# **Estimation of photo-z probability density functions via deep learning with statistical basis**

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#### **Photo-z estimation as a computer vision problem supervised by spec-z**

State-of-the-art, best accuracy Direct PDF prediction lacks statistical basis, and may suffer from biases The network lacks interpretability



### **One form of bias: mean redshift residuals as a function of spec-z or photo-z**



#### **Bias correction via splitting representation and estimation (Lin et al. 2022)**

Input — Encoder Latent Vector **(Representation)** Estimator Cutput **Representation Learning (all data) Estimation (a near-balanced subset)**

• Treat spectroscopic & photometric spaces separately:



### **Current work: empower deep learning with statistical basis**

• Representation learning + statistical inference (or *k*NN)



### **Determine the optimal** *k* **via local Probability Integral Transform (PIT) diagnostics**



• For each labeled galaxy:

$$
\text{PIT}(z_{spec}) = \int_0^{z_{spec}} p(z) dz
$$



• For each query (unlabeled) galaxy:



• *k* is optimal when the  $\text{PIT}_k$  distribution is closest to a **uniform** distribution

### **Recalibration + Refitting**

- Discretized —> Recalibration
- Non-uniform —> Refitting



### **Results: PITs**

• Good PDF calibration achieved by sampling/inference (shown for the SDSS data)



PIT

### **Results: point estimates**

• Mean redshift bias correction achieved by sampling/inference (similar to Lin et al.)

 $z_{photo} = \left| \right|$ *zmax* 0 *z* × *p*(*z*)*dz*

• No loss in accuracy (contrary to Lin et al.)



### **Results: the impact of distribution mismatch**

• Robustness under distribution mismatch with correct sampling prior



### **Summary**

- Key idea: combine deep learning and statistical basis
- Representation learning, statistical inference, recalibration & refitting
- Better results over benchmark methods:
	- Well-calibrated PDFs
	- Good control of photo-z-dependent residuals without compromising accuracy
	- Robustness under distribution mismatch

### **For interpretability: analyze** *redshift-variable* **correlations**

- Information/variables to be exploited for reducing redshift residuals (e.g., galaxy structures, environmental properties, etc.)
- Relations between variables



## **Back-up slides**

#### **Representation learning**





#### **Optimal metric for PIT diagnostics: Wasserstein distance**

$$
D_{Wasserstein}[P_{\text{PIT}_k}, P_{uniform}] = \int_0^1 |F_{\text{PIT}_k}(p) - F_{uniform}(p)| dp
$$
  

$$
D_{CrossEntropy}[P_{\text{PIT}_k}, P_{uniform}] = \int_0^1 [P_{uniform}(p) \log P_{\text{PIT}_k}(p)]
$$

$$
+(1-P_{uniform}(p))\log(1-P_{\text{PIT}_k}(p))]dp
$$



*koptimal*







