

# Contextualized Transfer Learning

Transforming Heterogeneity into Predictive Power  
with Generative Latent Structures  
in Resource-Limited Settings

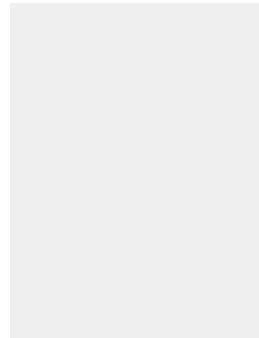
**Siddharth Nirgudkar**

**Mentor: Dr. Ben Lengerich**

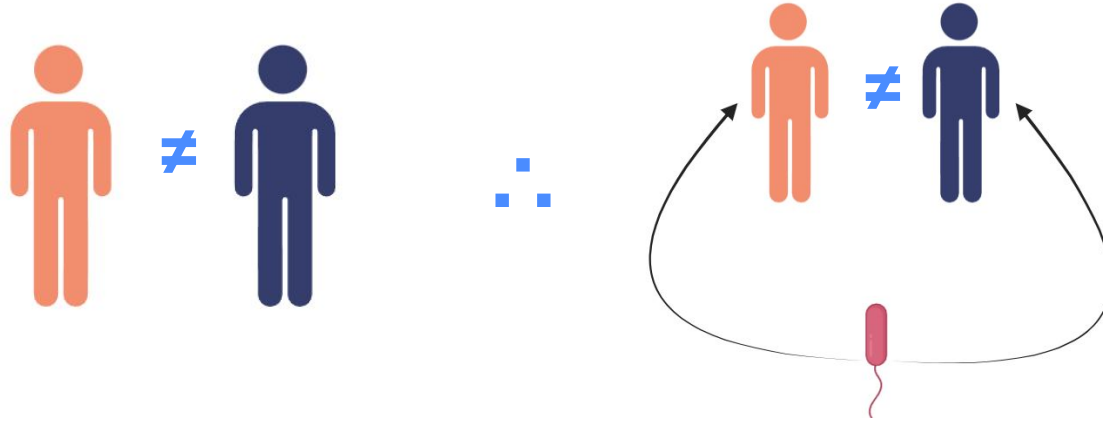
Acton-Boxborough Regional High School

**01**

# **Preliminaries**

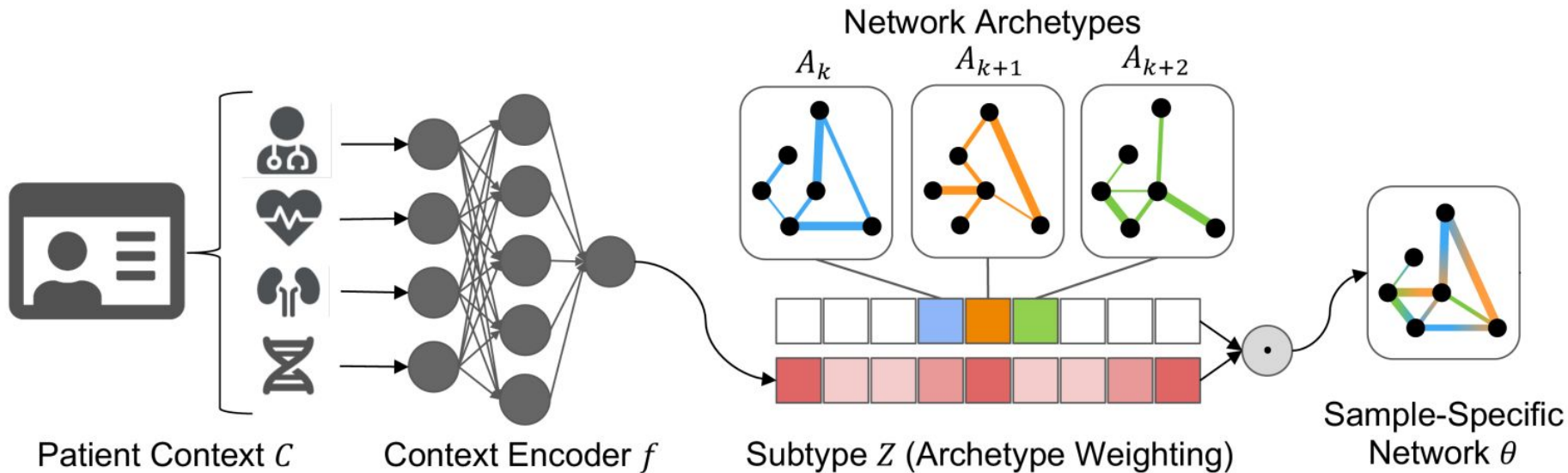


# Introduction to Personalized Medicine



Patient Specific  
Understanding

# The Response: Contextualized Learning



# Resource Scarcity in Biomedical Contexts

## Data Availability

- Hospitals only have a small, local amount of information to make triage decisions
  - Covid
  - ICU Availability
  - Treatment Priorities



## Biological Availability

- Very hard to take samples from organs
- Some organs (like the brain) can only be observed once - postmortem



# General Problem

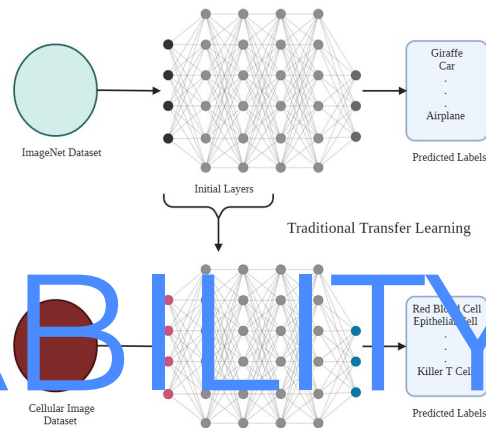
This seemingly medical problem turned into a...

**Generative Modelling** “How do we share information across  
**Contextualized Learning** disparate tasks?”

... general information sharing problem

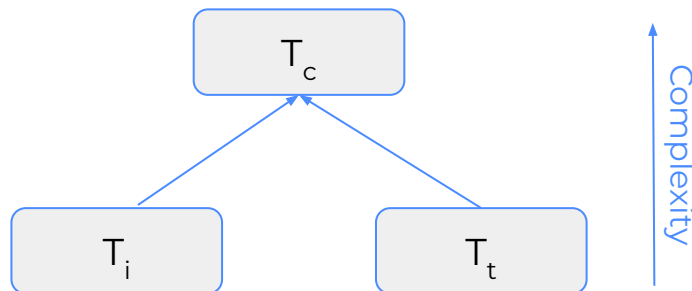
# Current Transfer Learning

- **Traditional Transfer Learning**
  - Assumes  $T_i \approx T_t$
  - Directly shares information from  $M_i$  to  $M_t$
  - Fails when  $T_i \neq T_t$



# INTERPRETABILITY!

- **Heterogeneous Transfer Learning**
  - Does not require similar tasks
  - Maps  $T_i, T_t \rightarrow T_c$
  - Computations and information transfer performed in higher complexity  $T_c$  space
  - Maps back down to  $T_t$



# 02

## Rationale





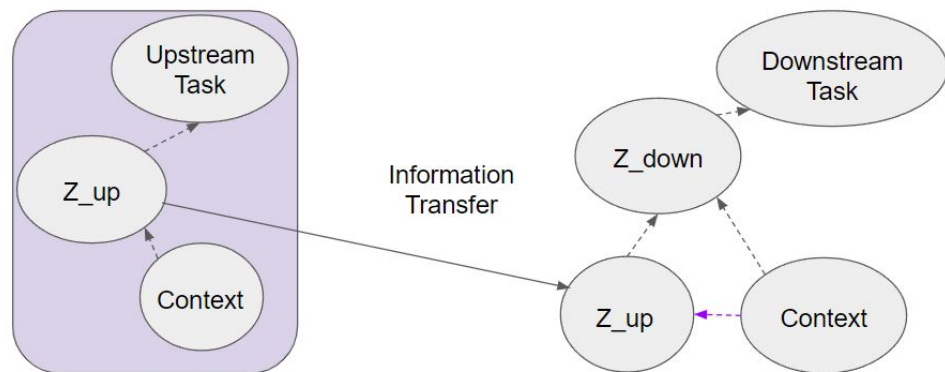
# A New Perspective: Generative Modeling

- Estimating joint distributions  $p(x, y)$  instead of conditional distributions  $p(y|x)$  models to uncover latent structures within data that are consistent across disparate tasks

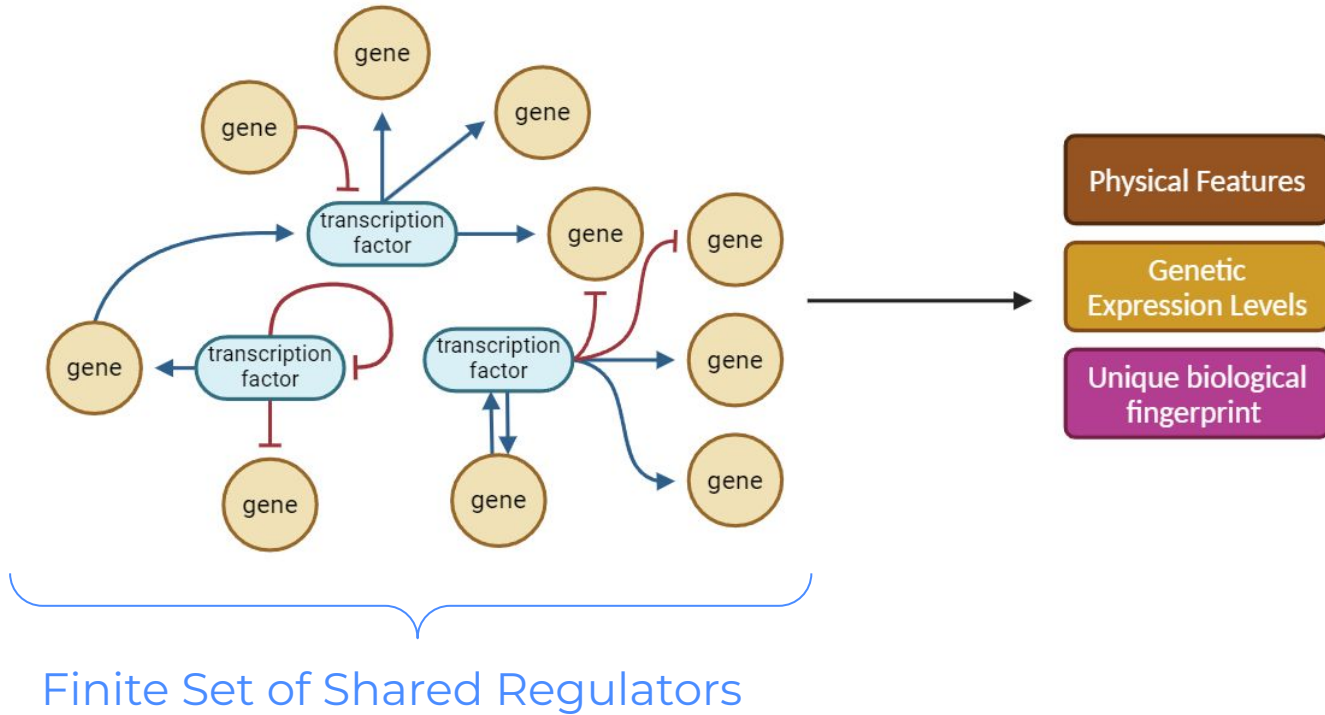
- **Core Idea:**  $p(x, y, c) \sim z$  with  $y, x \perp c|z$

- **Probability Decomposition:**

$$p(y|x, c) = \int_z dZ p(y|x, z) p(z|c)$$

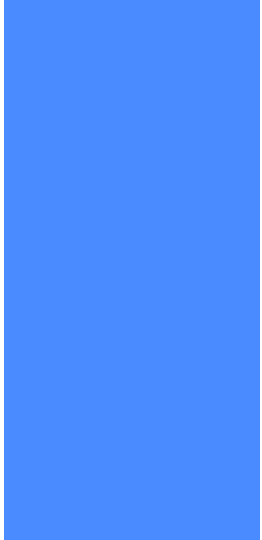
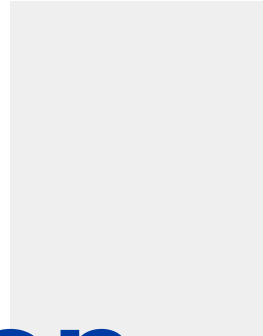


# A look at z through a biological lens

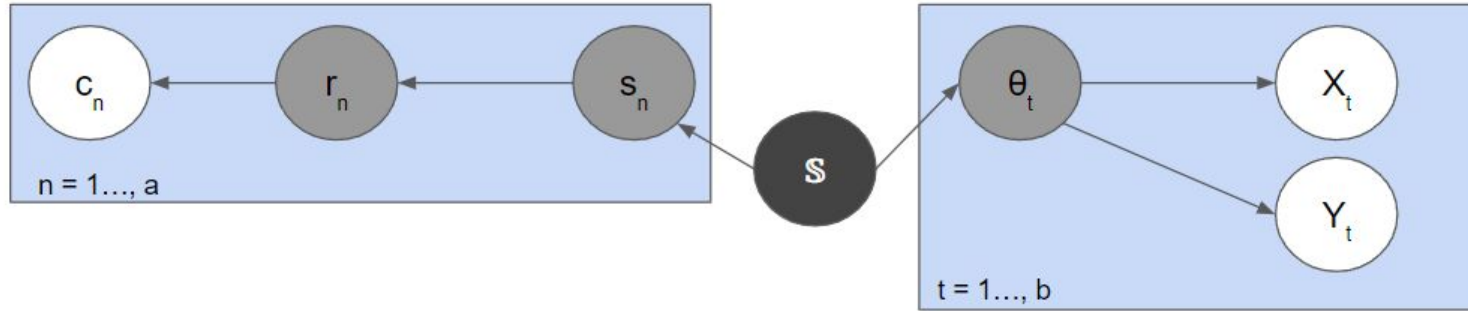


**03**

**Implementation**



# Core Idea



Sample Specific  
Model

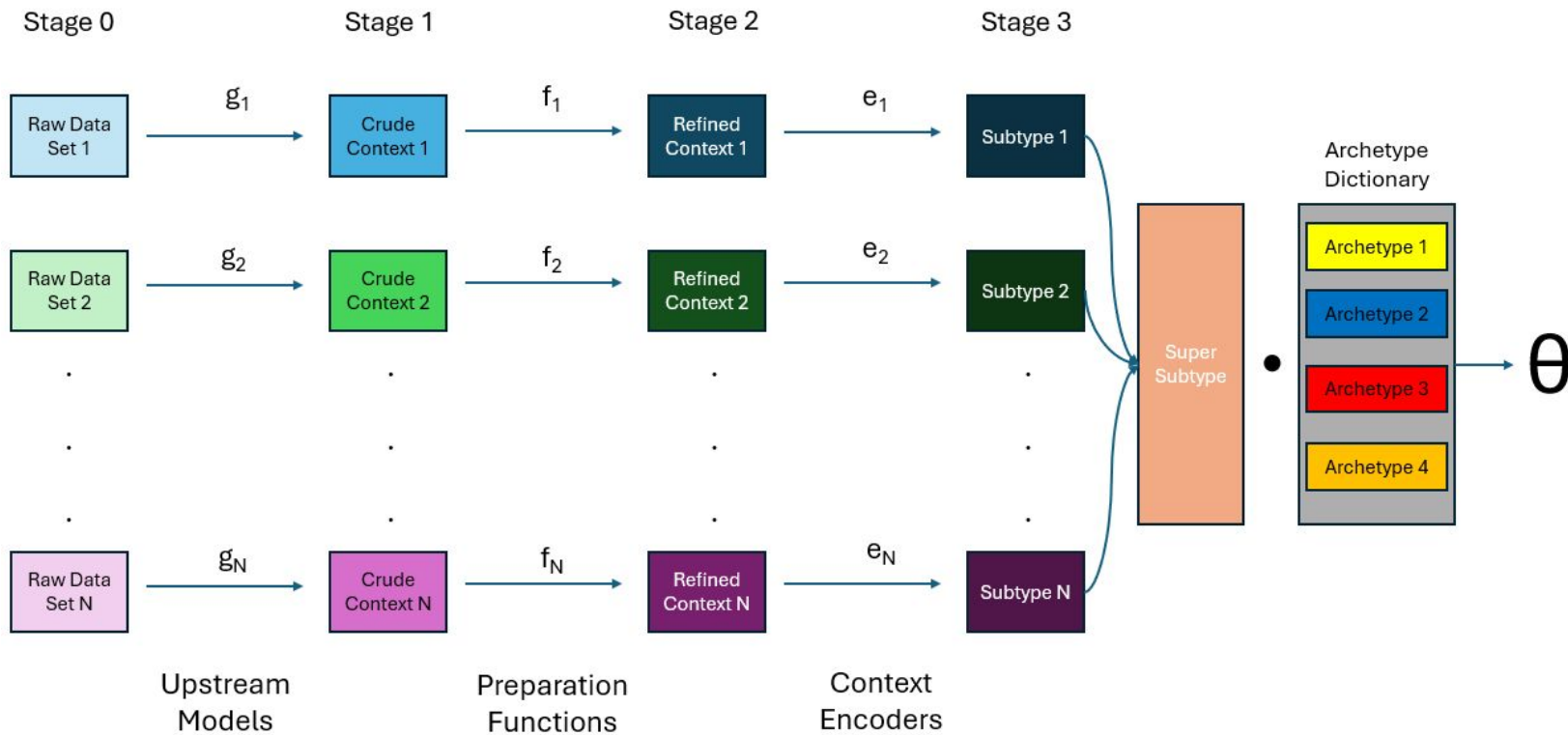
Model  
Generator

Super Subtype

Refined  
Context

$$P(\mathbf{Y} | X, \mathbb{C}) = \int_{\theta} P(\mathbf{Y} | X, \theta) \cdot P(\theta | X, S) \cdot P(S | \mathbf{R}) \cdot P(\mathbf{R} | \mathbb{C}) d\theta$$

# Mechanism for Information Transfer

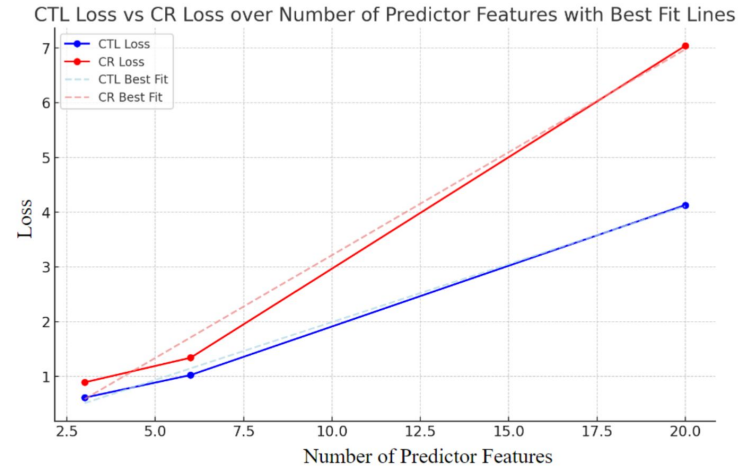
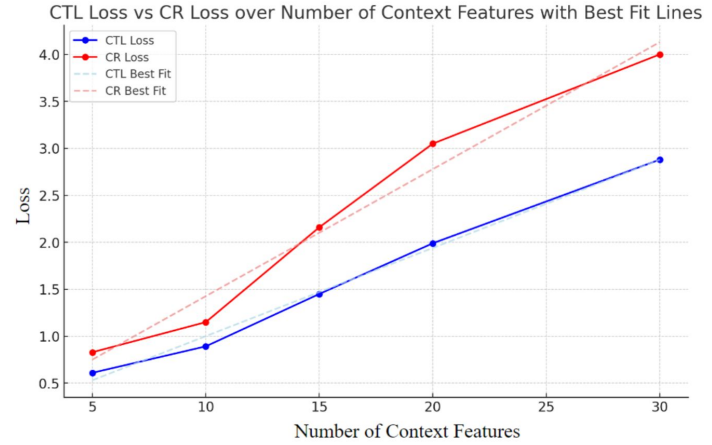
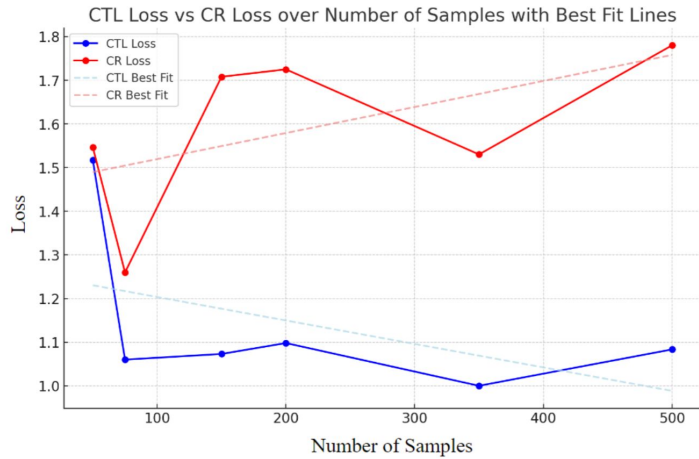


04

# Experiments

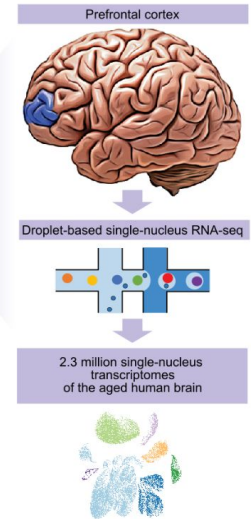
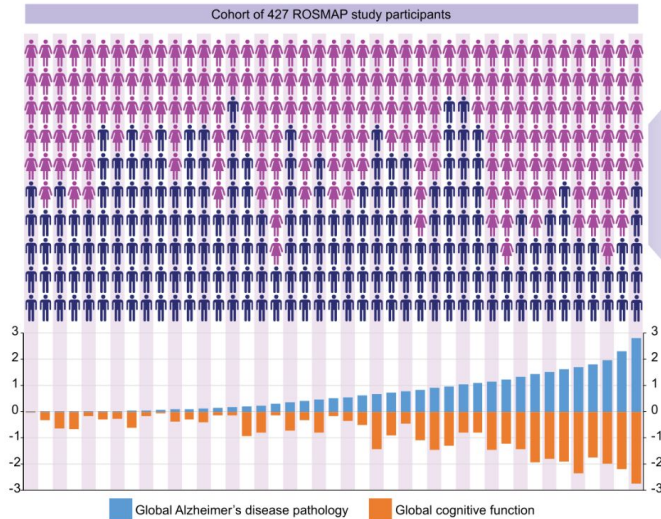


# Synthetic Data



# Rosmap Alzheimer's Dataset

- Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder
- Highly heterogeneous making prediction and diagnosis challenging
- ROSMAP dataset contains extensive genomic data
- We seek to use CTL to make better predictions of alzheimer and gain a better understanding of underlying drivers

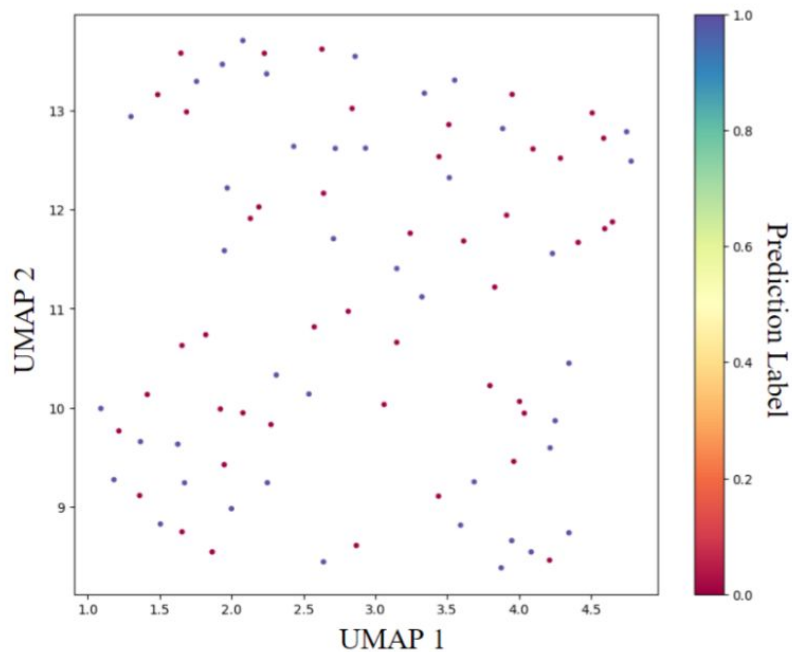




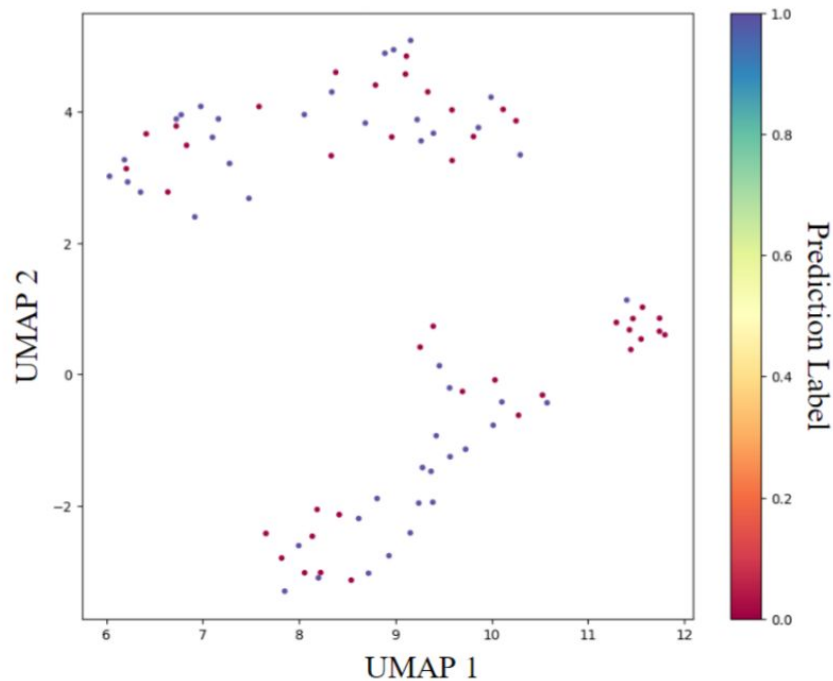
# Performance

	Classification		Regression
	Correct Classifications	Incorrect Classifications	Mean Squared Error Loss
<b>Population</b>	30	56	0.4531
<b>Contextualized</b>	47	39	0.3652
<b>CTL (ours)</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0.2817</b>

# Analyzing Sample Specific Models

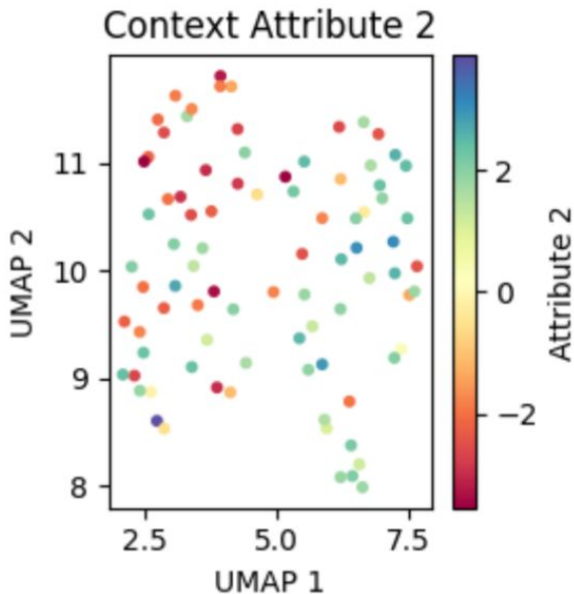


(a) Contextualized Classification

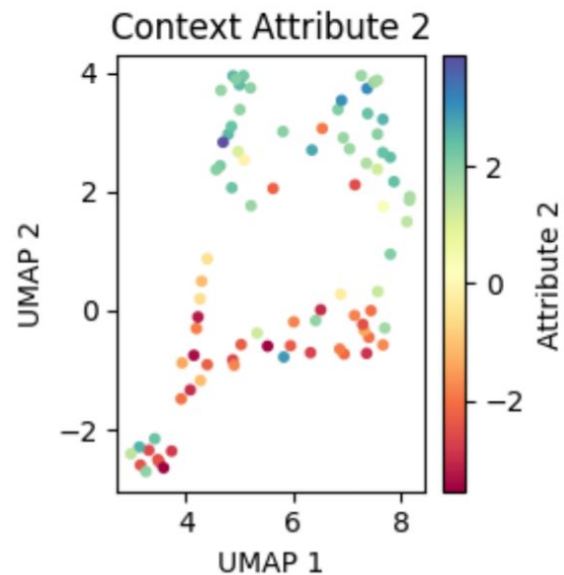


(b) Contextualized Transfer Learning

# Elucidating Importance of Context

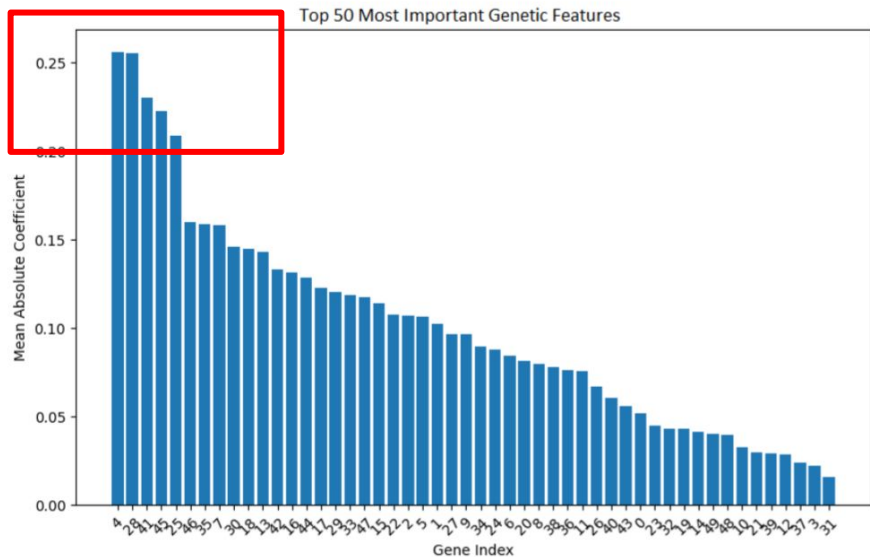


Contextualized Learning

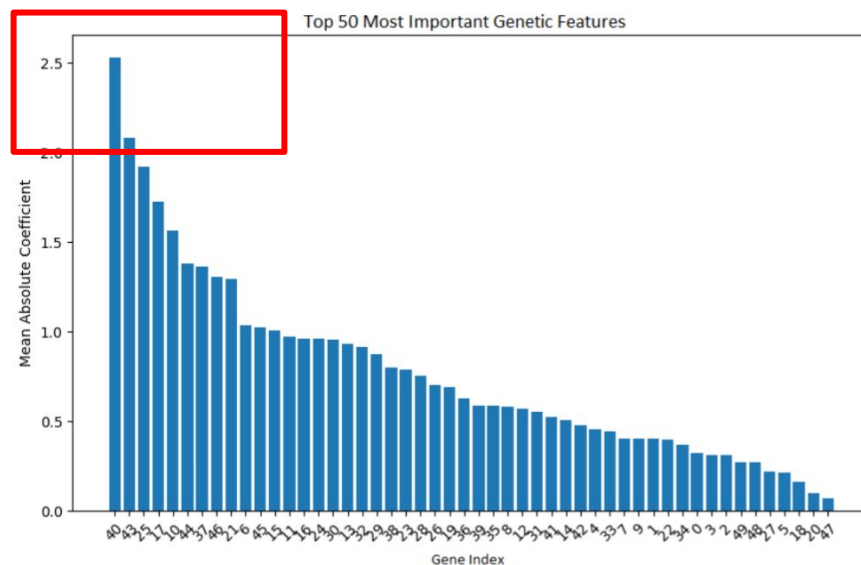


Contextualized Transfer Learning

# Genetic Importance for Sample Specific Models



Contextualized Learning



Contextualized Transfer Learning

# 05

## Future Work



- Formalize proof for  
Convex Hull  
Optimization for  
Archetype Dictionary  
and implement it

# Acknowledgements

I would like to sincerely thank the following people:

- Prof. Lengerich (my mentor)
- Prof. Kellis (PI of the Lab)
- Dr. Gerovitch, Prof. Devadas, and rest of MIT Primes team for giving me this opportunity
- My parents

# Questions?

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# References

- [1] C. N. Ellington *et al.*, “Contextualized Networks Reveal Heterogeneous Transcriptomic Regulation in Tumors at Sample-Specific Resolution,” *bioRxiv (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory)*, Dec. 2023, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.12.01.569658>.
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