

# **Towards Unbiased Calibration using Meta-Regularization**

**Cheng Wang**

Amazon

**Jacek Golebiowski**

distil labs

(work done at Amazon)



# What is calibration?

**Confidence calibration** is the problem of predicting probability estimates representative of the true correctness likelihood

**Predicted probability (confidence):** the probability of a data point  $x$  having label  $y$  as predicted by the classifier

**Observed probability (accuracy):** the fraction of data points with the correct label assignment

$$\text{conf}(B_m) = \frac{1}{|B_m|} \sum_{i \in B_m} \hat{p}_i$$

$$\text{acc}(B_m) = \frac{1}{|B_m|} \sum_{i \in B_m} \mathbf{1}(\hat{y}_i = y_i)$$

$$\text{ECE} = \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{|b_n|}{m} |\text{acc}(b_n) - \text{conf}(b_n)|$$

$$\text{MCE} = \max_{n \in 1, \dots, N} |\text{acc}(b_n) - \text{conf}(b_n)|$$



# How to calibrate: Motivation

$$\text{FL}(p_t) = -\boxed{(1 - p_t)^\gamma} \boxed{\log(p_t)}.$$

Focal  
modification

Cross-entropy

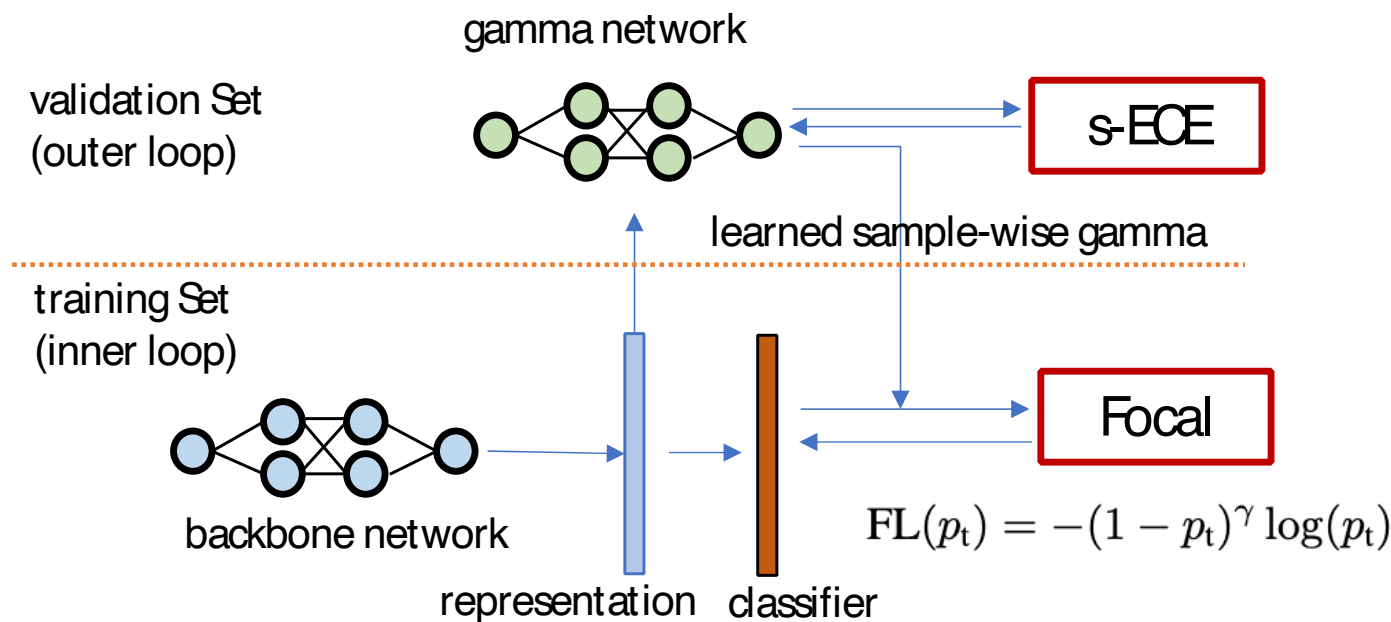
$$p_t = \begin{cases} p & \text{if } y = 1 \\ 1 - p & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

.....



# How to calibrate: Motivation

- gamma-Net: predict the right hyper parameter of the focal loss (trained with meta learning)
- SECE: Improve model calibration via a differentiable calibration proxy.



# How to calibrate: Focal loss with $\gamma$ -Net

$$\text{FL}(p_t) = -(1 - p_t)^\gamma \log(p_t).$$

$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times d}$  ( $b$ : batch size,  $d$ : hidden dimension)

$\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times k}$

$$\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{A}, \quad \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times k}$$

$$\mathbf{p} = \text{SOFTMAX}(\mathbf{a}), \quad \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times k}$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{A}^\top, \quad \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times d}$$

$$\gamma = |\tilde{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{W}| / \tau, \quad \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times 1}$$

## How to calibrate: sECE

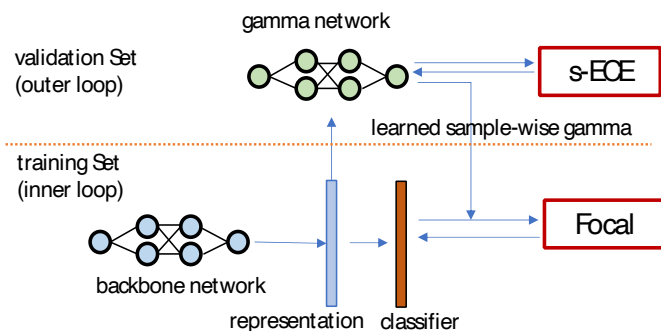
$$\text{ECE} = \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{|b_n|}{m} \boxed{\text{acc}(b_n)} - \boxed{\text{conf}(b_n)}$$

$$sACC(b_i) = \sum_{j \in \{1, \dots, M\}} \text{acc}(x_j) k(p_i, p_j)$$

$$sECE = \sum_{n=1}^M \frac{1}{M} |sACC(n) - \text{conf}(n)|$$



# How to calibrate: meta learning




---

## Algorithm 1: Meta optimization with $\gamma$ -Net and s-ECE

---

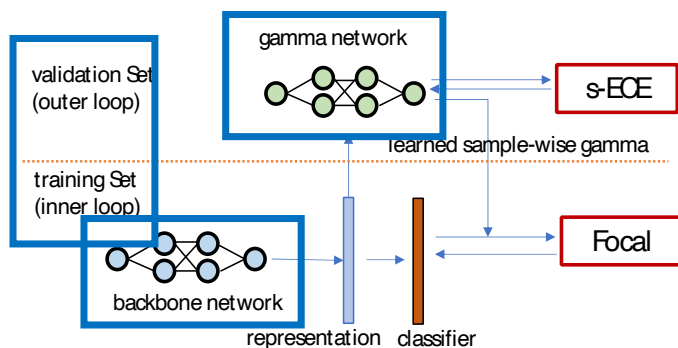
**Input:**  $f^c$  and  $f^\gamma$  with initialized  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  respectively

**Output:** Optimized  $\theta$  and  $\phi$

**Data:** Training data  $D_{train}$  and validation data  $D_{val}$

- 1 **while**  $\theta$  not converged **do**
  - 2      $(\mathbf{x}_i^t, \mathbf{y}_i^t) \sim D_{train}$ : Sample a mini-batch of training data
  - 3      $(\mathbf{x}_i^v, \mathbf{y}_i^v) \sim D_{val}$ : Sample a mini-batch of validation data
  - 4     Find  $\gamma = f^\gamma(\mathbf{x}_i^t)$
  - 5     Compute  $\mathcal{L}_\gamma^f(f^c(\mathbf{x}_i^t), \mathbf{y}_i^t)$  based on  $\gamma$
  - 6     Use  $\nabla_\theta \mathcal{L}_\gamma^f$  to update  $\theta$ , parameters of  $f^c$
  - 7     Compute auxiliary loss s-ECE( $f^c(\mathbf{x}_i^v), \mathbf{y}_i^v$ )
  - 8     Use  $\nabla_\phi$  s-ECE to update  $\phi$ , parameters of  $f^\gamma$
-

# How to calibrate: meta learning




---

## Algorithm 1: Meta optimization with $\gamma$ -Net and s-ECE

---

**Input:**  $f^c$  and  $f^\gamma$  with initialized  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  respectively

**Output:** Optimized  $\theta$  and  $\phi$

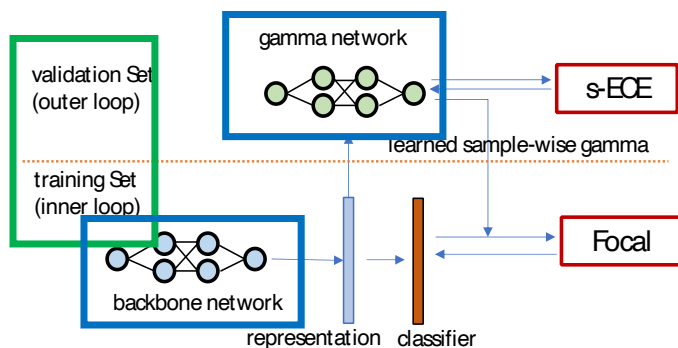
**Data:** Training data  $D_{train}$  and validation data  $D_{val}$

---

- 1 **while**  $\theta$  not converged **do**
  - 2      $(\mathbf{x}_i^t, \mathbf{y}_i^t) \sim D_{train}$ : Sample a mini-batch of training data
  - 3      $(\mathbf{x}_i^v, \mathbf{y}_i^v) \sim D_{val}$ : Sample a mini-batch of validation data
  - 4     Find  $\gamma = f^\gamma(\mathbf{x}_i^t)$
  - 5     Compute  $\mathcal{L}_\gamma^f(f^c(\mathbf{x}_i^t), \mathbf{y}_i^t)$  based on  $\gamma$
  - 6     Use  $\nabla_\theta \mathcal{L}_\gamma^f$  to update  $\theta$ , parameters of  $f^c$
  - 7     Compute auxiliary loss  $s\text{-ECE}(f^c(\mathbf{x}_i^v), \mathbf{y}_i^v)$
  - 8     Use  $\nabla_\phi s\text{-ECE}$  to update  $\phi$ , parameters of  $f^\gamma$
-



# How to calibrate: meta learning



---

## Algorithm 1: Meta optimization with $\gamma$ -Net and s-ECE

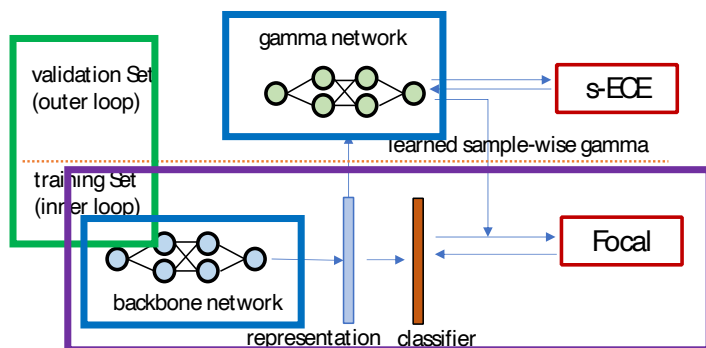
**Input:**  $f^c$  and  $f^\gamma$  with initialized  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  respectively

**Output:** Optimized  $\theta$  and  $\phi$

**Data:** Training data  $D_{train}$  and validation data  $D_{val}$

- 1 **while**  $\theta$  not converged **do**
  - 2      $(\mathbf{x}_i^t, \mathbf{y}_i^t) \sim D_{train}$ : Sample a mini-batch of training data
  - 3      $(\mathbf{x}_i^v, \mathbf{y}_i^v) \sim D_{val}$ : Sample a mini-batch of validation data
  - 4     Find  $\gamma = f^\gamma(\mathbf{x}_i^t)$
  - 5     Compute  $\mathcal{L}_\gamma^f(f^c(\mathbf{x}_i^t), \mathbf{y}_i^t)$  based on  $\gamma$
  - 6     Use  $\nabla_\theta \mathcal{L}_\gamma^f$  to update  $\theta$ , parameters of  $f^c$
  - 7     Compute auxiliary loss  $s\text{-ECE}(f^c(\mathbf{x}_i^v), \mathbf{y}_i^v)$
  - 8     Use  $\nabla_\phi s\text{-ECE}$  to update  $\phi$ , parameters of  $f^\gamma$
-

# How to calibrate: meta learning



## Algorithm 1: Meta optimization with $\gamma$ -Net and s-ECE

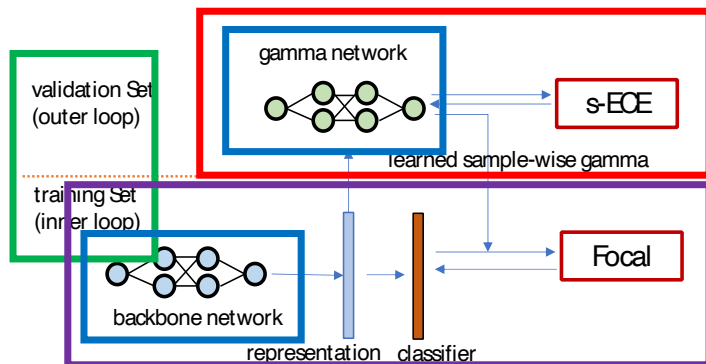
**Input:**  $f^c$  and  $f^\gamma$  with initialized  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  respectively

**Output:** Optimized  $\theta$  and  $\phi$

**Data:** Training data  $D_{train}$  and validation data  $D_{val}$

- 1 **while**  $\theta$  not converged **do**
- 2      $(\mathbf{x}_i^t, \mathbf{y}_i^t) \sim D_{train}$ : Sample a mini-batch of training data
- 3      $(\mathbf{x}_i^v, \mathbf{y}_i^v) \sim D_{val}$ : Sample a mini-batch of validation data
- 4     Find  $\gamma = f^\gamma(\mathbf{x}_i^t)$
- 5     Compute  $\mathcal{L}_\gamma^f(f^c(\mathbf{x}_i^t), \mathbf{y}_i^t)$  based on  $\gamma$
- 6     Use  $\nabla_\theta \mathcal{L}_\gamma^f$  to update  $\theta$ , parameters of  $f^c$
- 7     Compute auxiliary loss  $s\text{-ECE}(f^c(\mathbf{x}_i^v), \mathbf{y}_i^v)$
- 8     Use  $\nabla_\phi s\text{-ECE}$  to update  $\phi$ , parameters of  $f^\gamma$

# How to calibrate: meta learning



## Algorithm 1: Meta optimization with $\gamma$ -Net and s-ECE

**Input:**  $f^c$  and  $f^\gamma$  with initialized  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  respectively

**Output:** Optimized  $\theta$  and  $\phi$

**Data:** Training data  $D_{train}$  and validation data  $D_{val}$

- 1 **while**  $\theta$  not converged **do**
- 2      $(\mathbf{x}_i^t, \mathbf{y}_i^t) \sim D_{train}$ : Sample a mini-batch of training data
- 3      $(\mathbf{x}_i^v, \mathbf{y}_i^v) \sim D_{val}$ : Sample a mini-batch of validation data
- 4     Find  $\gamma = f^\gamma(\mathbf{x}_i^t)$
- 5     Compute  $\mathcal{L}_\gamma^f(f^c(\mathbf{x}_i^t), \mathbf{y}_i^t)$  based on  $\gamma$
- 6     Use  $\nabla_\theta \mathcal{L}_\gamma^f$  to update  $\theta$ , parameters of  $f^c$
- 7     Compute auxiliary loss s-ECE( $f^c(\mathbf{x}_i^v), \mathbf{y}_i^v$ )
- 8     Use  $\nabla_\phi$  s-ECE to update  $\phi$ , parameters of  $f^\gamma$

# Results

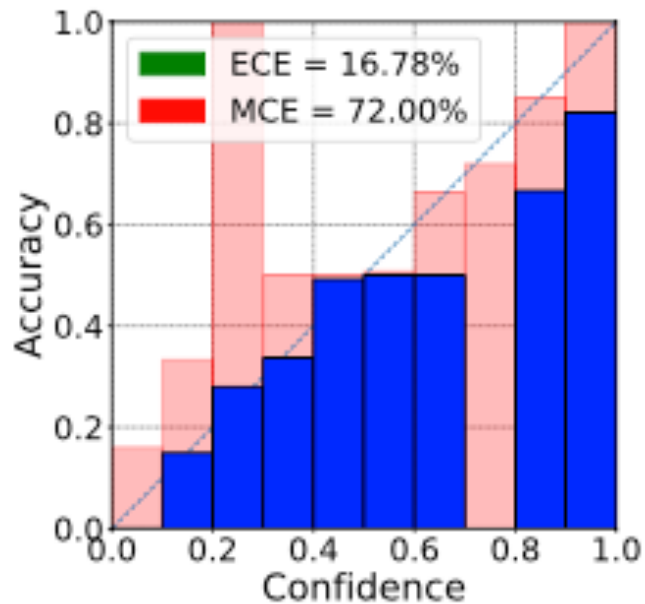
Methods	Error	NLL	ECE	MCE	ACE	Classwise ECE
CIFAR 10						
CE	4.812 $\pm$ 0.122	0.335 $\pm$ 0.01	4.056 $\pm$ 0.092	33.932 $\pm$ 5.433	4.022 $\pm$ 0.136	0.848 $\pm$ 0.023
CE (TS)	4.812 $\pm$ 0.122	0.211 $\pm$ 0.005	3.083 $\pm$ 0.140	26.695 $\pm$ 2.959	3.046 $\pm$ 0.157	0.656 $\pm$ 0.022
Focal	4.874 $\pm$ 0.100	0.207 $\pm$ 0.005	3.193 $\pm$ 0.104	28.034 $\pm$ 5.702	3.174 $\pm$ 0.098	0.690 $\pm$ 0.018
FLSD	4.916 $\pm$ 0.074	0.211 $\pm$ 0.005	6.904 $\pm$ 0.462	<b>19.246 <math>\pm</math> 11.071</b>	6.805 $\pm$ 0.446	1.465 $\pm$ 0.088
LS (0.05)	4.744 $\pm$ 0.126	0.232 $\pm$ 0.003	2.900 $\pm$ 0.085	24.860 $\pm$ 8.599	3.985 $\pm$ 0.154	0.727 $\pm$ 0.009
LS(0.1)	4.918 $\pm$ 0.085	0.266 $\pm$ 0.004	7.566 $\pm$ 0.41	16.033 $\pm$ 3.783	7.611 $\pm$ 0.161	1.637 $\pm$ 0.056
Mixup( $\alpha=1.0$ )	<b>4.126 <math>\pm</math> 0.068</b>	0.273 $\pm$ 0.033	12.863 $\pm$ 3.2	20.739 $\pm$ 4.205	12.833 $\pm$ 3.161	2.678 $\pm$ 0.615
MMCE	4.808 $\pm$ 0.082	0.333 $\pm$ 0.012	4.027 $\pm$ 0.082	41.647 $\pm$ 10.275	4.013 $\pm$ 0.091	0.845 $\pm$ 0.014
CE-DECE	5.194 $\pm$ 0.161	0.301 $\pm$ 0.038	4.106 $\pm$ 0.402	41.346 $\pm$ 13.325	4.088 $\pm$ 0.395	0.868 $\pm$ 0.074
CE-SECE	5.222 $\pm$ 0.168	0.289 $\pm$ 0.027	4.062 $\pm$ 0.241	50.81 $\pm$ 21.705	4.049 $\pm$ 0.251	0.852 $\pm$ 0.040
FL <sub><math>\gamma</math></sub> -DECE	5.424 $\pm$ 0.095	<b>0.193 <math>\pm</math> 0.010</b>	2.257 $\pm$ 0.787	56.622 $\pm$ 22.856	2.206 $\pm$ 0.669	<b>0.557 <math>\pm</math> 0.165</b>
FL <sub><math>\gamma</math></sub> -SECE	5.428 $\pm$ 0.144	<b>0.193 <math>\pm</math> 0.010</b>	<b>2.138 <math>\pm</math> 0.819</b>	22.725 $\pm$ 5.756	<b>2.357 <math>\pm</math> 0.541</b>	<b>0.556 <math>\pm</math> 0.165</b>
CIFAR 100						
CE	22.570 $\pm$ 0.438	0.997 $\pm$ 0.014	8.380 $\pm$ 0.336	23.250 $\pm$ 2.436	8.347 $\pm$ 0.344	0.233 $\pm$ 0.006
CE (TS)	22.570 $\pm$ 0.438	0.959 $\pm$ 0.008	5.388 $\pm$ 0.393	13.454 $\pm$ 2.377	5.360 $\pm$ 0.315	0.208 $\pm$ 0.003
Focal	22.498 $\pm$ 0.214	0.900 $\pm$ 0.007	5.044 $\pm$ 0.203	12.454 $\pm$ 0.893	5.015 $\pm$ 0.207	0.203 $\pm$ 0.004
FLSD	22.656 $\pm$ 0.113	0.876 $\pm$ 0.005	5.956 $\pm$ 0.804	14.716 $\pm$ 1.387	5.958 $\pm$ 0.802	0.241 $\pm$ 0.008
LS (0.05)	21.810 $\pm$ 0.172	1.070 $\pm$ 0.011	8.108 $\pm$ 0.346	20.268 $\pm$ 1.536	8.106 $\pm$ 0.346	0.272 $\pm$ 0.006
LS(0.1)	22.244 $\pm$ 0.155	1.052 $\pm$ 0.011	4.754 $\pm$ 0.709	17.228 $\pm$ 0.923	4.777 $\pm$ 0.647	0.239 $\pm$ 0.004
Mixup( $\alpha=1.0$ )	<b>21.210 <math>\pm</math> 0.227</b>	0.917 $\pm$ 0.017	9.716 $\pm$ 0.754	16.01 $\pm$ 1.335	9.722 $\pm$ 0.740	0.315 $\pm$ 0.011
MMCE	22.490 $\pm$ 0.143	1.021 $\pm$ 0.007	8.713 $\pm$ 0.245	23.565 $\pm$ 1.141	8.670 $\pm$ 0.305	0.238 $\pm$ 0.004
CE-DECE	23.406 $\pm$ 0.323	1.148 $\pm$ 0.006	7.309 $\pm$ 0.245	22.565 $\pm$ 1.446	7.253 $\pm$ 0.315	0.241 $\pm$ 0.002
CE-SECE	23.448 $\pm$ 0.302	1.153 $\pm$ 0.015	7.668 $\pm$ 0.330	24.261 $\pm$ 1.614	7.609 $\pm$ 0.295	0.244 $\pm$ 0.002
FL <sub><math>\gamma</math></sub> -DECE	23.712 $\pm$ 0.204	<b>0.888 <math>\pm</math> 0.009</b>	<b>1.879 <math>\pm</math> 0.440</b>	8.271 $\pm$ 2.651	<b>1.838 <math>\pm</math> 0.371</b>	<b>0.195 <math>\pm</math> 0.005</b>
FL <sub><math>\gamma</math></sub> -SECE	23.686 $\pm$ 0.377	<b>0.877 <math>\pm</math> 0.004</b>	1.940 $\pm$ 0.365	<b>7.480 <math>\pm</math> 1.867</b>	<b>1.939 <math>\pm</math> 0.379</b>	<b>0.192 <math>\pm</math> 0.006</b>
Tiny ImageNet						
CE	40.110 $\pm$ 0.110	1.838 $\pm$ 0.171	8.059 $\pm$ 1.296	15.73 $\pm$ 1.905	8.006 $\pm$ 1.282	0.154 $\pm$ 0.001
Focal	39.415 $\pm$ 0.625	1.896 $\pm$ 0.009	7.600 $\pm$ 0.309	13.771 $\pm$ 0.897	7.469 $\pm$ 0.301	0.152 $\pm$ 0.002
FLSD	39.705 $\pm$ 0.075	1.904 $\pm$ 0.025	14.501 $\pm$ 1.078	21.528 $\pm$ 2.116	14.501 $\pm$ 1.078	0.202 $\pm$ 0.006
LS (0.1)	<b>39.395 <math>\pm</math> 0.305</b>	2.185 $\pm$ 0.001	16.777 $\pm$ 0.476	29.088 $\pm$ 1.835	16.901 $\pm$ 0.460	0.199 $\pm$ 0.001
Mixup( $\alpha=1.0$ )	39.890 $\pm$ 0.271	1.932 $\pm$ 0.054	12.133 $\pm$ 2.069	31.440 $\pm$ 0.968	12.028 $\pm$ 2.079	0.193 $\pm$ 0.009
MMCE	40.310 $\pm$ 0.100	1.826 $\pm$ 0.177	8.206 $\pm$ 1.219	16.802 $\pm$ 2.339	8.165 $\pm$ 1.269	<b>0.149 <math>\pm</math> 0.001</b>
CE-DECE	41.350 $\pm$ 0.000	2.228 $\pm$ 0.033	10.694 $\pm$ 0.503	20.888 $\pm$ 0.430	10.553 $\pm$ 0.553	0.160 $\pm$ 0.000
CE-SECE	41.005 $\pm$ 0.145	2.213 $\pm$ 0.058	10.928 $\pm$ 1.125	21.362 $\pm$ 2.526	10.912 $\pm$ 1.069	0.157 $\pm$ 0.003
FL <sub><math>\gamma</math></sub> -DECE	40.625 $\pm$ 0.095	<b>1.826 <math>\pm</math> 0.007</b>	5.944 $\pm$ 1.000	11.542 $\pm$ 1.000	6.077 $\pm$ 1.005	<b>0.155 <math>\pm</math> 0.007</b>
FL <sub><math>\gamma</math></sub> -SECE	40.850 $\pm$ 0.140	1.829 $\pm$ 0.005	<b>5.794 <math>\pm</math> 0.756</b>	<b>11.477 <math>\pm</math> 1.563</b>	<b>5.848 <math>\pm</math> 0.751</b>	0.156 $\pm$ 0.005

- Our approach (FL $r$ -SECE) achieves lower errors across multiple calibration metrics.
- Our approach (FL $r$ -SECE) achieves comparable predictive performance.

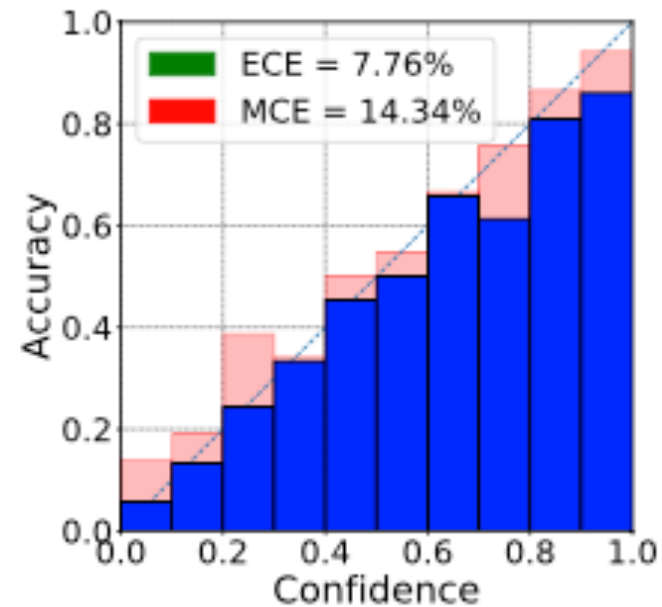


For the two production model candidates, which one do you pick?

Uncalibrated  
(offline accuracy = 83.8%)



Calibrated  
(offline accuracy = 81.2%)



Thank you !

