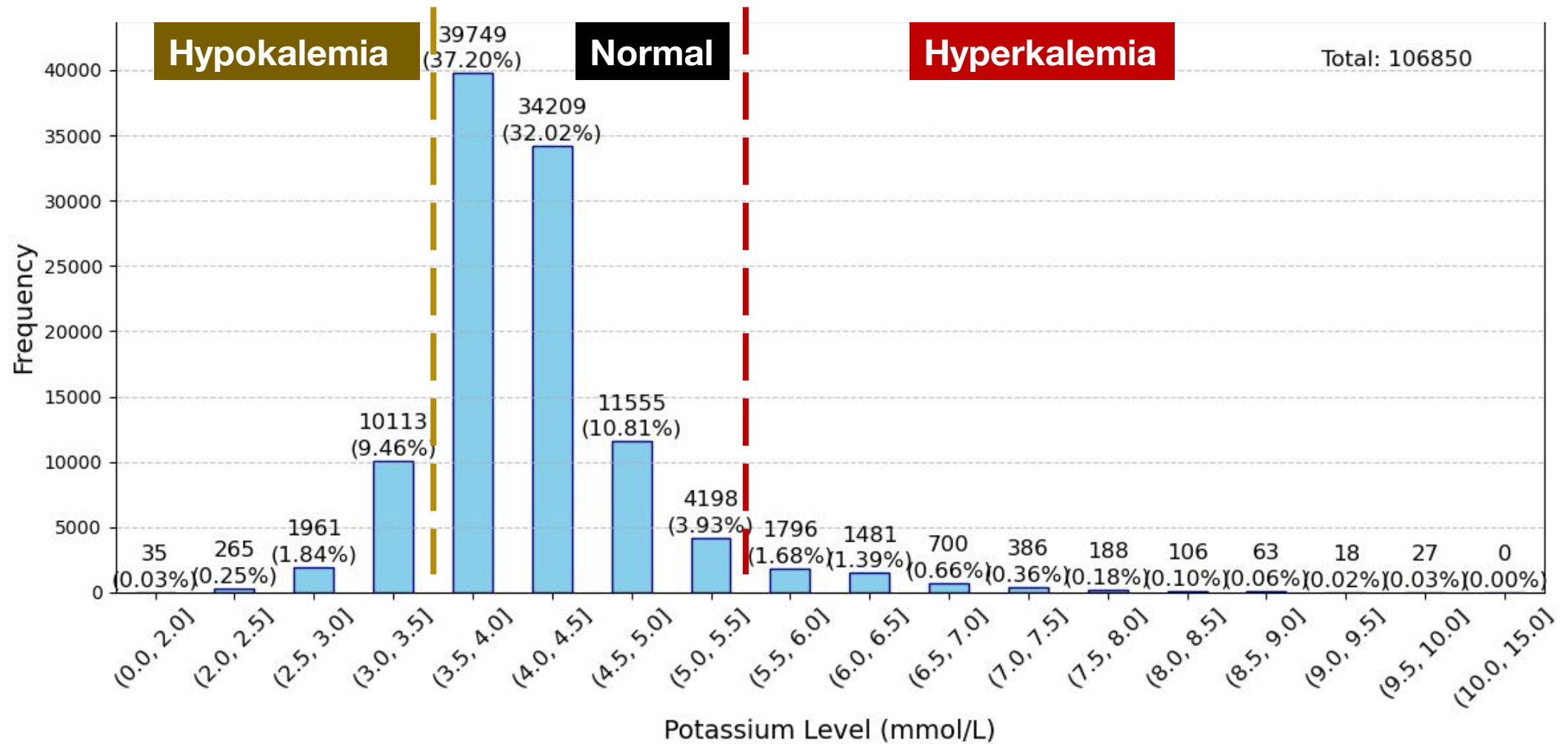
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Definition of deep imbalanced regression (DIR)

Learning from **imbalanced data** with **continuous targets**, tackling potential missing data in certain regions, and generalizing to the entire target range.

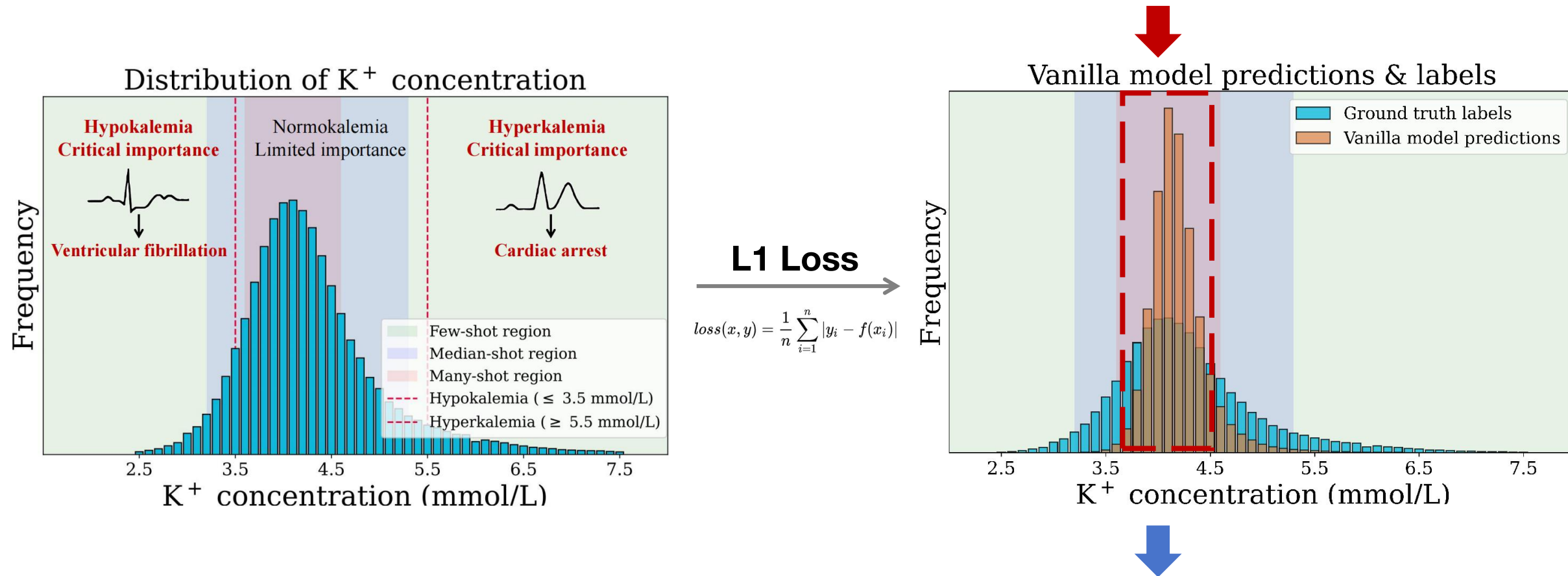


Real-world case study: DIR of blood potassium (K⁺) levels



Motivation of Dist Loss

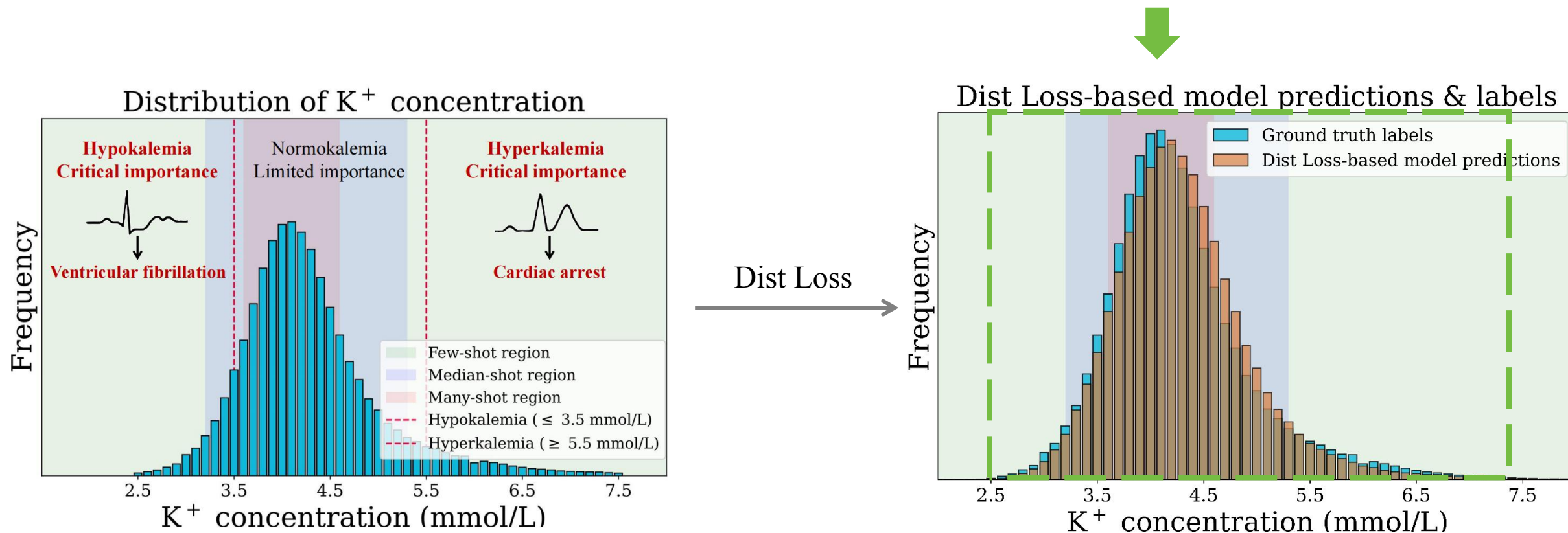
Significant distribution discrepancy between the labels and predictions



Mitigating such distribution discrepancy between the labels and predictions

Performance of Dist Loss

A much smaller distribution discrepancy between the labels and predictions



Implementation of Dist Loss

$$\text{Dist Loss} = \text{Sample-level Loss} + \text{Distribution-level loss}$$



Sample-level loss: precise
sample-level prediction



Distribution-level loss: regularizes model outputs to
prevent few-shot samples (edges) from shifting toward
many-shot regions (center)

Implementation of Dist Loss

Dist Loss = Sample-level Loss + Distribution-level loss



**Sample-level loss: precise
sample-level prediction**



**Can be any loss designed to reduce sample-level
prediction error, such as L1 and L2 loss.**

Implementation of Dist Loss

Dist Loss = Sample-level Loss + Distribution-level loss



Distribution-level loss: regularizes model outputs to prevent few-shot samples (edges) from shifting toward many-shot regions (center)



How to achieve this? KL divergence or other methods?

Implementation of Dist Loss

Dist Loss = Sample-level Loss + Distribution-level loss



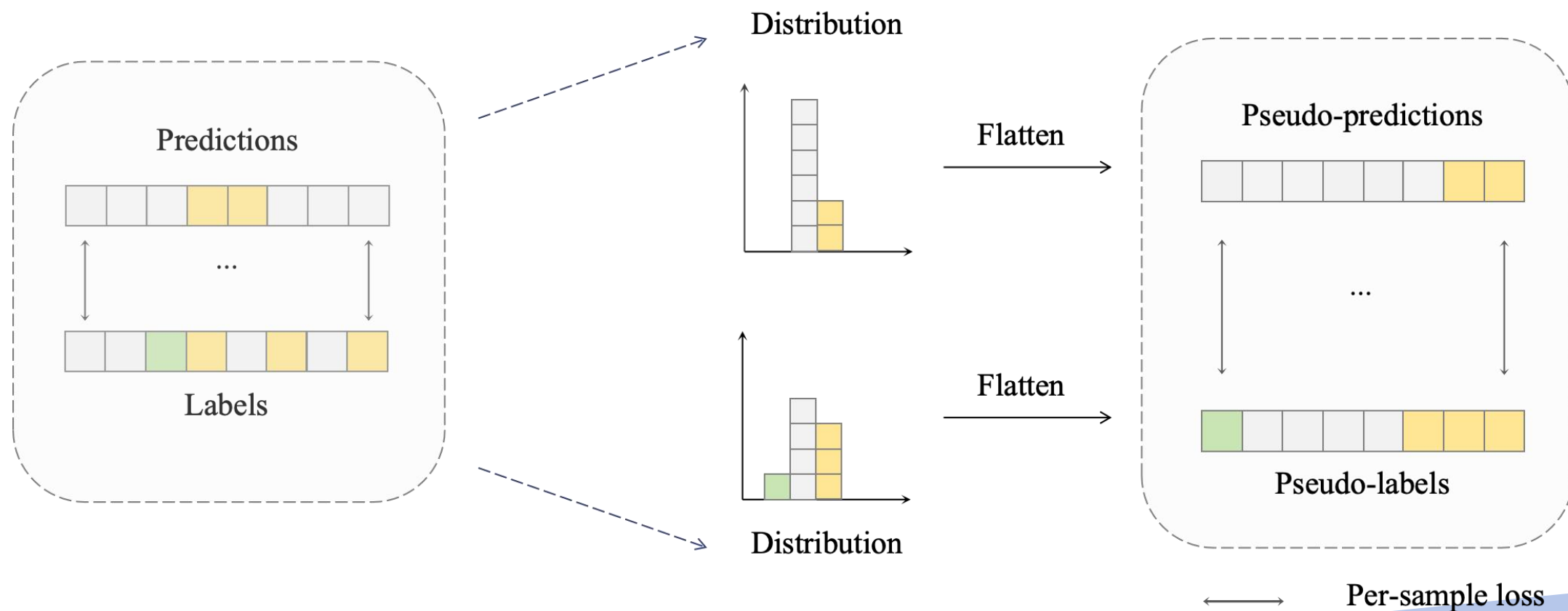
No, not differentiable in regression



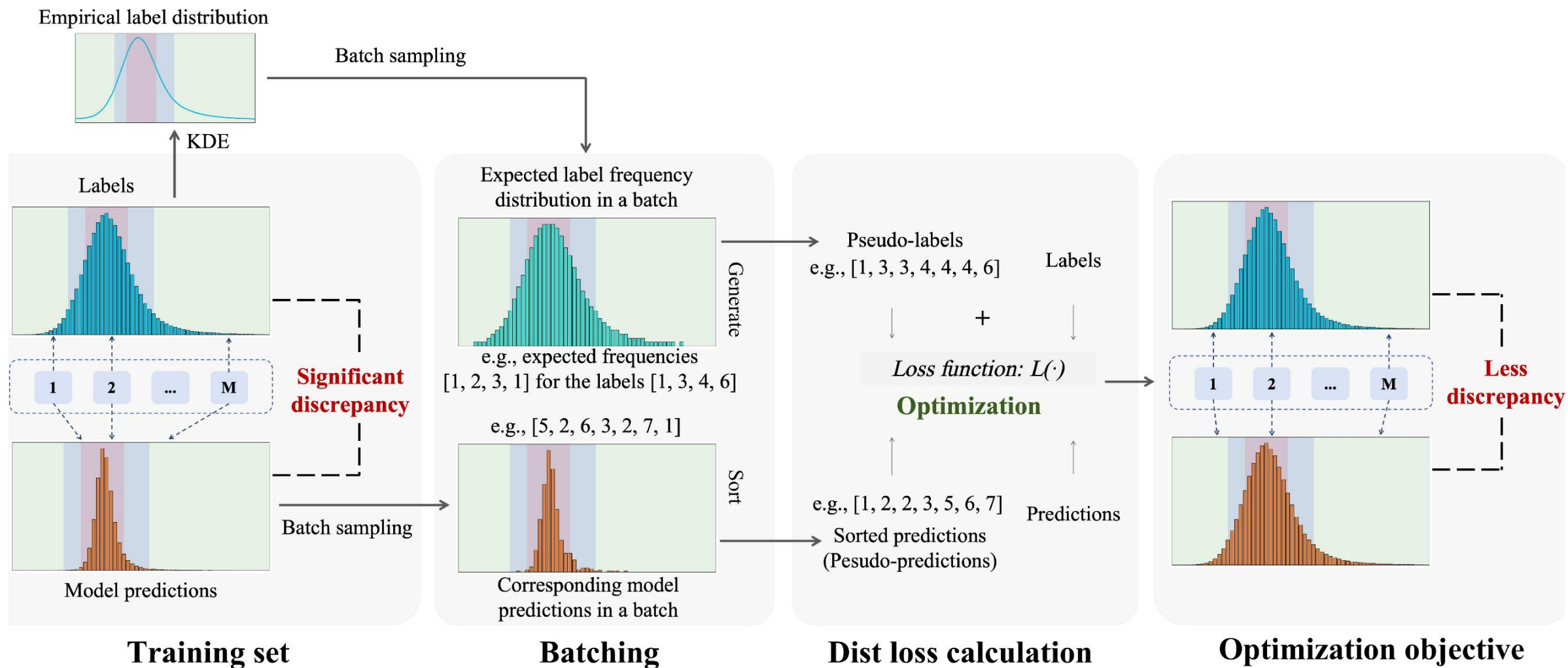
How to achieve this? KL divergence or other methods?

Implementation of Dist Loss

How to design a differentiable distribution-level loss?



Implementation of Dist Loss



Implementation of Dist Loss

Dist Loss = Sample-level Loss + Distribution-level loss

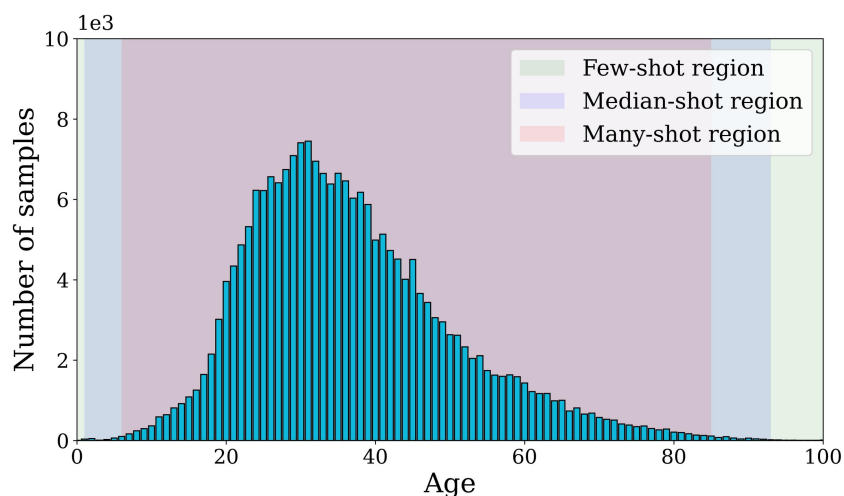
What does Dist Loss do exactly



Simultaneously optimizing sample-level prediction error and distribution-level discrepancy.

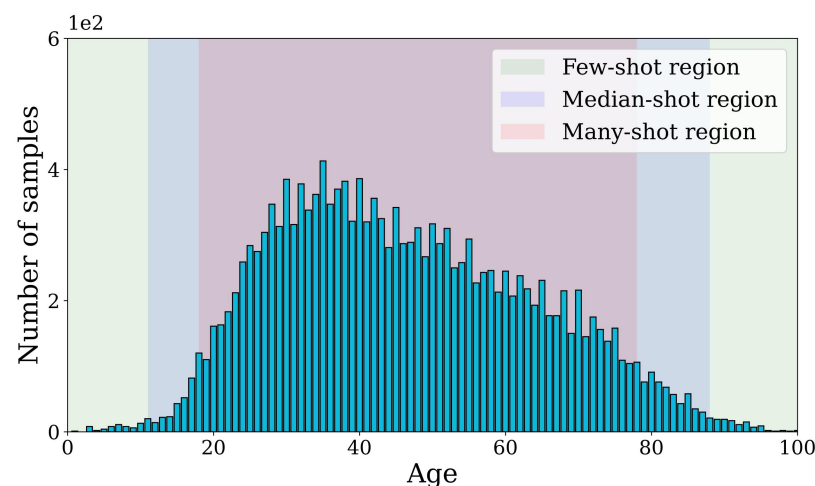
Benchmarks

Both validation and test sets are balanced



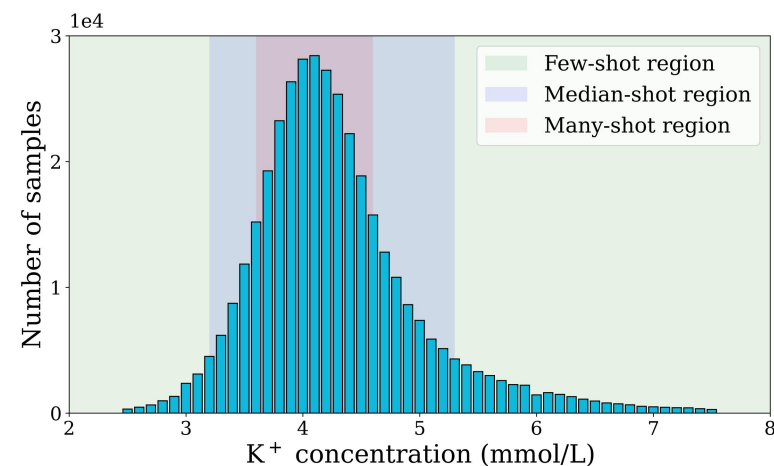
IMDB-WIKI-DIR

- 191,509 training samples
- 11,022 validation samples
- 11,022 testing samples



AgeDB-DIR

- 12,208 training samples
- 2,140 validation samples
- 2,140 testing samples



ECG-K-DIR

- 365,549 training samples
- 5,098 validation samples
- 5,098 testing samples

Baselines

- LDS^[1]: Label Distribution Smoothing
- FDS^[1]: Feature Distribution Smoothing
- RankSim^[2]: Ranking Similarity
- ConR^[3]: Contrastive Regularizer
- Balanced MSE^[4]: Balanced Mean Squared Error

[1]. Yang, Y., et al. (2021). Delving into deep imbalanced regression. International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), PMLR.

[2]. Gong, Y., et al. (2022). RankSim: Ranking similarity regularization for deep imbalanced regression. International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), PMLR.

[3]. Keramati, M., et al. (2024). ConR: Contrastive regularizer for deep imbalanced regression. International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR).

[4]. Ren, J., et al. (2022). Balanced MSE for imbalanced visual regression. Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR).

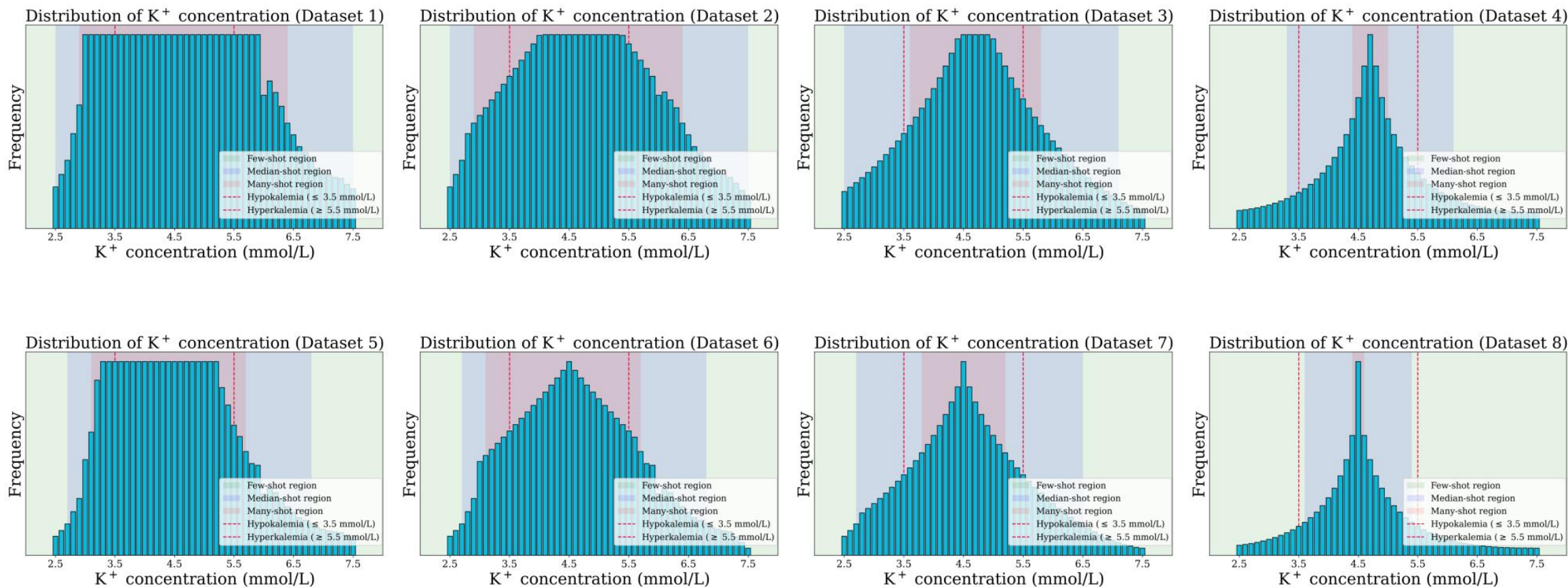
Results

	MAE			GM		
	IMDB-WIKI-DIR	AgeDB-DIR	ECG-K-DIR	IMDB-WIKI-DIR	AgeDB-DIR	ECG-K-DIR
Vanilla	26.930	12.894	1.771	21.254	9.789	1.578
+ LDS	22.753	11.279	1.510	12.803	7.846	1.190
+ FDS	24.908	11.161	1.737	14.361	7.361	1.529
+ Ranksim	25.999	12.569	1.791	19.690	9.495	1.600
+ ConR	25.408	12.623	1.756	17.022	8.787	1.556
+ Balanced MSE	23.542	9.613	1.417	12.603	6.248	1.046
+ Dist Loss (Ours)	22.550	9.122	1.329	14.288	5.453	0.978
Ours vs. Vanilla	+ 4.380	+ 3.772	+ 0.442	+ 6.966	+ 4.336	+ 0.600
Ours vs. LDS	+ 0.203	+ 2.157	+ 0.181	- 1.485	+ 2.393	+ 0.212
Ours vs. FDS	+ 2.358	+ 2.039	+ 0.408	+ 0.073	+ 1.908	+ 0.551
Ours vs. Ranksim	+ 3.449	+ 3.447	+ 0.462	+ 5.402	+ 4.042	+ 0.622
Ours vs. ConR	+ 2.858	+ 3.501	+ 0.427	+ 2.734	+ 3.334	+ 0.578
Ours vs. Balanced MSE	+ 0.992	+ 0.491	+ 0.088	- 1.685	+ 0.795	+ 0.068

Results

	MAE			GM		
	IMDB-WIKI-DIR	AgeDB-DIR	ECG-K-DIR	IMDB-WIKI-DIR	AgeDB-DIR	ECG-K-DIR
+ LDS	22.753	11.279	1.510	12.803	7.846	1.190
+ LDS + Dist Loss	22.331	10.437	1.325	13.021	7.051	0.957
+ FDS	24.908	11.161	1.737	14.361	7.361	1.529
+ FDS + Dist Loss	24.112	10.444	1.428	14.929	6.696	1.099
+ Ranksim	25.999	12.569	1.791	19.690	9.495	1.600
+ Ranksim + Dist Loss	23.772	12.102	1.325	15.422	8.515	0.970
+ ConR	25.408	12.623	1.756	17.022	8.787	1.556
+ ConR + Dist Loss	22.700	12.303	1.336	14.713	9.123	0.987
+ Balanced MSE	23.542	9.613	1.417	12.603	6.248	1.046
+ Balanced MSE + Dist Loss	22.597	9.110	1.357	14.238	5.585	0.996

Results



Results

MAE								
Methods	Dataset 0	Dataset 1	Dataset 2	Dataset 3	Dataset 4	Dataset 5	Dataset 6	Dataset 7
Vanilla	2.701	2.676	2.658	1.979	2.679	2.647	2.624	1.888
LDS	2.684	2.703	2.642	1.962	2.672	2.507	2.644	1.901
FDS	1.865	2.368	2.191	1.790	2.223	2.625	1.908	1.665
Ranksim	2.470	2.327	2.273	1.831	2.314	2.192	2.258	1.725
ConR	2.461	2.343	2.308	1.828	2.193	2.274	2.255	1.742
Balanced MSE	1.997	1.984	1.981	1.831	1.906	1.863	1.815	1.708
Dist Loss	1.955	1.873	1.963	1.822	1.852	1.803	1.730	1.638

Thank you

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<https://github.com/Ngk03/DIR-Dist-Loss>

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2411.15216>