



# 第十九届中国图象图形学学会青年科学家会议



Title : Variational Data-Free Knowledge Distillation for Continual Learning  
TPAMI 2023

Authors: Xiaorong Li, Shipeng Wang, Jian Sun, Zongben Xu

## Background

- Deep neural networks have achieved promising performance on a single task in a wide range of fields. However, they may not work well in an open environment where tasks are encountered continuously.
- Continual learning aims to preserve the performance of the neural network on previous tasks (i.e., stability) when learning new knowledge on a new task (i.e., plasticity).

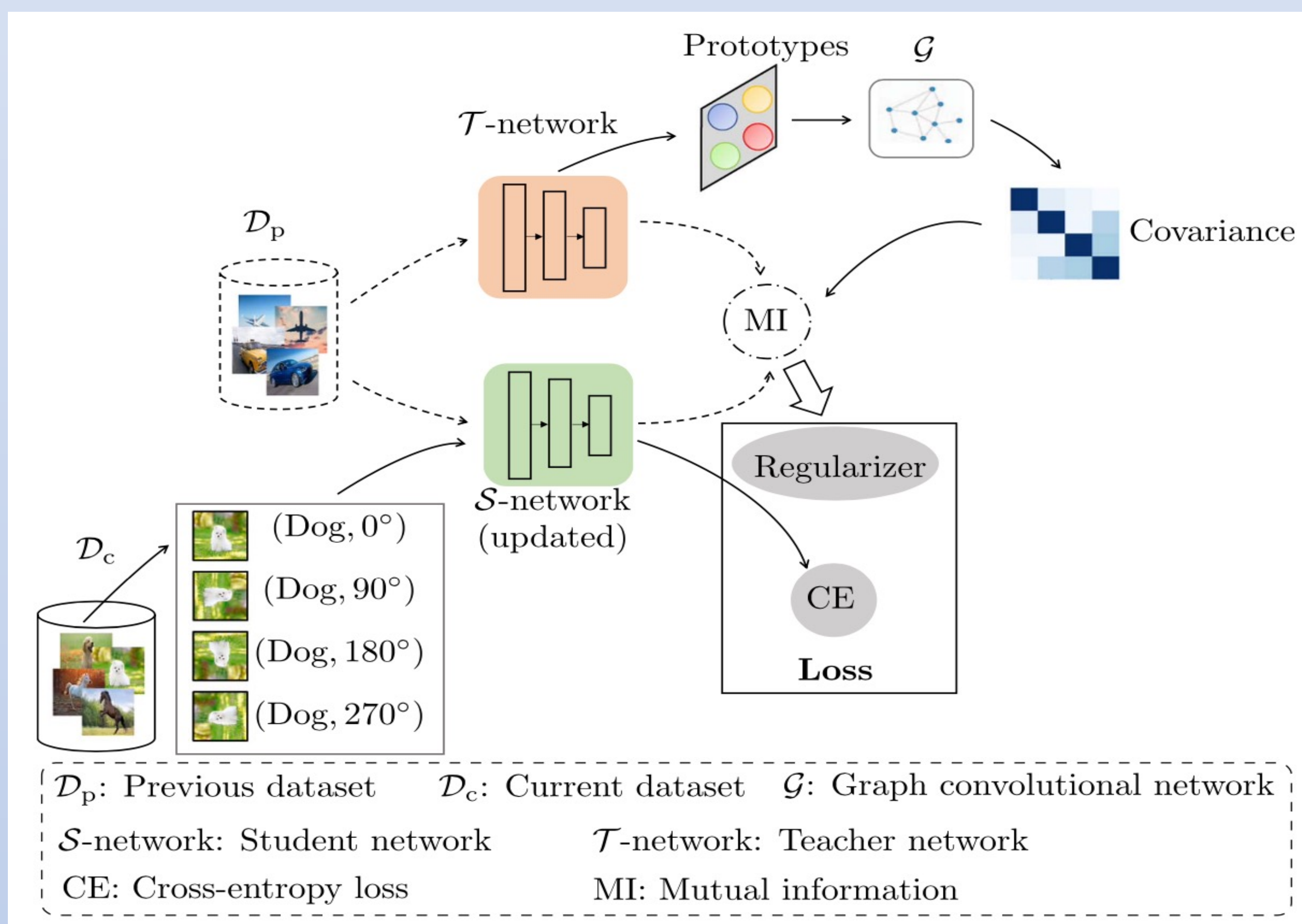
## Challenge: Catastrophic Forgetting

The performance on previous tasks becomes worse when training networks on sequential tasks in continual learning



## Method: VDFD

### Overview



Tackling the inaccessibility of data of previous tasks by first-order Taylor expansion

$$s_i \approx t_i + G_i^T (w - w_i^*)$$

Variational data-free distillation loss

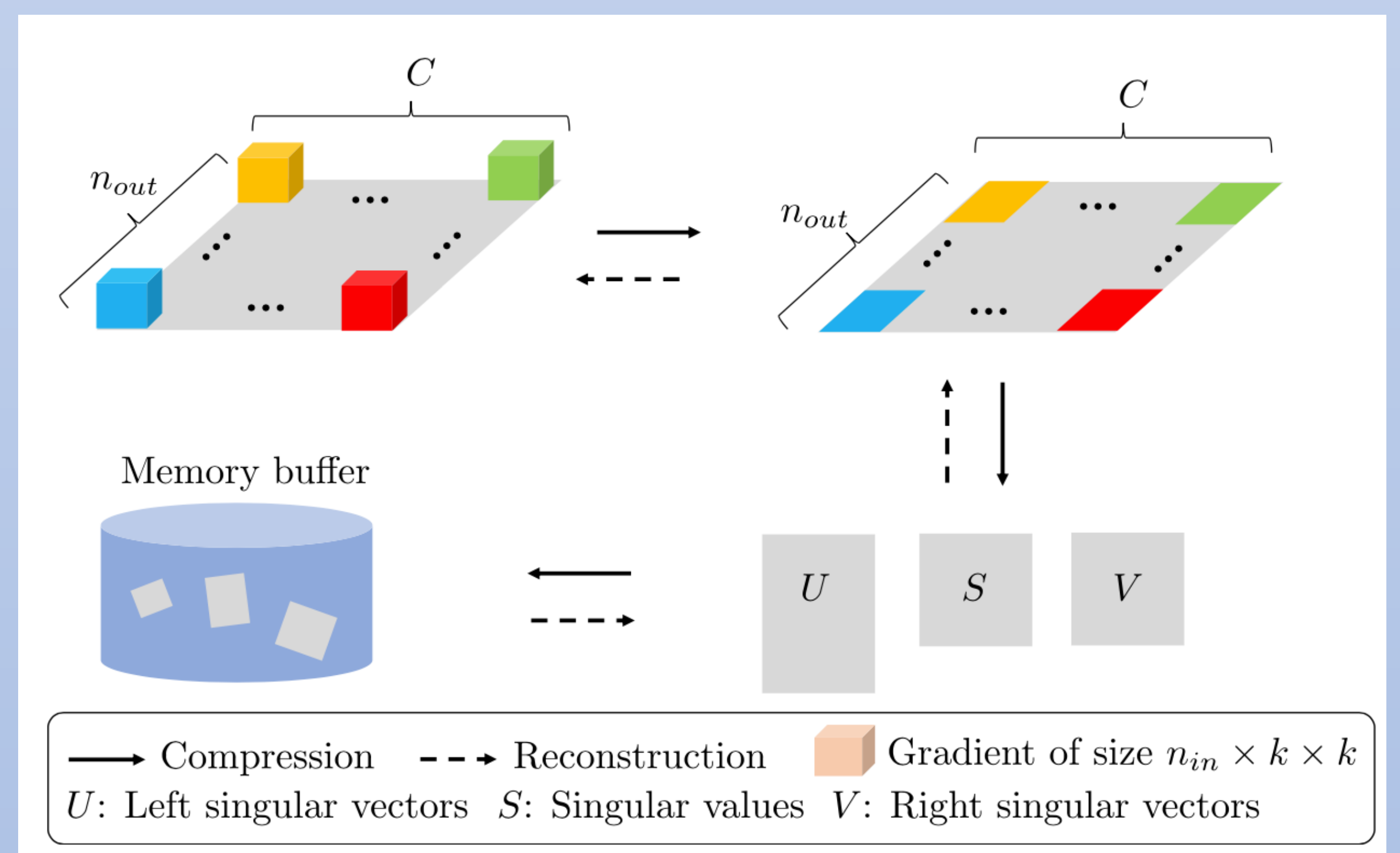
$$\mathcal{L}_{dis}(w; D_i) \triangleq \mathbb{E}_{t_i} [\log |\Sigma_i| + (w - w_i^*)^T G_i \Sigma_i^{-1} G_i^T (w - w_i^*)]$$

### Modeling Covariance by GCN

$$\Sigma_i^{-1} = P^M P^{M^T} + \epsilon I$$

where  $P^M$  is the matrix containing all latent vectors of output nodes of GCN parameterized with  $\theta$

### Compressing the Gradients for memory efficiency



### Notation

Input random variable  $x_i$ , outputs of student / teacher networks  $s_i = f(x_i, w)$ ,  $t_i = f(x_i, w_i^*)$ , mutual information between  $t_i$  and  $s_i$ ,  $I(t_i; s_i)$

### Mitigate Catastrophic Forgetting by VDFD

Maximize the variational lower bound of the mutual information

$$I(t_i; s_i) = H(t_i) - H(t_i|s_i) \geq H(t_i) + \mathbb{E}_{t_i, s_i} [\log q(t_i|s_i)]$$

Assuming that the variational distribution  $q(t_i|s_i)$  is Gaussian distribution  $\mathcal{N}(s_i, \Sigma_i)$

$$\log q(t_i|s_i) = -\frac{1}{2} [(t_i - s_i)^T \Sigma_i^{-1} (t_i - s_i) + \log |\Sigma_i|] + \text{constant}$$

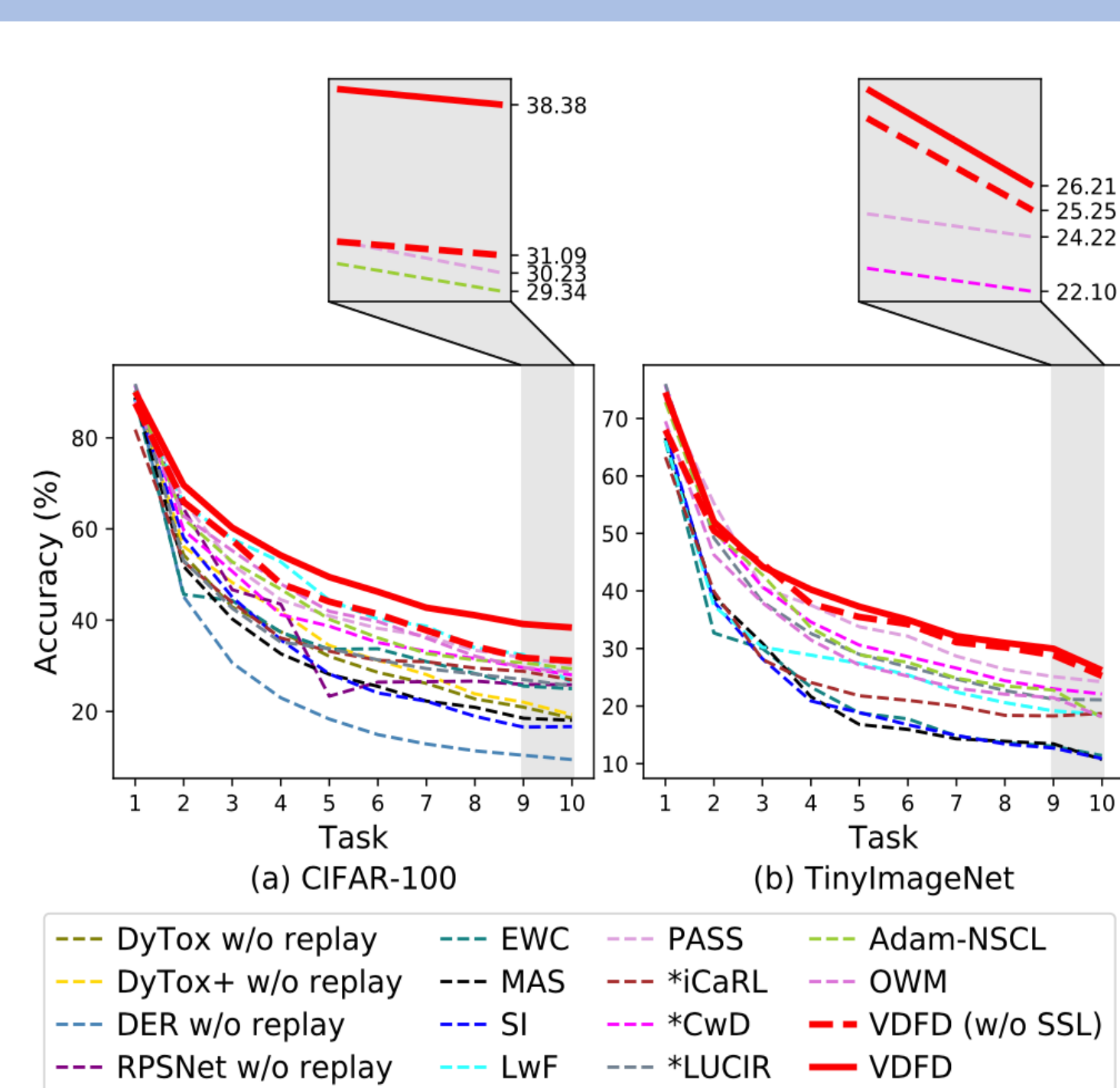
### Integrated Objective

$$\min_{w, \theta} \mathcal{L}_{CE}(w; D_t) + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^{t-1} \mathcal{L}_{dis}(w, \theta; D_i)$$

## Experiments

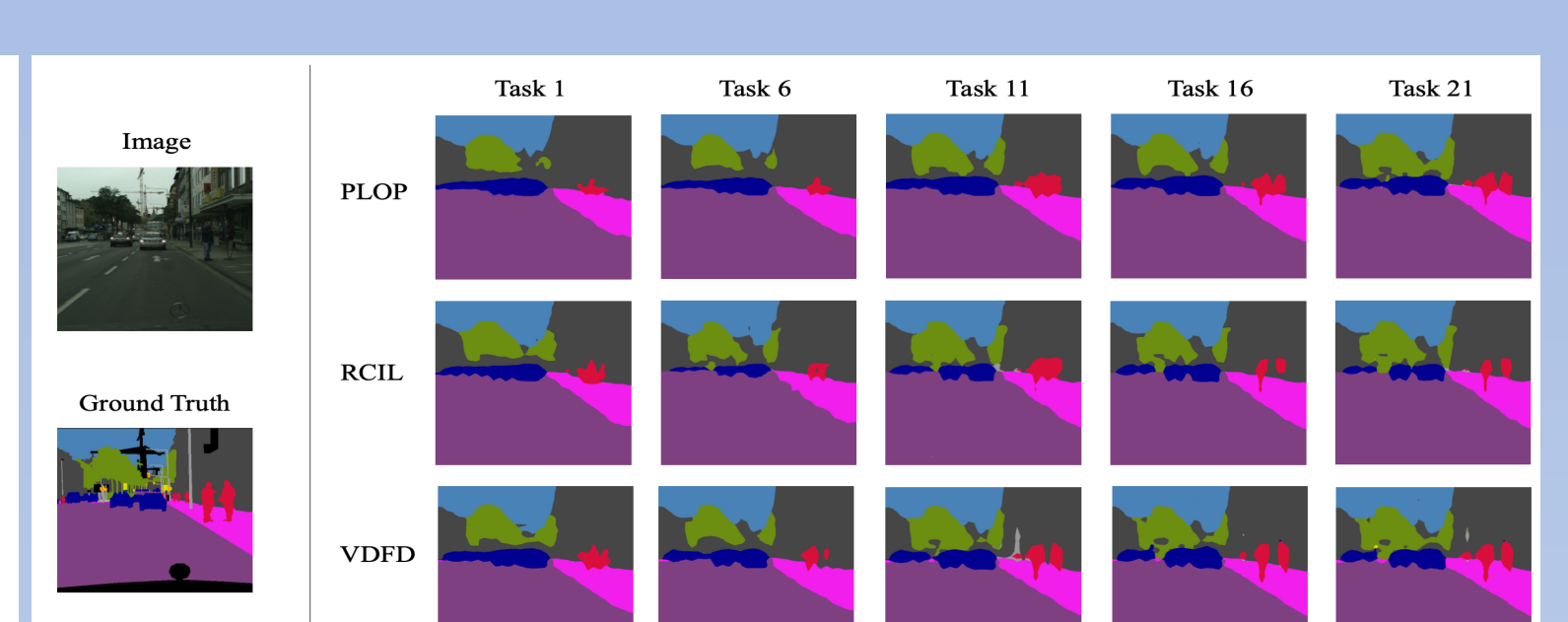
### Continual Learning for Image Classification

Method	10-split CIFAR-100		20-split CIFAR-100	
	ACC (%)	BWT (%)	ACC (%)	BWT (%)
InstAParam [45]	47.84	-11.92	51.04	-4.92
Packnet [37]	77.18	-0.00	67.50	-0.00
BLIP [29]	61.09	-0.70	68.17	-4.21
*GEM [28]	49.48	2.77	68.89	-1.20
*A-GEM [43]	52.73	-1.30	68.92	-0.69
*MEGA [44]	54.17	-2.19	64.98	-5.13
*CTN [27]	53.97	-7.27	67.56	-5.59
EWC [6]	71.28	-2.97	70.90	-3.03
MAS [19]	66.71	-4.61	63.63	-6.36
SI [33]	60.57	-5.17	59.76	-8.65
IMM [7]	62.67	-9.32	57.94	-9.41
MUC-MAS [41]	63.73	-3.88	67.22	-5.72
RankInc [30]			68.46	-0.00
AdNS [32]	77.21	-2.32	77.33	-3.25
LwF [20]	70.70	-6.27	74.38	-9.11
*iCaRL [21]	76.43	-4.87	75.75	-6.08
*GD [24]	66.90	-21.34	78.16	-14.39
PASS [9]	71.23	-5.21	74.43	-4.03
OWM [18]	68.89	-1.88	68.47	-3.37
Adam-NSCL [15]	73.77	-1.60	75.95	-3.66
VDFD (w/o SSL)	79.23	-2.93	80.97	-4.79
VDFD	83.30	-1.27	85.84	-1.53



### Continual Learning for Semantic Segmentation

Method	11-5 (3 tasks)	11-1 (11 tasks)	1-1 (21 tasks)
Fine-tuning	61.55	60.41	41.71
LwF [20]	61.74	60.44	42.93
iCaRL [21]	61.96	60.77	42.51
ILT [46]	61.79	60.45	42.92
MiB [51]	61.72	60.49	42.94
†PLOP [48]	63.51	62.05	45.24
†RCIL [49]	64.30	63.00	48.90
VDFD	64.77	63.53	49.34



Paper



Code

lixiaorong@stu.xjtu.edu.cn  
 wangshipeng8128@stu.xjtu.edu.cn  
 jiansun@xjtu.edu.cn  
 zbxu@xjtu.edu.cn