



DP-CRE: Continual Relation Extraction via Decoupled Contrastive Learning and Memory Structure Preservation

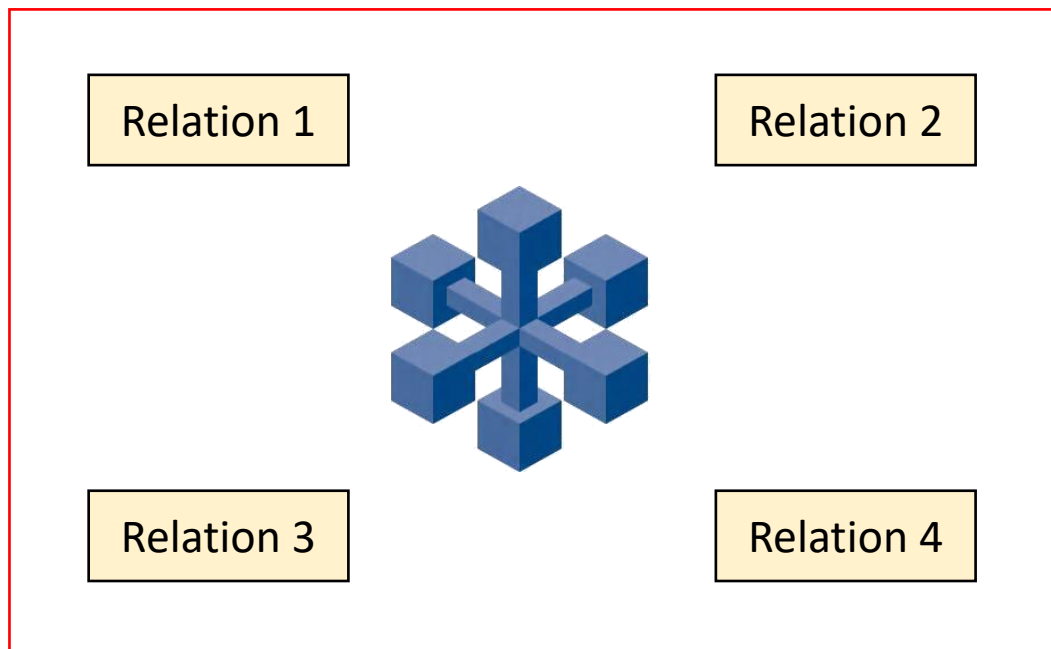
Mengyi Huang^{1,2,†}, Meng Xiao^{1,†}, Ludi Wang^{1,*}, Yi Du^{1,2,3,*}

¹Computer Network Information Center, Chinese Academy of Sciences

²University of Chinese Academy of Sciences

³Hangzhou Institute for Advanced Study, UCAS

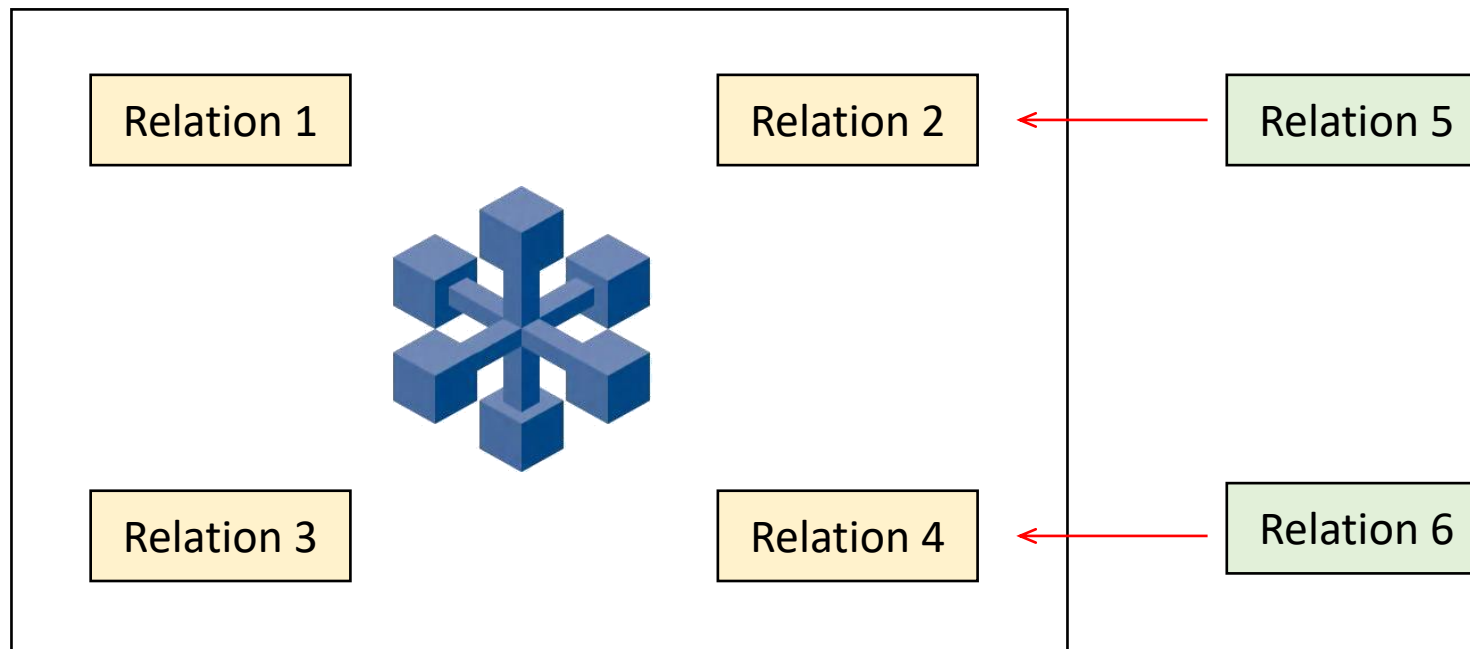
01 Target and Motivation



Trained model for

Relation 1&2&3&4

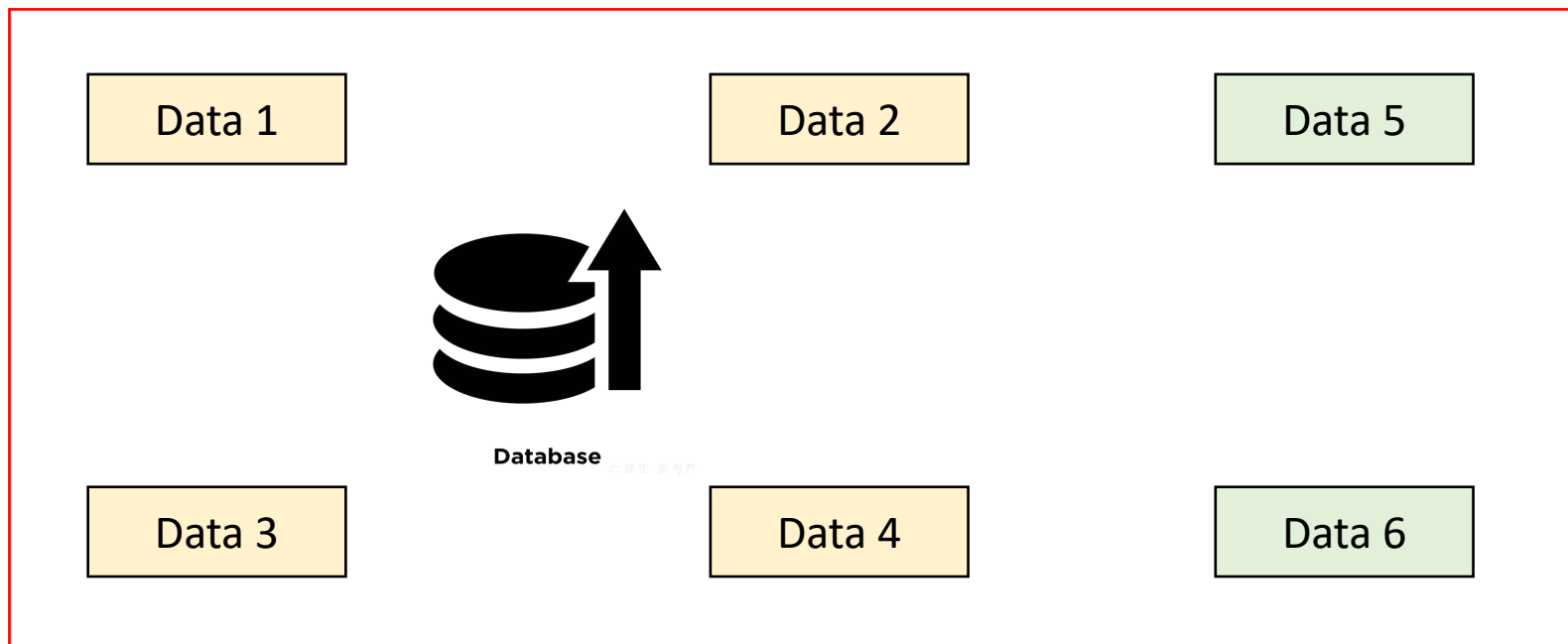
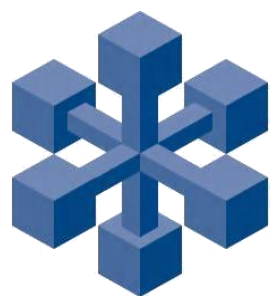
01 Target and Motivation



Expand the model

Relation 1&2&3&4 and 5&6

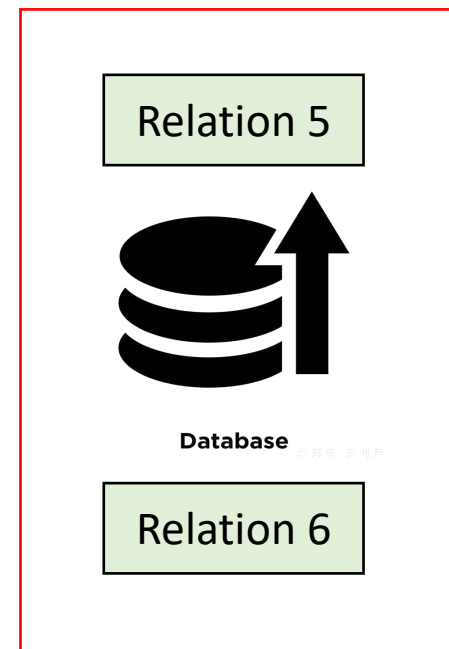
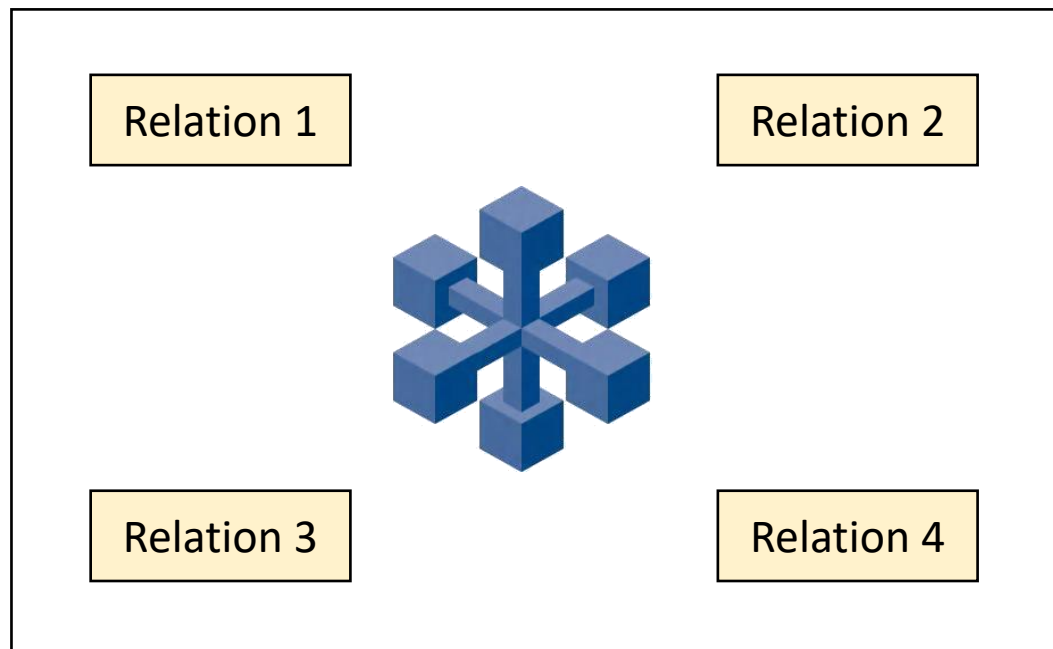
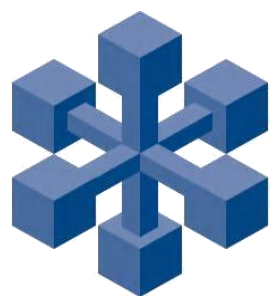
01 Target and Motivation



Retraining the model

Constraints in **storage** and **computational** resources

01 Target and Motivation



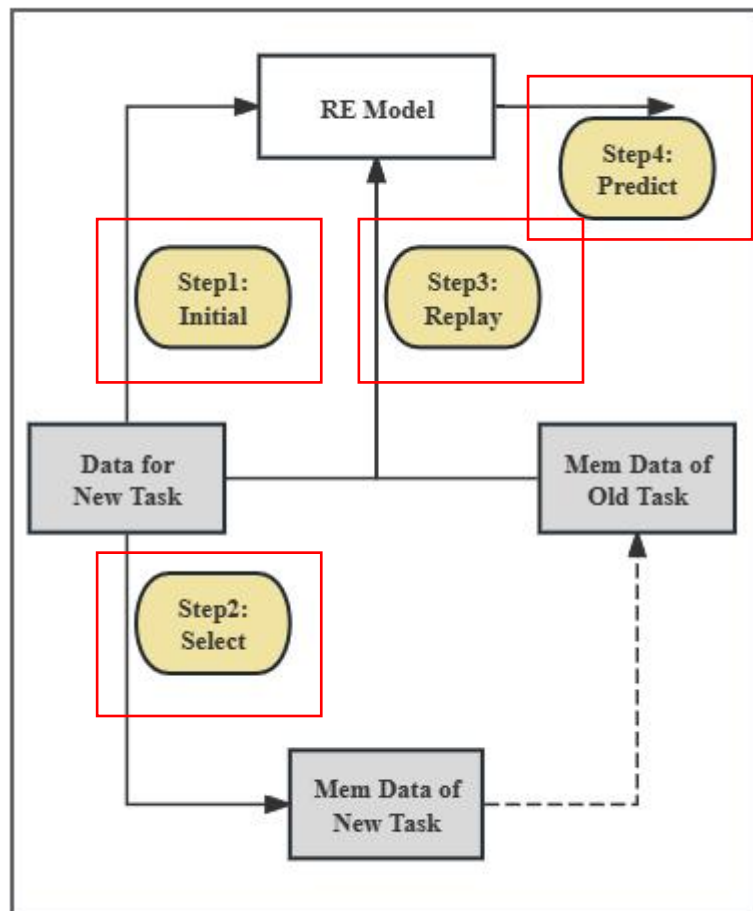
How to incrementally
train the model using
these new samples.

02 Summary of Existing Approaches



The Existed Approaches of Continual Relation Extraction

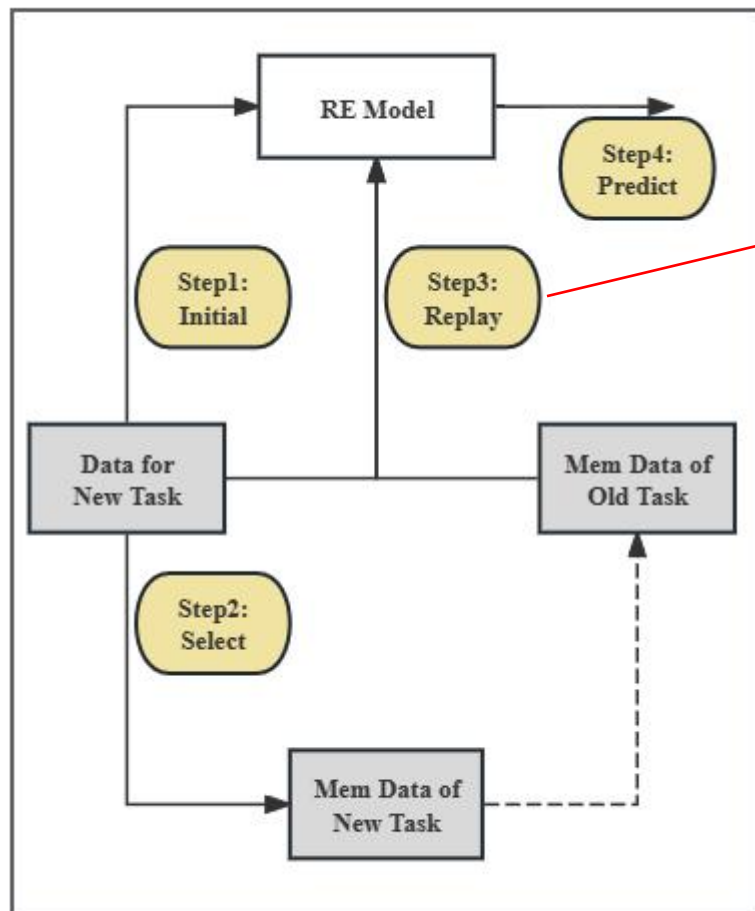
The **Memory-Based method** is widely used in current Continual Relation Extraction work.



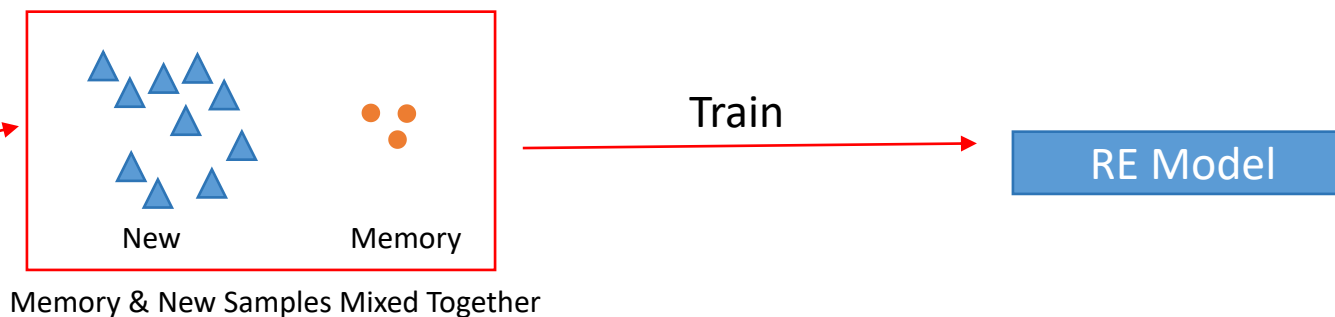
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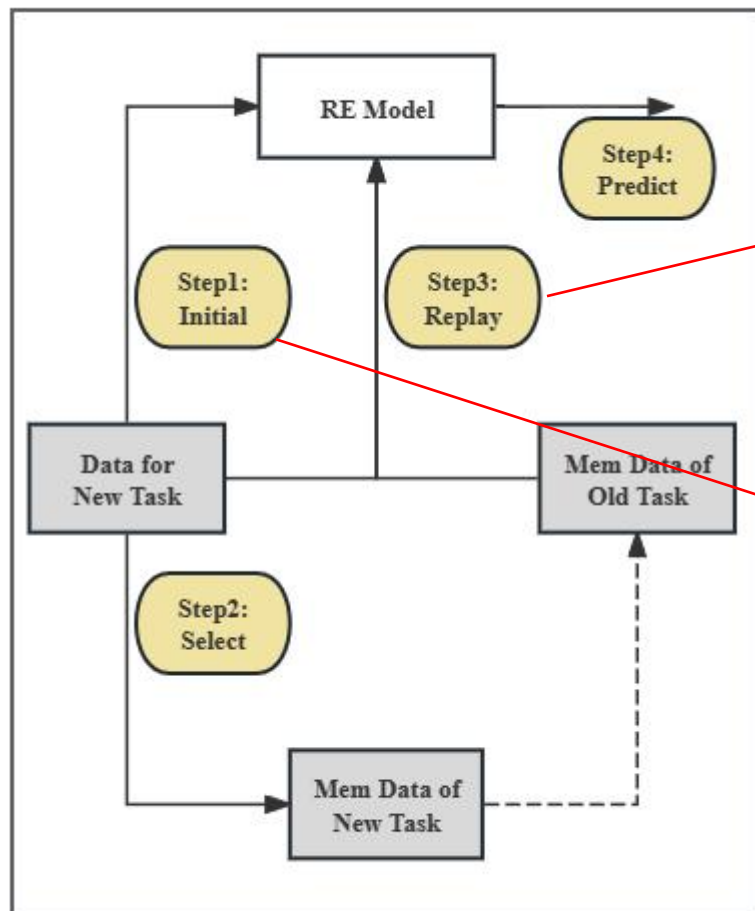
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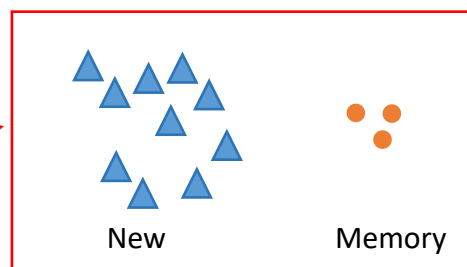
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Train

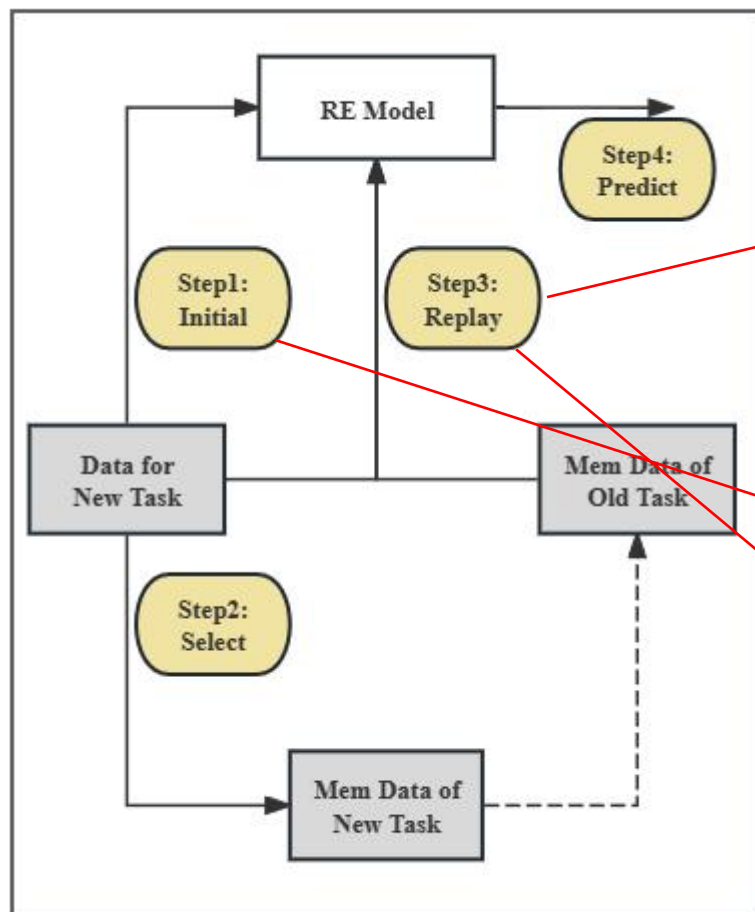
RE Model

1 **New task** knowledge (Frozen Model Parameters & Class Augmentation)

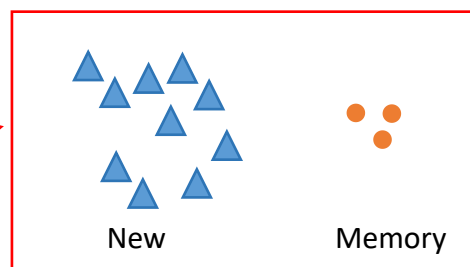
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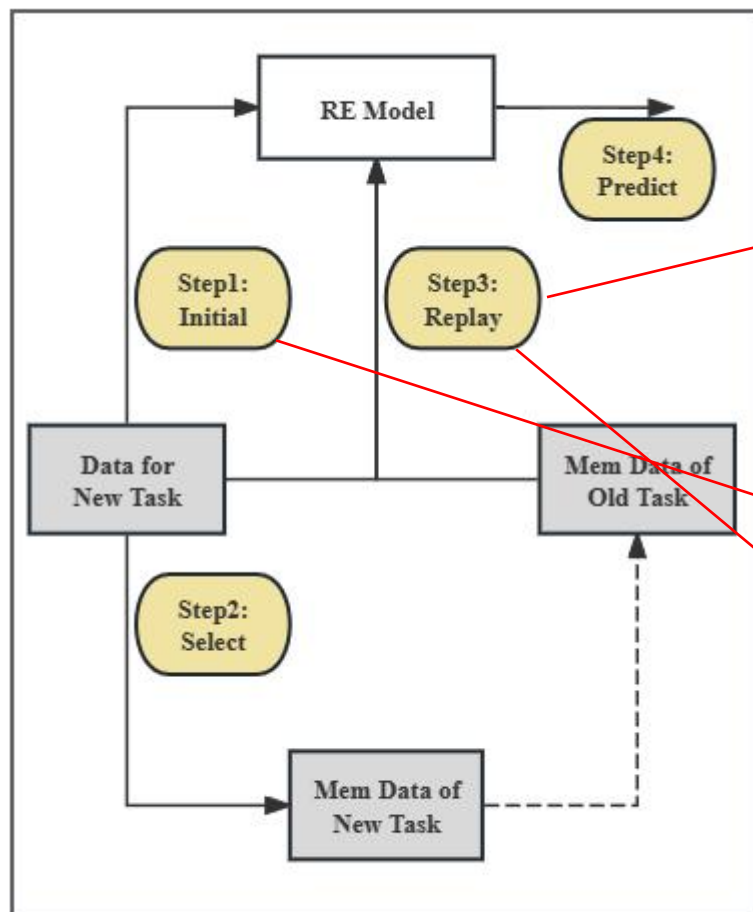
② **Replay process** (Contrastive Learning & Data Augmentation)

③ **Memory embedding** to the same places

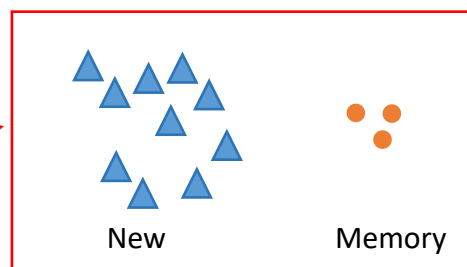
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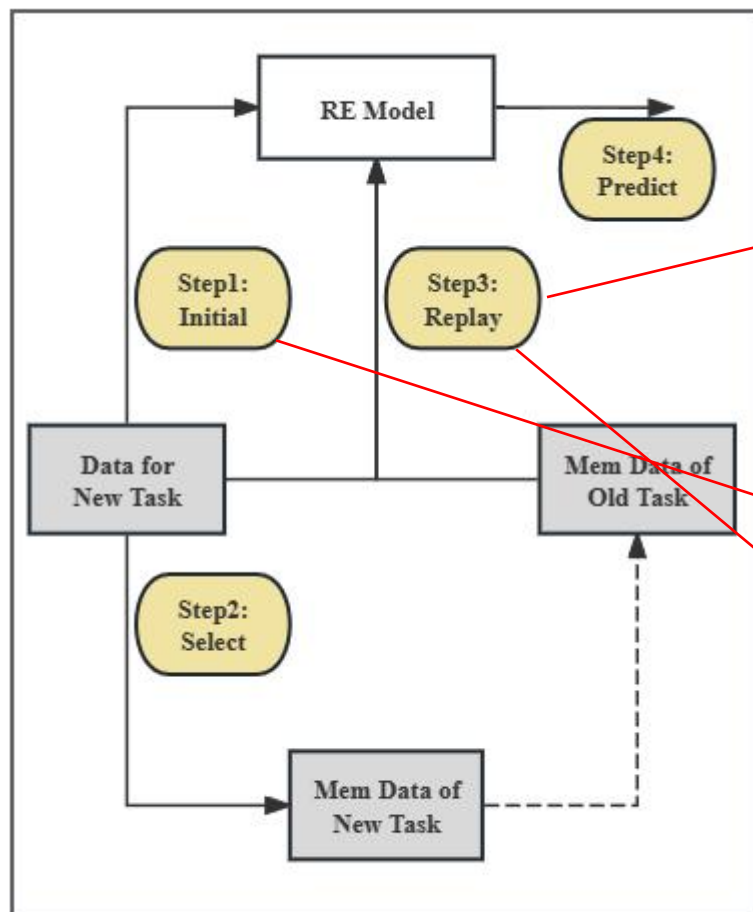
3 **Memory embedding** to the same places

Train Memory & New samples with the same status would bring **model bias**.

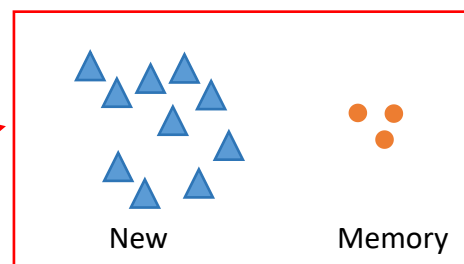
02 Summary of Existing Approaches



The Existed Approaches of Continual Relation Extraction



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Memory & New Samples Mixed Together

Train

RE Model

1 **New task knowledge** (Frozen Model Parameters & Class Augmentation)

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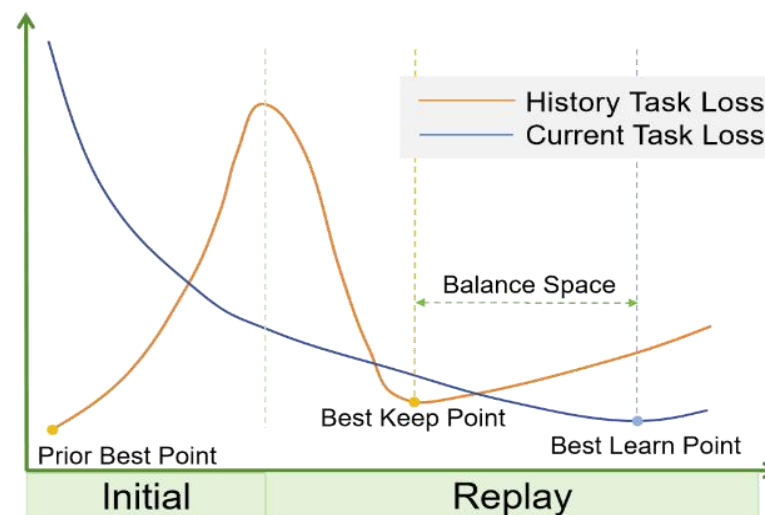
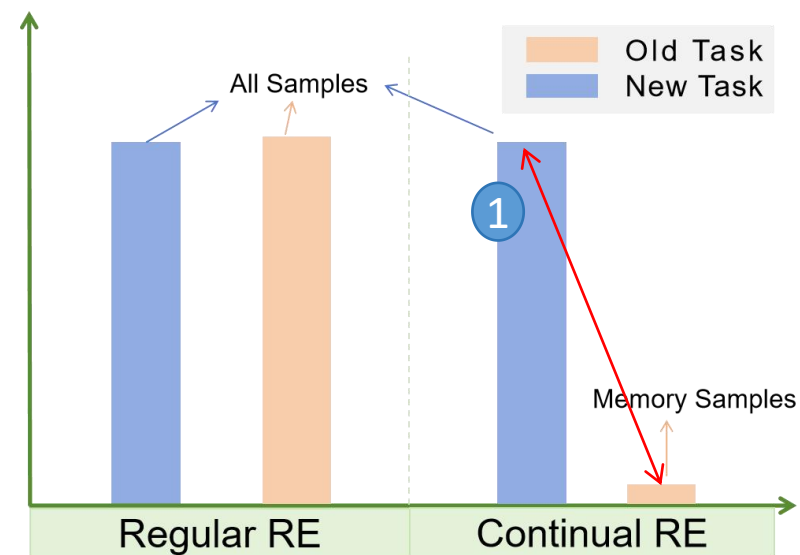
Strict Limitation may **limit the ability** to learn new relations.

03 Discussion the Decoupled Tasks



Data Bias Brings Model Bias.

- 1 Imbalance in old and new data



03 Discussion the Decoupled Tasks

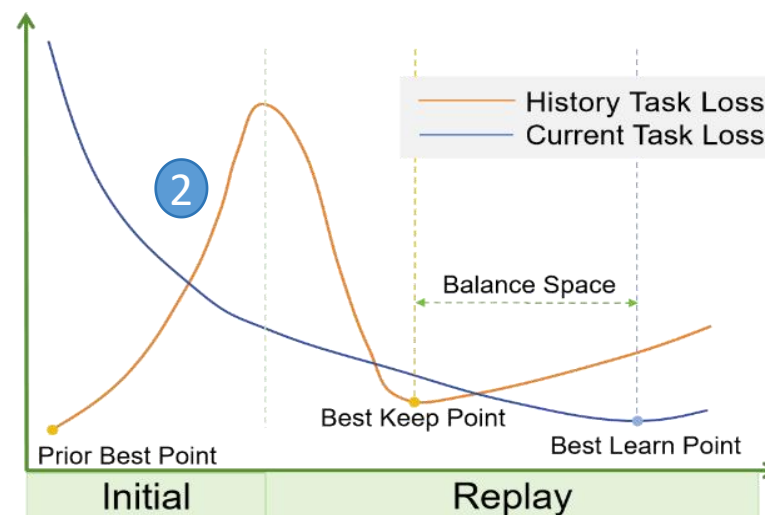
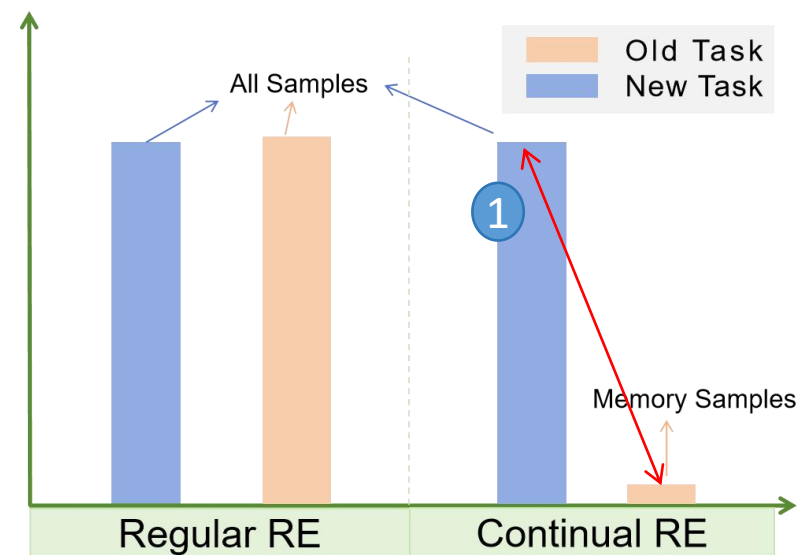


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A unified Task or Decoupled Tasks?

- 2 One task can influence the other.



03 Discussion the Decoupled Tasks

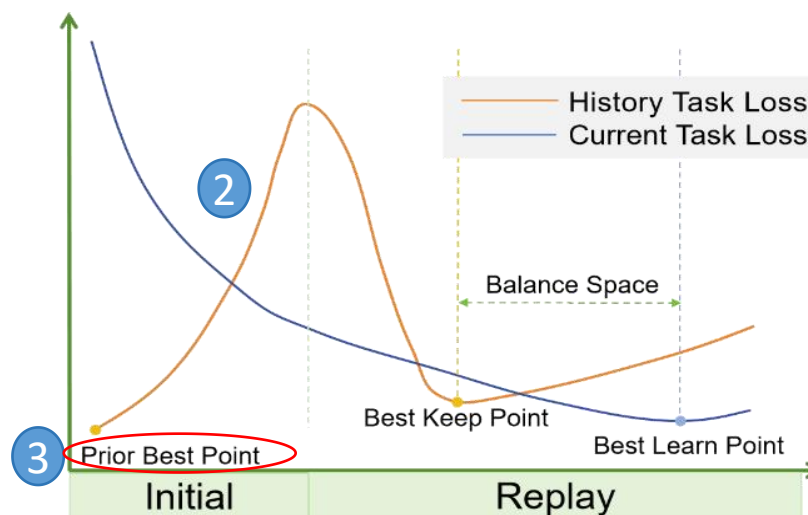
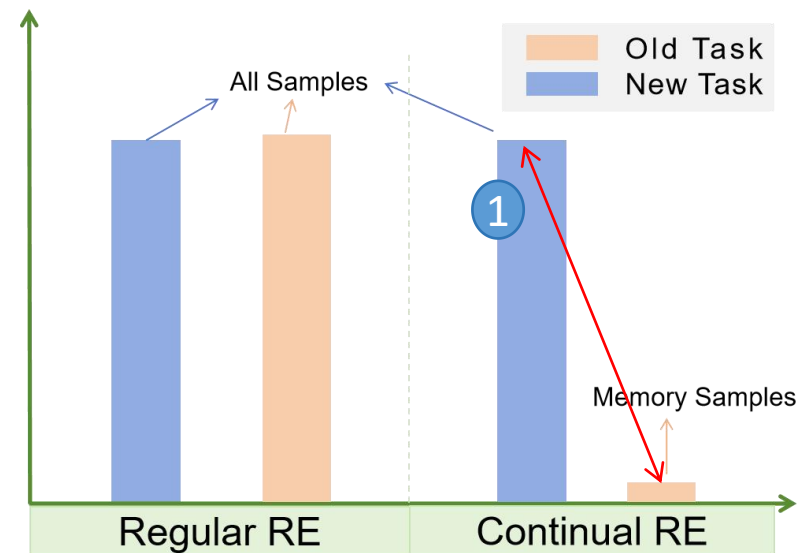


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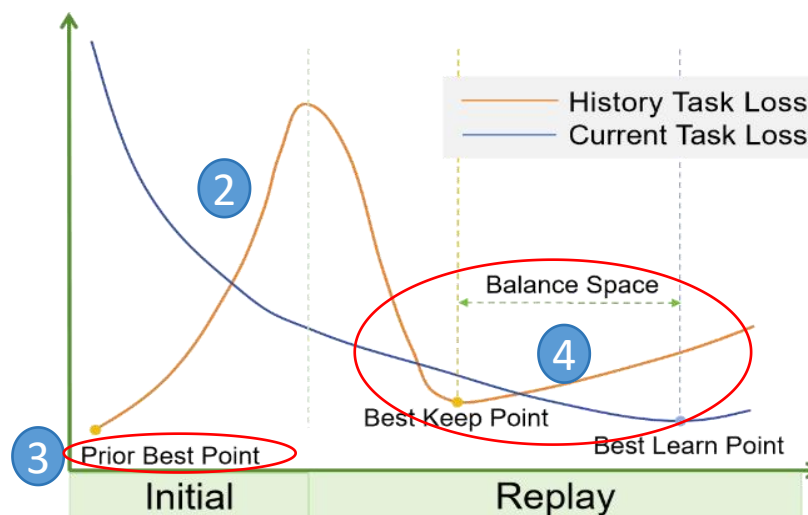
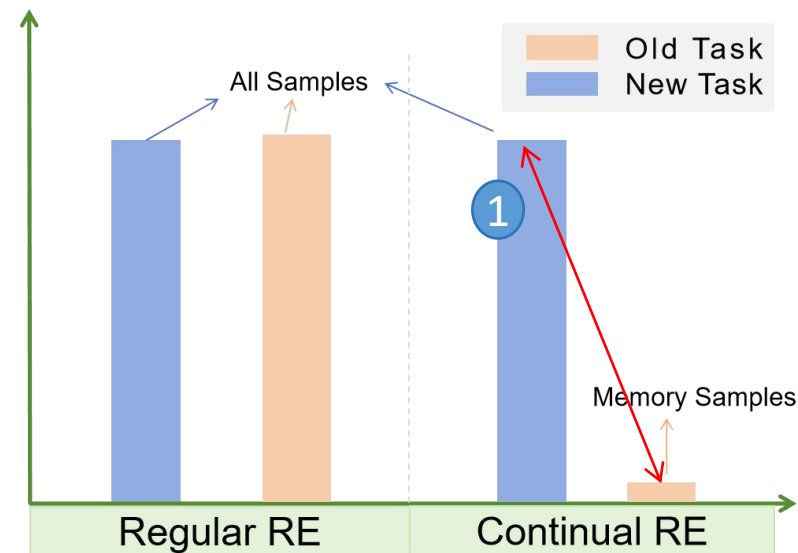


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A unified Task or Decoupled Tasks?

- 2 One task can influence the other.
- 3 Historical tasks **BEST POINT** when unaffected by new data types.
- 4 **Balance Space** of Best Keep and Best learn because of imbalances in the replay set.





Our **DecouPled** Contributions for Continual Relation Extraction:

[Balancing CRE with Multi-task Learning]

Prior Information Preservation and New Knowledge Acquisition

[Decoupling to Mitigate Overfitting]

Conserve the memory structural information

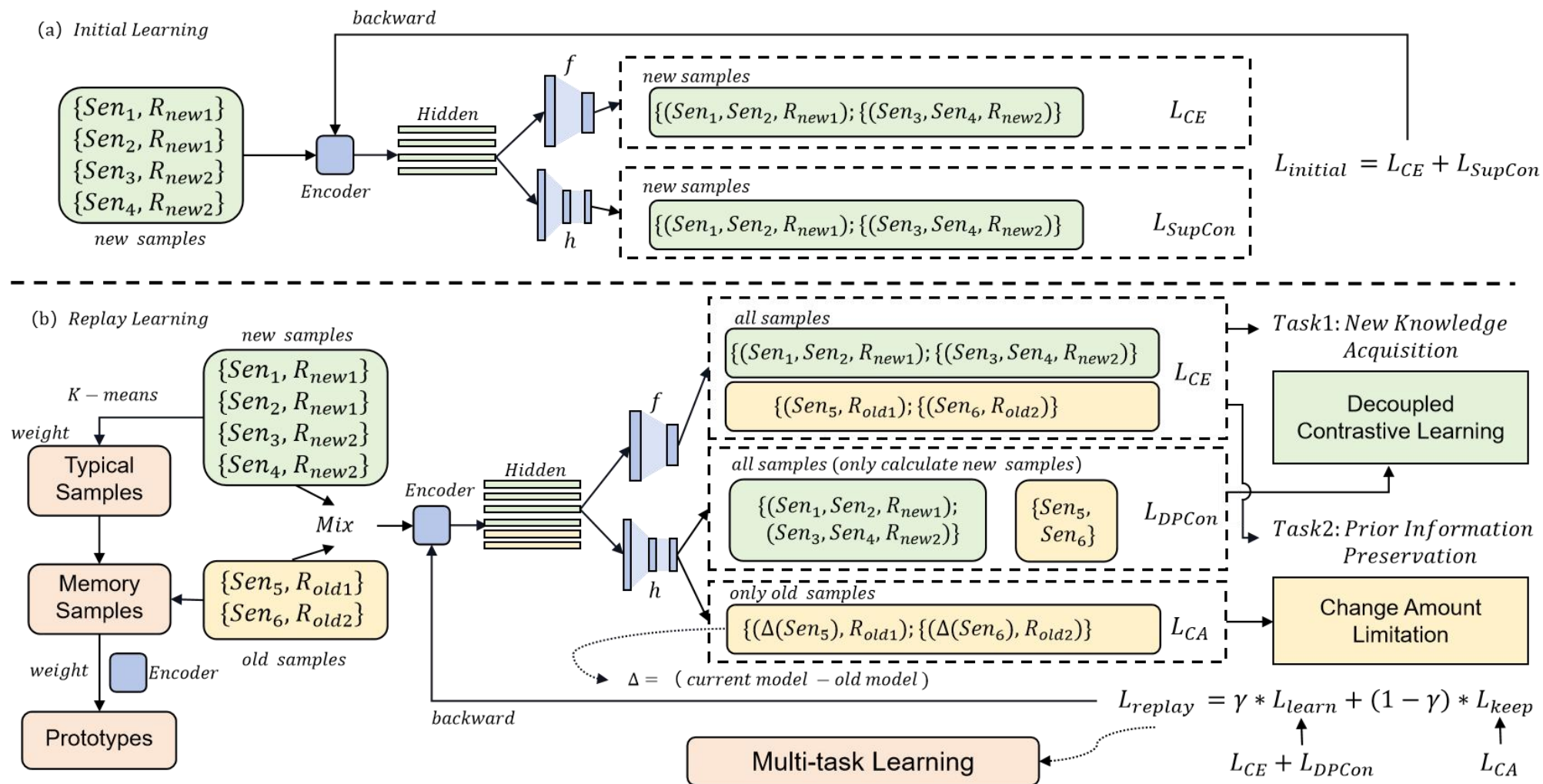
[Empirical Validation of DP-CRE]

Experiment results demonstrate the SOTA accuracy.

05 Methodology of RAFT



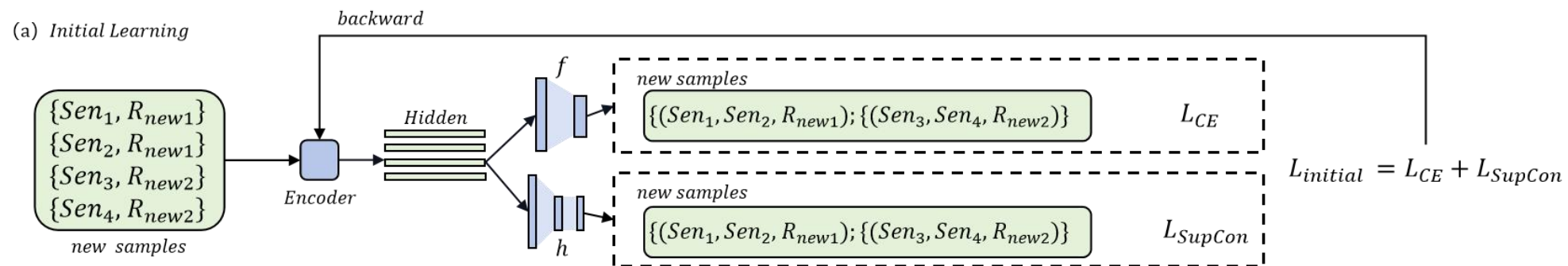
Decoupled Continual Relation Extraction



05 Methodology of DP-CRE

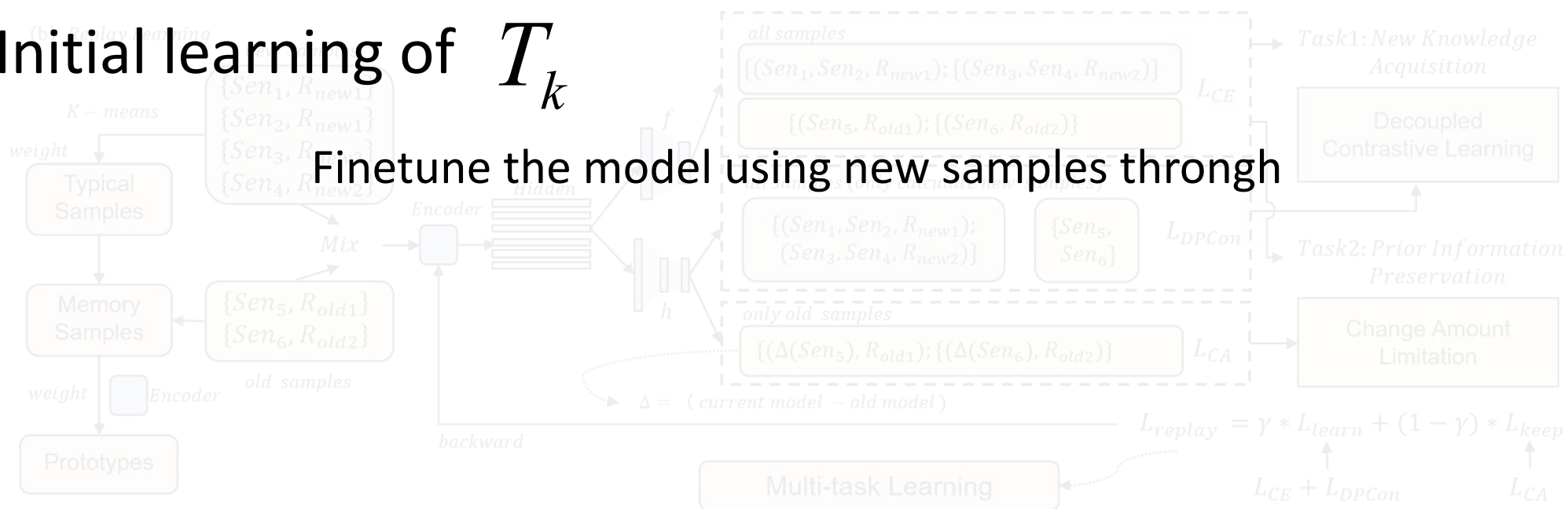


DP CRE: Initial Learning with New Samples



Initial learning of T_k

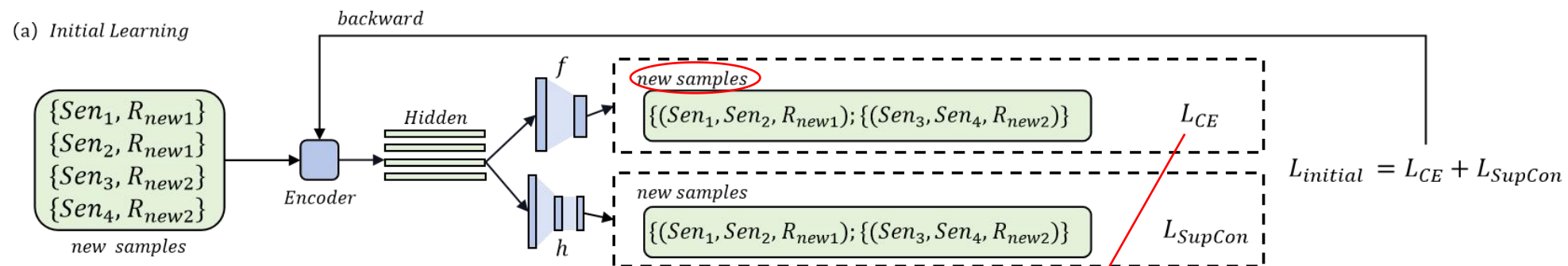
Finetune the model using new samples through



05 Methodology of DP-CRE



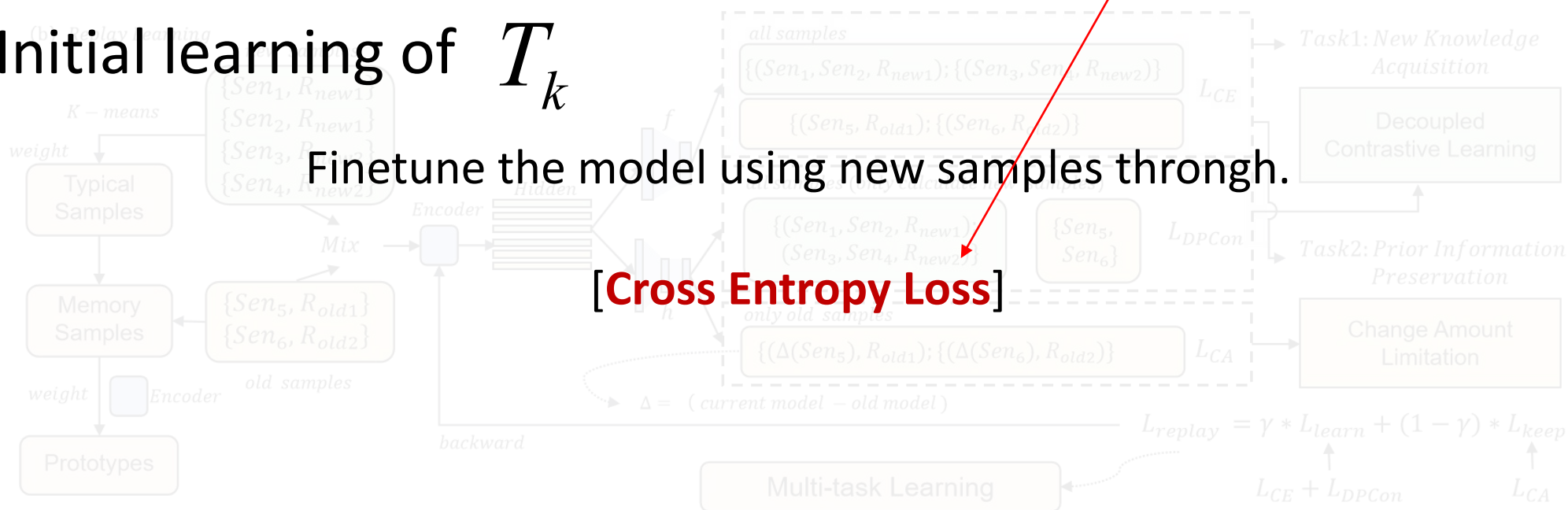
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Initial learning of T_k

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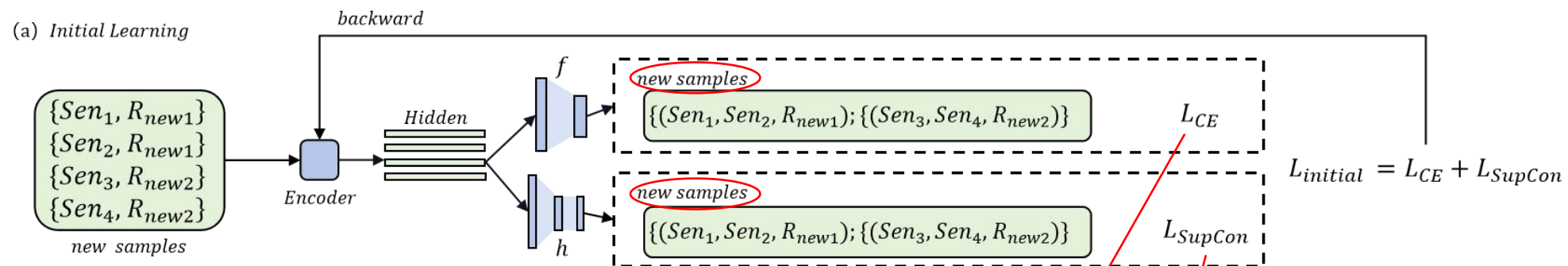
[Cross Entropy Loss]



05 Methodology of DP-CRE



DP CRE: Initial Learning with New Samples



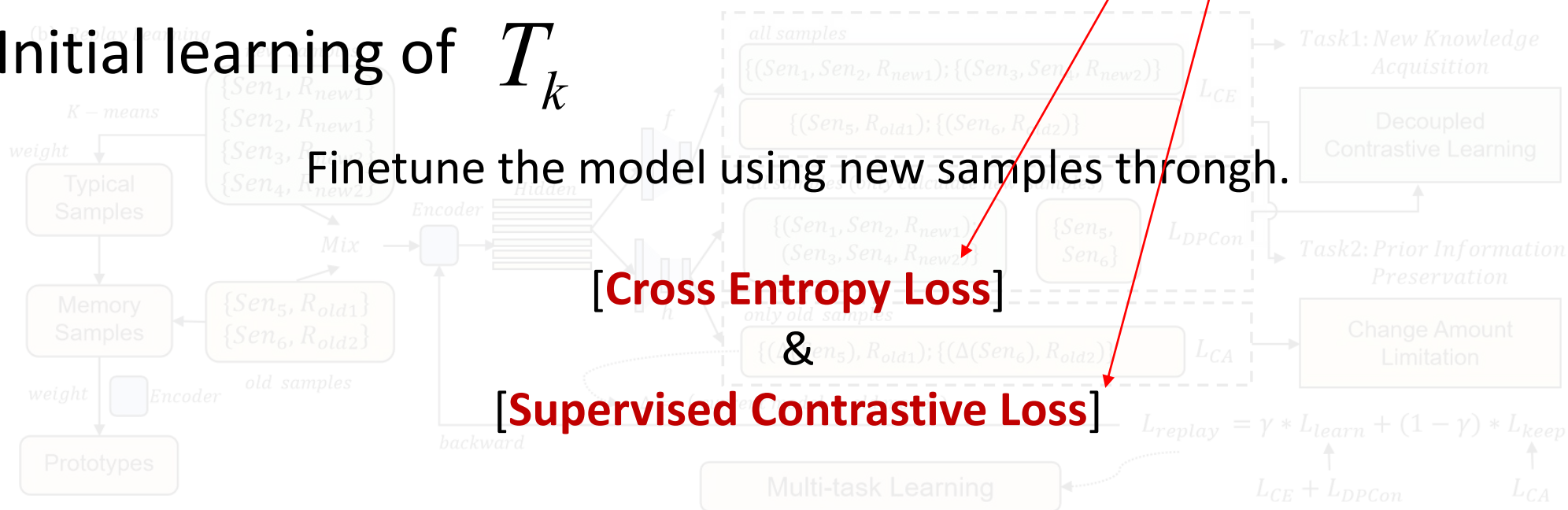
Initial learning of T_k

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[Cross Entropy Loss]

&

[Supervised Contrastive Loss]

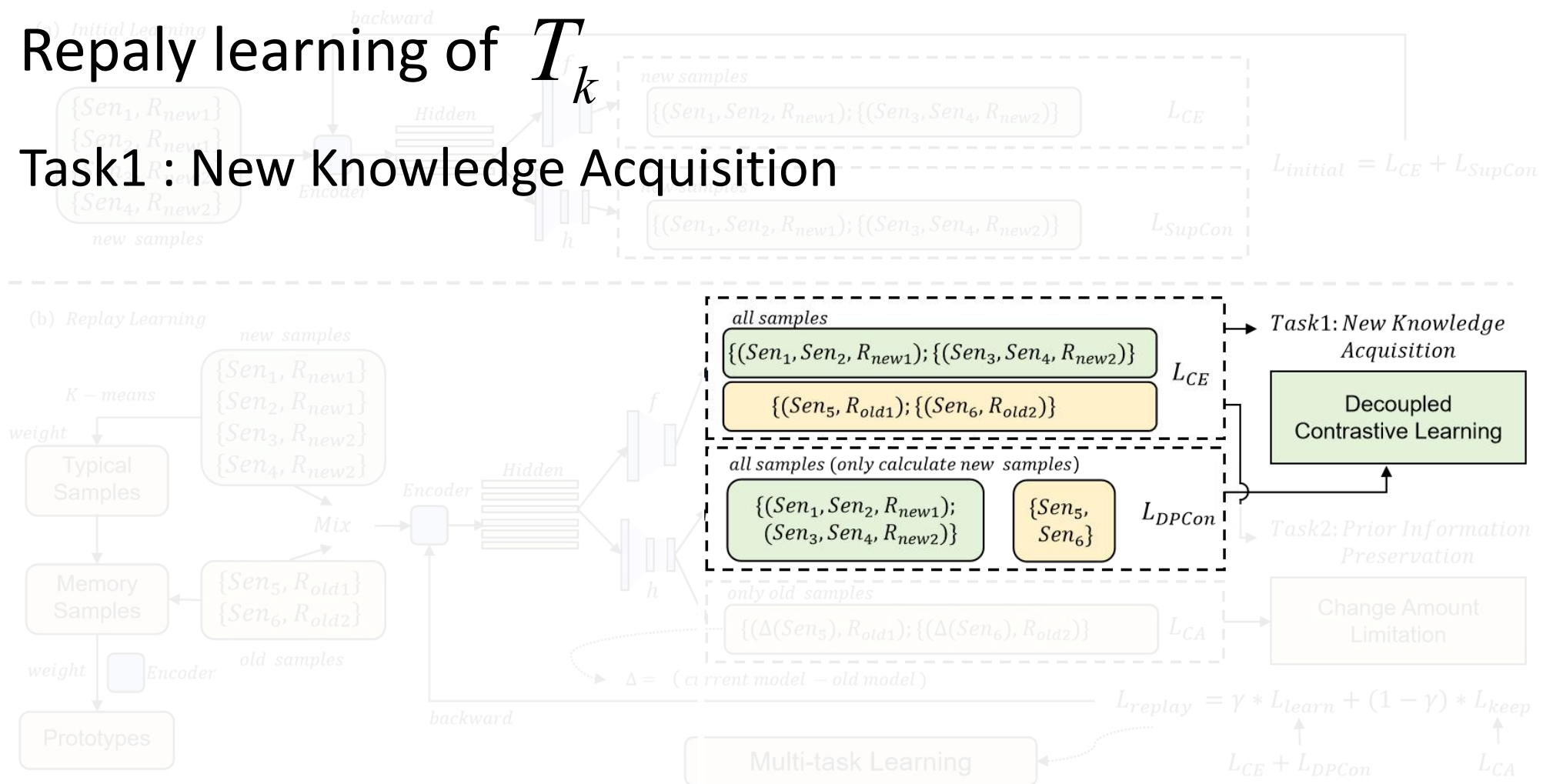


05 Methodology of DP-CRE



DP CRE: Decoupled Contrastive Learning to Acquire New Knowledge

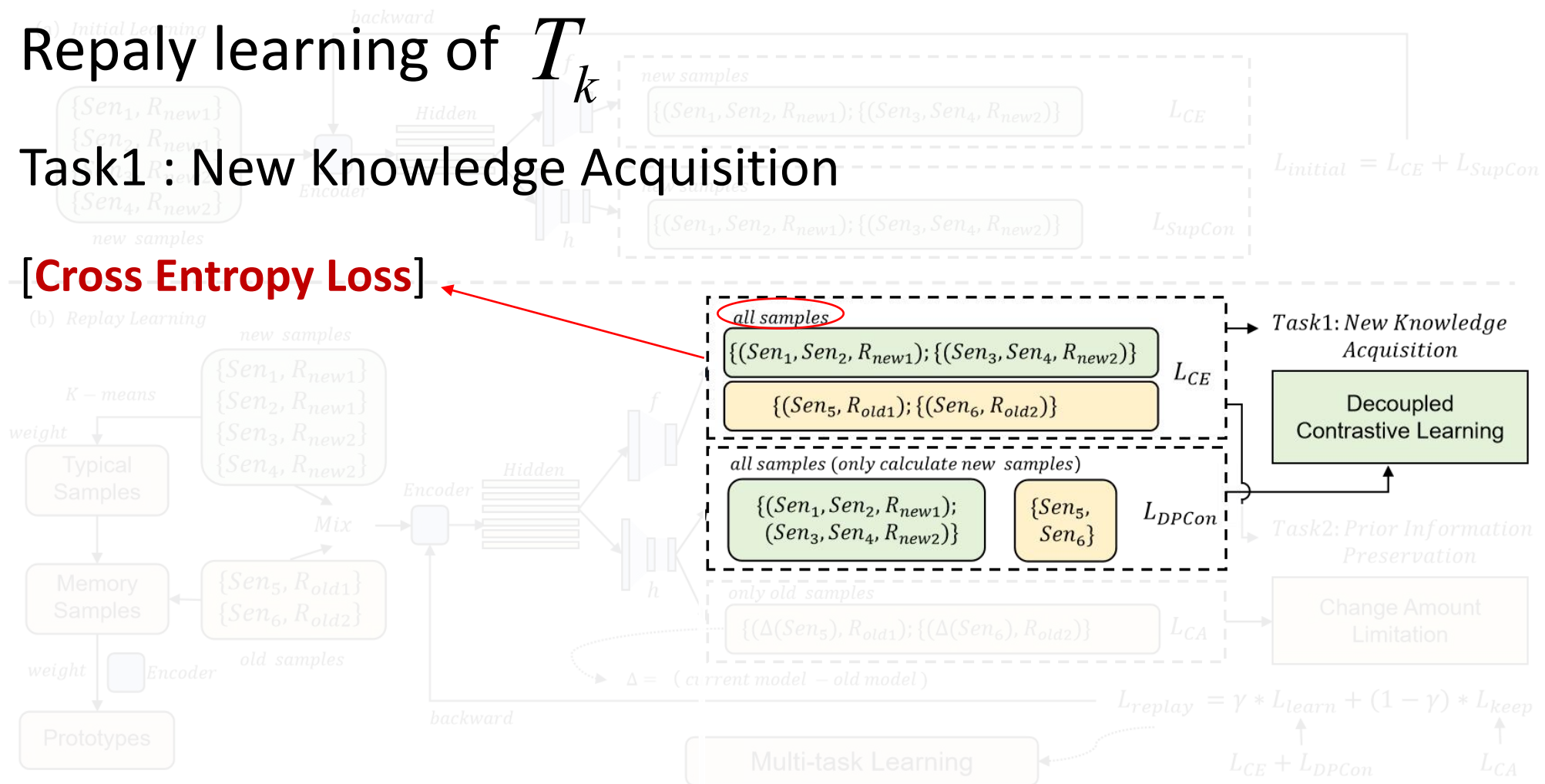
Replay learning of T_k
Task1: New Knowledge Acquisition



DP CRE: Decoupled Contrastive Learning to Acquire New Knowledge

Replay learning of T_k
Task1: New Knowledge Acquisition

[Cross Entropy Loss]



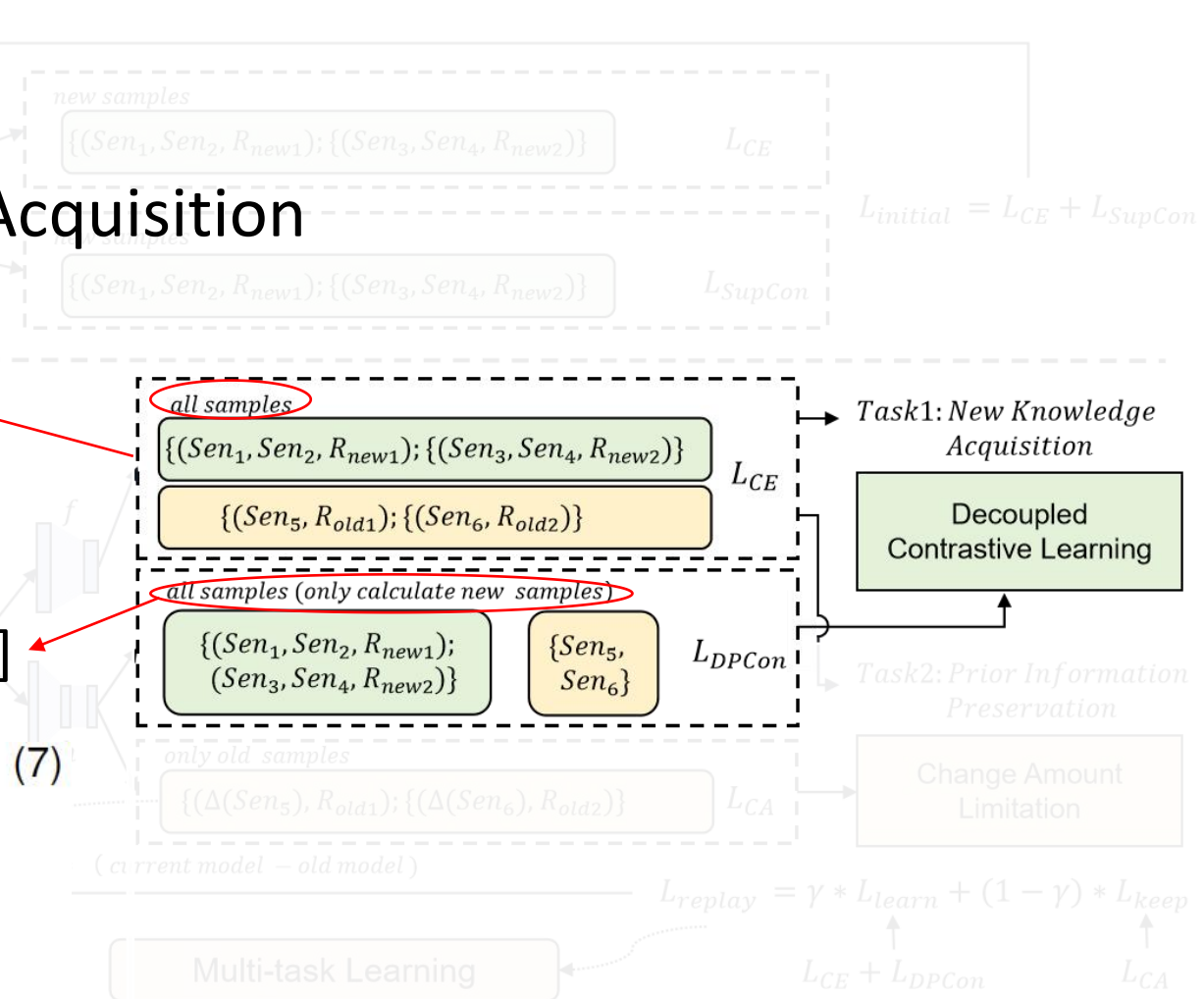
DP CRE: Decoupled Contrastive Learning to Acquire New Knowledge

Replay learning of T_k
Task1: New Knowledge Acquisition

[Cross Entropy Loss]

[Decoupled Contrastive Loss]

$$L_{DPCon} = \sum_{i \in D^k} \frac{-1}{|D^k|} \sum_{j \in D^k} \delta_{y_i=y_j} \times \log \frac{\exp(h(z_{i,r}) \cdot h(z_{j,r})/\tau)}{\sum_{j \in D_k \cup M} \exp(h(z_{i,r}) \cdot h(z_{j,r})/\tau)},$$



DP CRE: Decoupled Contrastive Learning to Acquire New Knowledge

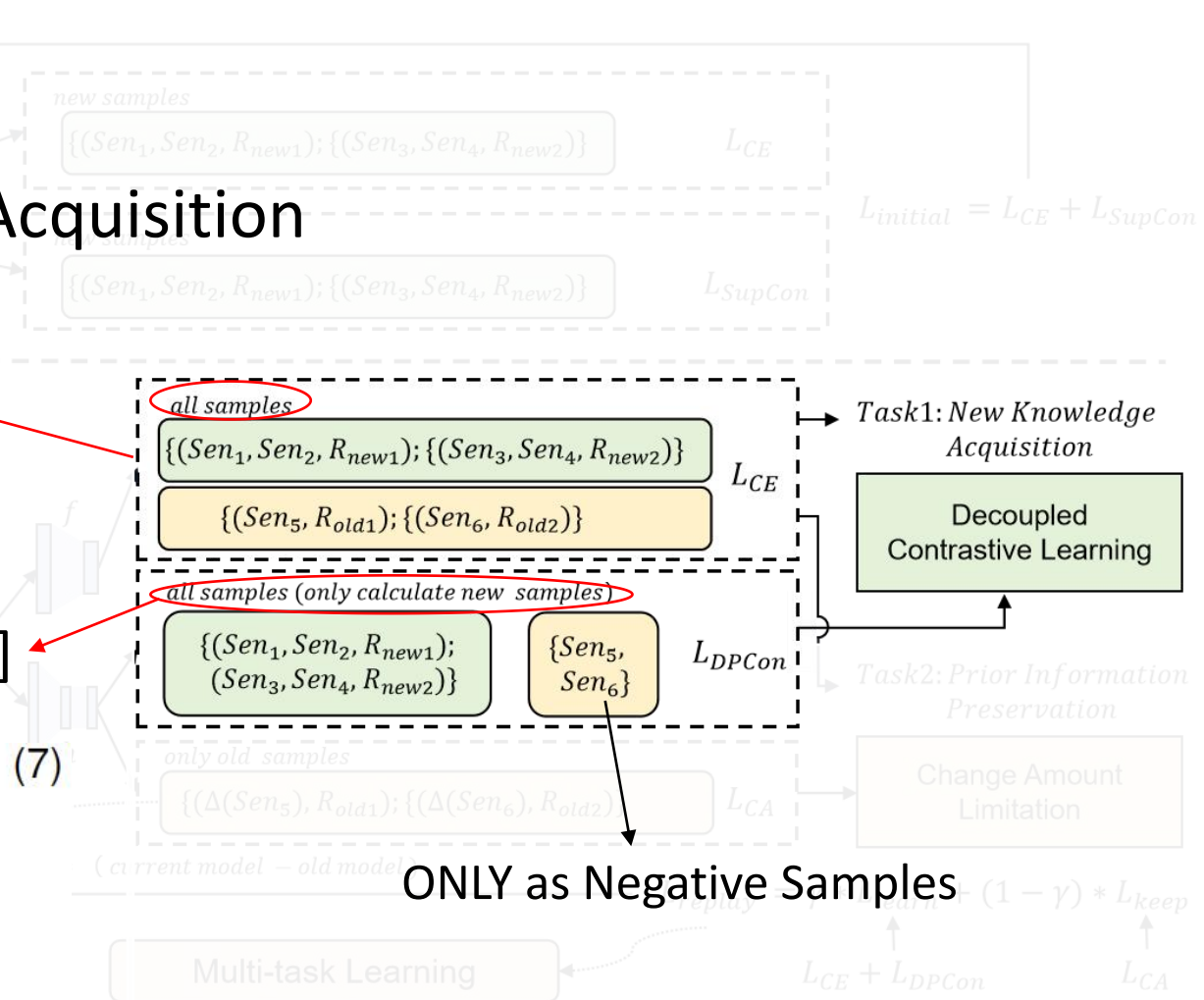
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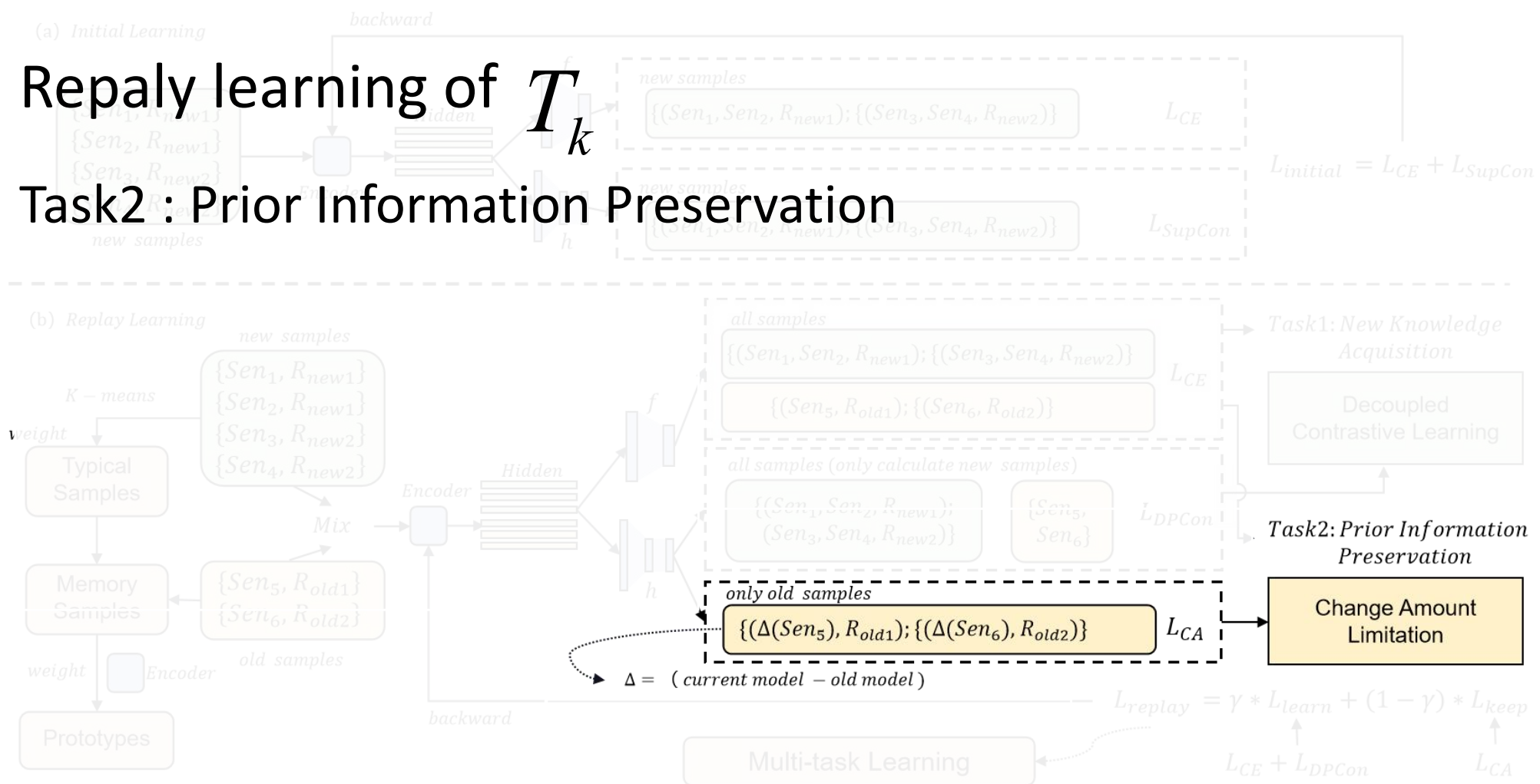


05 Methodology of DP-CRE



DP CRE: Change Amount Limitation to Preserve Prior Information

Replay learning of T_k
Task2: Prior Information Preservation

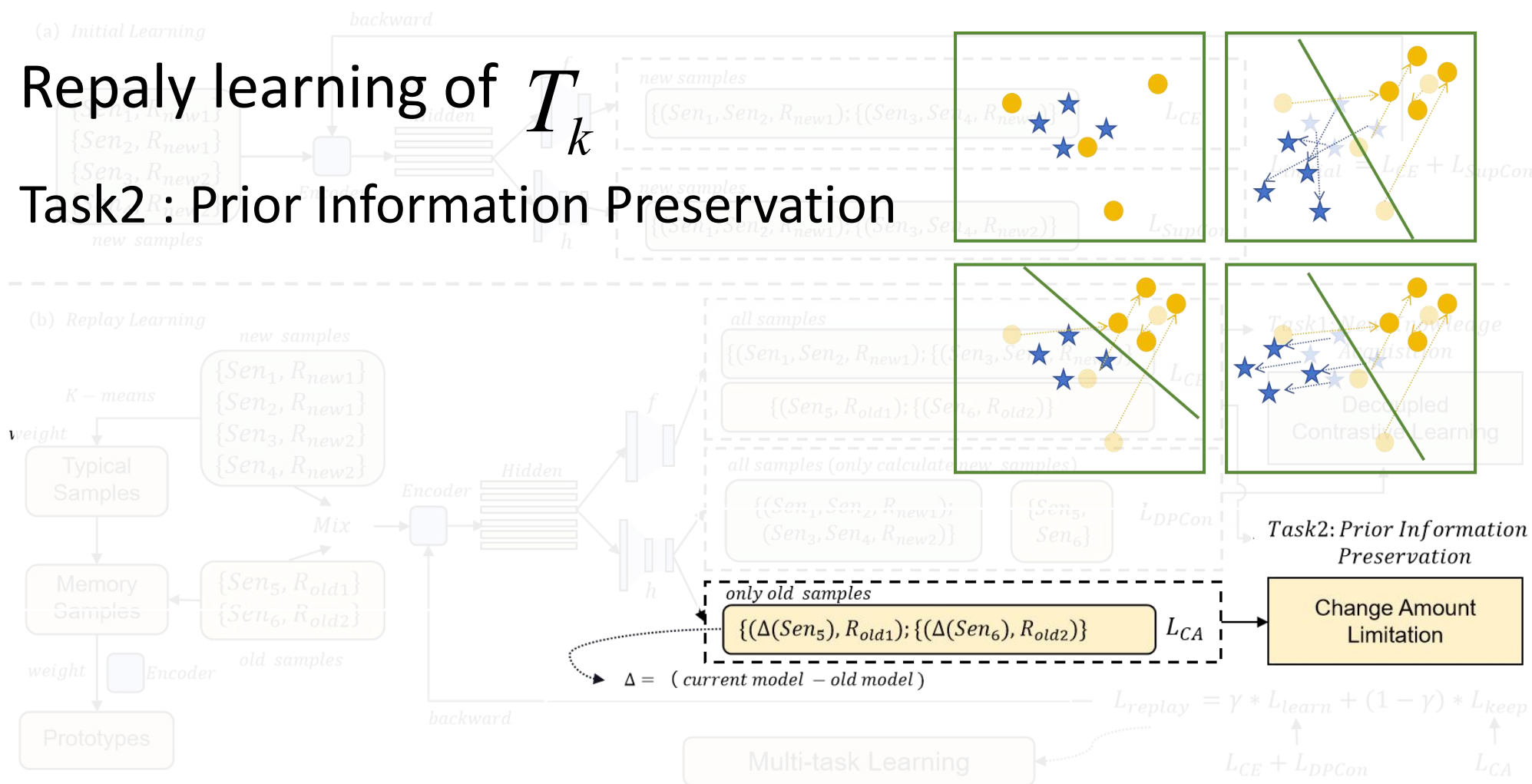


05 Methodology of DP-CRE



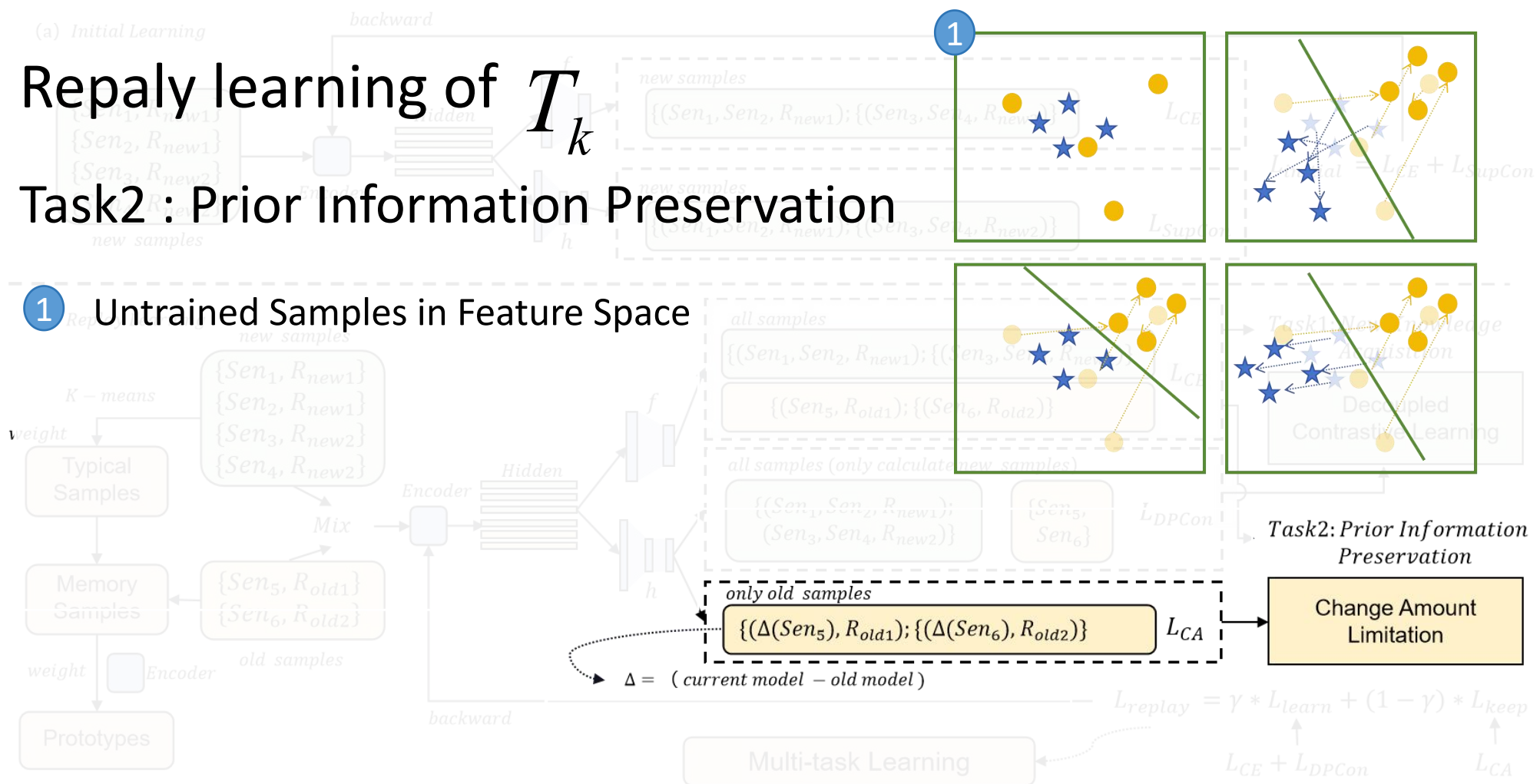
DP CRE: Change Amount Limitation to Preserve Prior Information

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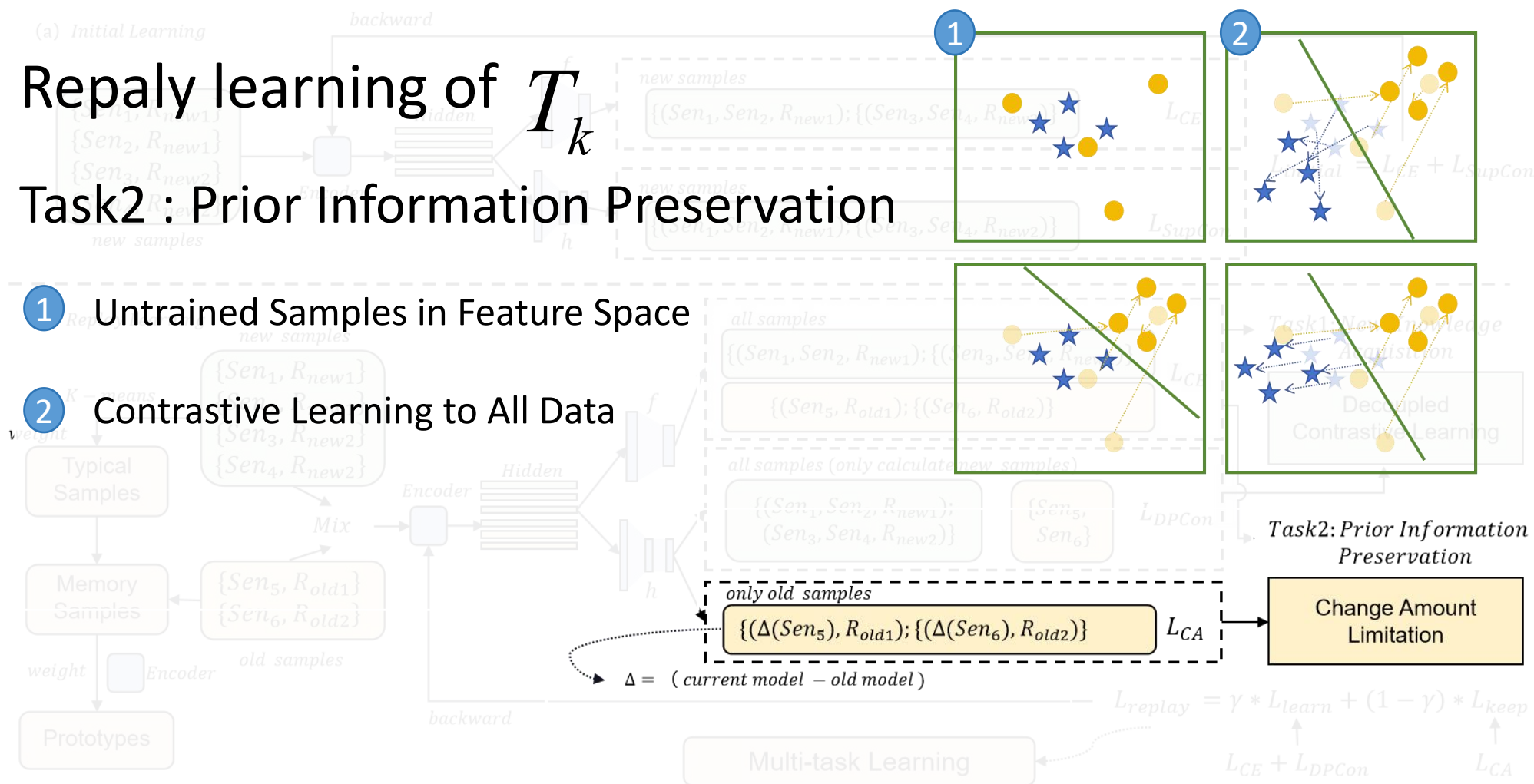
DP CRE: Change Amount Limitation to Preserve Prior Information

Replay learning of T_k
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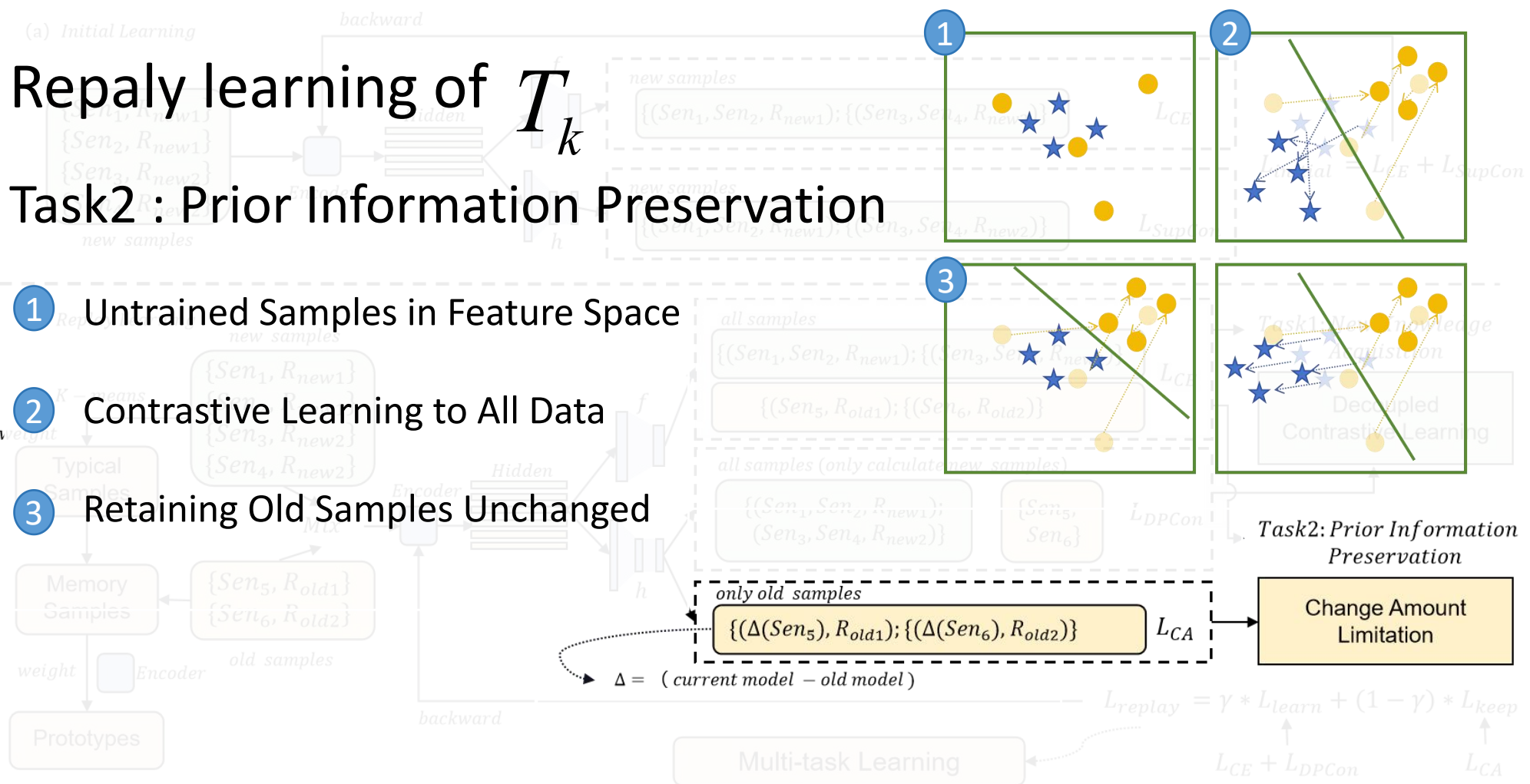
DP CRE: Change Amount Limitation to Preserve Prior Information

Replay learning of T_k
Task2: Prior Information Preservation

1 Untrained Samples in Feature Space

2 Contrastive Learning to All Data

3 Retaining Old Samples Unchanged



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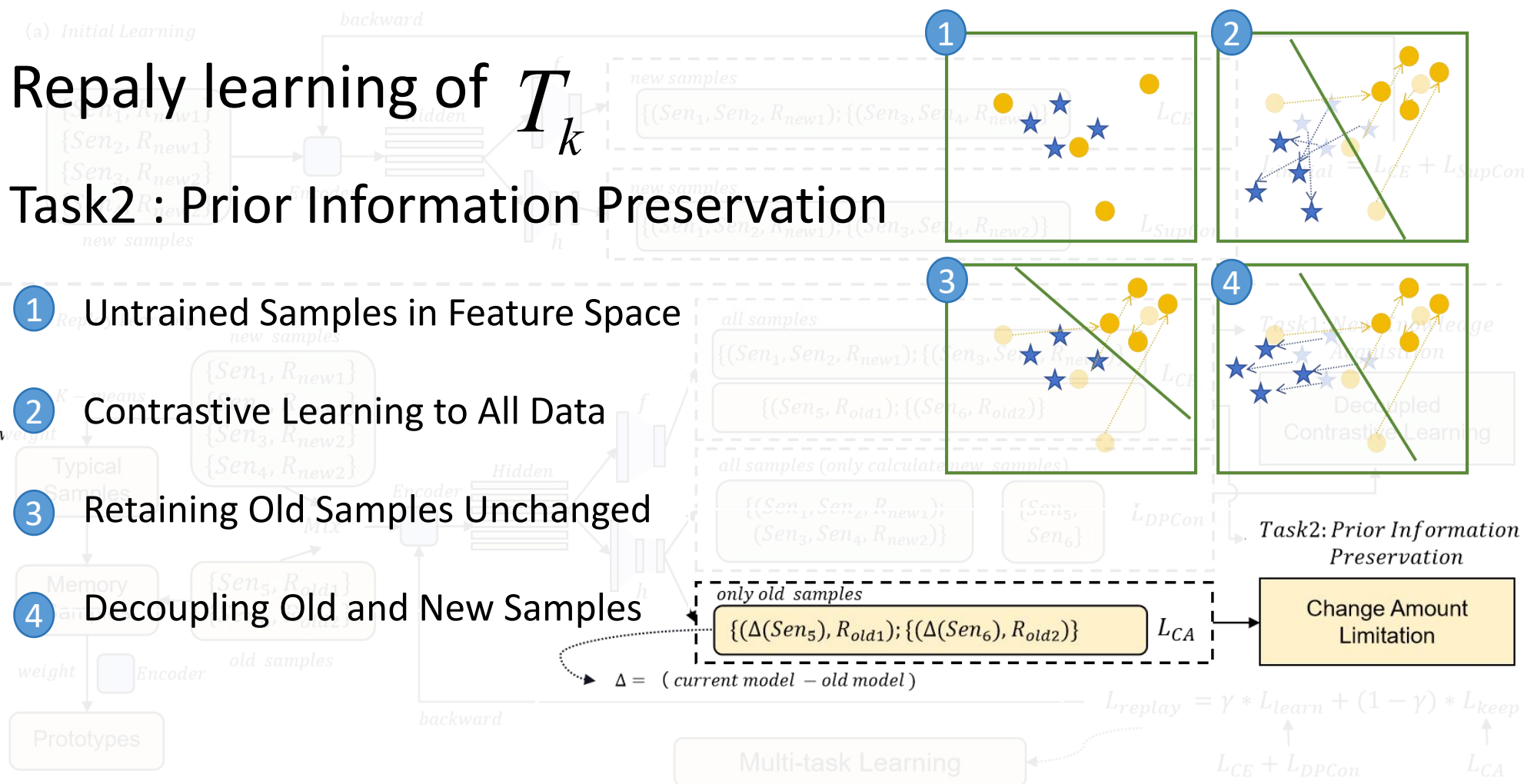
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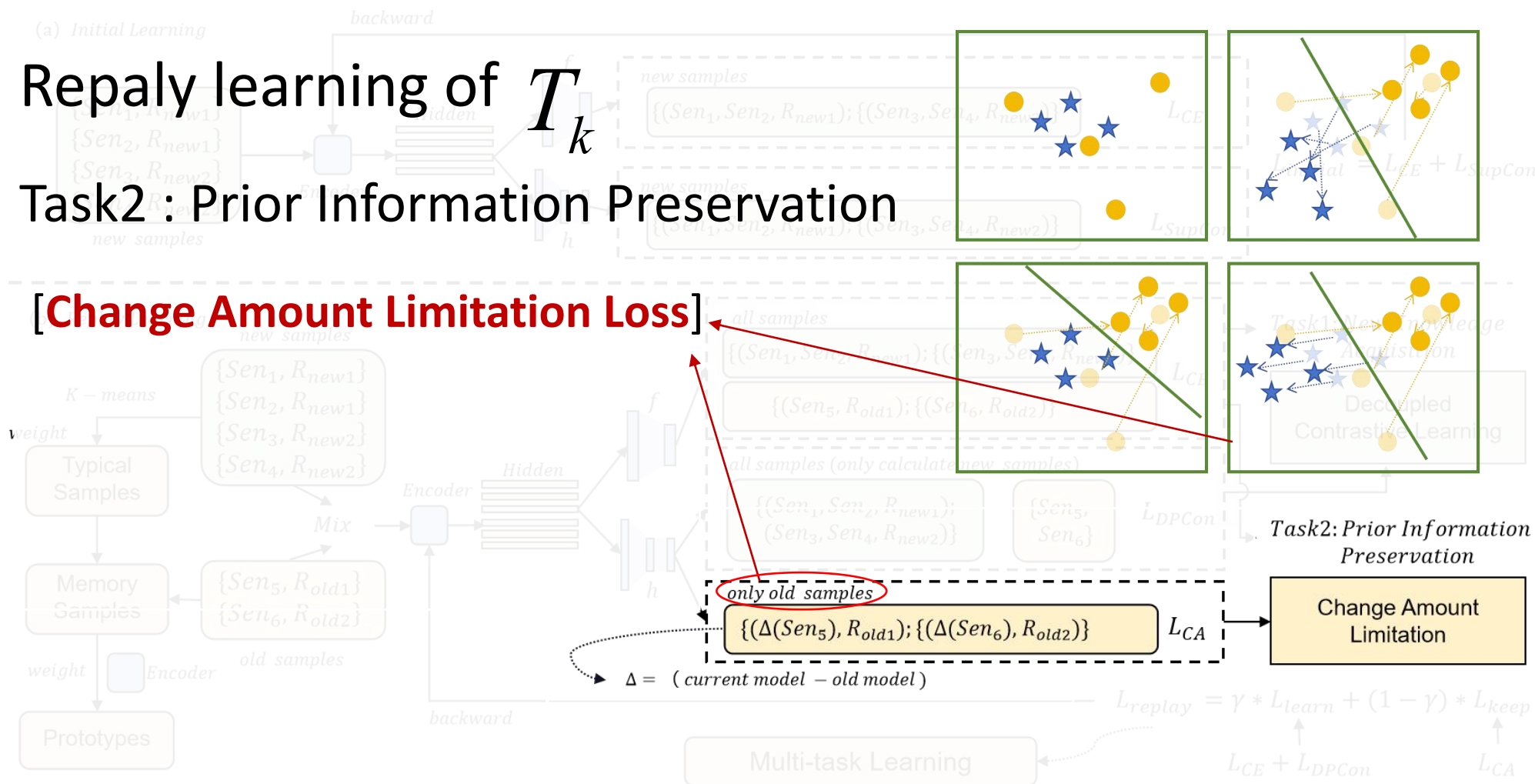
4 Decoupling Old and New Samples



DP CRE: Change Amount Limitation to Preserve Prior Information

Replay learning of T_k
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[Change Amount Limitation Loss]

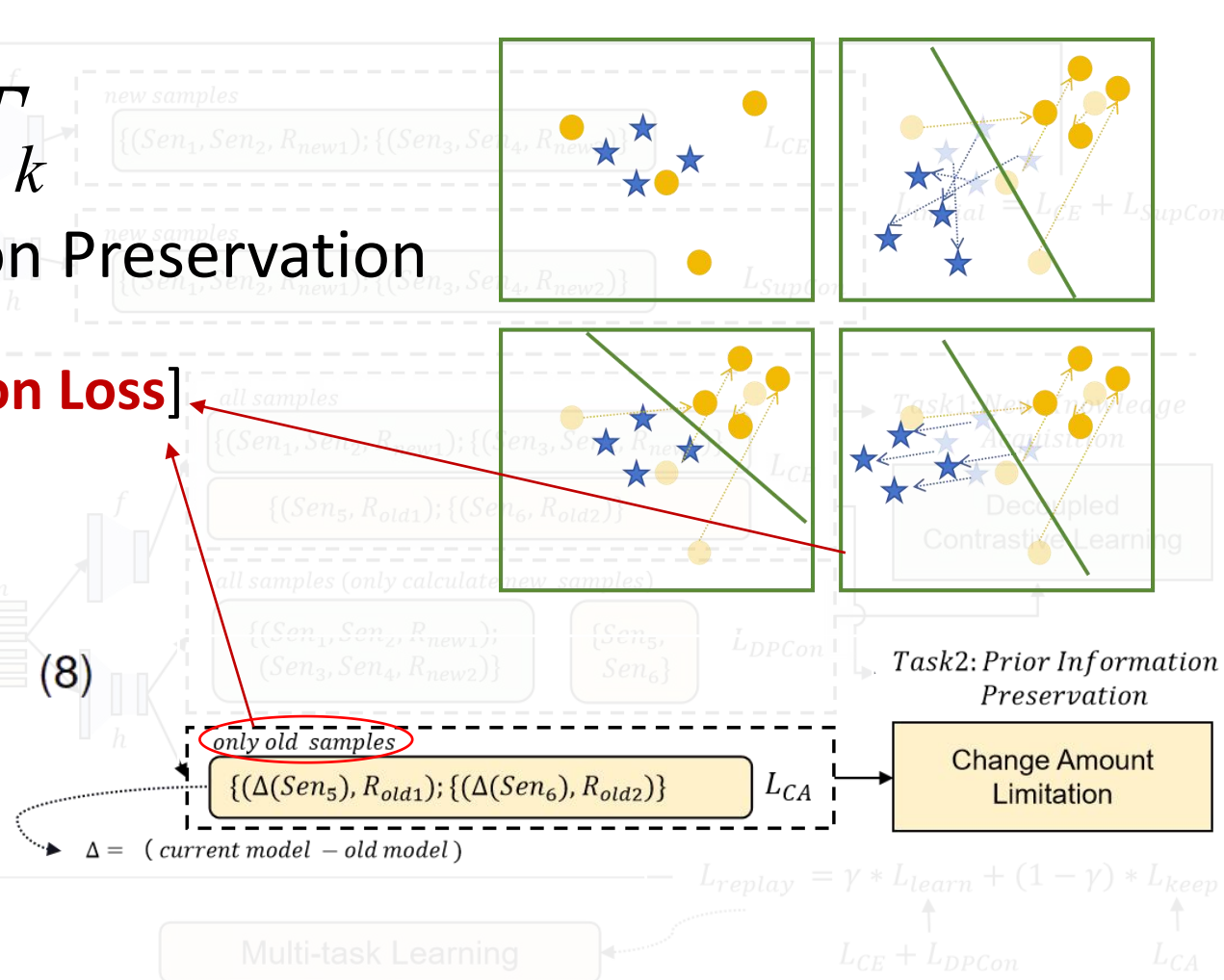


DP CRE: Change Amount Limitation to Preserve Prior Information

Replay learning of T_k
Task2: Prior Information Preservation

[Change Amount Limitation Loss]

$$L_{CA} = \sum_{i,j \in M} \frac{1}{|M|} \delta_{y_i=y_j} \times \| (h^k(z_{i,r}) - h^{k-1}(z_{i,r}^{k-1})) - (h^k(z_{j,r}) - h^{k-1}(z_{j,r}^{k-1})) \|_2, \quad (8)$$



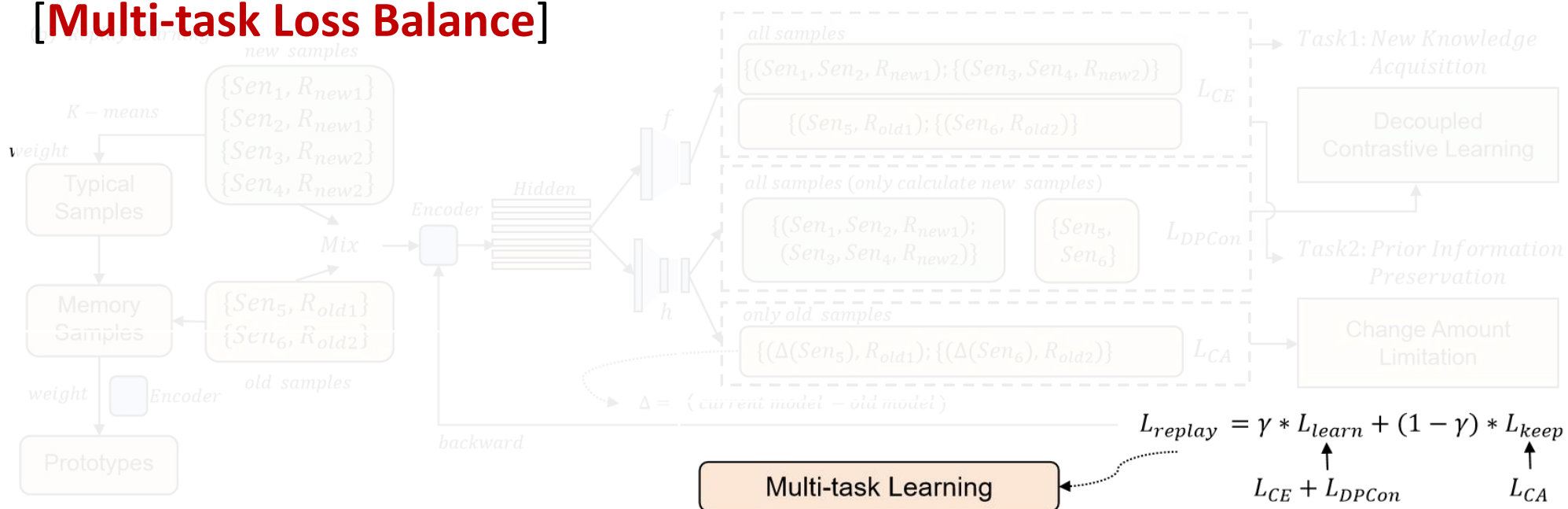
05 Methodology of DP-CRE



DP CRE: Multi-task Balance



[Multi-task Loss Balance]



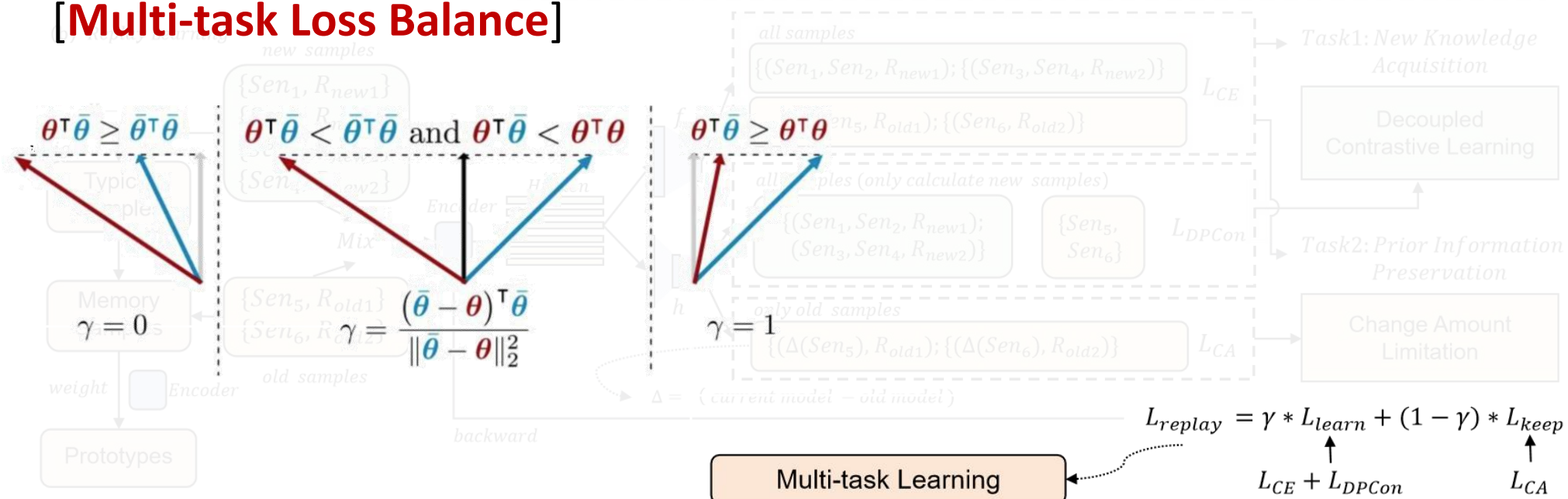
05 Methodology of DP-CRE



DP CRE: Multi-task Balance



[Multi-task Loss Balance]



05 Methodology of DP-CRE



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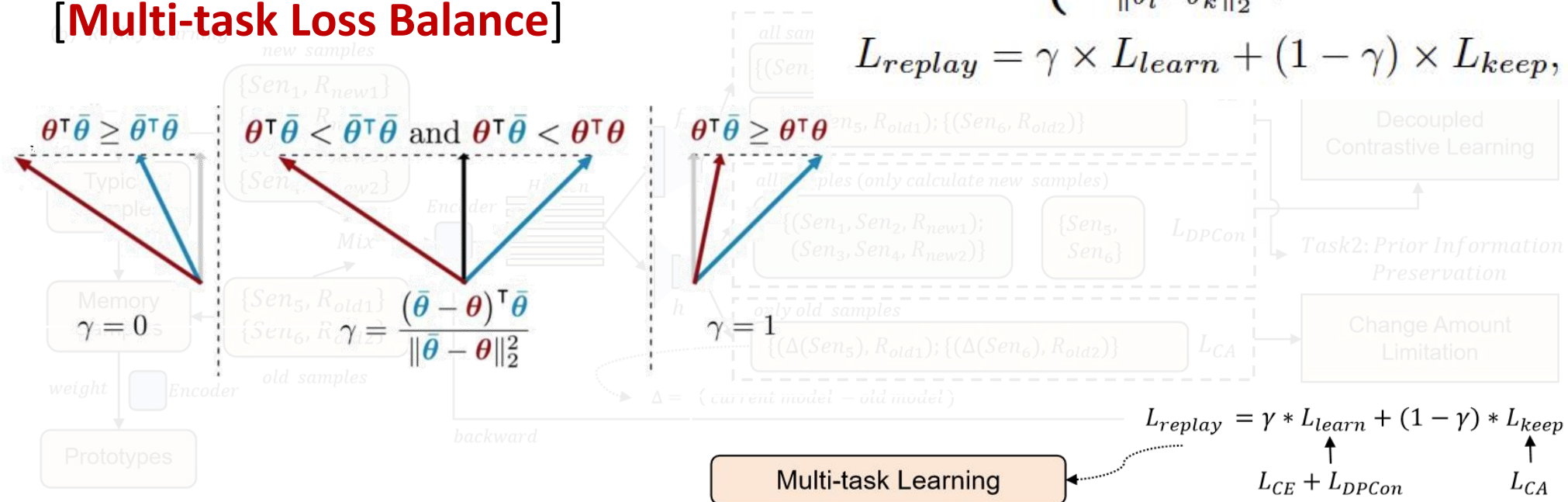
Replay learning of T_k
Tasks Balance

[Multi-task Loss Balance]

$$L_{keep} = k^\lambda \times L_{CA}$$

$$\gamma = \begin{cases} 1, & \theta_l^T \theta_k \geq \theta_l^T \theta_l \\ 0, & \theta_l^T \theta_k \geq \theta_k^T \theta_k \\ \frac{(\theta_k - \theta_l)^T \theta_k}{\|\theta_l - \theta_k\|_2^2}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

$$L_{replay} = \gamma \times L_{learn} + (1 - \gamma) \times L_{keep},$$



06 Experimental Results of DP-CRE



DP-CRE: Main Performance

FewRel										
Model	T_1	T_2	T_3	T_4	T_5	T_6	T_7	T_8	T_9	T_{10}
EA-EMR (Wang et al., 2019)	89.0	69.0	59.1	54.2	47.8	46.1	43.1	40.7	38.6	35.2
EMAR(BERT) (Han et al., 2020)	98.2	94.8	92.6	91.1	89.7	87.9	87.1	86.0	84.7	83.3
CML (Wu et al., 2021)	91.2	74.8	68.2	58.2	53.7	50.4	47.8	44.4	43.1	39.7
RP-CRE (Cui et al., 2021)	98.1	94.8	92.6	91.1	89.7	87.9	87.1	86.0	84.7	83.3
CR-ECL (Hu et al., 2022)	97.8	94.9	92.7	90.9	89.4	87.5	85.7	84.6	83.6	82.7
ACA (Wang et al., 2022b)	98.4	95.1	93.0	91.5	90.5	88.9	87.9	86.7	85.8	84.4
CRL (Zhao et al., 2022)	98.0	94.3	92.4	90.5	89.5	87.8	87.0	85.6	84.3	83.0
CEAR (Zhao et al., 2023)	98.3	95.6	<u>93.5</u>	<u>92.0</u>	<u>90.8</u>	<u>89.3</u>	<u>88.0</u>	<u>86.8</u>	85.6	84.0
Ours	98.5	<u>95.4</u>	93.7	92.1	90.9	89.4	88.5	87.4	86.3	85.1

TACRED										
Model	T_1	T_2	T_3	T_4	T_5	T_6	T_7	T_8	T_9	T_{10}
EA-EMR (Wang et al., 2019)	47.5	40.1	38.3	29.9	24.0	27.3	26.9	25.8	22.9	19.8
EMAR(BERT) (Han et al., 2020)	98.0	93.0	89.7	84.7	82.7	81.5	79.0	77.5	77.6	77.1
CML (Wu et al., 2021)	57.2	51.4	41.3	39.3	35.9	28.9	27.3	26.9	24.8	23.4
RP-CRE (Cui et al., 2021)	96.6	91.4	88.8	84.8	82.8	81.0	77.9	77.4	76.5	75.7
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ACA (Wang et al., 2022b)	98.2	<u>93.8</u>	89.9	85.9	84.2	82.7	80.5	78.4	78.6	77.5
CRL (Zhao et al., 2022)	<u>98.0</u>	93.9	90.8	86.0	84.9	82.9	80.1	79.2	79.4	78.5
CEAR (Zhao et al., 2023)	97.9	93.7	90.7	<u>86.6</u>	84.7	84.3	81.9	<u>80.4</u>	80.2	79.3
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EMAR(BERT) (Han et al., 2020)	98.0	93.0	89.7	84.7	82.7	81.5	79.0	77.5	77.6	77.1
CML (Wu et al., 2021)	57.2	51.4	41.3	39.3	35.9	28.9	27.3	26.9	24.8	23.4
RP-CRE (Cui et al., 2021)	96.6	91.4	88.8	84.8	82.8	81.0	77.9	77.4	76.5	75.7
CR-ECL (Hu et al., 2022)	97.3	92.5	88.2	85.6	83.7	83.3	81.8	80.1	77.7	76.8
ACA (Wang et al., 2022b)	98.2	<u>93.8</u>	89.9	85.9	84.2	82.7	80.5	78.4	78.6	77.5
CRL (Zhao et al., 2022)	98.0	93.9	90.8	86.0	84.9	82.9	80.1	79.2	79.4	78.5
CEAR (Zhao et al., 2023)	97.9	93.7	90.7	86.6	84.7	84.3	81.9	80.4	80.2	79.3
Ours	97.8	<u>93.8</u>	91.5	87.5	85.7	<u>84.2</u>	82.9	81.3	81.5	80.7

- 1 DP-CRE outperforms previous CRE work.

06 Experimental Results of DP-CRE



DP-CRE: Main Performance

FewRel										
Model	T_1	T_2	T_3	T_4	T_5	T_6	T_7	T_8	T_9	T_{10}
EA-EMR (Wang et al., 2019)	89.0	69.0	59.1	54.2	47.8	46.1	43.1	40.7	38.6	35.2
EMAR(BERT) (Han et al., 2020)	98.2	94.8	92.6	91.1	89.7	87.9	87.1	86.0	84.7	83.3
CML (Wu et al., 2021)	91.2	74.8	68.2	58.2	53.7	50.4	47.8	44.4	43.1	39.7
RP-CRE (Cui et al., 2021)	98.1	94.8	92.6	91.1	89.7	87.9	87.1	86.0	84.7	83.3
CR-ECL (Hu et al., 2022)	97.8	94.9	92.7	90.9	89.4	87.5	85.7	84.6	83.6	82.7
ACA (Wang et al., 2022b)	98.4	95.1	93.0	91.5	90.5	88.9	87.9	86.7	85.8	84.4
CRL (Zhao et al., 2022)	98.0	94.3	92.4	90.5	89.5	87.8	87.0	85.6	84.3	83.0
CEAR (Zhao et al., 2023)	98.3	95.6	93.5	92.0	90.8	89.3	88.0	86.8	85.6	84.0
1 Ours	98.5	95.4	93.7	92.1	90.9	89.4	88.5	87.4	86.3	85.1
TACRED										
Model	T_1	T_2	T_3	T_4	T_5	T_6	T_7	T_8	T_9	T_{10}
EA-EMR (Wang et al., 2019)	47.5	40.1	38.3	29.9	24.0	27.3	26.9	25.8	22.9	19.8
EMAR(BERT) (Han et al., 2020)	98.0	93.0	89.7	84.7	82.7	81.5	79.0	77.5	77.6	77.1
CML (Wu et al., 2021)	57.2	51.4	41.3	39.3	35.9	28.9	27.3	26.9	24.8	23.4
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CR-ECL (Hu et al., 2022)	97.3	92.5	88.2	85.6	83.7	83.3	81.8	80.1	77.7	76.8
ACA (Wang et al., 2022b)	98.2	93.8	89.9	85.9	84.2	82.7	80.5	78.4	78.6	77.5
CRL (Zhao et al., 2022)	98.0	93.9	90.8	86.0	84.9	82.5	80.1	79.2	79.4	78.5
1 CEAR (Zhao et al., 2023)	97.9	93.7	90.7	86.6	84.7	84.3	81.9	80.4	80.2	79.3
1 Ours	97.8	93.8	91.5	87.5	85.7	84.2	82.9	81.3	81.5	80.7

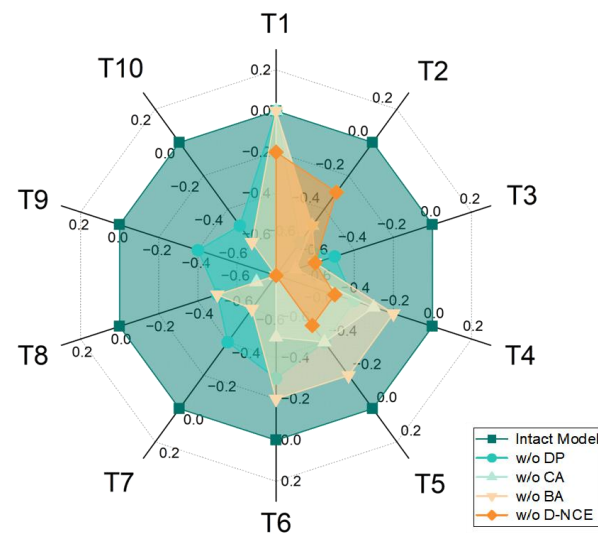
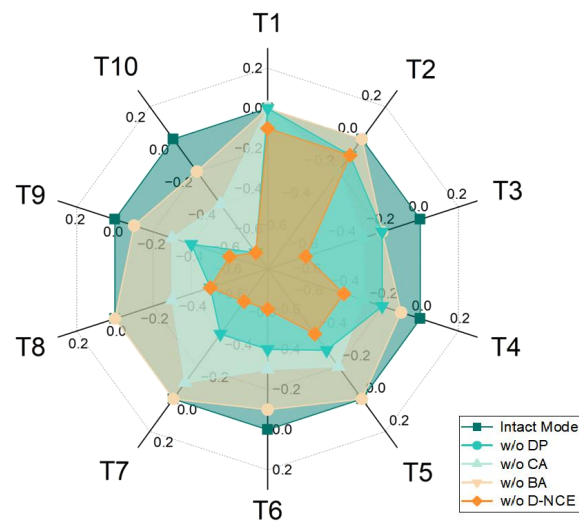
- 1 DP-CRE outperforms previous CRE work.
- 2 More significant enhancement in **the later CRE tasks**.
DP-CRE accumulate advantages when facing **denser** feature space and more **imbalanced** tasks number.

06 Experimental Results of DP-CRE



Initial Learning(IN) , Decoupled Contrastive Learning(DP), Change Amount Limitation(CA), Multi-task Balance(BA) , Double-NCM Prediction(D-NCM)

	FewRel	TACRED
Intact Model	85.1	80.7
w/o IN	83.7	75.4
w/o DP	84.4	80.2
w/o CA	84.7	79.2
w/o BA	84.9	80.1
w/o D-NCM	84.4	79.7

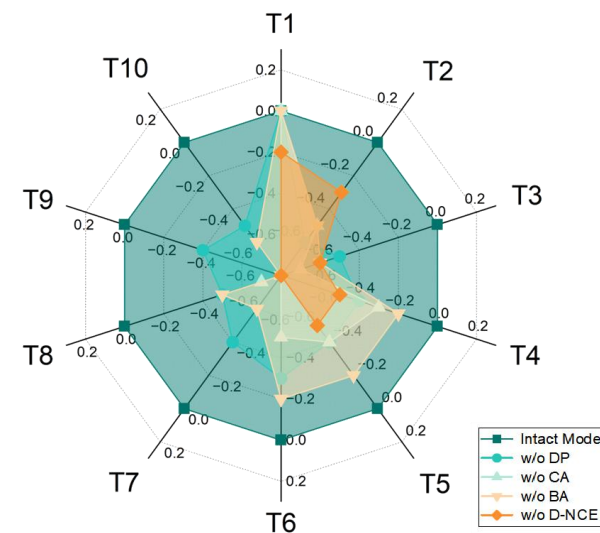
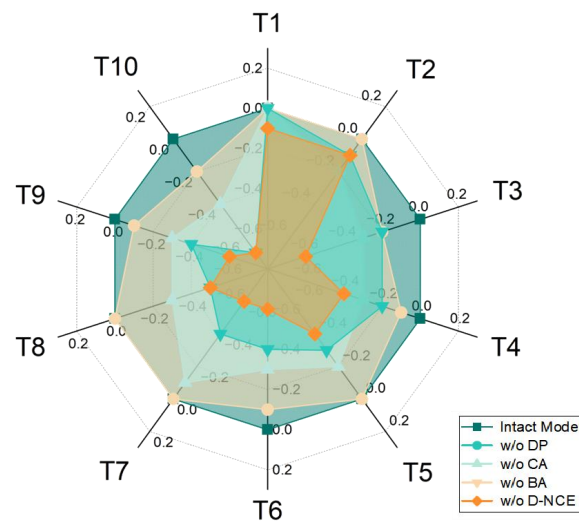


06 Experimental Results of DP-CRE



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w/o D-NCM	84.4	79.7



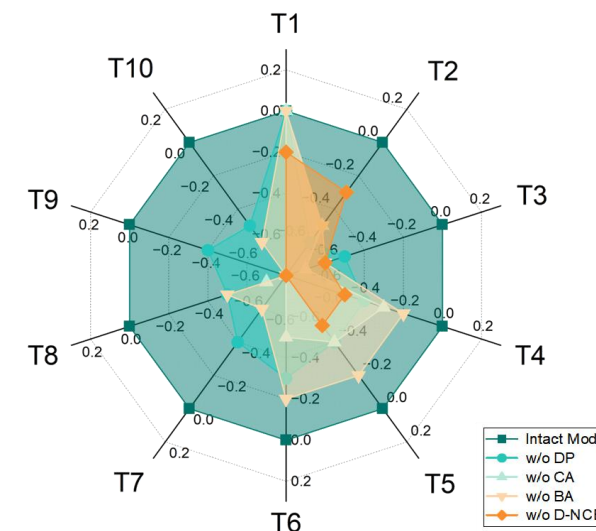
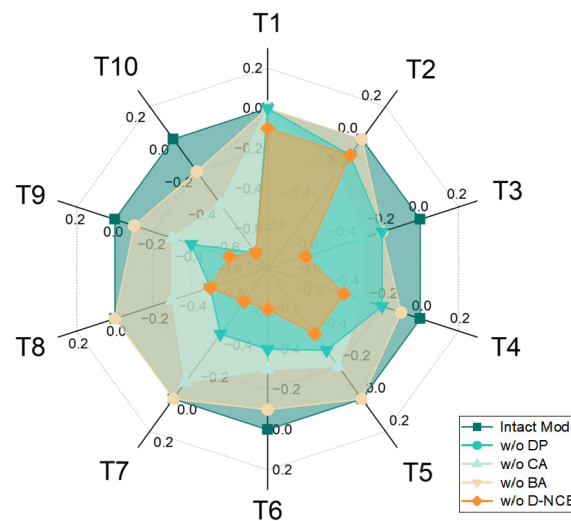
06 Experimental Results of DP-CRE



DP-CRE: Modules Ablation Study

Initial Learning(IN), Decoupled Contrastive Learning(DP), Change Amount Limitation(CA), Multi-task Balance(BA), Double-NCM Prediction(D-NCM)

	FewRel	TACRED
Intact Model	85.1	80.7
w/o IN	83.7	75.4
w/o DP	84.4	80.2
w/o CA	84.7	79.2
w/o BA	84.9	80.1
w/o D-NCM	84.4	79.7



- 1 TACRED dataset consists of a larger number of conflicting relation types, CA-Limit more significant in handling frequent embedding changes.

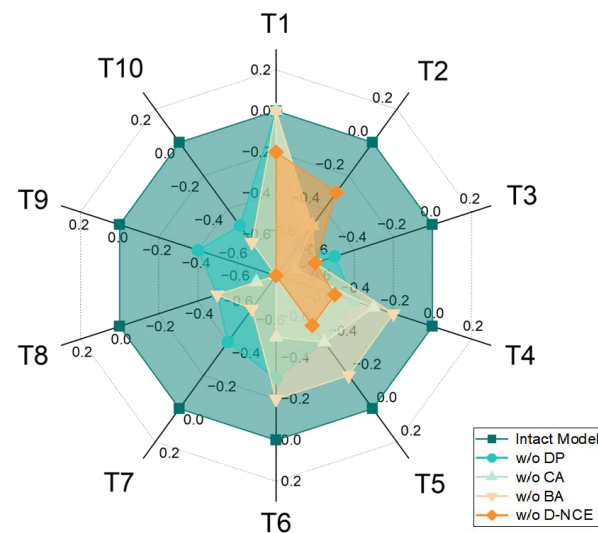
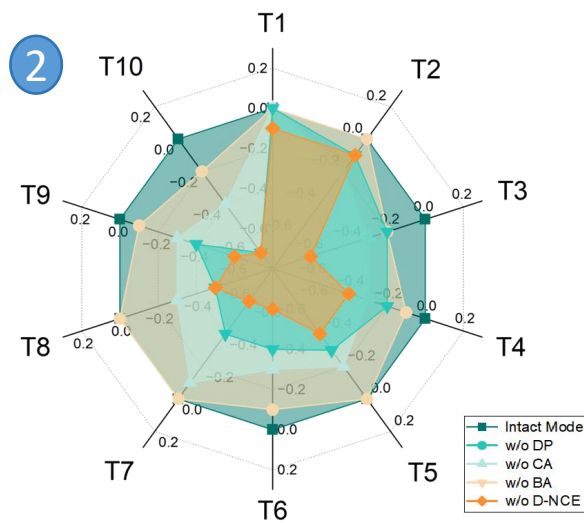
06 Experimental Results of DP-CRE



DP-CRE: Modules Ablation Study

Initial Learning(IN), Decoupled Contrastive Learning(DP), Change Amount Limitation(CA), Multi-task Balance(BA), Double-NCM Prediction(D-NCM)

	FewRel	TACRED
Intact Model	85.1	80.7
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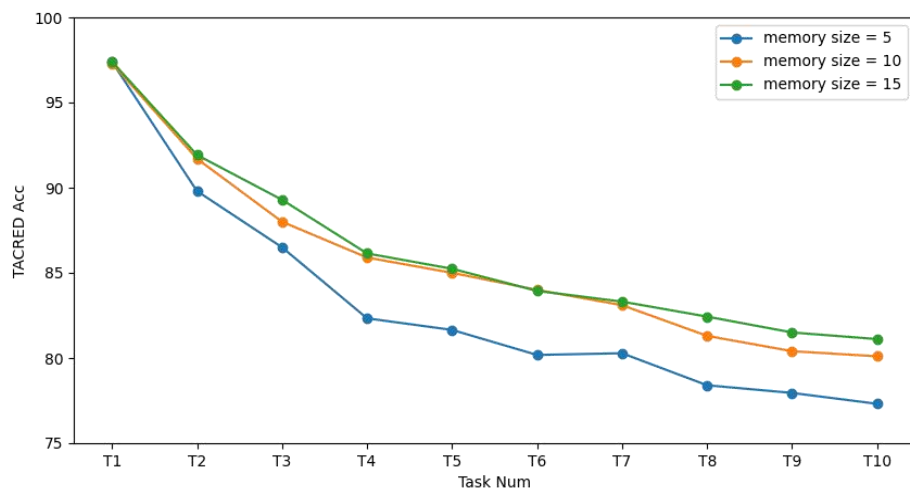
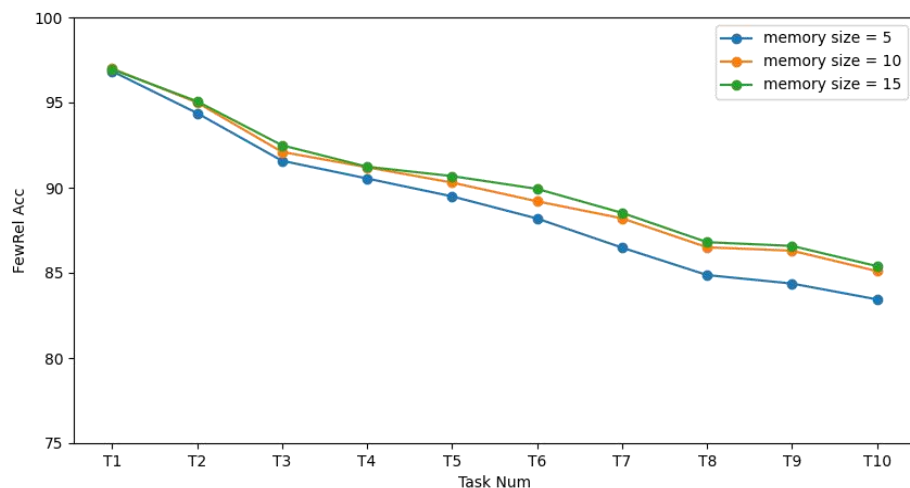


- 1 TACRED dataset consists of a larger number of conflicting relation types, CA-Limit more significant in handling frequent embedding changes.
- 2 Δ accuracy (%) .

06 Experimental Results of DP-CRE



DP-CRE: Influence of Memory Size



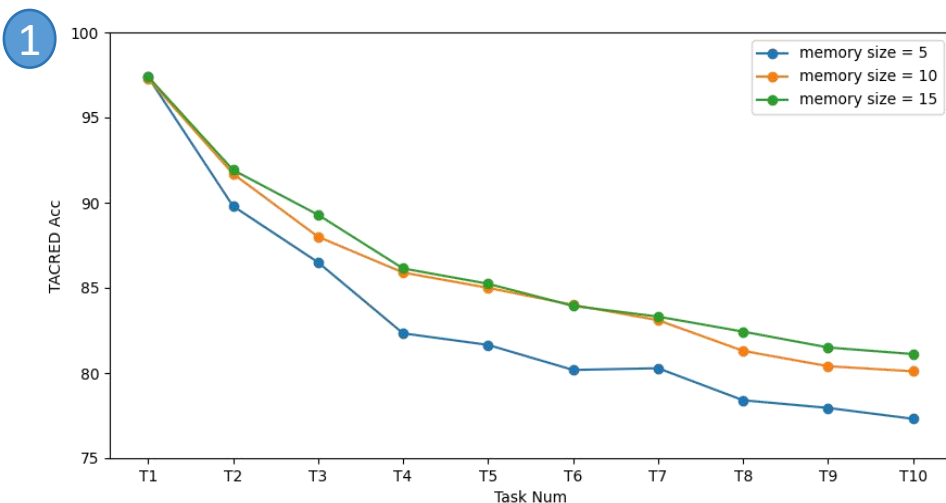
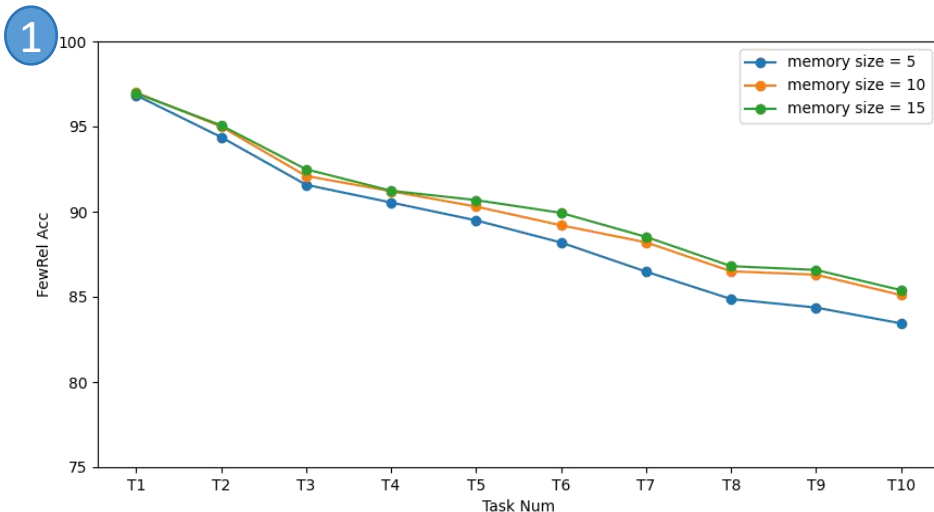
FewRel			
Memory Size	5	10	15
ACA (Wang et al., 2022b)	82.8	84.4	85.1
CRL (Zhao et al., 2022)	80.3	83.0	84.0
CEAR (Zhao et al., 2023)	82.6	84.0	84.9
Ours	83.4	85.1	86.1

TACRED			
Memory Size	5	10	15
ACA (Wang et al., 2022b)	76.2	77.5	78.7
CRL (Zhao et al., 2022)	75.0	78.5	79.7
CEAR (Zhao et al., 2023)	76.7	79.3	80.4
Ours	77.3	80.7	81.3

06 Experimental Results of DP-CRE



DP-CRE: Influence of Memory Size



FewRel			
Memory Size	5	10	15
ACA (Wang et al., 2022b)	82.8	84.4	85.1
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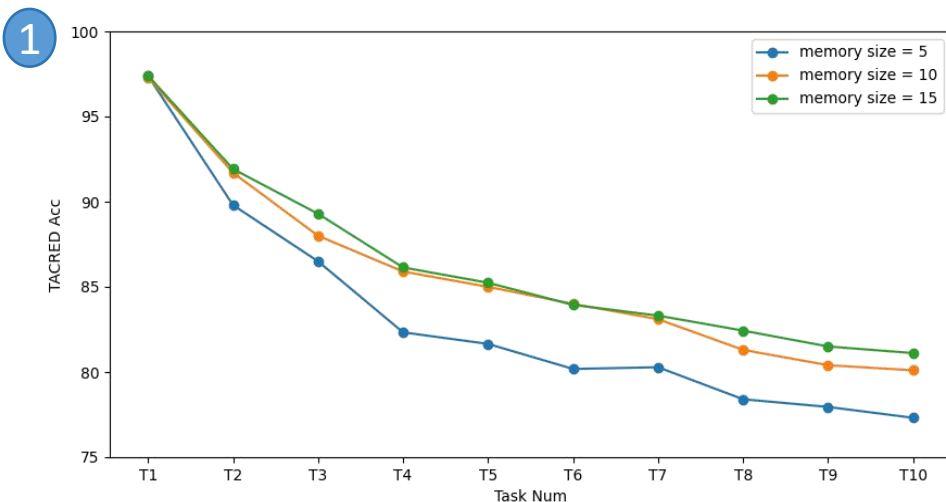
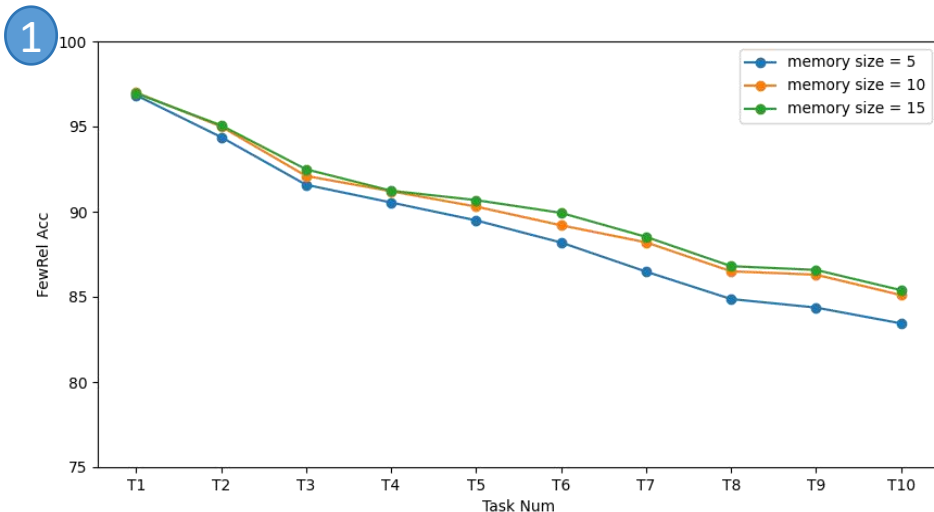
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Ours	77.3	80.7	81.3

1 Additional memory samples providing more information.

06 Experimental Results of DP-CRE



DP-CRE: Influence of Memory Size



2

FewRel			
Memory Size	5	10	15
ACA (Wang et al., 2022b)	82.8	84.4	85.1
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Memory Size	5	10	15
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CEAR (Zhao et al., 2023)	76.7	79.3	80.4
Ours	77.3	80.7	81.3

- 1 Additional memory samples providing more information.
- 2 Change amount for each memory sample individually make more memory samples information used.

06 Experimental Results of DP-CRE



DP-CRE: Task Balance Experiment

FewRel										
Model	Task	T_2	T_3	T_4	T_5	T_6	T_7	T_8	T_9	T_{10}
ACA	old	1.50	2.50	2.86	3.29	3.85	4.35	5.09	5.09	5.48
	new	1.33	2.03	3.06	3.13	4.69	4.06	5.31	6.34	5.53
CEAR	old	1.41	2.08	2.64	3.11	3.49	4.23	4.70	5.48	6.16
	new	1.08	1.80	2.16	2.81	3.66	3.41	4.94	5.59	5.13
Ours	old	1.22	1.67	2.29	2.91	3.27	3.73	3.52	4.48	4.70
	new	0.96	1.63	2.26	2.91	3.42	3.09	4.78	5.34	4.59
TACRED										
Model	Task	T_2	T_3	T_4	T_5	T_6	T_7	T_8	T_9	T_{10}
ACA	old	1.83	2.92	3.15	3.39	3.96	4.43	4.89	5.13	5.47
	new	1.30	2.33	3.05	3.10	4.75	4.18	5.28	5.85	5.85
CEAR	old	1.33	2.15	2.71	3.21	3.58	4.30	4.58	5.43	5.98
	new	0.90	2.00	2.18	2.78	3.73	3.25	5.13	5.05	5.45
Ours	old	1.08	1.99	2.54	3.04	3.42	3.82	4.35	4.61	4.78
	new	1.07	1.80	2.08	2.95	3.73	3.13	4.90	5.00	5.10

06 Experimental Results of DP-CRE



DP-CRE: Task Balance Experiment

FewRel										
Model	Task	T_2	T_3	T_4	T_5	T_6	T_7	T_8	T_9	T_{10}
ACA	old	1.50	2.50	2.86	3.29	3.85	4.35	5.09	5.09	5.48
	new	1.33	2.03	3.06	3.13	4.69	4.06	5.31	6.34	5.53
CEAR	old	1.41	2.08	2.64	3.11	3.49	4.23	4.70	5.48	6.16
	new	1.08	1.80	2.16	2.81	3.66	3.41	4.94	5.59	5.13
Ours	old	1.22	1.67	2.29	2.91	3.27	3.73	3.52	4.48	4.70
	new	0.96	1.63	2.26	2.91	3.42	3.09	4.78	5.34	4.59
TACRED										
Model	Task	T_2	T_3	T_4	T_5	T_6	T_7	T_8	T_9	T_{10}
ACA	old	1.83	2.92	3.15	3.39	3.96	4.43	4.89	5.13	5.47
	new	1.30	2.33	3.05	3.10	4.75	4.18	5.28	5.85	5.85
CEAR	old	1.33	2.15	2.71	3.21	3.58	4.30	4.58	5.43	5.98
	new	0.90	2.00	2.18	2.78	3.73	3.25	5.13	5.05	5.45
Ours	old	1.08	1.99	2.54	3.04	3.42	3.82	4.35	4.61	4.78
	new	1.07	1.80	2.08	2.95	3.73	3.13	4.90	5.00	5.10

1 New and old tasks calculated **separately**.

06 Experimental Results of DP-CRE



DP-CRE: Task Balance Experiment

FewRel										
Model	Task	T_2	T_3	T_4	T_5	T_6	T_7	T_8	T_9	T_{10}
ACA	old	1.50	2.50	2.86	3.29	3.85	4.35	5.09	5.09	5.48
	new	1.33	2.03	3.06	3.13	4.69	4.06	5.31	6.34	5.53
CEAR	old	1.41	2.08	2.64	3.11	3.49	4.23	4.70	5.48	6.16
	new	1.08	1.80	2.16	2.81	3.66	3.41	4.94	5.59	5.13
Ours	old	1.22	1.67	2.29	2.91	3.27	3.73	3.52	4.48	4.70
	new	0.96	1.63	2.26	2.91	3.42	3.09	4.78	5.34	4.59

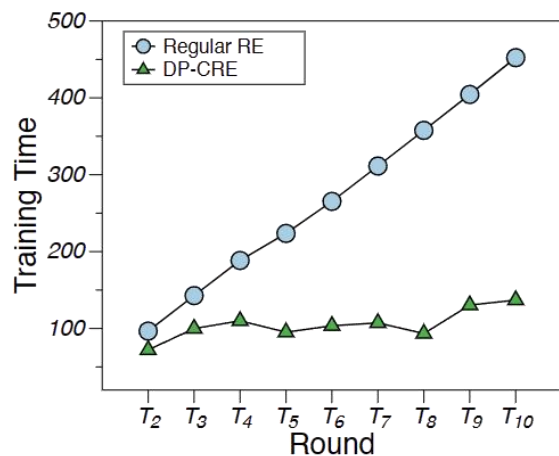
TACRED										
Model	Task	T_2	T_3	T_4	T_5	T_6	T_7	T_8	T_9	T_{10}
ACA	old	1.83	2.92	3.15	3.39	3.96	4.43	4.89	5.13	5.47
	new	1.30	2.33	3.05	3.10	4.75	4.18	5.28	5.85	5.85
CEAR	old	1.33	2.15	2.71	3.21	3.58	4.30	4.58	5.43	5.98
	new	0.90	2.00	2.18	2.78	3.73	3.25	5.13	5.05	5.45
Ours	old	1.08	1.99	2.54	3.04	3.42	3.82	4.35	4.61	4.78
	new	1.07	1.80	2.08	2.95	3.73	3.13	4.90	5.00	5.10

- 1 New and old tasks calculated **separately**.
- 2 $\Delta F1$ of the CRE model and the regular RE model.
Prevents any **over-bias towards either side** in case of conflicts, thereby ensuring a **balanced model**.

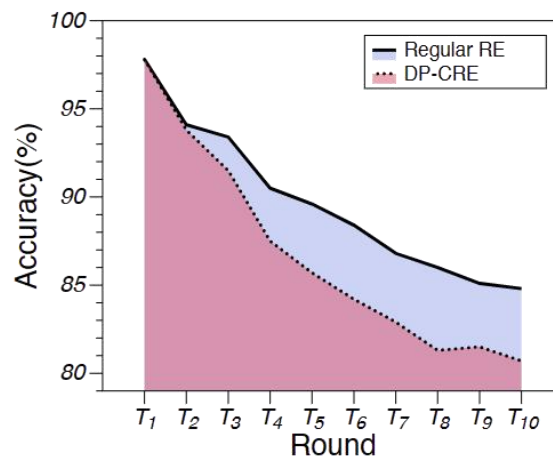
06 Experimental Results of DP-CRE



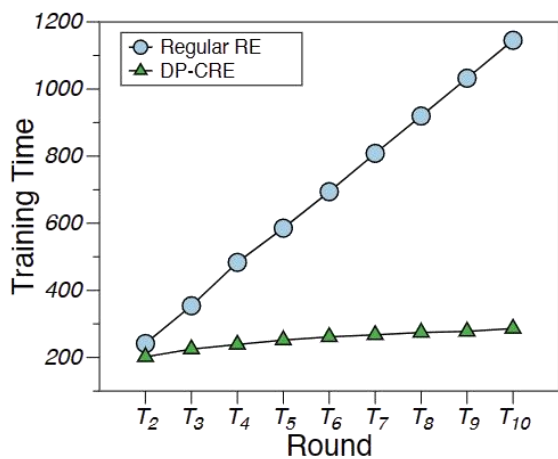
DP-CRE: Training Time Discussion



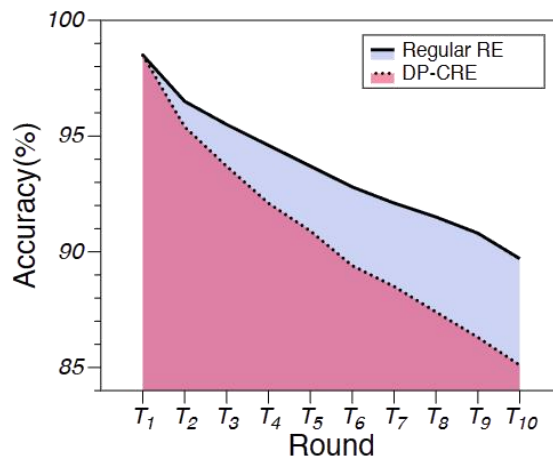
(a) TACRED



(a) TACRED



(b) FewRel

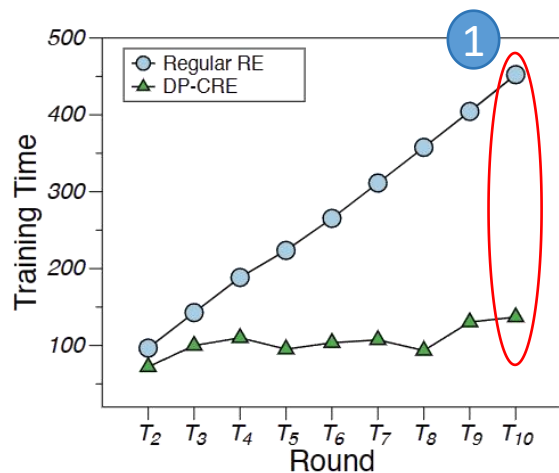


(b) FewRel

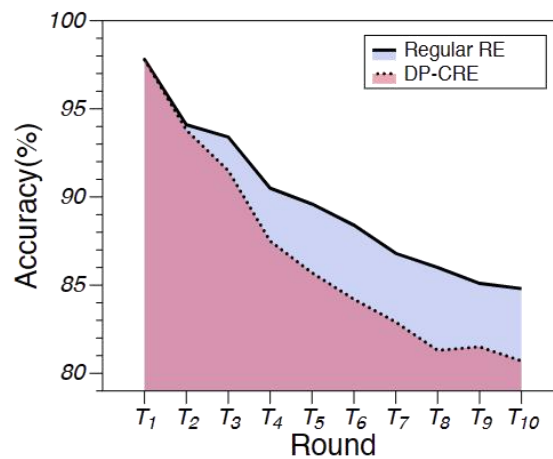
06 Experimental Results of DP-CRE



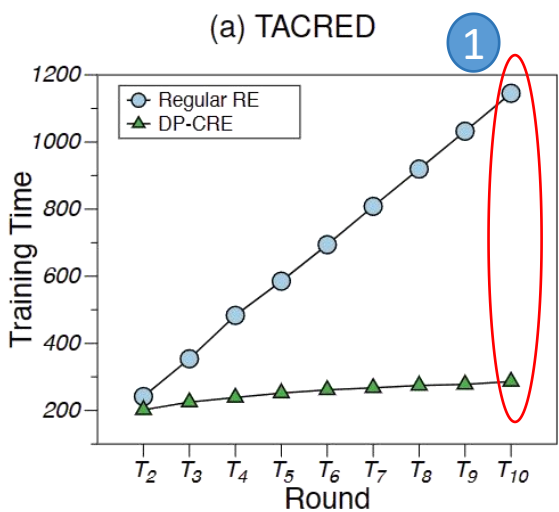
DP-CRE: Training Time Discussion



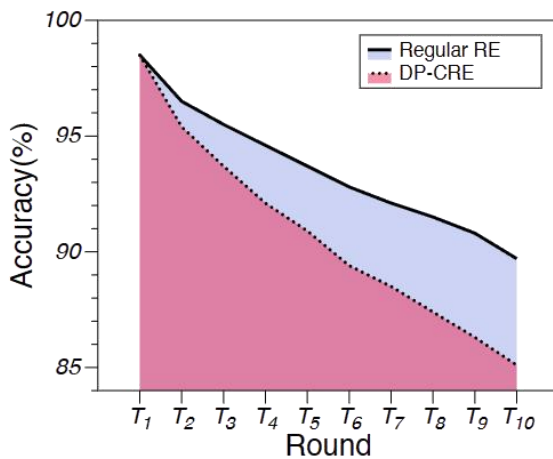
(a) TACRED



(a) TACRED



(b) FewRel



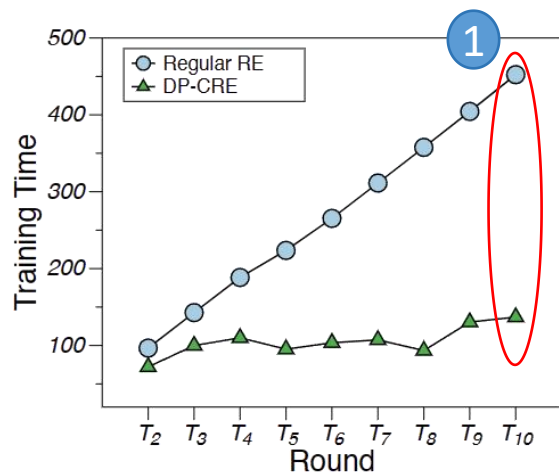
(b) FewRel

1 Reduce the training time and the cost .

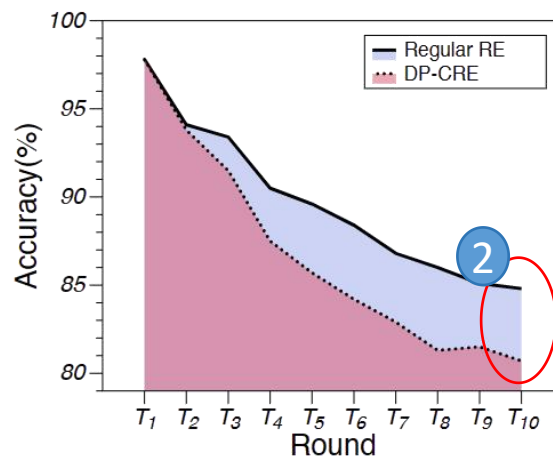
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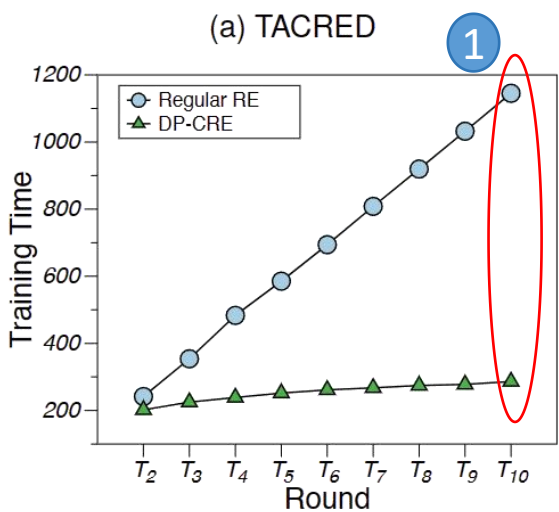
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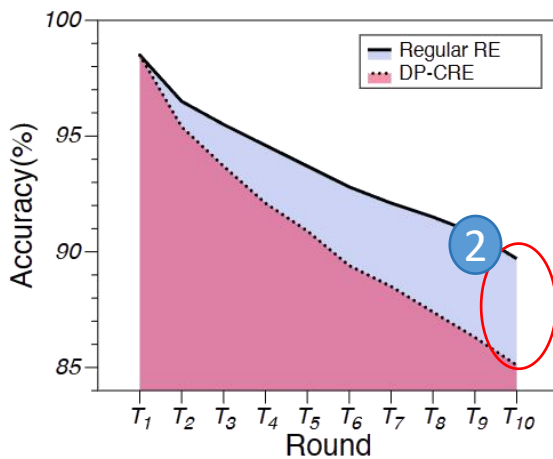
(a) TACRED



(a) TACRED



(b) FewRel



(b) FewRel

1 Reduce the training **time** and the cost .

2 A minor reduction in **accuracy**

DP-CRE

Balance prior information preservation **and new** knowledge acquisition.

Monitor the **changes** in embedding and maintain the **structural information of** memory samples.

Enhance the performance of **SOTA** CRE models.