



# Deep learning for automated grading of prostate cancer histopathology images

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Applied Machine Learning Days 2019

AI & Health

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Institute of Molecular Systems Biology**



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**University Hospital Zurich  
Institute of Pathology and Molecular Pathology**



Peter Wild



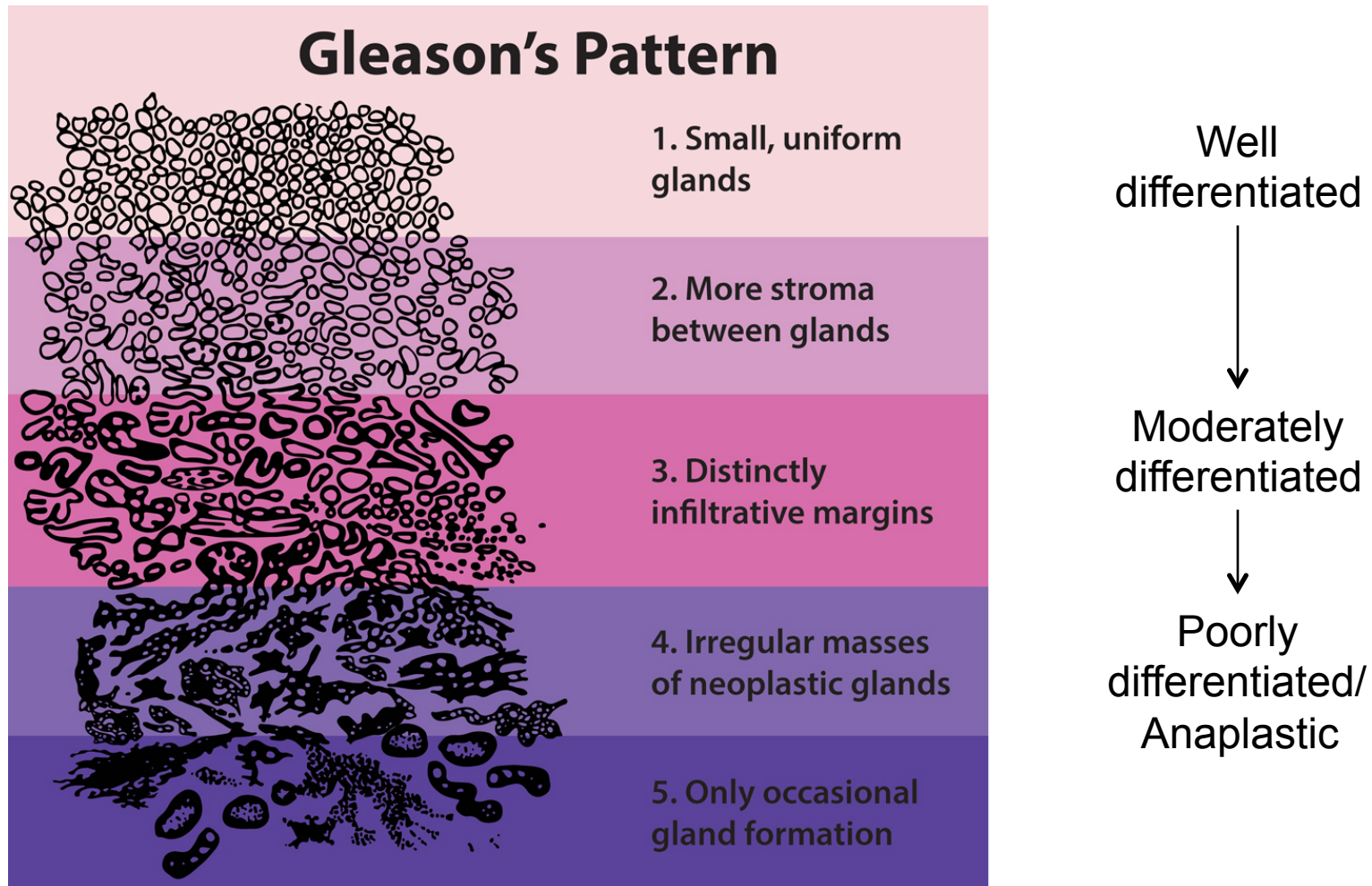
Kim Fricker



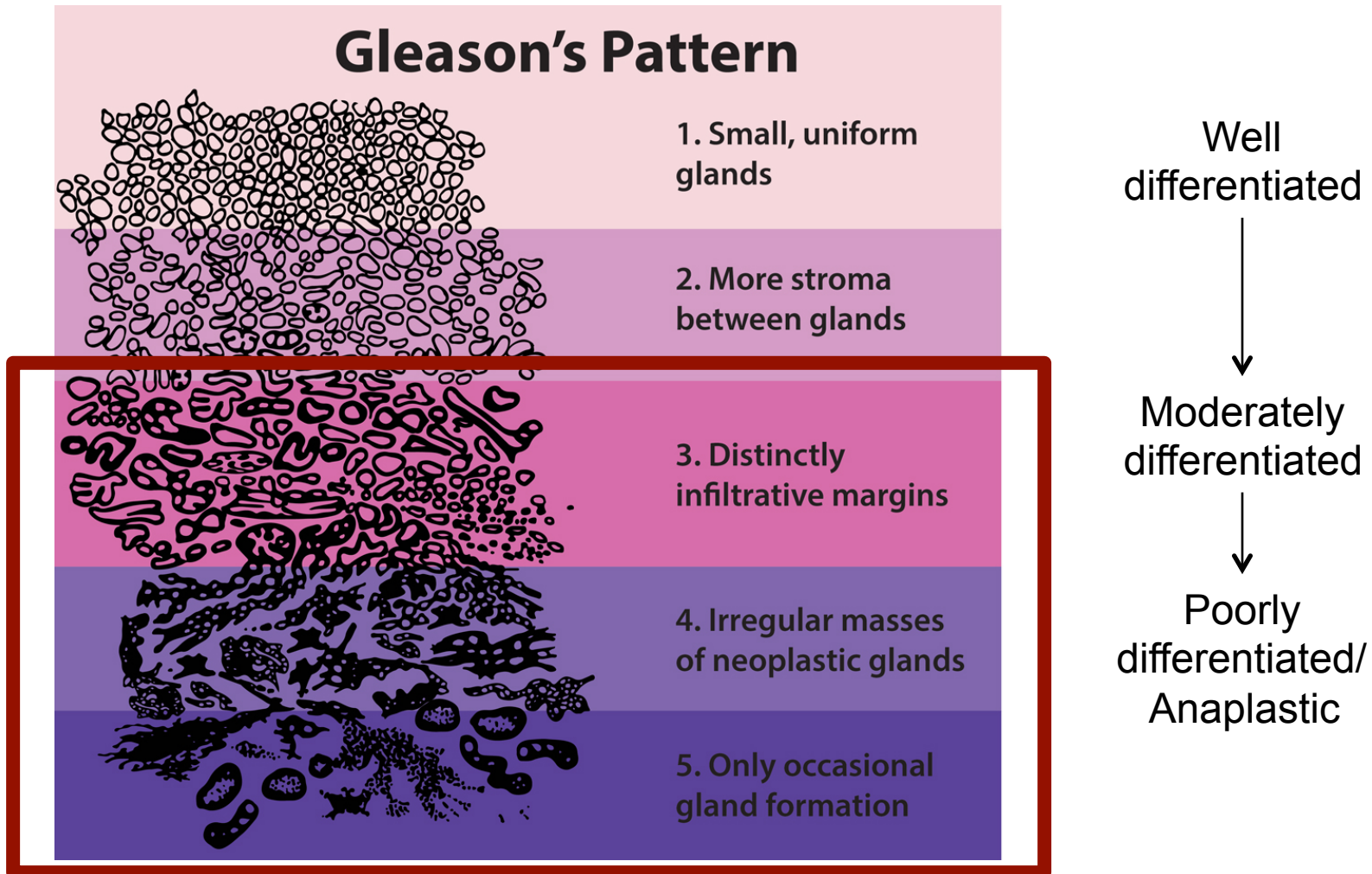
Jan Rüschoff

# Acknowledgements

# Gleason grading system for prostate cancer

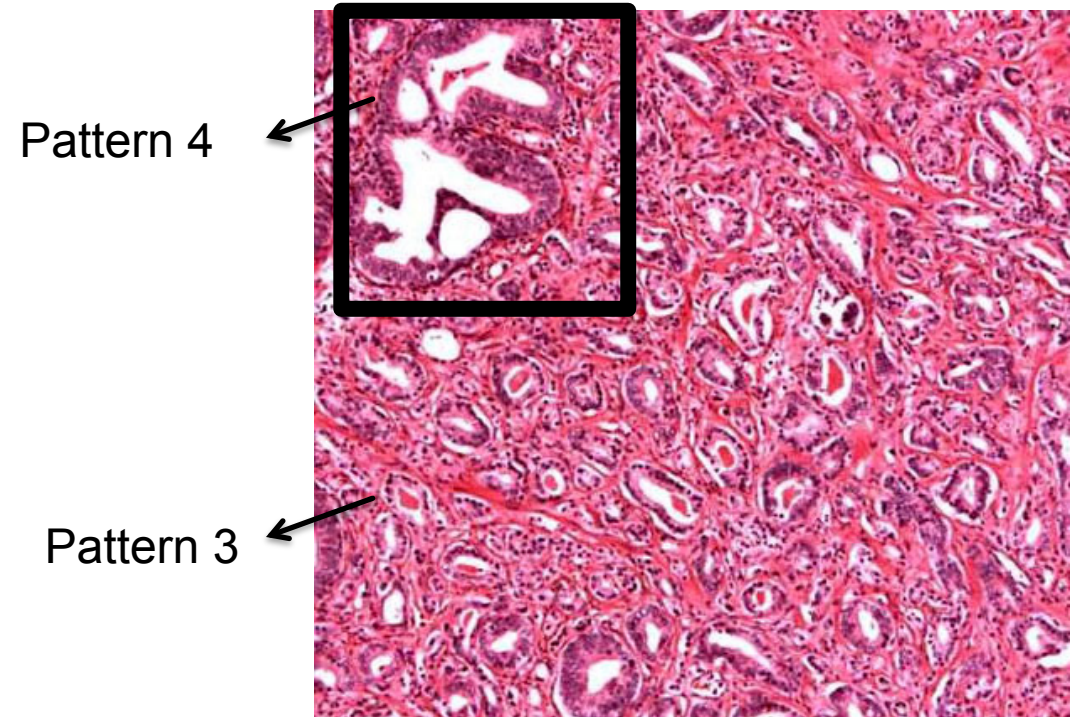


# Gleason grading system for prostate cancer



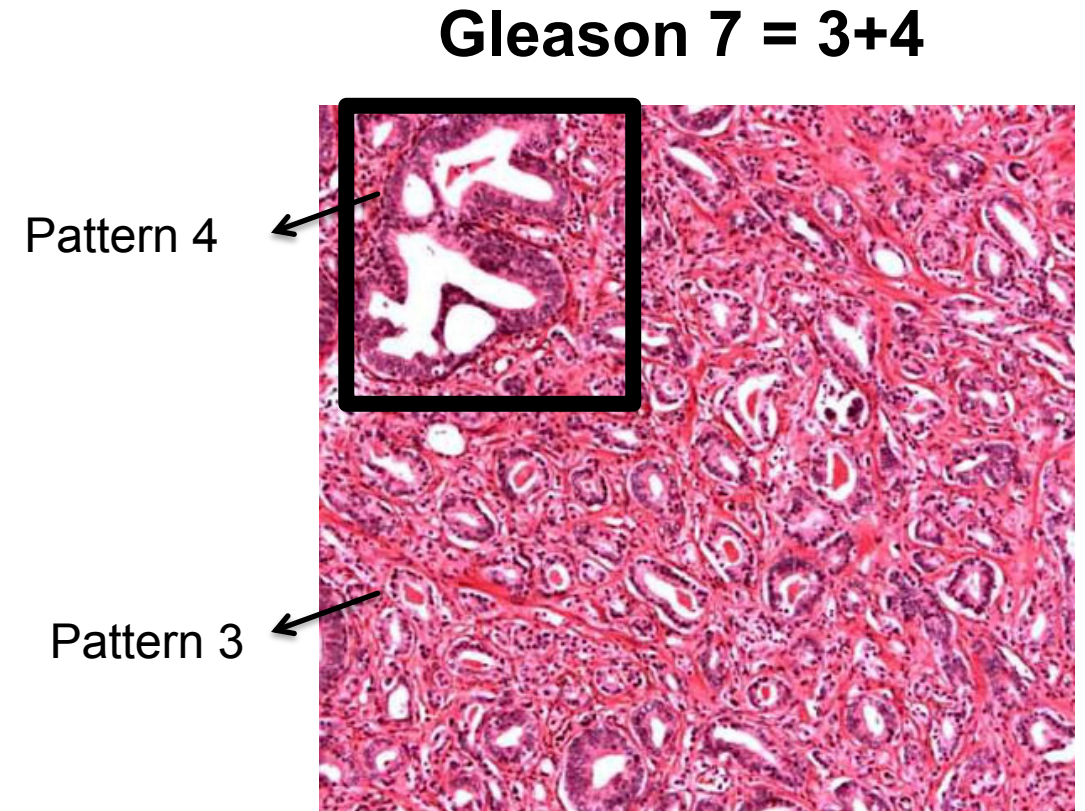
# Gleason score assignment by pathologists

**Gleason 7 = 3+4**



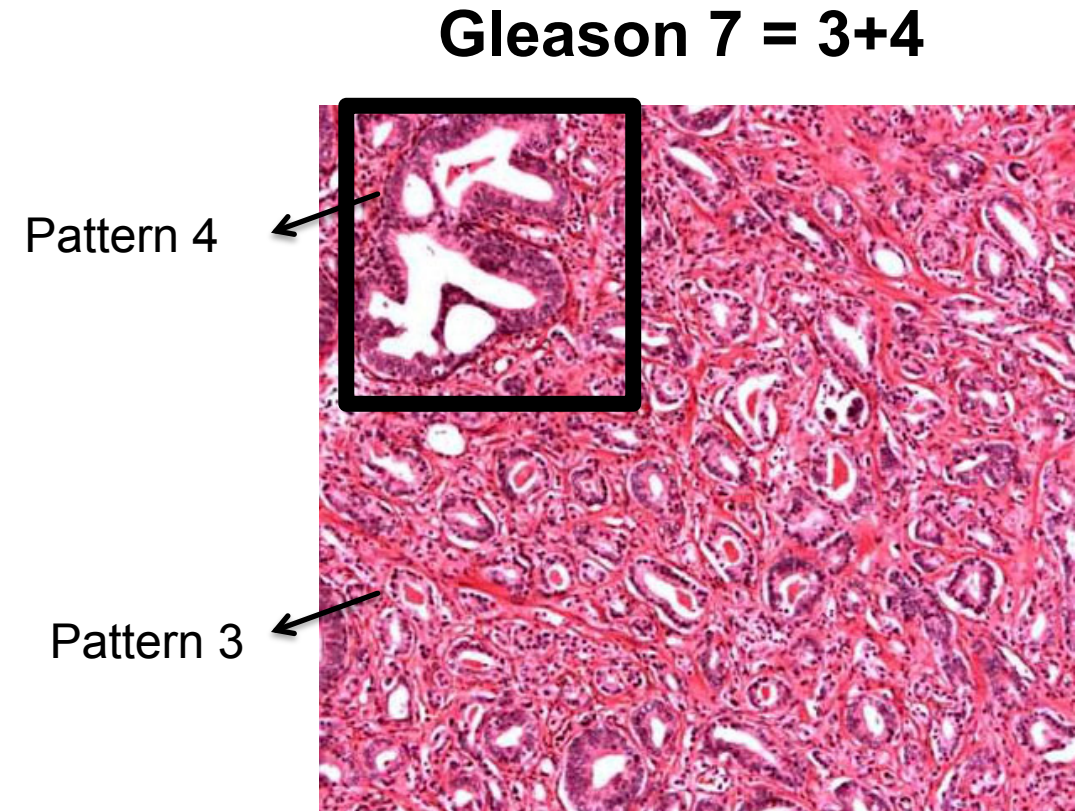
# Gleason score assignment by pathologists

- Gleason score predictive of patient prognosis



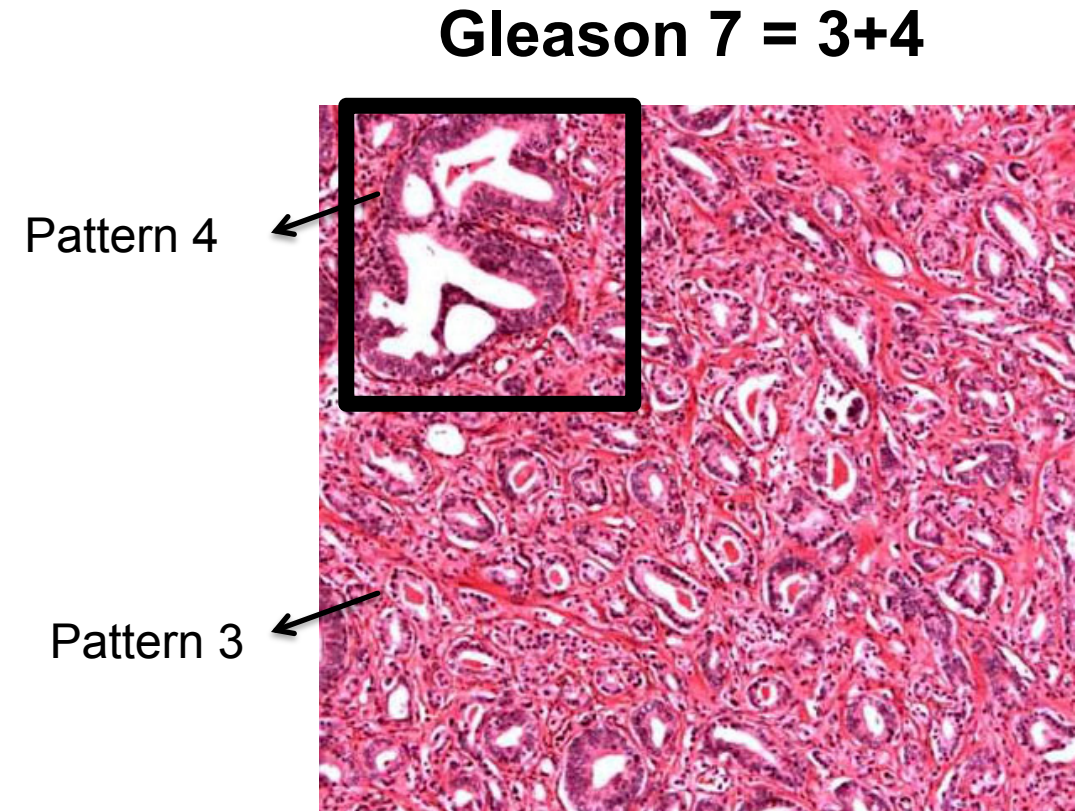
# Gleason score assignment by pathologists

- Gleason score predictive of patient prognosis
- Tedious work
- High inter-pathologist variability



# Gleason score assignment by pathologists

- Gleason score predictive of patient prognosis
  - Tedious work
  - High inter-pathologist variability
- **Project goal:** Gleason score assignment by machine learning
    - fast and reproducible annotations





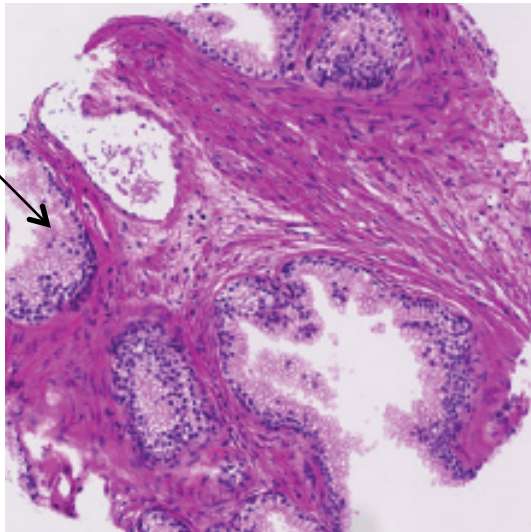
# Obtaining ground-truth annotations

- Domain-expert Gleason annotations on ~ 900 Tissue MicroArray (TMA) images

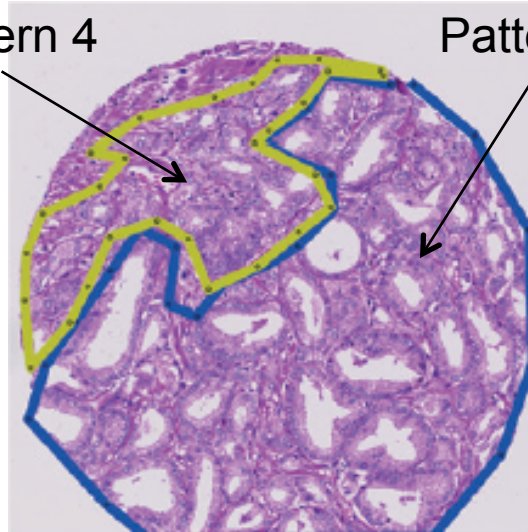


K. Fricker

Benign

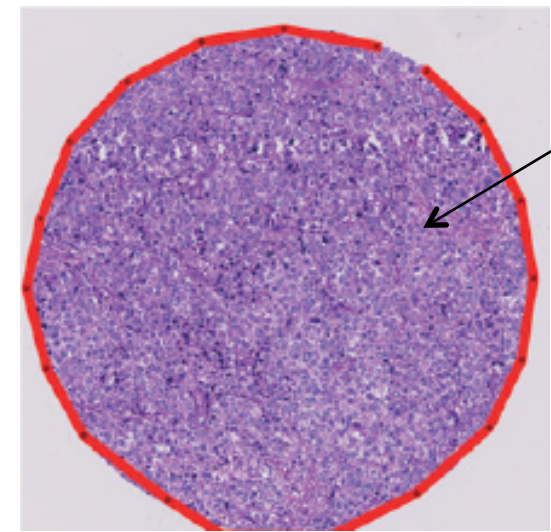


Pattern 4

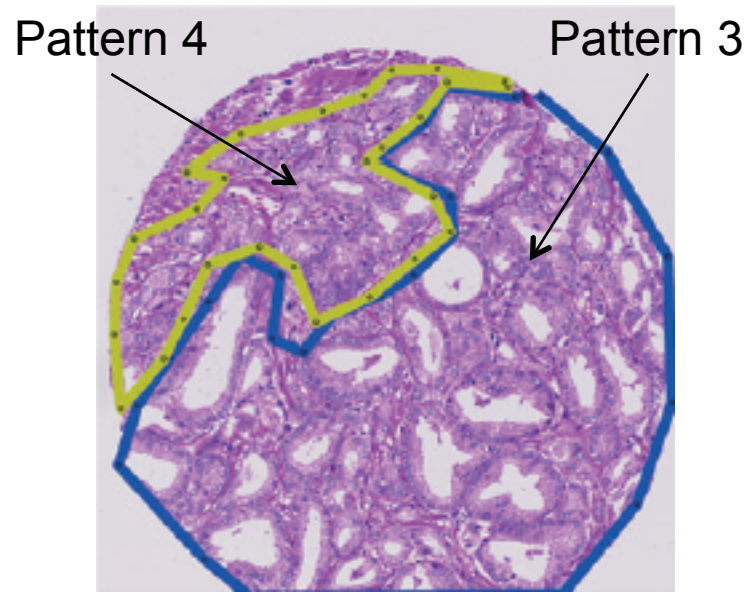


Pattern 3

Pattern 5

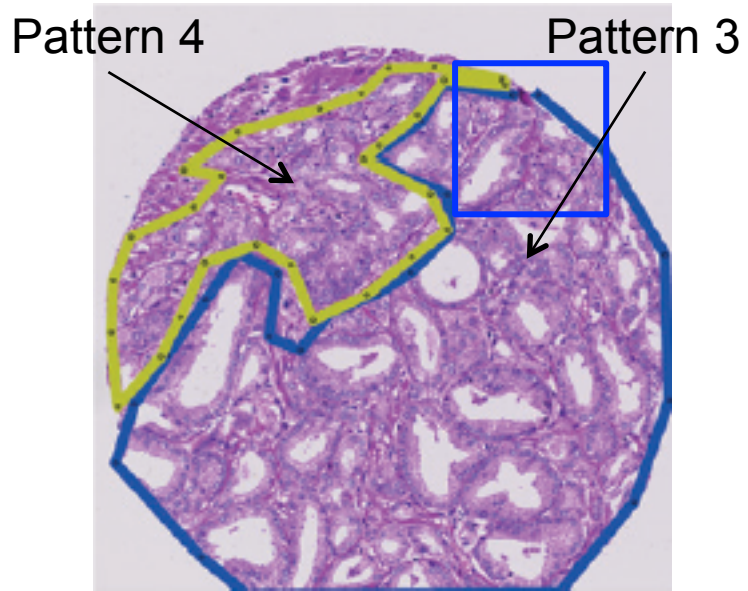


# Model training on small image patches



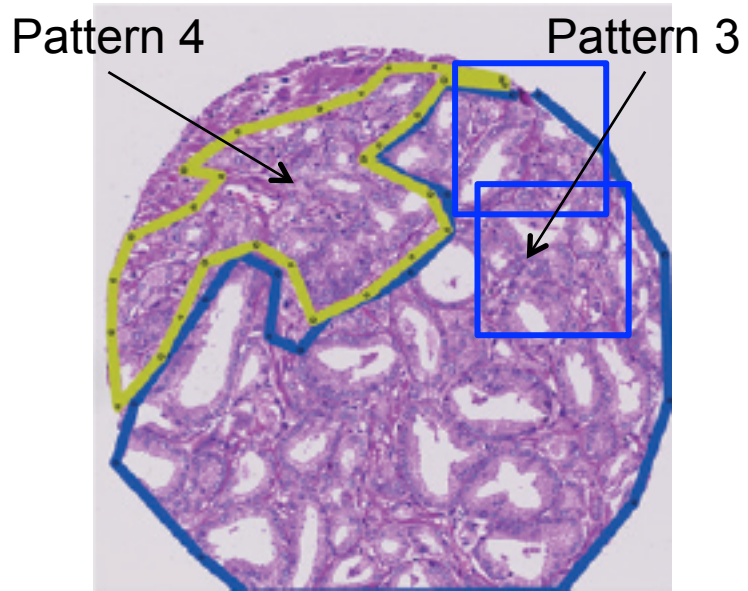
- **Training cohort: 641 TMA images**

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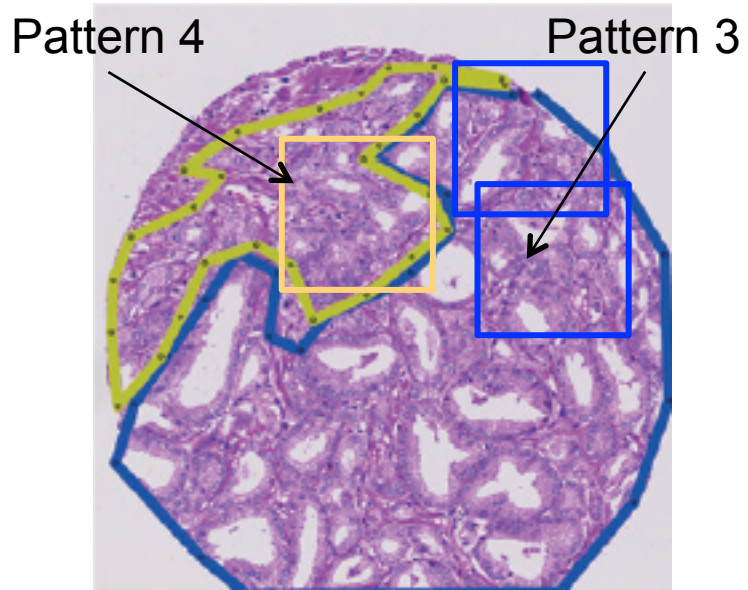
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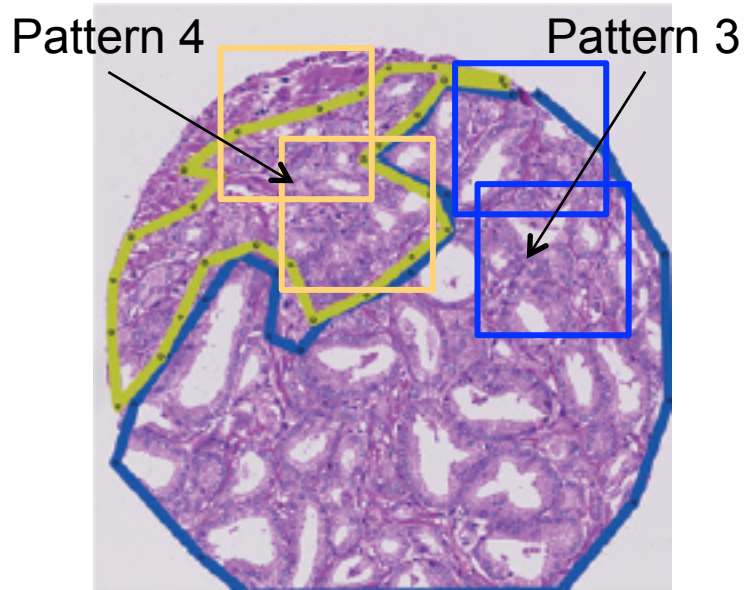
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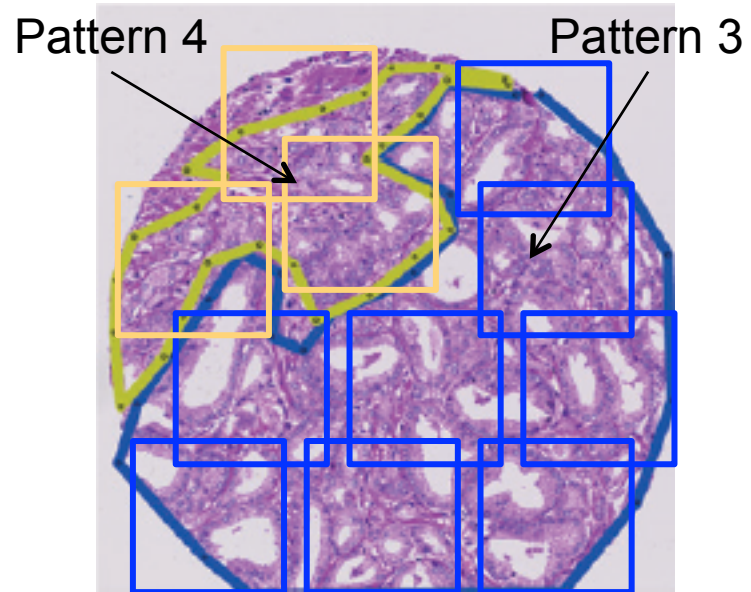
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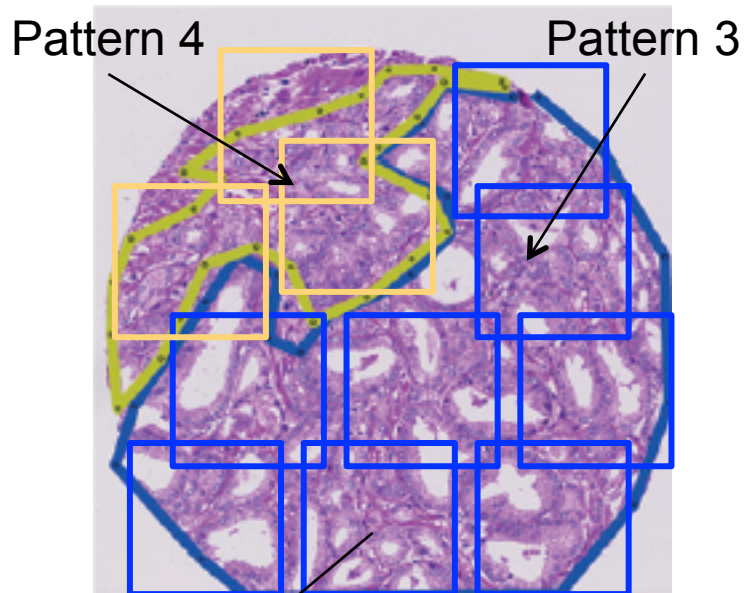
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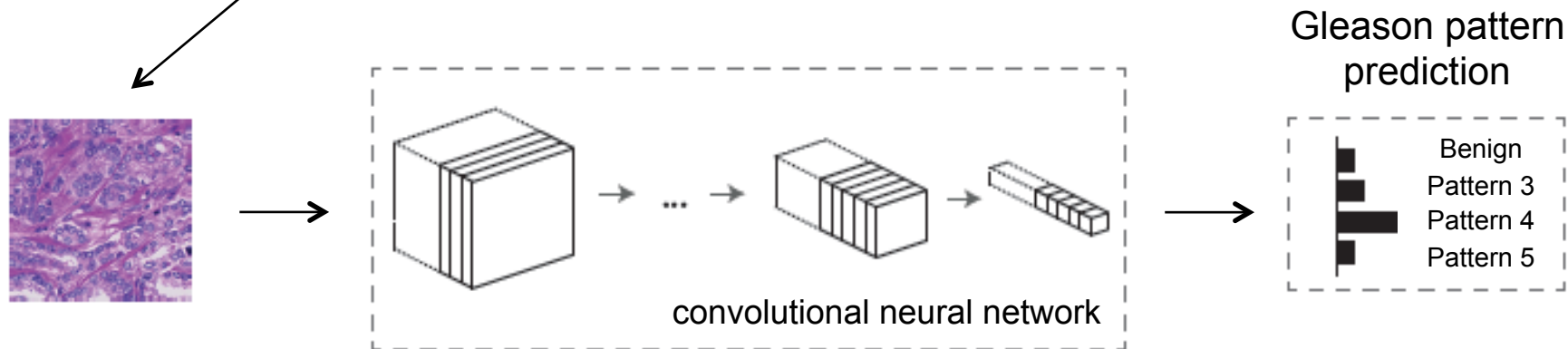


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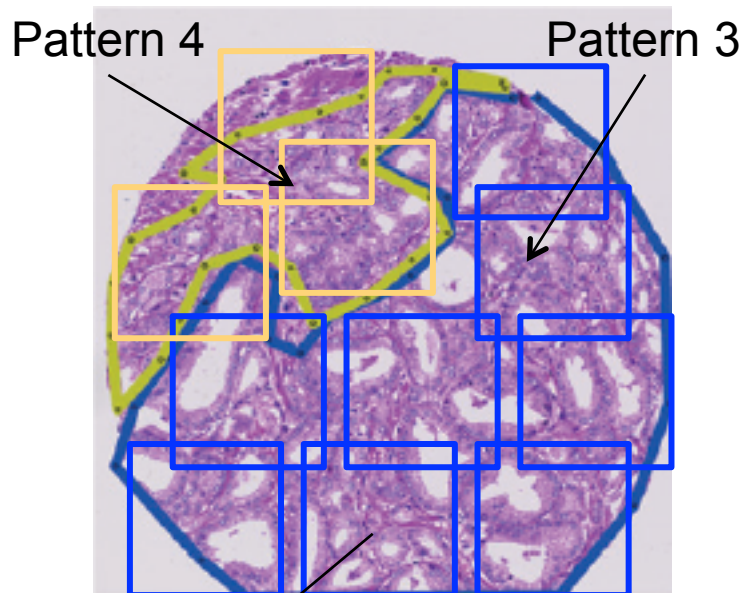


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- Train a Gleason pattern classifier

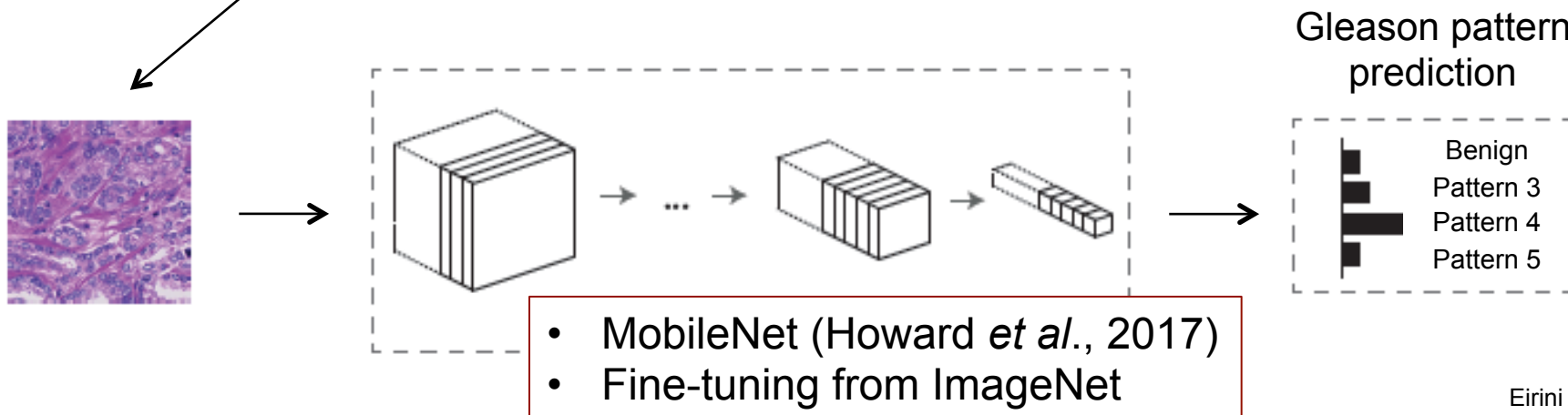




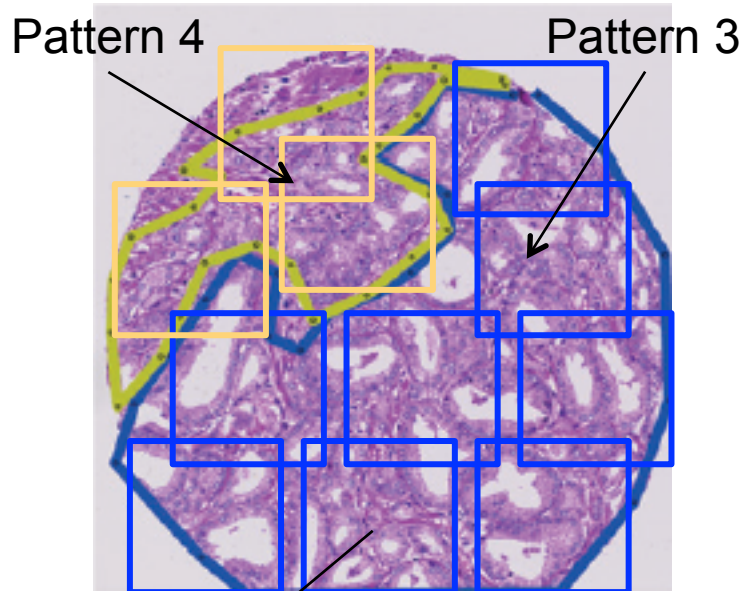
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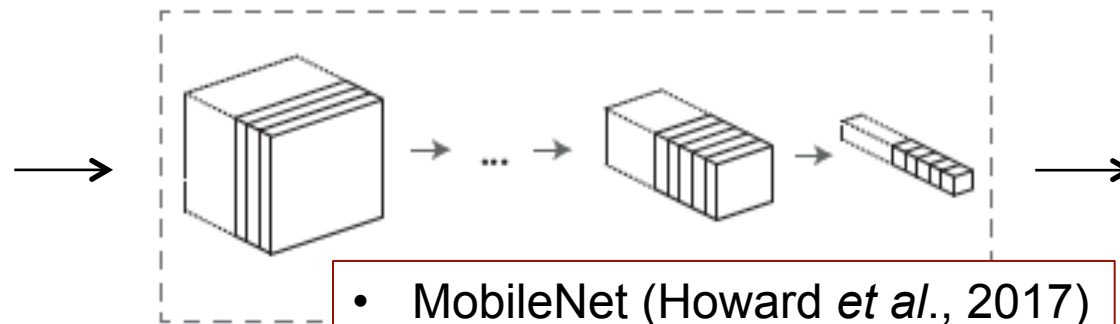
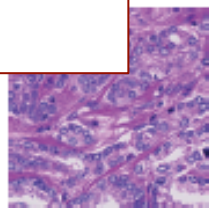


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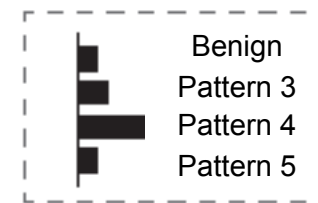
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- Data augmentation
- Class-balanced mini-batches

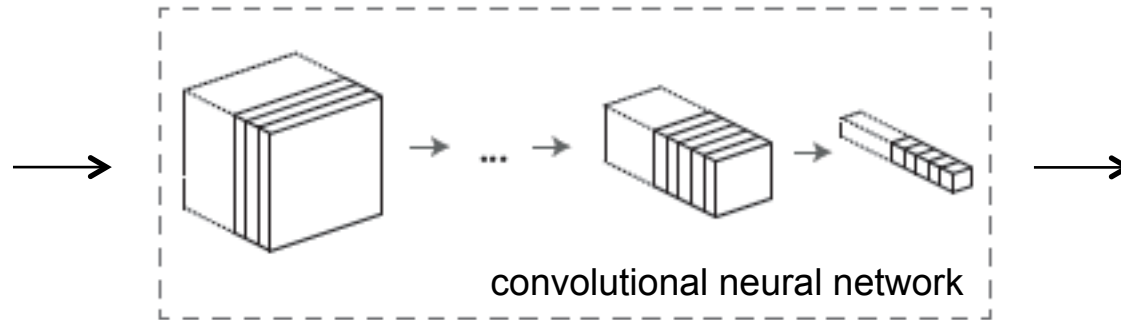
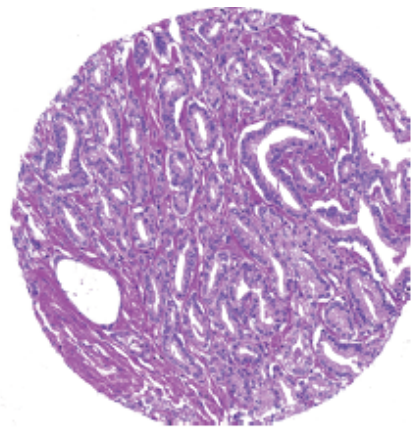


- MobileNet (Howard *et al.*, 2017)
- Fine-tuning from ImageNet

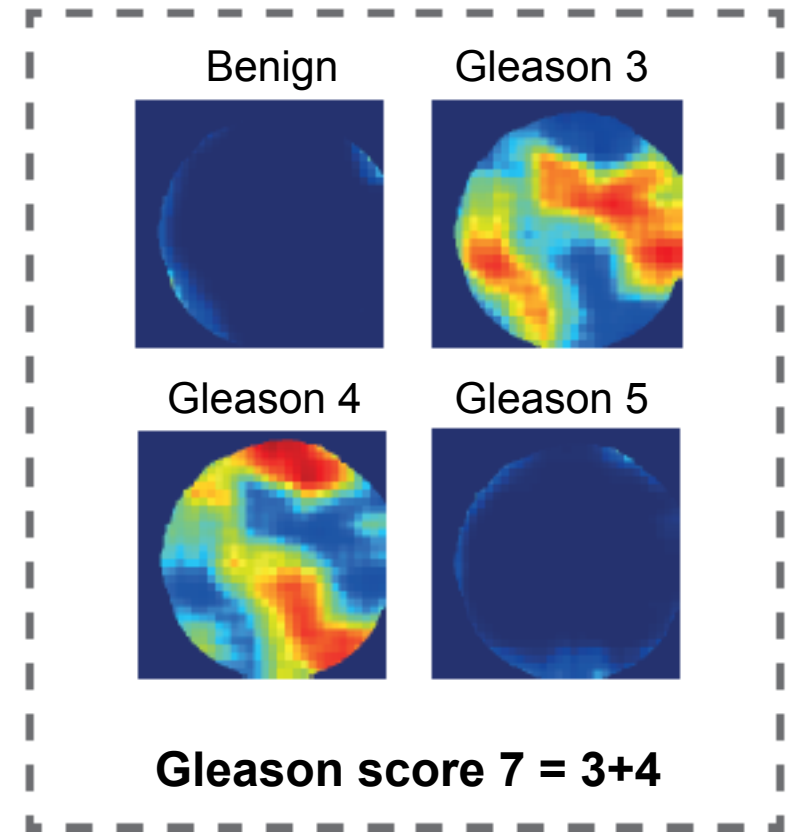
Gleason pattern prediction



# Trained model used to imitate pathologist workflow



## Pixel-level annotation

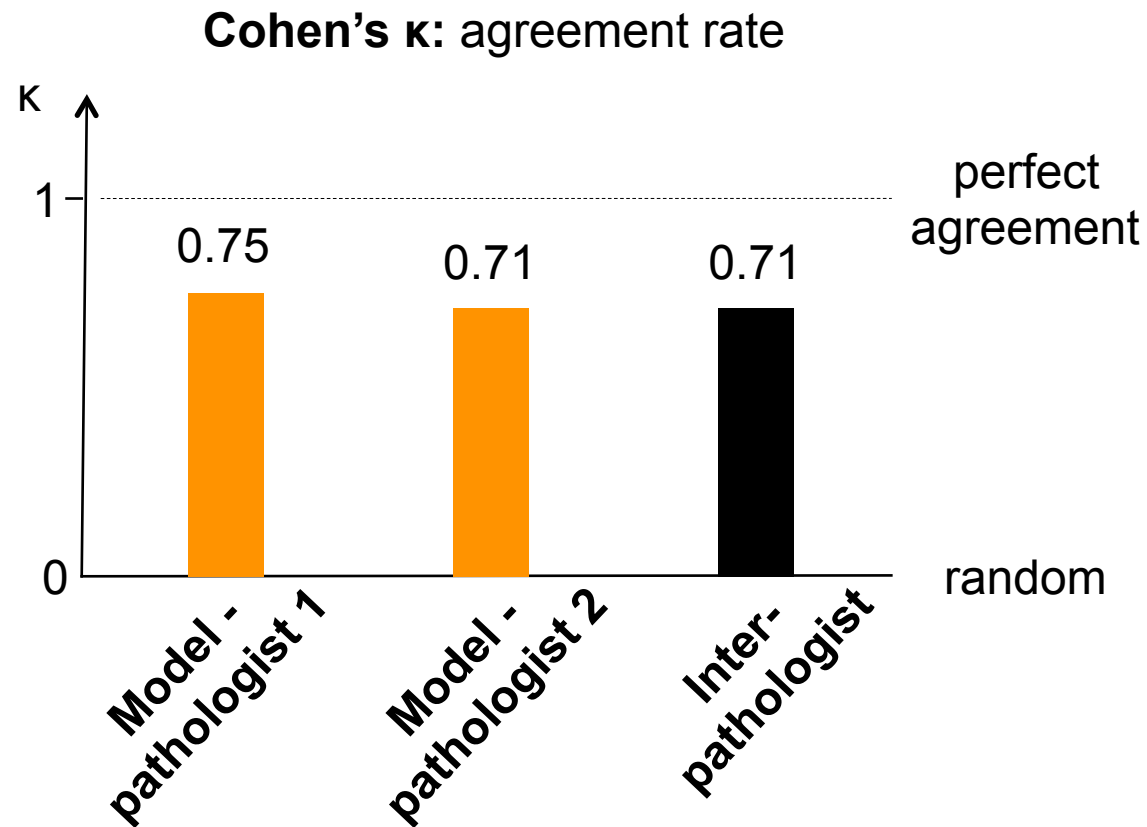


# Test cohort results: image-level agreement

Test cohort: 245 TMA images

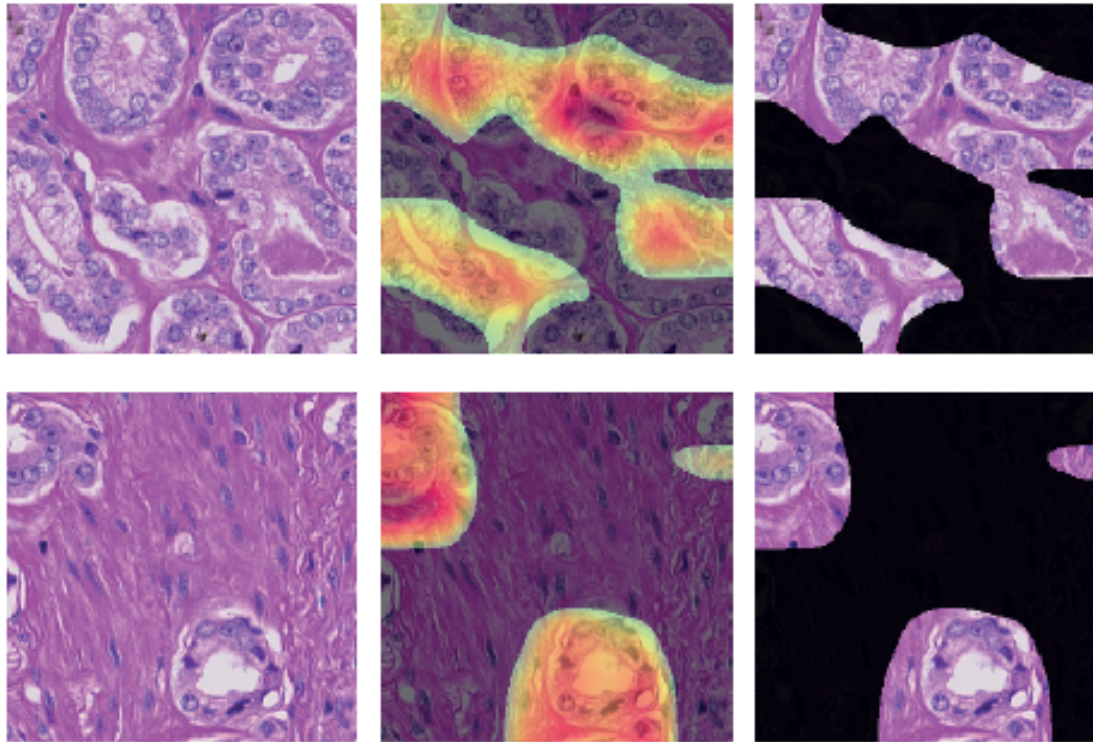


K. Fricker J. Rüschoff



# Highlighting Gleason-pattern-discriminative regions

## Focus regions for Gleason pattern 3 predictions



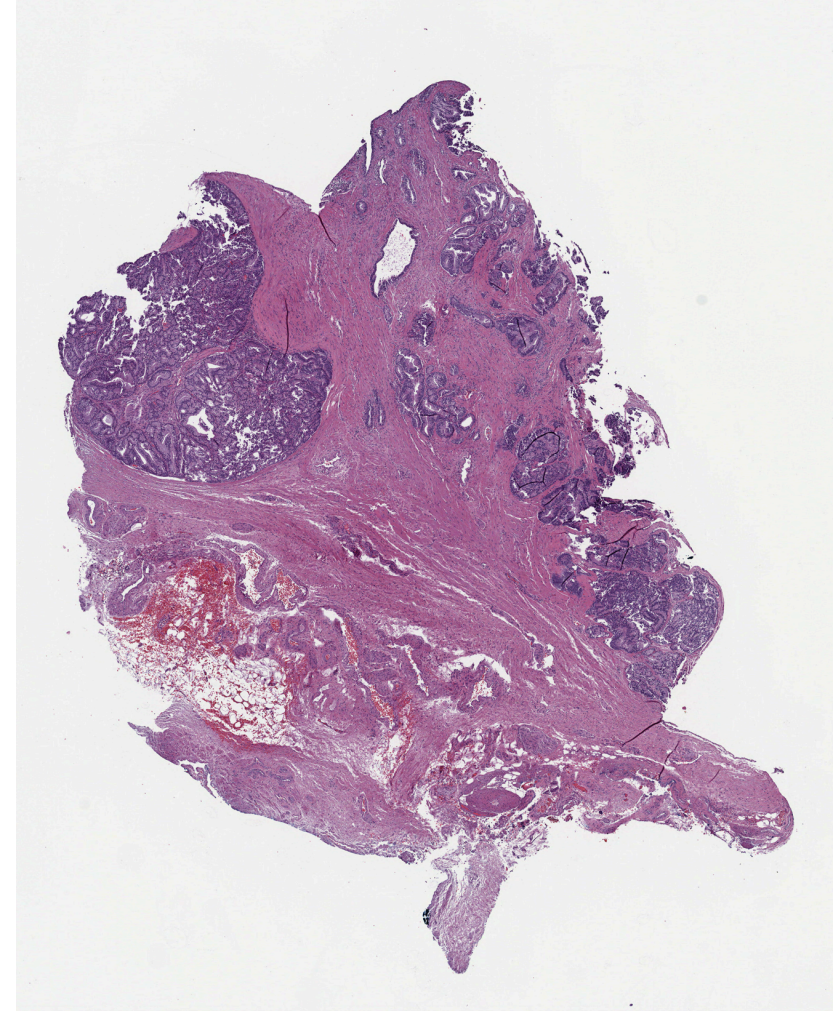
input patch

model focus

focus regions

- Model focus obtained by *Class Activation Mapping* (Zhou et al., *CVPR*, 2016)

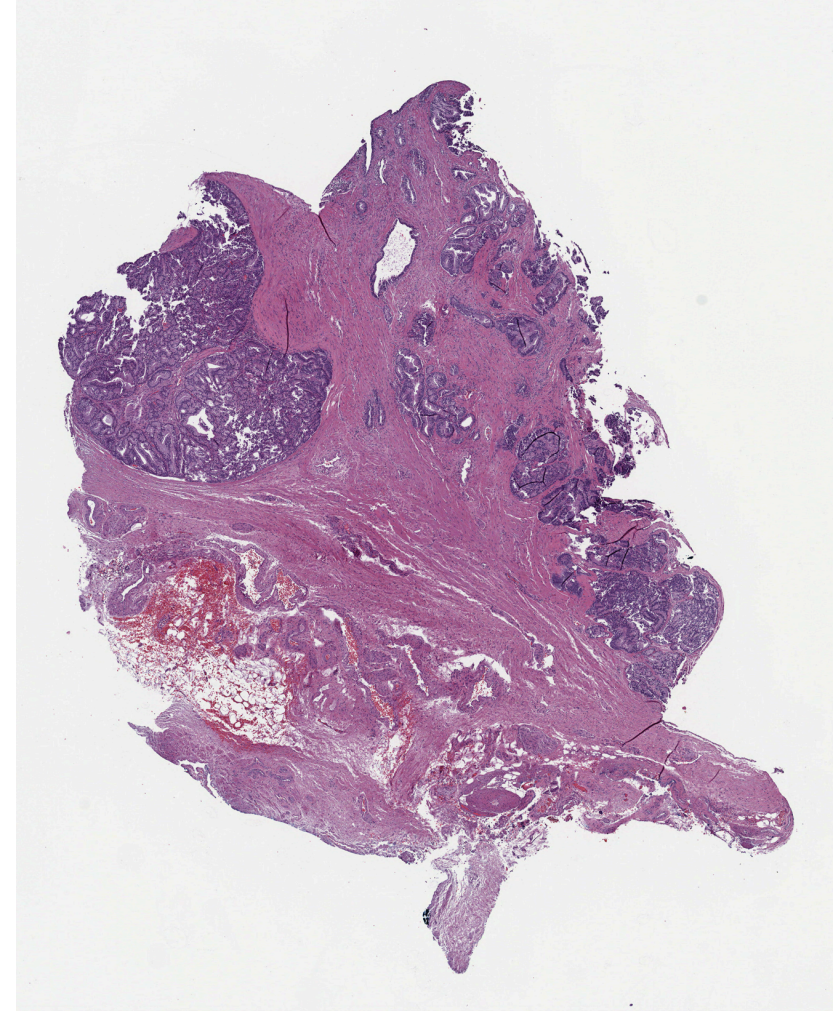
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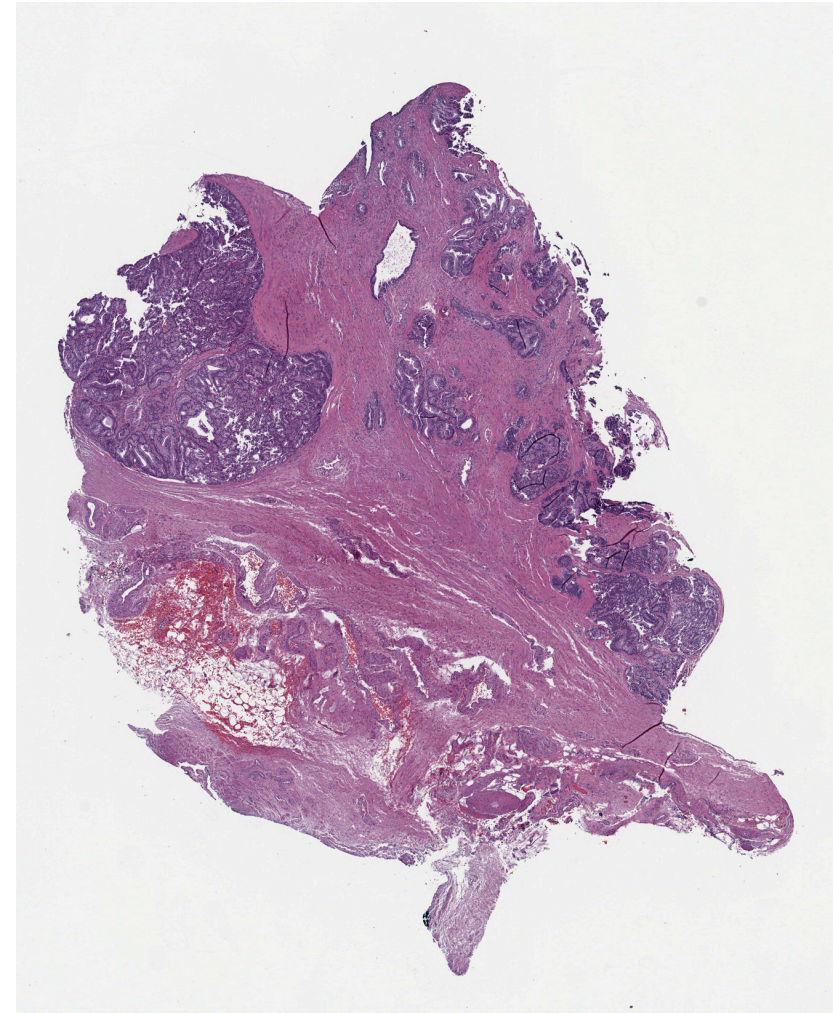
Global-level label: e.g. Gleason 7



# Can we reduce the need for detailed pathologist annotations?

- Global-level (*weak*) annotations often available
- We can *learn* from such *weak annotations*

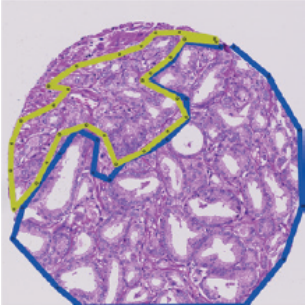
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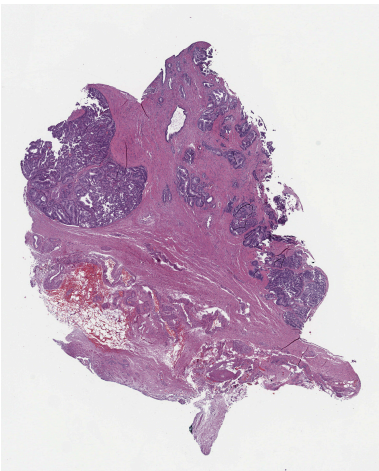


# Training with both local- and global-level annotations

Local annotations

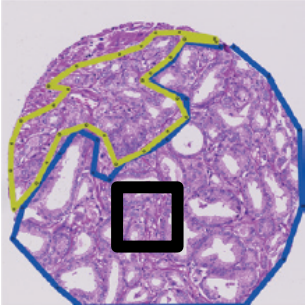


Global (weak) annotation

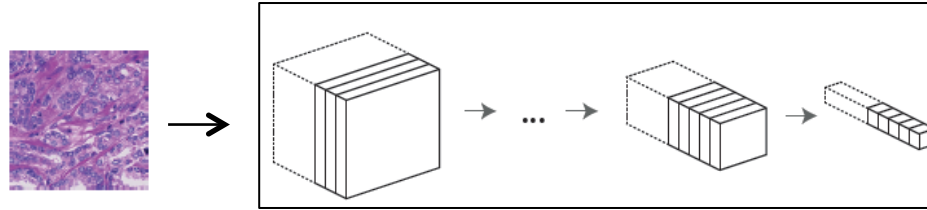
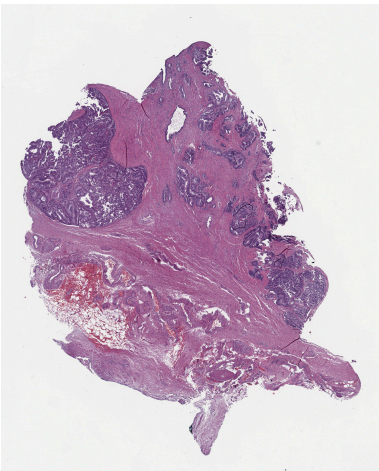


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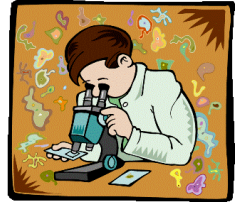
Local annotations



Global (weak) annotation



$y_{\text{pred}}$

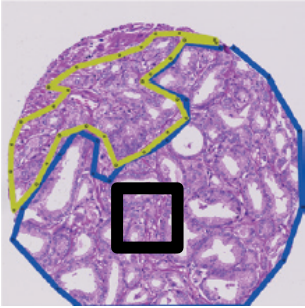


$y_{\text{local}}$

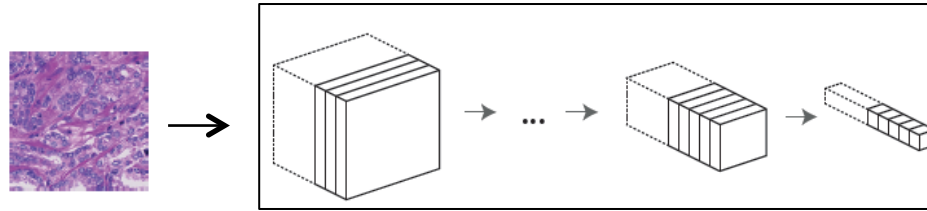
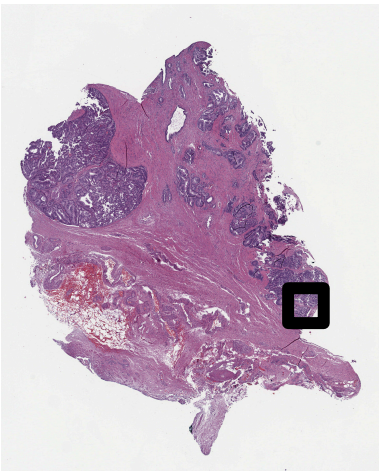
minimize:  $\text{Loss}(y_{\text{pred}}, y_{\text{local}})$

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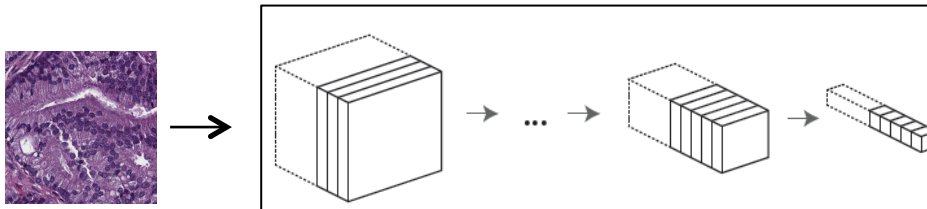


$Y_{\text{pred}}$

minimize:  $\text{Loss}(Y_{\text{pred}}, Y_{\text{local}})$



$Y_{\text{local}}$



$Y_{\text{pred}}$

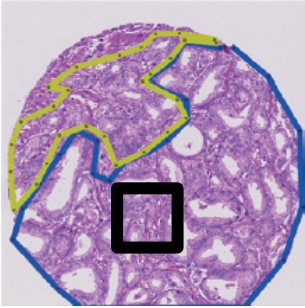
minimize:  $\mathbf{w} * \text{Loss}(Y_{\text{pred}}, Y_{\text{global}})$

$$0 \leq \mathbf{w} \leq 1$$

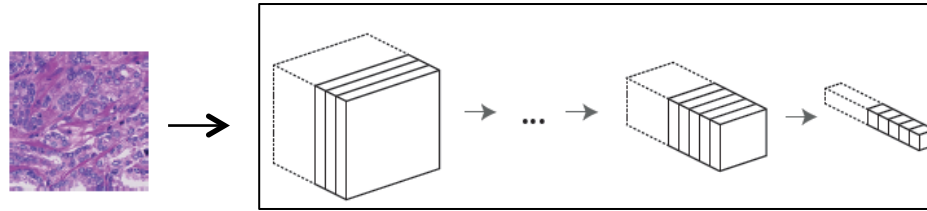
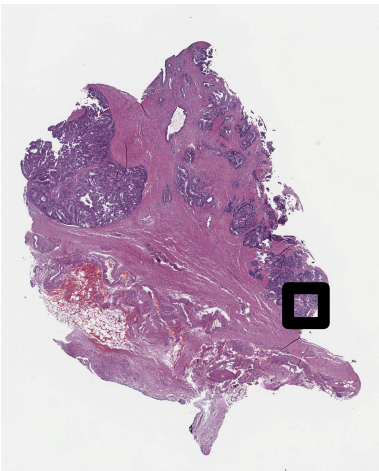
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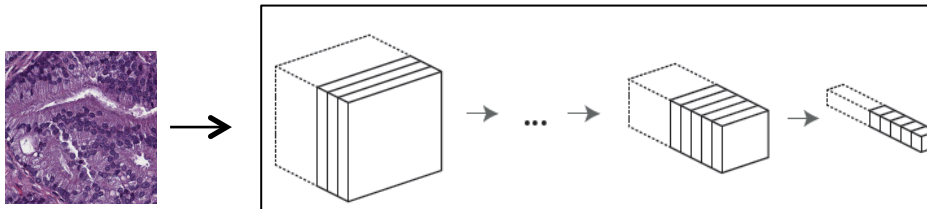


→  $Y_{\text{pred}}$

minimize:  $\text{Loss}(Y_{\text{pred}}, Y_{\text{local}})$



$Y_{\text{local}}$



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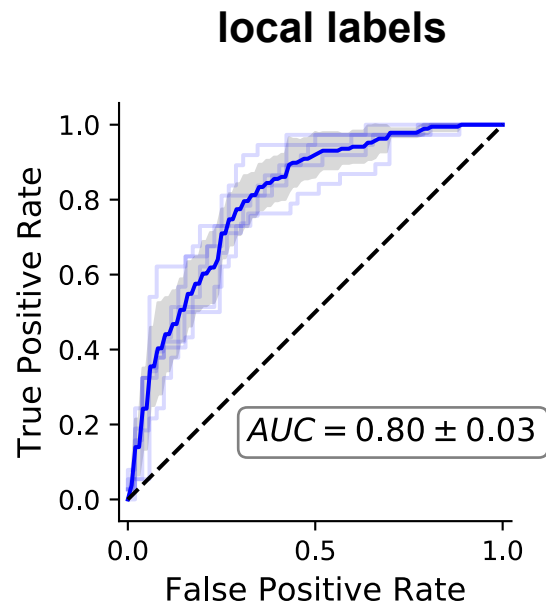
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$Y_{\text{global}}$

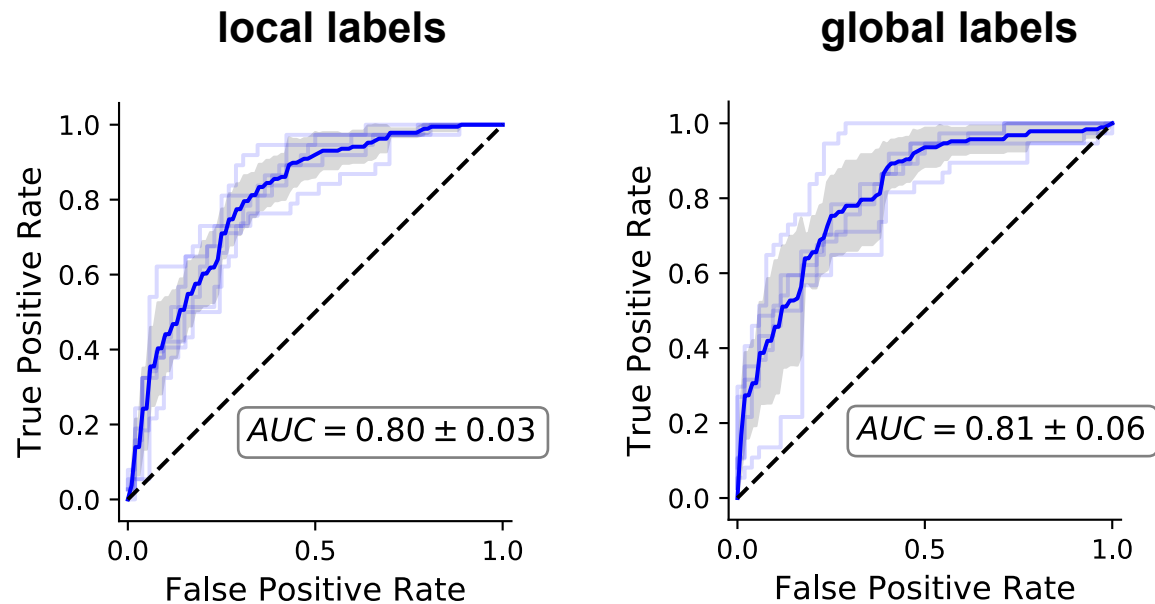
$\mathbf{w}$ : predicted probability  
for the given (weak) label.

# Weighted weak supervision outperforms simpler approaches



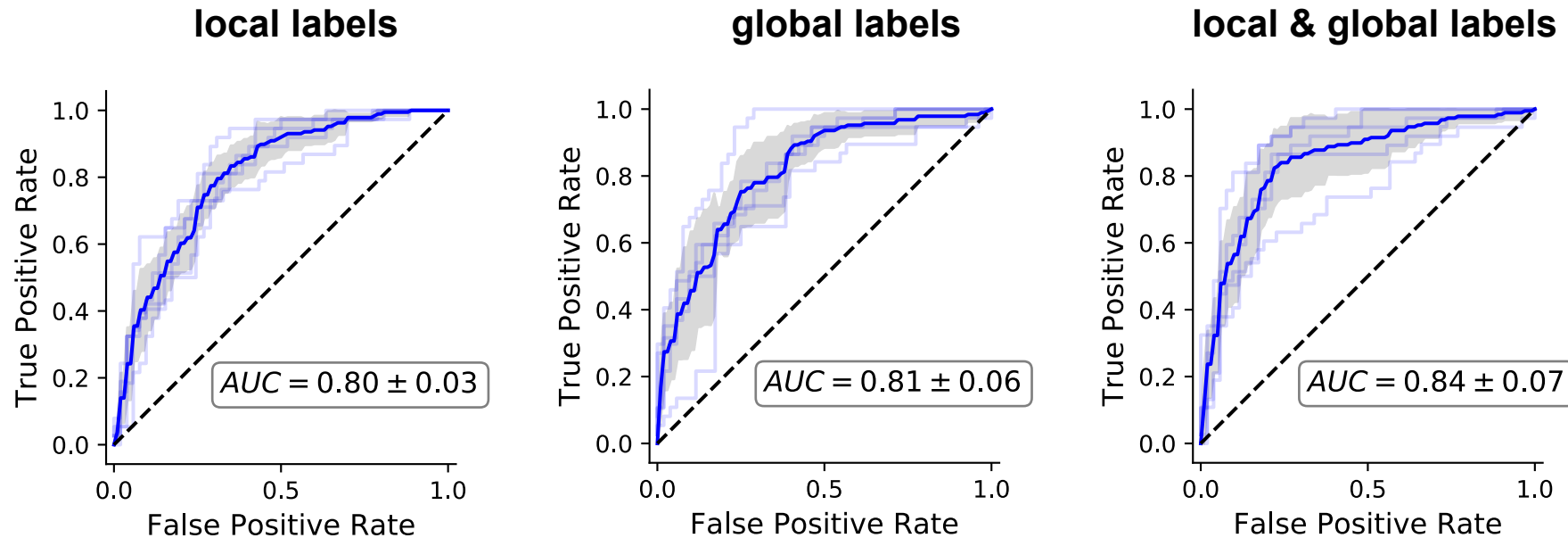
- **Task:** classify *low vs high Gleason score* cases from The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) whole-slide images.

# Weighted weak supervision outperforms simpler approaches



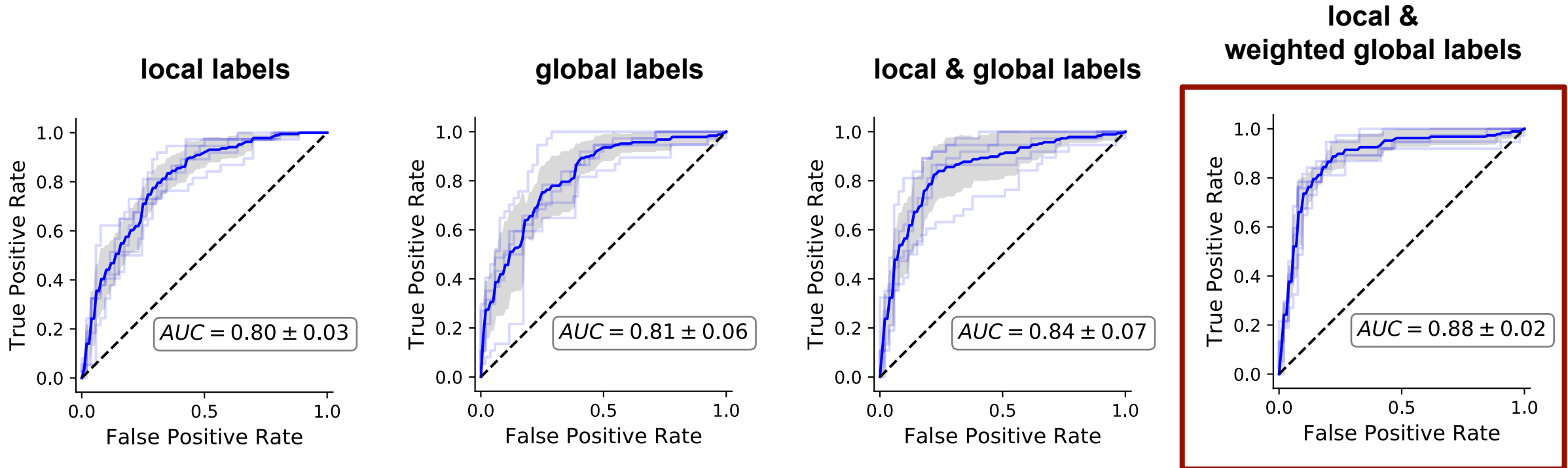
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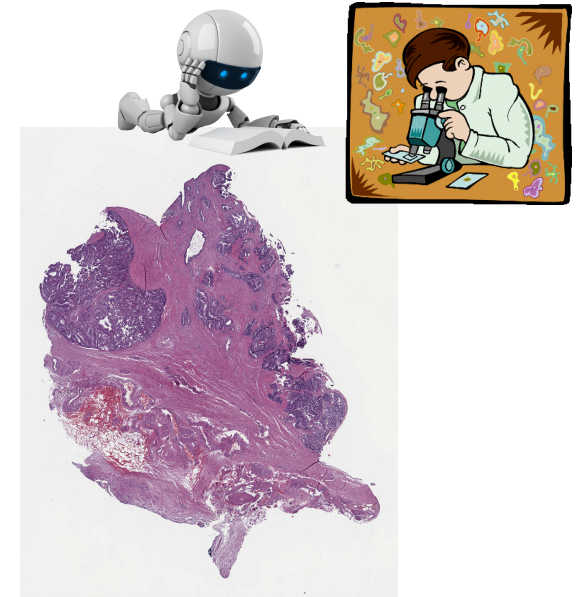
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  - associate tissue images with molecular features, cancer recurrence, ...



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**Thank you for your attention!**

- Automated
- Weakly-supervised
  - reduced neoplasia annotations

### Next steps

- Validate weakly-supervised training locally
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