



# Detecting Corrupted Labels Without Training a Model to Predict

Zhaowei Zhu, Zihao Dong, Yang Liu  
UC Santa Cruz

Code



{zwzhu, yangliu}@ucsc.edu

**A Data-Centric Method**

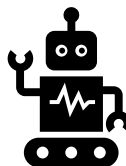
# Noisy Labels Are Everywhere

- Noisy labels may come from:

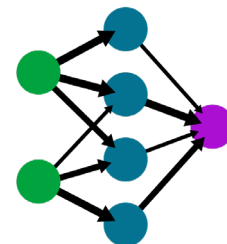
Human [1]



Sensor [2]



Model [3]



- Challenges [4]:

- Cause disparate impact
- Require disparate treatment

**We need to remove wrong annotations if possible!**

[1] J. Wei, Z. Zhu, H. Cheng, T. Liu, G. Niu, Y. Liu. Learning with noisy labels revisited: A study using real-world human annotations. *ICLR 2022*.

[2] J. Wang, H. Guo, Z. Zhu, Y. Liu. Policy Learning Using Weak Supervision. *NeurIPS 2021*.

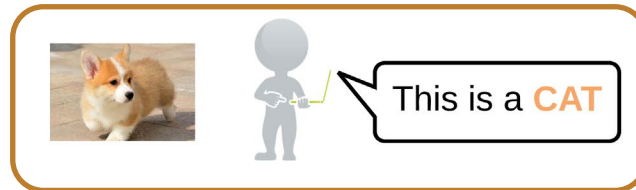
[3] Z. Zhu, T. Luo, Y. Liu. The Rich Get Richer: Disparate Impact of Semi-Supervised Learning. *ICLR 2022*.

[4] Y. Liu. Understanding Instance-Level Label Noise: Disparate Impacts and Treatments. *ICML 2021*.

# Detect Corrupted Labels



This is a DOG



This is a DOG

**Noisy:** correct/wrong

**Corrupted:** wrong annotations

# Our Contributions

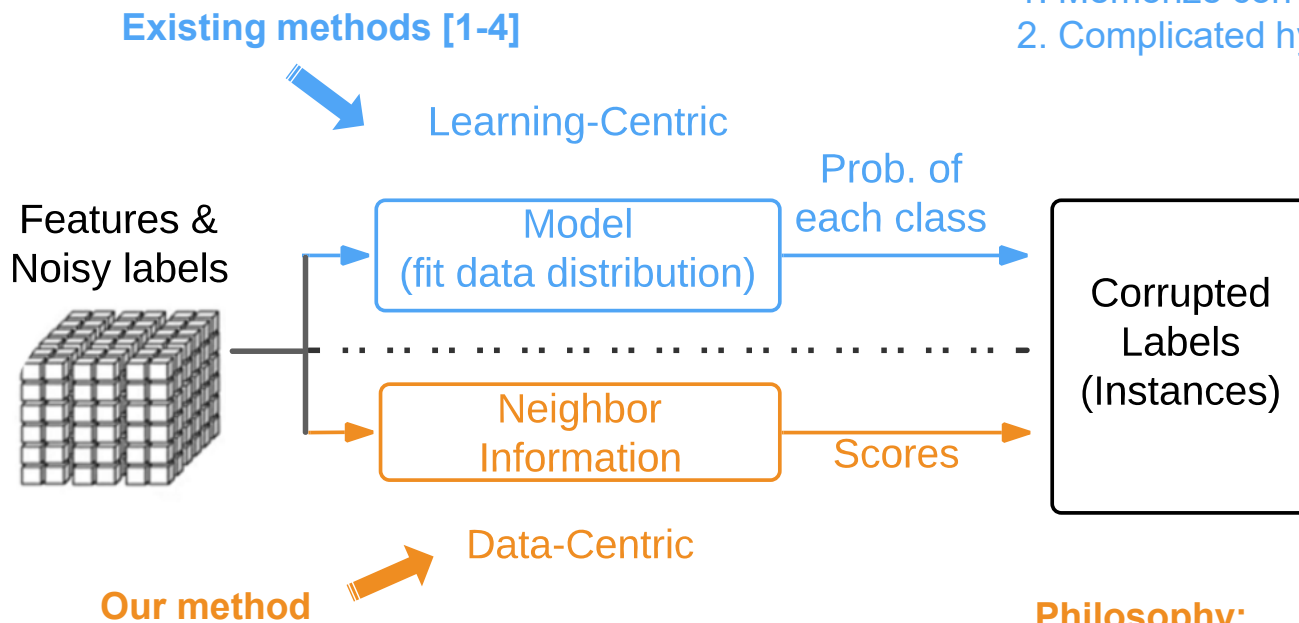


We detect corrupted labels  
**without** training a model!

## Highlights:

- ✓ New perspective: *data-centric*
- ✓ Efficient algorithms: Voting/Ranking
- ✓ Theoretical & Numerical Analyses

# Existing Methods vs Our Methods



## Problems:

1. Memorize corrupted labels
2. Complicated hyperparameter tuning

## Philosophy:

**No learning → no memorization**

[1] H. Cheng, Z. Zhu, X. Li, Y. Gong, X. Sun, Y. Liu. Learning with instance-dependent label noise: A sample sieve approach. *ICLR 2021*.

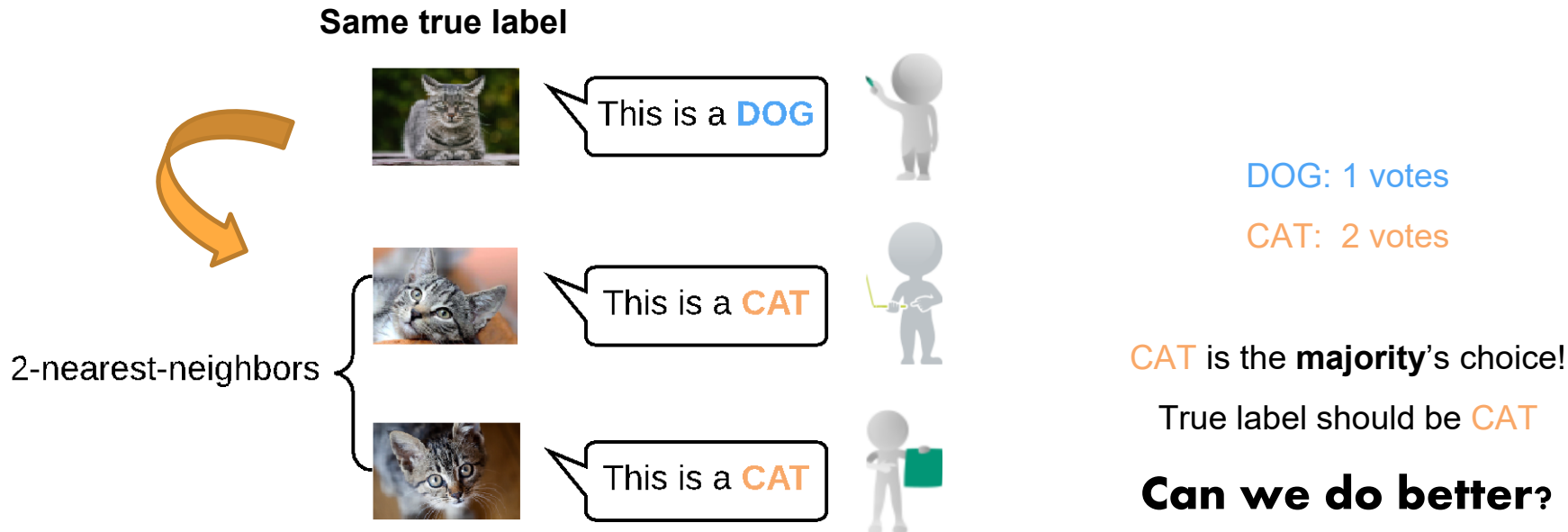
[2] C. Northcutt, L. Jiang, I. Chuang. Confident learning: Estimating uncertainty in dataset labels. *JAIR 2021*.

[3] D. Bahri, H. Jiang, M. Gupta. Deep k-nn for noisy labels. *ICML 2020*.

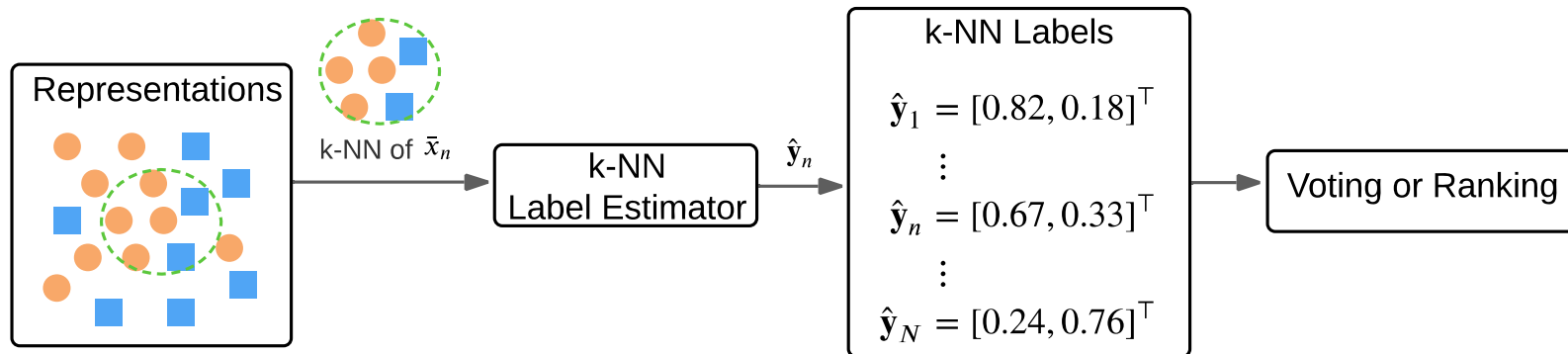
[4] G. Pruthi, F. Liu, S. Kale, M. Sundararajan. Estimating training data influence by tracing gradient descent. *NeurIPS 2020*.

# Motivation: Check with your neighbors

- Key Assumption: k-Nearest-Neighbor (k-NN) label clusterability [1]



# Our Method



Representations:

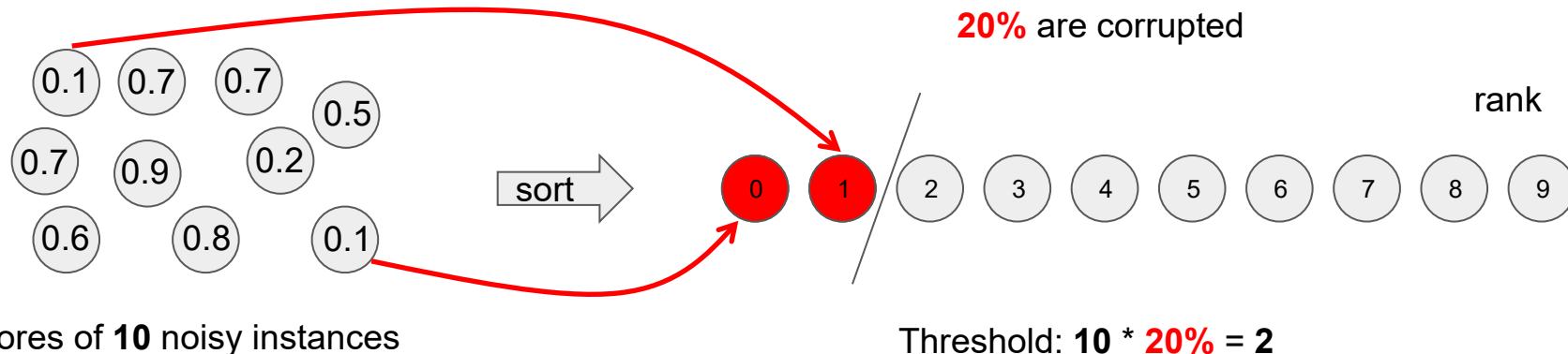
- Raw features
- Other pre-processed features.

**Voting:** Majority vote (illustrated before)

**Ranking** (better in most cases):

- Score function
- Threshold (guaranteed)

# Ranking-Based Global Detection



Scores of 10 noisy instances

Lower score  $\rightarrow$  Corrupted

**Score function:**


$\text{Cos Si m}(k\text{NN\_label}, \text{noisy\_label})$

**Threshold: (given by HOC)**

Prob. of being corrupted



# Experiments

➤ CIFAR. (Clean test accuracy  )

METHOD	CIFAR10				CIFAR100			
	<i>Human</i>	<i>Symm. 0.6</i>	<i>Asym. 0.3</i>	<i>Inst. 0.4</i>	<i>Human</i>	<i>Symm. 0.6</i>	<i>Asym. 0.3</i>	<i>Inst. 0.4</i>
CORES	65.00	92.94	7.68	<b>87.43</b>	3.52	<b>92.34</b>	0.02	9.67
CL	55.85	80.59	76.45	62.89	64.58	78.98	52.96	50.08
TRACIN	55.02	76.94	73.47	58.85	61.75	76.74	48.42	49.89
DEEP $k$ -NN	56.21	82.35	75.24	63.08	57.40	70.69	56.75	63.85
<b>SIMIFEAT-V</b>	<b>82.30</b>	<b>93.21</b>	<b>82.52</b>	81.09	<b>73.19</b>	84.48	<b>65.42</b>	<b>74.26</b>
<b>SIMIFEAT-R</b>	<b>83.28</b>	<b>95.56</b>	<b>83.58</b>	<b>82.26</b>	<b>74.67</b>	<b>88.68</b>	<b>62.89</b>	<b>73.53</b>

Ours

-V: Voting

-R: Ranking

CIFAR human annotations:

J. Wei, Z. Zhu, H. Cheng, T. Liu, G. Niu, Y. Liu.

Learning with noisy labels revisited: A study using real-world human annotations. *ICLR 2022*

# Experiments

➤ Clothing1M (Clean test accuracy  )

DATA SELECTION	# TRAINING	BEST EPOCH	LAST 10	LAST
(Baseline) NONE	1M (100%)	70.32	69.44 ± 0.13	69.53
R50-IMG	770K (77.0%)	72.37	71.95 ± 0.08	71.89
ViT-B/32-CLIP	700K (70.0%)	72.54	72.23 ± 0.17	72.11
R50-IMG WARMUP-1	767K (76.7%)	<b>73.64</b>	<b>73.28 ± 0.18</b>	<b>73.41</b>

Ours with different representations

Existing methods (Best Epoch):

HOC 73.39%, GCE+SimCLR 73.35%, CORES 73.24%, GCE 69.75%.

# Thank you !

Want to know more?

1. Scan the QR code to reproduce
2. Join our **onsite** poster session

Code

