

AutoML: Neural Architecture Search (NAS)

The One-Shot Model

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One-shot models: convolutional neural fabrics [Saxena and Verbeek. 2017]

- A **one-shot model** is a big model that has all architectures in a search space as submodels
 - ▶ This allows weights sharing across architectures
 - ▶ One **only needs to train the single one-shot model**,
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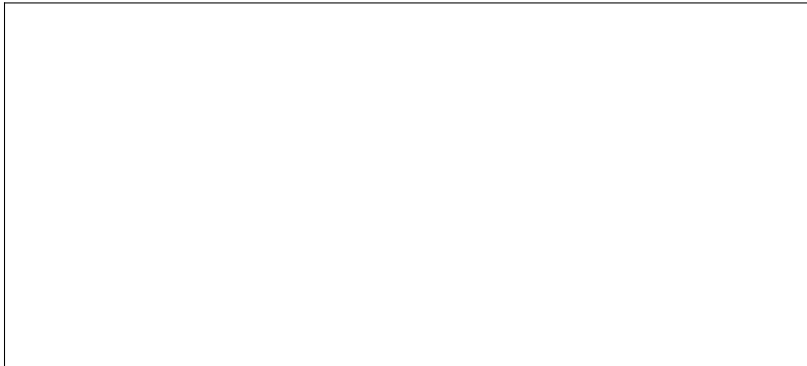
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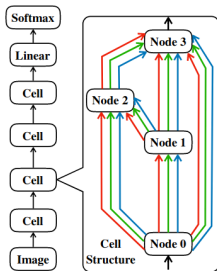


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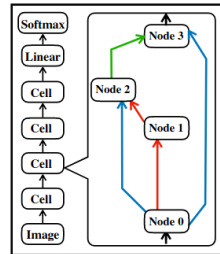
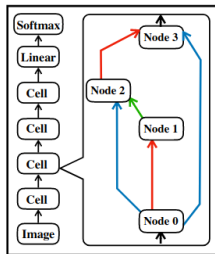
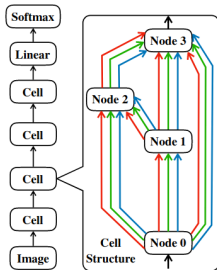
One-shot models for cell search spaces

- Directed acyclic multigraph to capture all (exponentially many) cell architectures
 - ▶ The nodes represent tensors
 - ▶ The edges represent computations (e.g., 3x3 conv, 5x5 conv, max pool, ...)
 - ▶ The results of operations on multiple edges between two nodes are combined (addition/concatenation)



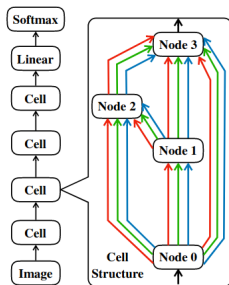
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- Individual architectures are subgraphs of this multigraph
 - ▶ Weights for the operation on an edge are shared across all (exponentially many) architectures that have that edge



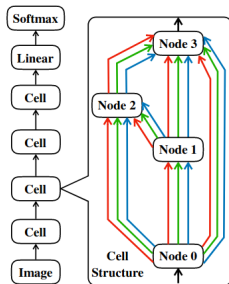
Training the one-shot model – standard SGD [Saxena and Verbeek. 2017]

- One-shot model is an acyclic graph; thus, backpropagation applies
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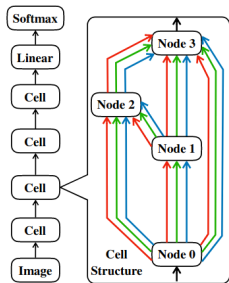
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- Potential issue: co-adaptation of weights
 - ▶ Weights are implicitly optimized to work well on average across all architectures
 - ▶ They are **not** optimized specifically for the top-performing architecture



Training the one-shot model – DropPath [Bender et al. 2018]

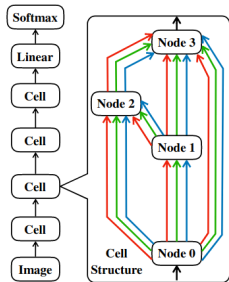
- To avoid coadaptation of weights, we can use **DropPath**, a technique analogous to Dropout [Srivastava et al., 2014]:



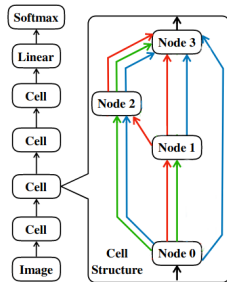
One-shot model

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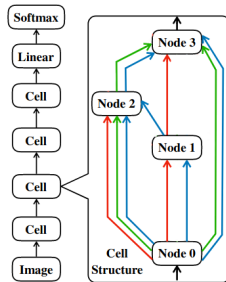
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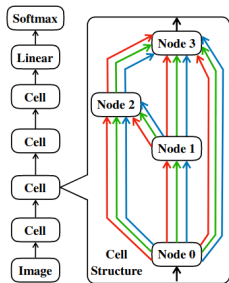
Architecture for batch 1



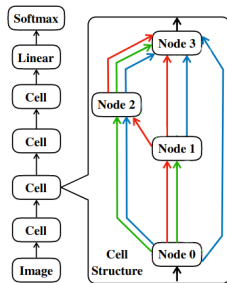
Architecture for batch 2

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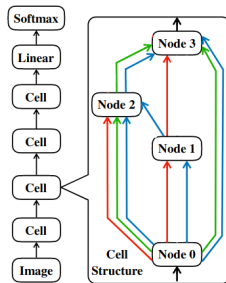
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 - **ScheduledDropPath**: starts with $p = 0$ and increases p linearly to p_{max} at the end of training



One-shot model



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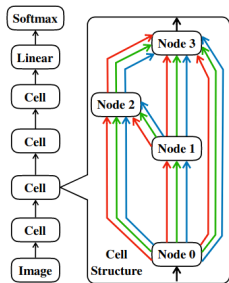
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Training the one-shot model – Sampling

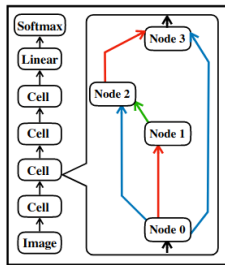
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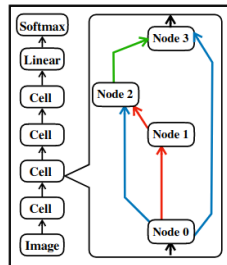
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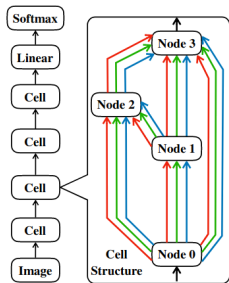
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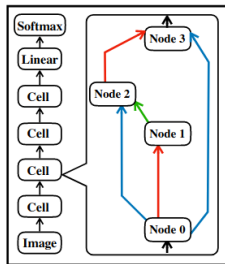
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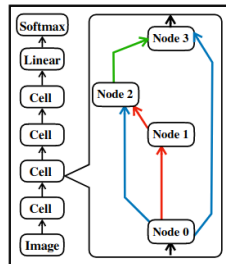
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 - **Random Search with Weight Sharing** [Li and Talwalkar. 2020] → sample from uniform distribution
 - **ENAS** [Pham et al. 2018] → sample from the learned policy of a RNN controller
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One-shot model



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Architecture for batch 2

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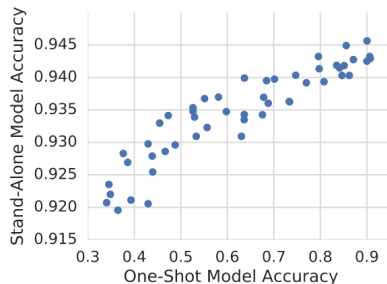
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- **Pitfall:** the correlation between architectures evaluated with the one-shot weights and retrained from scratch (stand-alone models) should be high
- If not, **selecting the best architecture based on the one-shot weights** is sub-optimal.



From [Bender et al. 2018]

Questions to Answer for Yourself / Discuss with Friends

- Repetition:
How are the weights shared in the one-shot model?
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What is the difference between Random Search with Weight Sharing and ENAS?
- Discussion:
What might be some downsides of using the one-shot model for NAS?