



Master Thesis

Temporal Smoothing in 2D Human Pose Estimation for Bouldering

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Abstract

Preface

The following report is a thesis focusing on incorporating temporal smoothing in 2D human pose estimation for bouldering. The thesis was done in collaboration with ClimbAlong at NorthTech ApS and supervised by Kim Steenstrup Pedersen. It is written as part of the completion of my masters in computer science offered at the University of Copenhagen ending spring 2023 and covers the used methods, datasets and results.

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Contents

1	Introduction	8
1.1	Related Work	8
1.2	Choice of Models	9
1.3	Choice of Datasets	10
1.4	Reading Guide	10
2	Deep Learning Theory	11
2.1	Feedforward Neural Networks	11
2.1.1	Fully-connected Layers	11
2.1.2	Convolutional Layer	11
2.2	Recurrent Neural Networks	12
2.2.1	Convolutional Long Short-Term Memory	13
2.3	Transformer	14
2.3.1	Attention	14
2.3.2	The Architecture	15
2.4	General Machine Learning Terminology	16
3	Models	19
3.1	Baseline	19
3.2	Bidirectional Convolutional LSTM	19
3.2.1	Summing the Sequence Directions	20
3.2.2	Concatenating the Sequence Directions	20
3.3	DeciWatch	21
3.4	Mask R-CNN for Human Pose Estimation	22
4	Dataset	23
4.1	The ClimbAlong Dataset	23
4.2	The BRACE Dataset	26
4.3	The Penn Action Dataset	28
5	Pretraining	30
5.1	Data Preprocessing	30
5.2	Training Details	31
5.2.1	Data Configuration	31
5.2.2	Experiments	31
5.2.3	Configuration Choices	32
5.3	Training and Validation Results	32
5.4	Test Results	34
5.5	Technical Details	36
6	Finetuning	38
6.1	Data Preprocessing	38
6.2	Training Details	38
6.3	Training and Validation Results	39
6.4	Test Results	41
6.5	Technical Details	43

7	Discussion	44
7.1	Results	44
7.1.1	Pretraining	44
7.1.2	Finetuning	45
7.2	Why did the Models Perform Better during Finetuning than during Pretraining? .	47
7.3	Which Model is the Best for Denoising Human Pose Estimation for Bouldering? .	48
7.4	General Reflections	48
7.5	Future Work	48
8	Conclusion	49
9	References	50

Notation

\boldsymbol{x}	A vector
\boldsymbol{X}	A matrix
\mathbf{X}	A Tensor
\boldsymbol{X}_{ij}	Element located at row i column j in matrix \boldsymbol{X}
*	The convolution operator
o	The Hadamard product
σ	The sigmoid activation function
$\nabla_{\boldsymbol{x}} f$	Gradient of f with respect to \boldsymbol{x}
$f(\boldsymbol{x}; \theta)$	Function f with input \boldsymbol{x} and parameter θ
$\mathcal{U}(a, b)$	Uniform distribution with support $[a, b]$

1 Introduction

Video analysis in sports have throughout the last decade become more and more common, as these recordings contain a lot of important information. By analyzing such a video recording of people engaging in sports, we can for instance help a referee make the correct calls of help the people engaged in the sport improve their technique. However, most of these analyses requires the system to know where the relevant people are in the video recordings. The models that perform such a task have already been developed for the most popular sports, such as football or basketball, and tend to deliver very accurate results. On the other hand, for the less popular sports, such as bouldering, such models are not as common.

To perform video analysis, machine learning methods are often used, where they can for instance be used for estimating the pose of the people in the video. Often however, these models process the frames of an input video independently of each other, leading to suboptimal results. As the individual frames of a video contain some temporal information that correlates across the frames, one may incorporate this temporal information to improve the performance of the model that otherwise processes the frames independently of each other. Incorporating this temporal information is however not always straight forward and can sometimes require a lot of data, which does not align with the less popular sports, such as bouldering, where annotated data does not come in large quantities. Further, the poses and movements of the people in some of these sports are often very unlike most large public datasets, making these datasets unapplicable for these less popular sports.

Thus, the aim of this thesis is to implement various methods for extending an already developed pose estimator for bouldering, such that it makes use of temporal smoothing. This will be done by developing and testing various machine learning methods through multiple different experiments, such that we end up with the most optimal results.

The thesis is done in collaboration with ClimbAlong at NorthTech ApS. ClimbAlong provides an annotated dataset of video recordings of people climbing a bouldering wall. This dataset is not a synthetic dataset but instead a real dataset, making the developed results with this dataset be more realistic. Secondly, ClimbAlong provides an already developed and trained machine learning model for estimating pose of the humans in 2 dimensions of a given video recording. This model does not make use of temporal smoothing, but instead just processes each frame independently of each other.

1.1 Related Work

2-dimensional articulated human pose estimation can be divided into two groups. The first group focuses on still images, where the pose estimation of multiple images is done independently of each other. The second group focuses on video sequences, where the temporal information across the frames of a video sequence may be used for performing the pose estimation. Further, these pose estimation methods for video sequences may use the pose estimation methods for still images for getting an initial pose estimation of the frames of a video sequence and later use temporal-inclusive methods for smoothing out these still-image pose estimation.

Whether a human pose estimation method is for still images or a video sequence, the method can be categorized in various ways. First off, they can be categorized as being a generative method, which is model based, or a discriminative method, which is not model based. Secondly, they can be categorized as being a top-down method or a bottom-up method, based on which level they start the processing. Thirdly, they can be categorized as being regression-based, where they directly map from input image to the body joint position, or as being

detection-based, where they generate intermediate image patches or heatmaps of joint location. Lastly, they can be categorized as being one-stage, where end-to-end training is used, or multi-stage, where the human pose is estimated in multiple stages and are accompanied by intermediate supervision [5].

The early methods for articulated human pose estimation for still images focused on using the pictorial structures model [7] and consist of unary terms that models body part appearances and pairwise terms between adjacent body parts and/or joints capturing their preferred spatial arrangement [20, 2, 14, 29].

More recent methods for articulated human pose estimation for still images are based on deep learning. Especially convolutional neural networks [17] tend to be very popular. AlexNet [16] was one of the earliest deep learning based methods for human pose estimation. In 2014 Toshev and Szegedy introduced DeepPose, which was an AlexNet-like deep neural network that learned joint coordinates from full images in a very straightforward manner without using any body model or part detectors [25, 5]. In 2015 Tompson *Et al.* introduced an architecture that included a ‘pose refinement’ model that estimates the joint offset location within a small region of an image, which was trained in combination with a convolutional neural network [24]. In 2017 He *Et al.* introduced the Mask R-CNN, which could perform both articulated pose estimation and segmentation simultaneously [11].

With the recent introduction of transformers [26] and vision transformers [6], recent still image methods have started to incorporate these techniques. For instance, in 2020 TransPose was introduced which used multiple transformer encoder layers to perform the pose estimation [28]. In 2022 ViTPose was introduced, which instead used a vision transformer for the pose estimation [27].

The incorporation of temporal information in video sequences was firstly done by Simonyan *Et al.* who used a convolutional neural network for capturing this temporal information for action recognition [23]. This was rather quickly adapted for human pose estimation by Jain *Et al.* who also used a convolutional neural network for capturing the temporal information across the frames of a video sequence [19, 12]. Girdhar *Et al.* expanded on this idea by using 3-dimensional convolutional layers to capture the temporal information [8].

Further, with the introduction of convolutional LSTM networks [22] in 2015, these type of networks was also experimented on articulated human pose estimation by Girdhar *Et al.* [8] and Artacho *Et al.* [3].

Like in the case of the still images, transformer-based networks have also started to been used to capture the temporal information for human pose estimation. One example of this is DeciWatch, introduced by Zeng *Et al.* in 2022, which efficiently delivers state-of-the-art results [30].

1.2 Choice of Models

As seen in section 1.1, there are generally three different approaches for incorporating the temporal information of the video into the pose estimator: (1) a 3-dimensional convolutional layer based approach, (2) an approach based on a convolutional LSTM, and (3) a transformer-based approach. As we find all three approaches interesting and see potential in all of them, we will for each of the approaches be implementing a machine learning method.

For the 3-dimensional convolutional layer based approach, we will be implementing a very simple model, consisting of only a 3-dimensional convolutional layer followed by an activation function. We picked this model, as we needed something simple to be our baseline model, as we then have a better understanding of the performances of our more complex models.

For the convolutional LSTM we let us inspire by the work of Artacho *Et al.* as they had a similar problem, where they aimed at extending a pose estimator, such that that it included temporal information, which ended up yielding state-of-the-art results [3]. However, we will be modifying their convolutional LSTM, as we see some potential shortcomings of their model.

Finally, for the transformer-based approach we will be implementing DeciWatch by Zeng *Et al.*, as this model provides state-of-the-art results as well as it being very fitting for our project, as it is being described as being a method build on top of already developed human pose estimators, such that it includes temporal information [30].

1.3 Choice of Datasets

1.4 Reading Guide

The following section, section 2 covers the most relevant machine learning theory for this project. This is then followed by section 3, where we go into details with the various models that we will be developing. Section ?? then covers the used datasets. In section 5 and 6 we describe the experiments we perform, as well as the preprocessing of the datasets. Finally, in section 7 we discuss the obtain results, as well as some of our shortcomings. Lastly, we conclude our results in section 8.

2 Deep Learning Theory

The following section covers the most important background theory for the experiments in Section ???. This includes an introduction to various types of neural networks, as well as an introduction to the optimization of such networks.

2.1 Feedforward Neural Networks

Feedforward neural networks are the most basic type of neural networks. The aim of a feed-forward neural network is to approximate some function f^* , by defining a mapping $\mathbf{y} = f(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})$ and learning the parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta}$, that results in the best approximation of f^* . These models are called **feedforward** because there are no **feedback** connections in which the outputs of the model are fed back into itself. Instead, information flows through the function being evaluated from \mathbf{x} , through the intermediate computations used to define f , and finally to the output \mathbf{y} . Feedforward neural networks generally consists of multiple **layers**, arranged in a chain structure, with each layer being a function of the layer that preceded it [10].

2.1.1 Fully-connected Layers

The most simple type of layer found in a feedforward neural network is the **fully-connected layer**. The fully-connected layer usually consists of some learnable parameter matrix and learnable parameter vector, as well as a **activation function**, which is a non-linear function, that makes it possible for the network to model non-linearity. Three of the most common activation functions are the **Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU)**, **Sigmoid** and **Hyperbolic Tangent (Tanh)** activation functions, defined as

$$\text{ReLU}(x) = \max\{0, x\} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Sigmoid}(x) = \sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(x)} \quad (2)$$

$$\tanh(x) = \frac{\exp(x) - \exp(-x)}{\exp(x) + \exp(-x)} \quad (3)$$

Given the learnable parameter matrix \mathbf{W} , learnable parameter vector \mathbf{b} and activation function g , the i 'th fully-connected layer is defined as

$$\mathbf{h}^{(i)} = \begin{cases} g^{(i)} (\mathbf{W}^{(i)\top} \mathbf{h}^{(i-1)} + \mathbf{b}^{(i)}) & \text{if } i > 1 \\ g^{(1)} (\mathbf{W}^{(1)\top} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}^{(1)}) & \text{if } i = 1 \end{cases}. \quad (4)$$

Thus, for a neural network with n layers, we have the mapping [10]

$$\mathbf{y} = f(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathbf{h}^{(n)}. \quad (5)$$

2.1.2 Convolutional Layer

A **convolutional layer** is a specialized kind of feedforward layer, usually used in analysis of time-series or image data. If a network has at least one convolutional layer, it is called a **Convolutional neural network (CNN)** [10].

The convolutional layer consists of a set of **kernels**, each to be applied to the entire input vector, where each kernel is a learnable parameter matrix $k \times k$ [21]. Each kernel is applied on the input to produce a **feature map**. The kernels are applied to the input by "sliding" over the input (where the step size is called **stride**). Each $k \times k$ grid of the input is then used to

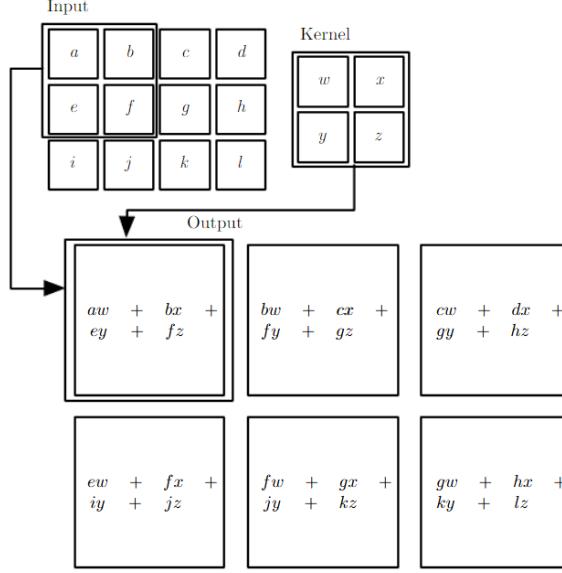


Figure 1: An example of applying a 2d kernel on an input [10].

compute the dot-product between the grid and each kernel, which is then placed in the corresponding feature map of each kernel, as visualized in Figure 1. [1]. To control the dimensions of the output, one might **pad** the sides with a constant value. Commonly, zero is used as the padding-value.

As seen in Figure 1, each kernel produces a linear combination of all pixel values in a neighbourhood defined by the size of the kernel. Thus, unlike a fully-connected layer, a convolutional layer captures the high correlation between a pixel and its neighbours. Further, by limiting the size of the kernel, the network will use much fewer parameters, than if it was replaced by a fully-connected layer [10].

2.2 Recurrent Neural Networks

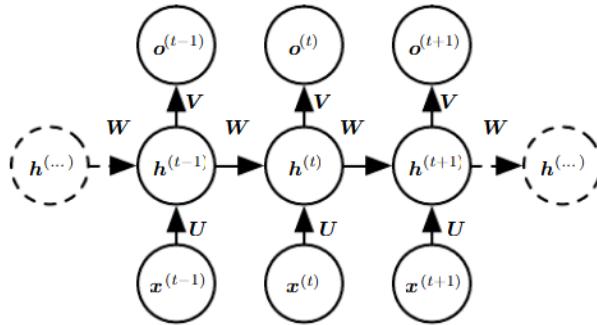


Figure 2: An illustration of an RNN [10].

Recurrent neural networks (RNNs) are a family of neural networks for processing sequential data. Figure 2 illustrates the general setup of such a network, which maps an input sequence of x values to a corresponding sequence of output o values. Generally, an RNN consists of three parts: (1) the input ($x^{(i)}$), (2) the hidden state ($h^{(i)}$), and (3) the output ($o^{(i)}$). During inference, the model maps each input value to an output value in a sequential matter, where it first maps the first input value, then the second, then the third, and so forth. The network maps each input value to an output value by making use of the hidden state from the preceding step,

where the first hidden state has to be initialized. This kind of RNN is **unidirectional**, as it only considers the data in one sequence-direction. To utilize both directions of the sequence one can use two RNNs, where each RNN processes the data in opposite direction. This type of RNN is called being a **bidirectional RNN (bi-RNN)** [10].

2.2.1 Convolutional Long Short-Term Memory

One common recurrent neural network unit is the **convolutional long short-term memory (ConvLSTM)**, which is an adaptation of the standard **long short-term memory (LSTM)** for sequences of images. Both LSTMs work by potentially stacking multiple **cells** together, such that each LSTM cell is taking in outputs of the preceding LSTM cell as its input.

The idea of both LSTM cells is to create paths through time that have derivatives that neither vanish nor explode. This is done by introducing a memory cell C_t , which accumulates state information over a long duration. This cell is accessed, written and cleared by several controlling gates. The model learns during training, when to access, write and clear this memory cell. By using the memory cell and gates to control the flow of information, the gradient will be trapped in the cell and thus be prevented from vanishing too quickly [10, 22].

The ConvLSTM cell consists of three gates. The first gate is the **input gate** I_t , which controls whether or not to accumulate the information of a new input to the cell. This gate is defined as

$$I_t = \sigma(W_{xi} * X_t + W_{hi} * H_{t-1} + W_{ci} \circ C_{t-1} + B_i) \quad (6)$$

where X_t is the current input image, H_{t-1} is the hidden state of the previous time step, C_{t-1} is the cell output of the previous time step, and W_{xi} , W_{hi} , W_{ci} and B_i are learnable parameters

The second gate is the **forget gate** unit F_t (at time step t), which controls whether or not to "forget" the status of the cell output of the previous time step. The forget gate is defined as

$$F_t = \sigma(W_{xf} * X_t + W_{hf} * H_{t-1} + W_{cf} \circ C_{t-1} + B_f) \quad (7)$$

where W_{xf} , W_{hf} , W_{cf} and B_f are learnable parameters.

The last gate is the **output gate** unit O_t , which controls whether or not the latest cell output will be propagated to the final state H_t . This cell is defined as

$$O_t = \sigma(W_{xo} * X_t + W_{ho} * H_{t-1} + W_{co} \circ C_t + B_o) \quad (8)$$

where W_{xo} , W_{ho} , W_{co} and B_o are learnable parameters.

By combining the three gates, we get the following definition of the ConvLSTM Cell. Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_t be a sequence of input images. Then, at each time step t , we compute

$$I_t = \sigma(W_{xi} * X_t + W_{hi} * H_{t-1} + W_{ci} \circ C_{t-1} + B_i) \quad (9)$$

$$F_t = \sigma(W_{xf} * X_t + W_{hf} * H_{t-1} + W_{cf} \circ C_{t-1} + B_f) \quad (10)$$

$$C_t = F_t \circ C_{t-1} + I_t \circ \tanh(W_{xc} * X_t + W_{hc} * H_{t-1} + B_c) \quad (11)$$

$$O_t = \sigma(W_{xo} * X_t + W_{ho} * H_{t-1} + W_{co} \circ C_t + B_o) \quad (12)$$

$$H_t = O_t \circ \tanh(C_t) \quad (13)$$

For $t = 1$, both H_{t-1} and C_{t-1} have to be initialized [22].

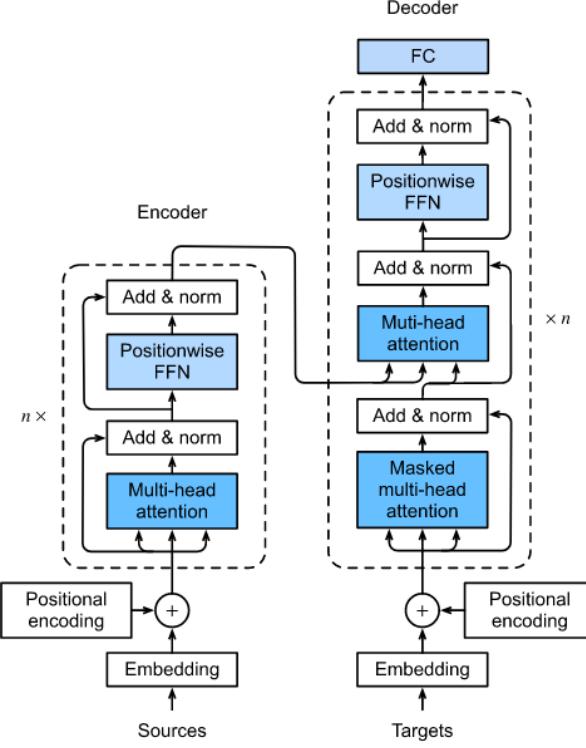


Figure 3: An illustration of the Transformer architecture [31].

2.3 Transformer

The sequential nature of RNNs precludes parallelization with training examples, heavily slowing down the training of these models. Another type of model for sequential data is the **Transformer**, which eschews recurrence and instead relies on an **attention** mechanism to draw dependencies between input and output. The Transformer allows for more parallelization and can reach state of the art results [26].

2.3.1 Attention

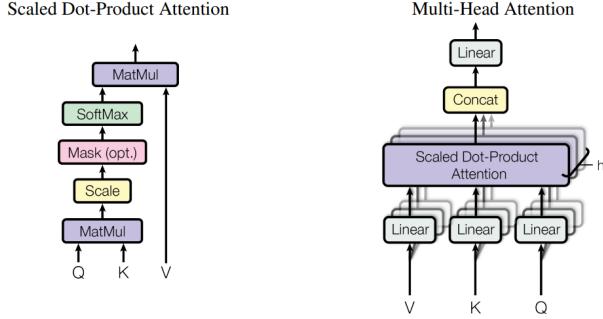


Figure 4: Illustration of (left) the Scaled Dot-Product Attention, and (right) the Multi-Head Attention, which consists of several attention layers running in parallel [26].

An attention function is a function that maps a given query and a given set of key-value pairs to an output. In this function the query, keys, values, and output are all vectors, and the output is a weighted sum of the values, where the weight of each value is computed by a compatibility function of the query with the corresponding key [26]. Figure 4 illustrates the two types of

attention functions used in the Transformer.

Scaled Dot-Product Attention: The scaled dot-product attention is the core attention function of the transform. The function takes queries and keys of dimensions d_k as input, and values of dimension d_v . In practice, the attention function is computed on a set of queries, keys and values simultaneously, by packing them into matrices \mathbf{Q} , \mathbf{K} , and \mathbf{V} , respectively. Thus, the scaled dot-product attention is computed as

$$\text{Attention}(\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{K}, \mathbf{V}) = \text{softmax}\left(\frac{\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{K}^T}{\sqrt{d_k}}\right)\mathbf{V} \quad (14)$$

where the scaling of $\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{K}^T$ is done to counteract the cases with a large d_k , which would result in the softmax-function having an extremely small gradient [26].

Multi-Head Attention: The **multi-head attention** is the used attention function by the Transformer and is an extention to the scaled dot-product attention. This attention function linearly projects the queries, keys and values h times with different, learned linear projections to d_k , d_k , and d_v dimensions, respectively. For each of the projected queries, keys and values, the scaled dot-product attention is applied, yielding d_v -dimensional output values. These output values are finally concatenated and further projected, resulting in the final values. By using multi-head attention, the model is allowed to jointly attend to information from different representation subspaces at different positions [26].

2.3.2 The Architecture

The Transformer follow an encoder-decoder structure, where the encoder maps an input sequence \mathbf{x} to a sequence of continuous representations \mathbf{z} . The decoder then uses \mathbf{z} to generate an output sequence \mathbf{y} , one element at a time. At each step the model consumes the previously generated output element as additional input when generating the next output [26]. Figure 3 illustrates the overall architecture of the Transformer.

Encoder: The encoder consists of N identical layers, where each layer consists of two sub-layers. The first sub-layer is a multi-head **self-attention** layer, and the second sub-layer is a position-wise fully-connected feedforward network. Around each sub-layer is a **residual connection**, where the the input of the sub-layer is added to the output of the sub-layer. This residual connection is then followed by a round of **layer normalization**. In this self-attention layer the keys, values and queries come from the output of the previous layer in the encoder. Each position in the encoder can attend to all positions in the previous layer of the encoder [26].

Decoder: The decoder also consists of N identical layers. In addition to the two sub-layers in each encoder layer, the decoder also consists of a third sub-layer, which performs multi-head attention over the output of the encoder stack (called **cross-attention** [15]). Also here, is residual connections used around each of the sub-layers, followed by layer normalization. To ensure, that the predictions for position i only depends on the known outputs at positions less than i , the self-attention sub-layer in the decoder stack is modified. This self-attention sub-layer, allows each position in the decoder to attend to all positions in the decoder up to and including that position. The self-attention sub-layer is modified by masking out all values in the input of the softmax which correspond to illegal connections [26].

Feedforward Networks: Each of the layers in the encoder and decoder contains a fully-connected feedforward layer, consisting of two linear transformations with the ReLU activation-function

applied in between, as described below [26]

$$FFN(\mathbf{x}) = \max(0, \mathbf{x}W_1 + \mathbf{b}_1)W_2 + \mathbf{b}_2. \quad (15)$$

Positional Encoding: As the model does not contain any recurrences nor any convolutions, it has to carry some other type of information to know about the relative or absolute position of the elements in the input sequence. This is done by adding **positional encodings** to the input of the encoder and decoder stacks. The positional encoding is a vector of size d_{model} and is defined as the following

$$\mathbf{PE}_{pos,2i} = \sin\left(\frac{pos}{10000^{\frac{2i}{d_{model}}}}\right) \quad (16)$$

$$\mathbf{PE}_{pos,2i+1} = \cos\left(\frac{pos}{10000^{\frac{2i}{d_{model}}}}\right) \quad (17)$$

$$(18)$$

where pos is the position and i is the dimension [26].

2.4 General Machine Learning Terminology

The following section covers the general terminology and some algorithms, that will be used through this paper.

Loss Function: Training a machine learning model is generally done by minimizing a pre-defined **loss function**, which is used for measuring the error of the model. One common loss function for regression is the **Mean Squared error (MSE)**. Let $f^*(\mathbf{x})$ be a vector of ground truth observations and $f(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})$ be an estimation of $f^*(\mathbf{x})$. Then, MSE is defined as

$$MSE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(f^*(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}) - f(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \right)^2. \quad (19)$$

Thus, MSE measures the average squared difference between the ground truth observations and the estimated observations [13].

Optimizer: The minimization of the loss function is usually done by an **optimizer**, which is a type of algorithm, that is typically some type of variation of **gradient descent**. Gradient descent is a process that iteratively updates the parameters of a function by

$$\boldsymbol{\theta} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{\theta} - \eta \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} L(f(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}; \boldsymbol{\theta}), f^*(\mathbf{x}^{(i)})) \quad (20)$$

where η is called the **learning-rate**, which controls the stepsize of each update, and L is a loss function such as MSE.

One of the most used optimizers is **ADAM**, which is an optimizer that uses **momentum** and **adaptive learning-rate** to accelerate its learning. Momentum works by accumulating an exponentially decaying moving average of past gradients and continuing to move in their direction, which especially accelerates learning in the face of high curvature, small but consistent gradients, or noisy gradients. Adaptive learning rate is a mechanism for adapting individual learning rates for the model parameters. The idea is as follows; if the partial derivative of the

loss, with respect to a given model parameter, remains the same sign, then the learning rate should increase. If that partial derivate changes sign, then the learning rate should decrease. The algorithm uses a hyperparameter ρ for controlling the length scale of the moving average. The pseudocode of the algorithm has been illustrated in Algorithm 1. [10].

Online, mini-batch and batch gradient methods: Unlike gradient descent, ADAM bases its computations on a **mini-batch** of samples instead of basing it on a single sample. Thus, there are three ways of sampling data for the optimizer. The first way is done by sampling a single sample at each iteration. This class of methods is called **online gradient methods**. The advantage of these methods is, that each iteration is very quick, as we only have to compute the gradient of a single sample, however, the main disadvantage is, that the algorithm uses a lot of iterations. On the other hand we have **batch gradient methods** which uses the average gradient of all of the n samples of the dataset to compute $\nabla L(f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}))$. By doing so the algorithm only requires one iteration, however, this iteration is much slower than each iteration of the online gradient methods. The last class of methods is **mini-batch gradient methods** which uses the average gradient of $|B|$ samples of the dataset for computing $\nabla L(f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}))$, where B is a predefined hyperparameter called the **mini-batch size**. This method lies in between the online gradient methods and batch gradient methods, as it uses fewer iterations than the online gradient methods, however, it uses more iterations than the batch gradient methods. Likewise, each iteration is faster to compute than it is for the batch gradient methods, but slower than it is for the online gradient methods. Further, online gradient methods can lead to a very noisy learning process due to the high variance of the computed gradients of the samples, which can make it more difficult for the optimizer to reach the minimum of the loss function. mini-batch gradient methods and batch gradient methods removes this noise by averaging the computed gradient at each iteration, essentially leading to a quicker learning process [10].

Algorithm 1 Adam [10]

Require: Learning rate η

Require: Exponential decay rates for moment estimates, ρ_1 and ρ_2 in $[0, 1)$

Require: Small constant δ used for numerical stabilization

Require: Initial parameters θ

Initialize 1st and 2nd moment variables $s = \mathbf{0}$, $r = \mathbf{0}$

while stopping criterion not met **do**

 Sample a minibatch of m random observations from the training set $\{\mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(m)}\}$ with corresponding targets $\mathbf{y}^{(i)}$

 Compute gradient: $\mathbf{g} \leftarrow \frac{1}{m} \nabla_{\theta} \sum_i L(f(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}; \theta), \mathbf{y}^{(i)})$

$t \leftarrow t + 1$

 Update biased first moment estimate: $s \leftarrow \rho_1 s + (1 - \rho_1) \mathbf{g}$

 Update biased second moment estimate: $r \leftarrow \rho_2 r + (1 - \rho_2) \mathbf{g} \odot \mathbf{g}$

 Correct bias in first moment: $\hat{s} \leftarrow \frac{s}{1 - \rho_1^t}$

 Correct bias in second moment: $\hat{r} \leftarrow \frac{r}{1 - \rho_2^t}$

 Compute update: $\Delta\theta = -\eta \frac{\hat{s}}{\sqrt{\hat{r}} + \delta}$

 Apply update: $\theta = \theta + \Delta\theta$

Layer Normalization: One problem when optimizing a neural network is, that the gradients with respect to the weights of one layer depends on the outputs of the neurons of the previous previous layer. If these outputs change in a highly correlated way, the model could experience some undesired "covariate shift", which would make the training take longer. One way

to reduce these "covariate shifts" is to make use of **layer normalization**, where the layer normalization statistics over all the hidden units in the same layer l is computed as the following

$$\mu^{(l)} = \frac{1}{H} \sum_{i=1}^H \mathbf{w}_i^{(l)\top} \mathbf{h}^{(l-1)}, \quad \sigma^{(l)} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{H} \sum_{i=1}^H \left(\mathbf{w}_i^{(l)\top} \mathbf{h}^{(l-1)} - \mu^{(l)} \right)^2} \quad (21)$$

where H is the amount of hidden units of the l th layer, $\mathbf{w}_i^{(l)}$ is the incoming learnable weight vector to the i th hidden unit of the l th layer, and $\mathbf{h}^{(l-1)}$ is the output of the preceding layer. Thus, the summed inputs $\mathbf{w}_i^{(l)\top} \mathbf{h}^{(l-1)}$ is normalized and rescaled by

$$\bar{a}_i = \frac{\mathbf{w}_i^{(l)\top} \mathbf{h}^{(l-1)} - \mu^{(l)}}{\sigma^{(l)}}. \quad (22)$$

Further, the input to the current layer l also learns an adaptive bias b and gain g for each neuron after the normalization. Thus, the i th input to layer l is defined as the following

$$h_i^{(l)} = f \left(\frac{g_i(a_i - \mu^{(l)}) + b_i}{\sigma^{(l)}} \right) \quad (23)$$

where f is a non-linear activation function [4].

Evaluation: We often want to know how well a machine learning model performs on an unseen sample. This is commonly done by splitting the dataset into three non-overlapping subsets to avoid a biased evaluation. The first dataset is the **training** dataset which is used for training the machine learning model. The second dataset is the **validation** dataset which is used during training for evaluating various settings of the the used (hyper)parameters. The last dataset is the **testing** dataset, which is then used for evaluating the final machine learning model.

The evaluation of a machine learning model is done by making use of an **evaluation metric**, which depends on the task of the machine learning model. For pose estimation, the **Percentage of Correct Keypoints (PCK)** is commonly used. This metric measures the ratio of predicted keypoints that are closer to their corresponding ground-truth keypoints than some threshold. Often **PCK@0.2**, **PCK@0.1**, **PCK@0.05** are used, which uses 20%, 10% and 5% of the torso diameter as its threshold, respectively [3].

Dropout: A machine learning model is said to be **overfitting** if the loss of the training dataset is decreasing, while the loss of the validation dataset is increasing. One can make use of a group of techniques called **regularization** to avoid the overfitting of the network. One common regularization technique is **dropout**, where each parameter of the machine learning model is randomly disabled with probability p during training. By doing so the parameters are being trained on the dataset fewer times, leading to less of a probability of the model overfitting.

Epoch: Often, the optimizer needs multiple "rounds" of using the whole training data for reaching its minimum. Each of these rounds is called an **epoch**. One can pick the number of epochs to iterate through prior to training a model and just stop the training once the optimizer has used all of its epochs. Another method is to use **early-stopping**, where one keeps track of the loss of the model on the validation-set for each epoch. Once the validation-loss has not decreased for n consecutive epochs, the training is terminated.

3 Models

The following section goes into details with the models from section 1.2, that we will also be experimenting with in section 5 and section 6.

3.1 Baseline

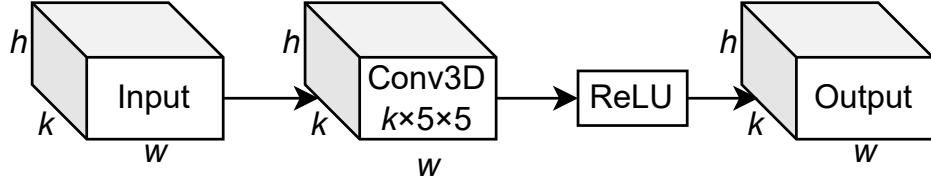


Figure 5: Illustration of 3DConv.

The first model we will be using is a very simple baseline model based on a 3-dimensional convolution. Throughout this project, we will be referring to this model as **3DConv**. Figure 5 illustrates the architecture of the model.

The model takes a sequence of $T \in \mathbb{N}$ estimated poses $\hat{\mathcal{P}} = \{\hat{\mathbf{P}}^t\}_{t=1}^T$ as input, where each estimated pose $\hat{\mathbf{P}}^t \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times h \times w}$ is represented using heatmaps, such that $K \in \mathbb{N}$ is the amount of keypoints in each estimated pose, $h \in \mathbb{N}$ is the height of each heatmap and $w \in \mathbb{R}$ is the width of each heatmap.

Once the data has been passed to the model, the processing of the data is very simple. As illustrated in Figure 5, the model starts by applying a 3-dimensional convolutional layer to the input data. The convolutional layer consists of K filters, each with a kernel-size of $T \times 5 \times 5$. To ensure the input and output of the convolutional layer has the same shape, we pad the input with zeros.

Once the convolutional layer has processed the data, the ReLU activation-function is applied element-wise to the data, resulting in the final prediction of the model.

3.2 Bidirectional Convolutional LSTM

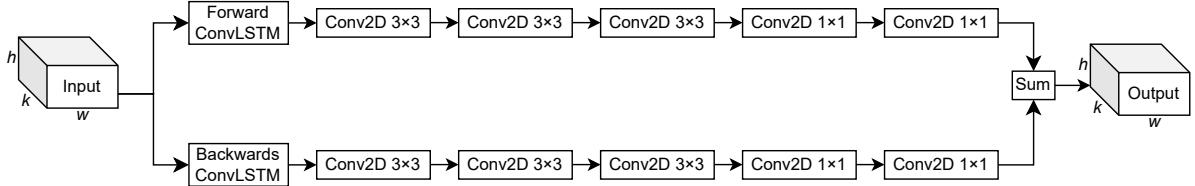


Figure 6: Illustration of the implemented bidirectional convolutional LSTM, where the two sequence orders are summed together.

Our second and third model are based on the LSTM-extension of Unipose-LSTM by Artacho and Savakis [3]. Artacho and Savakis' model was based on a unidirectional convolutional LSTM. However, as we do not require our model to work in real-time, and as we believe a bidirectional convolutional LSTM would be beneficial, our models will be based on a bidirectional convolutional LSTM. The major difference between our second and third model is how they combine the information of the two sequence directions.

Both models take a sequence of $T \in \mathbb{N}$ estimated poses $\hat{\mathbf{P}} = \{\hat{\mathbf{P}}^t\}_{t=1}^T$ as input, where each estimated pose $\hat{\mathbf{P}}^t \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times h \times w}$ is represented as a set of heatmaps, where $K \in \mathbb{N}$ is the amount of keypoints, $h \in \mathbb{N}$ is the height of each heatmap and $w \in \mathbb{N}$ is the width of each heatmap.

3.2.1 Summing the Sequence Directions

Figure 6 illustrates the architecture of the second model. We will through this project refer to this model as **bi-ConvLSTM - Model S**. The model starts by branching into two separate branches, that processes the estimated poses in opposite sequence order. Each branch processes the estimated poses one frame at a time. This is done by first applying a convolutional LSTM to the input frame at time step $t \in \mathbb{R}$, using the preceding output of the convolutional LSTM as the hidden state. Each convolutional LSTM is followed by five 2-dimensional convolutional layers, each applying 128 filters, except for the last convolutional layer of each branch, which applies K filters. The first three convolutional layers use a kernel size of 3×3 , whereas the following two convolutional layers use a kernel size of 1×1 . The outputs of the two branches are then summed together element-wise.

All convolutional layers use a stride of one and zero-padding on the input, such that the output of each convolutional layer has the same dimensions as the input to the convolutional layer.

3.2.2 Concatenating the Sequence Directions

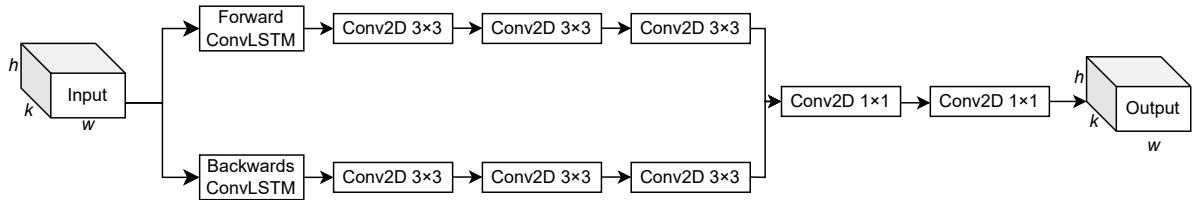


Figure 7: Illustration of the implemented bidirectional convolutional LSTM, where the two sequence orders are concatenated together and processed by two convolutional layers.

Looking at our second model, we see one major problem with the architecture behind it: the model does not have any option of prioritizing one processing order over the other, as the two branches are just summed together. Our third model aims at solving this problem.

Figure 7 illustrates the architecture of our third model. We will through this project refer to this model as **bi-ConvLSTM - Model C**. This model is very similar to the previous model. It also starts off by branching into two separate branches, that processes the estimated poses in opposite sequence orders, where each branch processes the estimated poses one frame at a time. Similarly to the previous model, this model also starts off by applying a convolutional LSTM to the input frame, by using the preceding output of the convolutional LSTM as the hidden state. Further, each convolutional LSTM is also followed by three 2-dimensional convolutional layers, each applying 128 filters with a kernel size of 3×3 .

Different from the previous model, this model concatenates the output of each branch to form a $256 \times h \times w$ tensor, which is then processed by two 1×1 2-dimensional convolutional layers with 128 and K filters, respectively.

Similarly to the second model, all convolutional layers also use a stride of one and zero-

padding on the input, such that the output of each convolutional layer has the same dimensions as the input to the convolutional layer.

3.3 DeciWatch

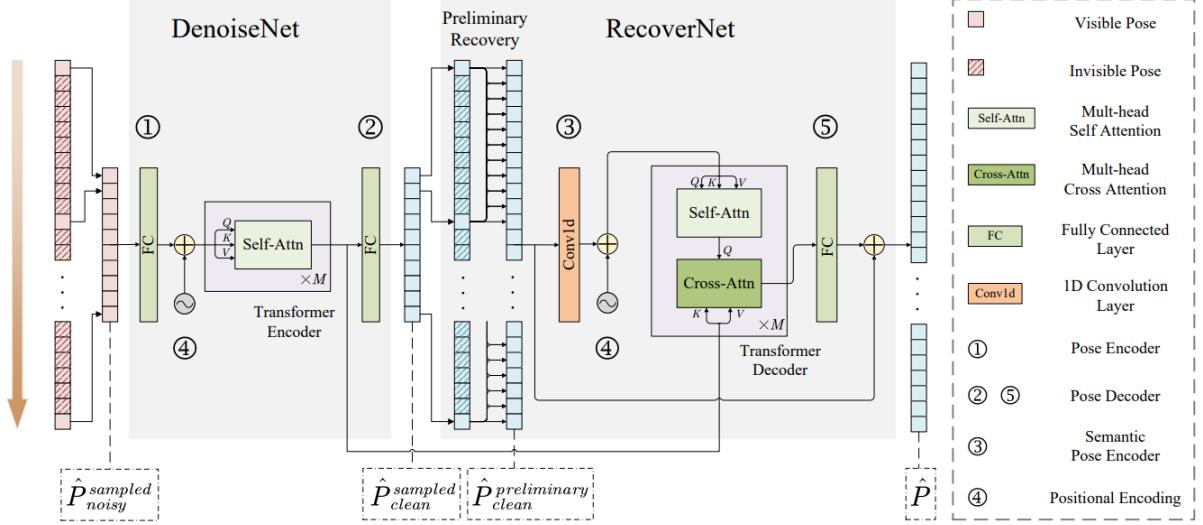


Figure 8: Illustration of the DeciWatch [30]

The last model we implement is a transformer-based model named *DeciWatch*, introduced by Zeng *Et al.*, which is illustrated in Figure 8. The model works by only processing some of the input-frames. It consists of two parts: the *DenoiseNet* and the *RecoverNet*. The aim of DenoiseNet is to denoise the estimated poses given as input to the model, whereas the aim of RecoverNet is to recover the poses of the missing frames. The following description of the model is based on an interpolation of the official paper behind DeciWatch [30].

More specifically, the model takes a sequences of $T \in \mathbb{N}$ estimated poses $\hat{\mathcal{P}} = \{\hat{\mathcal{P}}^t\}_{t=1}^T$ as input, where $\hat{\mathcal{P}}^t$ is represented by 2-dimensional keypoint position. Due to redundancy in consecutive frames and continuity of human poses, the model starts by sampling every n th frame to select sparse poses $\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{noisy}^{sampled} \in \mathbb{R}^{\frac{T}{n} \times 2K}$, where $K \in \mathbb{N}$ is the number of keypoints. These sampled poses are then passed to DenoiseNet.

The goal of DenoiseNet is to denoise the sparse poses, that were estimated by a single-frame pose estimator. The denoise process can be formulated as

$$\hat{\mathcal{F}}_{clean}^{sampled} = \text{TransformerEncoder} \left(\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{noisy}^{sampled} \mathbf{W}_{DE} + \mathbf{E}_{pos} \right). \quad (24)$$

That is, $\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{noisy}^{sampled}$ is first encoded through a linear projection matrix $\mathbf{W}_{DE} \in \mathbb{R}^{2K \times C}$ and summed with a positional embedding $\mathbf{E}_{pos} \in \mathbb{R}^{\frac{T}{n} \times C}$. This is then passed to a transformer-encoder consisting of $M \in \mathbb{N}$ multi-head Self-Attention blocks, resulting in the noisy poses being embedded into a clean feature $\hat{\mathcal{F}}_{clean}^{sampled} \in \mathbb{R}^{\frac{T}{n} \times C}$, where $C \in \mathbb{N}$ is the embedding dimensions. Lastly, another linear projection matrix $\mathbf{W}_{DD} \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times 2K}$ is used to obtain the denoised sparse poses

$$\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{clean}^{sampled} = \hat{\mathcal{F}}_{clean}^{sampled} \mathbf{W}_{DD}. \quad (25)$$

After the sparse poses has been denoised as $\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{clean}^{sampled} \in \mathbb{R}^{\frac{T}{n} \times 2K}$, the data is passed to the RecoverNet, whose goal is to recover the absent poses. First, a linear transformation $\mathbf{W}_{PR} \in$

$\mathbb{R}^{T \times \frac{T}{n}}$ is applied to perform preliminary sequence recovery to get $\hat{\mathbf{P}}_{clean}^{preliminary} \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times 2K}$ by

$$\hat{\mathbf{P}}_{clean}^{preliminary} = \mathbf{W}_{PR} \hat{\mathbf{P}}_{clean}^{sampled}. \quad (26)$$

To improve the recovery of the absent poses a transformer-decoder and positional embedding is used together with a 1D convolutional layer to bring temporal semantics into pose encoding to encode the neighboring $D \in \mathbb{R}$ frames' poses into pose tokens. Thus, RecoverNet, and the final prediction of DeciWatch, can be summarized by

$$\hat{\mathbf{P}} = \text{TransformerDecoder} \left(Conv1d \left(\hat{\mathbf{P}}_{clean}^{preliminary} \right) + \mathbf{E}_{pos}, \hat{\mathbf{F}}_{clean}^{sampled} \right) \mathbf{W}_{RD} + \hat{\mathbf{P}}_{clean}^{preliminary} \quad (27)$$

where $\mathbf{W}_{RD} \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times 2K}$ is another linear transformation layer. Further, as illustrated by Figure 8, key information is drawn in the the Cross-Attention block by leveraging the denoised features $\hat{\mathbf{F}}_{clean}^{sampled}$.

To avoid overfitting, dropout is applied to the input of each sub-layer and sums of the embeddings of the transformer-encoder and transformer-decoder, as well as to the positional encodings.

3.4 Mask R-CNN for Human Pose Estimation

The last model we will be using is the *Mask R-CNN for human pose estimation* as introduced by He *Et al.* in 2017 [11]. Unlike the previously described model, we will not be implementing this model, but instead use an already implemented and trained model on the ClimbAlong dataset, which has been provided by ClimbAlong A/S. As we will not be implementing this model, we will here not go into the details of how the model works, but instead just give a brief overview of the model.

The model takes a single rgb-image with height $h_{in} \in \mathbb{N}$ and width $w_{in} \in \mathbb{N}$ as input and returns $K \in \mathbb{N}$ heatmaps of height $h_{out} \in \mathbb{N}$ and width $w_{out} \in \mathbb{N}$ such that each heatmap corresponds to a single keypoint where the position of the element with the greatest value corresponds is the location of the predicted keypoint. The Mask R-CNN by ClimbAlong A/S uses $h_{out} = w_{out} = 255$ and $K = 25$.

Each heatmap corresponds to the predicted bounding-box of the person that the keypoints corresponds to. Further, this bounding-box has been resized such that it is squared, discarding the aspect ratio of the original bounding-box.

4 Dataset

?? To perform the pose estimation in Section ??, we need some data on which to train, validate and test our models. The following section describes the datasets that will be used.

Keypoint label	ClimbAlong	BRACE	Penn Action
Head	No	No	Yes
Nose	Yes	Yes	No
Left ear	Yes	Yes	No
Right ear	Yes	Yes	No
Left eye	No	Yes	No
Right eye	No	Yes	No
Left shoulder	Yes	Yes	Yes
Right shoulder	Yes	Yes	Yes
Left elbow	Yes	Yes	Yes
Right elbow	Yes	Yes	Yes
Left wrist	Yes	Yes	Yes
Right wrist	Yes	Yes	Yes
Left pinky	Yes	No	No
Right pinky	Yes	No	No
Left index	Yes	No	No
Right index	Yes	No	No
Left thumb	Yes	No	No
Right thumb	Yes	No	No
Left hip	Yes	Yes	Yes
Right hip	Yes	Yes	Yes
Left knee	Yes	Yes	Yes
Right knee	Yes	Yes	Yes
Left ankle	Yes	Yes	Yes
Right ankle	Yes	Yes	Yes
Left heel	Yes	No	No
Right heel	Yes	No	No
Left toes	Yes	No	No
Right toes	Yes	No	No

Table 1: Overview of the annotated keypoints of the three used datasets

4.1 The ClimbAlong Dataset

As the aim of our models is to perform well on climbers, we will be using some annotated data of climbers. For this, ClimbAlong ApS has developed a dataset that we will be using. The dataset consists of videos of various climbers on bouldering walls, where each video contains just a single climber. Figure 9 and 10 illustrates two windows of five consecutive frames of a single video from the ClimbAlong dataset. As shown in the figures, the videos in the dataset contains both static positions, where the climber holds a position for a while, as well as quick movements.

The dataset consists of 29 fully annotated videos and a total of 9,535 fully annotated frames, where each annotation consists of 25 keypoints. Table 1 gives an overview of which keypoints are annotated in the dataset. Each video is filmed in portrait mode with a resolution of



(a) Frame 17

(b) Frame 18

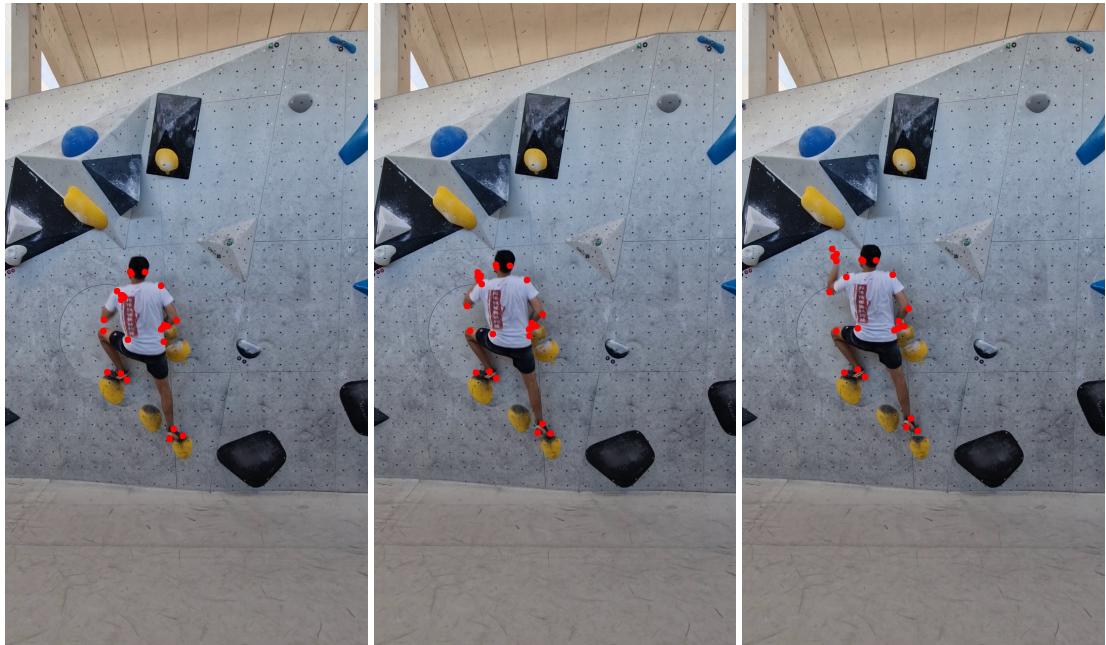
(c) Frame 19



(d) Frame 20

(e) Frame 21

Figure 9: Example of five consecutive frames of a video from the ClimbAlong dataset with the corresponding groundtruth keypoints, where the actor holds his position for a while.



(a) Frame 31

(b) Frame 32

(c) Frame 33



(d) Frame 34

(e) Frame 35

Figure 10: Example of five consecutive frames of a video from the ClimbAlong dataset with the corresponding groundtruth keypoints, where the actor performs a quick movement.

1080×1920 and 30 frames per second.

4.2 The BRACE Dataset

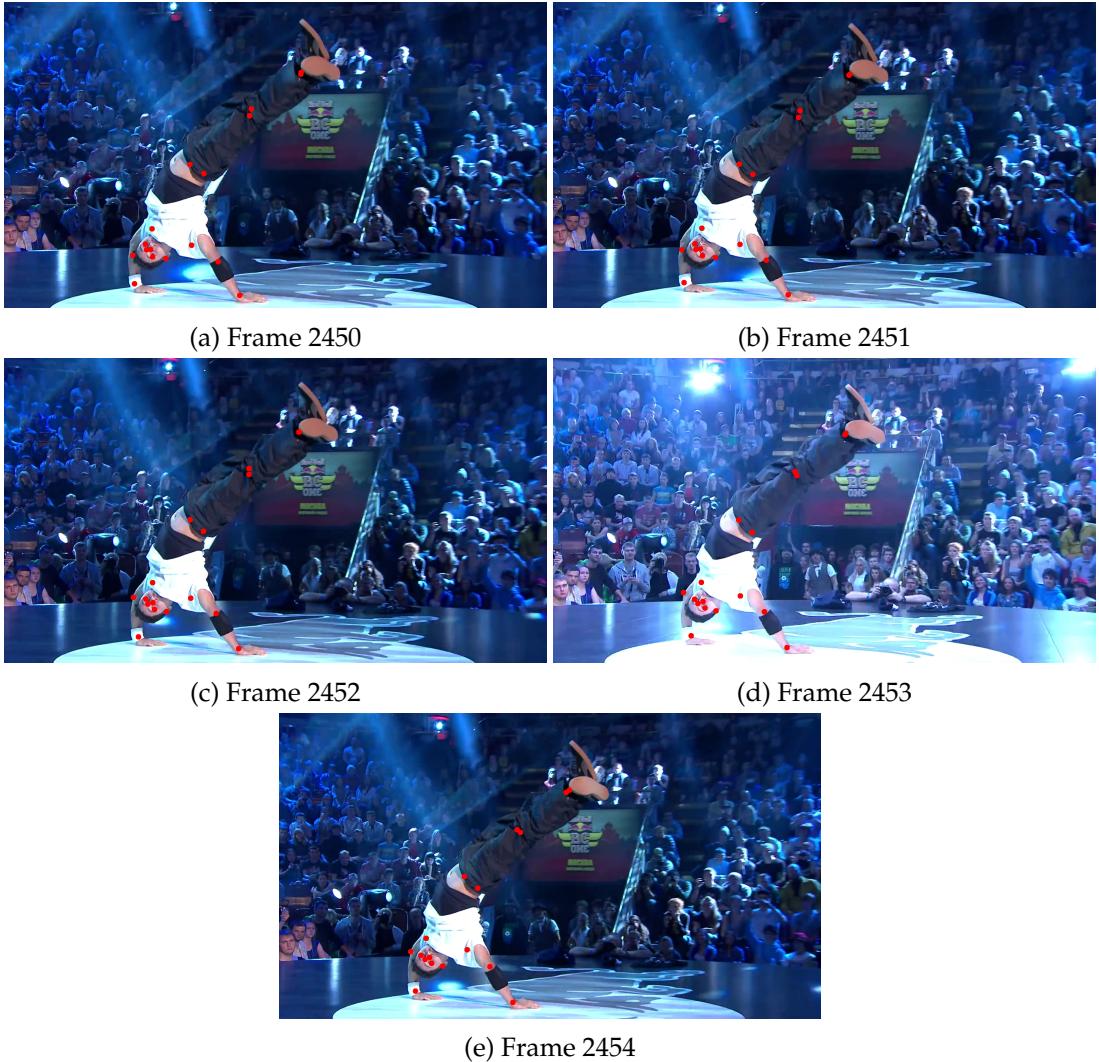


Figure 11: Example of five consecutive frames of a video from the BRACE dataset with the corresponding groundtruth keypoints, where the actor holds his position for a while.

The second dataset we will be using is the *BRACE* dataset [18]. This dataset consists of 1,352 video sequences and a total of 334,538 frames with keypoints annotations of breakdancers. The frames of the video sequences have a resolution of 1920×1080 [18].

We chose to use this dataset as breakdancers tend to swap between static and quick poses, as well as containing some acrobatic poses, similarly to the ones seen in the ClimbAlong dataset. Generally, the movements of the BRACE dataset are quicker than the movements of the ClimbAlong dataset. The static poses of the BRACE dataset tend to occur less frequently than the static poses of the the ClimbAlong dataset, as well as the quick movements tend to be quicker than the quick movements of the ClimbAlong dataset. However, as both the actors of both datasets swap between static and quick poses, as well as both datasets containing acrobatic poses, we found the BRACE dataset relevant for our experiments in Section ???. Figure 11 and 12 contains two consecutive sequences, each of five frames, that illustrates these two cases.



Figure 12: Example of five consecutive frames of a video from the BRACE dataset with the corresponding groundtruth keypoints, where the actor performs a quick movement.

baseball_pitch	baseball_swing	bench_press
bowling	clean_and_jerk	golf_swing
jumping_jacks	jump_rope	pull_ups
push_ups	sit_ups	squats
strumming_guitar	tennis_forehand	tennis.Serve

Table 2: The original 15 action-types in the Penn Action dataset.

The frames of the video sequences have been annotated by initially using state-of-the-art human pose estimators to extract automatic poses. This was then followed by manually annotating bad keypoints, corresponding to difficult poses, as well as pose outliers. Finally, the automatic and manual annotations were merged by using interpolating. Each frame-annotation consists of 17 keypoints, following the COCO-format, as illustrated in Table 1 [18].

4.3 The Penn Action Dataset

The final dataset we will be using is the *Penn Action* dataset [32]. This dataset consists of 2,326 video sequences of 15 different action-types. Table 2 lists these 15 action-types [32]. Each frame have a resolution within the size of 640×480 [32].

Each sequence has been manually annotated with human joint annotation, consisting of 13 joints as well as a corresponding binary visibility-flag for each joint. The placement of the invincible keypoints is very inconsistent, as some of the positions have been estimated, whereas others have been placed near one of the corners the image.

Unlike the BRACE dataset, most of the poses in the Penn Action dataset are not very unusual and thus are not very relevant for the poses of climbers. For that reason, we have decided to focus on the action-types that may contain more unusual poses. Thus, we only keep the sequences that have `baseball_pitch`, `bench_press` or `sit_ups` as their corresponding action-type [32]. Further, the movements of the Penn Action dataset tend to be of a more similar pace to the ClimbAlong dataset than the BRACE dataset, making the Penn Action dataset relevant for our task.

In total, we use 307 video sequences from the Penn Action dataset, consisting of a total of 26,036 frames. Figure 13 illustrates five consecutive frames with its groundtruth annotations for one of these video sequences.

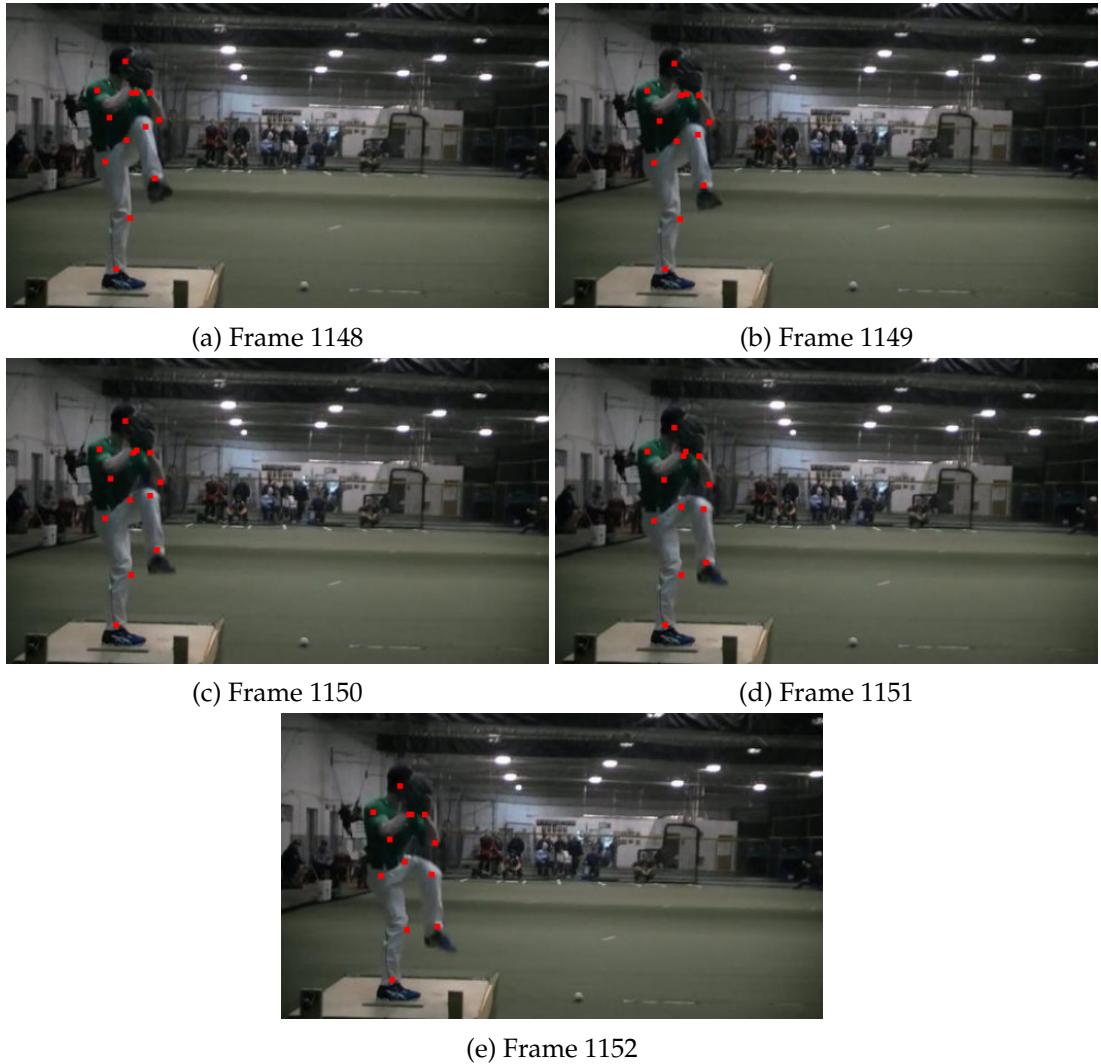


Figure 13: Example of five consecutive frames of a video from the Penn Action dataset with the corresponding groundtruth keypoints.

5 Pretraining

As we expect our models to require more data than what is in the ClimbAlong dataset to reach their optimal performance, we have decided to pretrain our models on the BRACE and Penn Action datasets, followed by finetuning them on the ClimbAlong dataset. By doing so we expect our models to yield better results than if we were only using the ClimbAlong dataset, as the pretraining data will be used for adjusting the randomly initialized weights, whereas the finetuning-data will just be used for specializing the model in performing well on the ClimbAlong dataset. The following section describes the pretraining stage, including the data preprocessing, the used configuration details, as well as the obtained results.

In the pretraining stage we will not be using the already developed pose-estimator, but instead only use our temporal-inclusive models by adding noise to the data such that it simulates the output of the already developed pose-estimator on the ClimbAlong dataset. We do this, as the images of pretraining data is very different from the ClimbAlong data, making us believe that the already developed pose-estimator will yield some very inaccurate results, as well as some predictions that will be very different from the predictions of the model on the ClimbAlong dataset.

5.1 Data Preprocessing

As our models take a sequence of estimated poses as input, we will not be using the images of the frames, hence why we discard the images of all frames from BRACE and Penn Action, such that we only keep the annotated poses. We further preprocess these annotations, such that they simulate the output of the already developed pose-estimator as closely as possible.

We start by extracting the bounding-box of the annotated pose in each frame by using the annotated keypoints. As the placement of the invincible keypoints are very inconsistently placed, we have decided to just discard these keypoints, as we expect them to result in suboptimal results. Further, as the subpixel-coordinates are used for the keypoints, we round these coordinates to the nearest integer neighbor, making the keypoints have pixel-coordinates instead. For the extract bounding-boxes, we expand each side by 10%, such that no keypoint lies on any of the boundaries of the bounding-box. This is followed by discarding everything outside the bounding-box and rescale the bounding-box to have a sidelength of 56, such that it has the same dimensions as the output of the already developed pose-estimator.

Next, we transform each frame into twenty five heatmaps. This is done by creating twenty five 56×56 zero-matrices for each frame, such that each zero-matrix represents a single keypoint of a single frame. Further, for each keypoint we insert a fixed value $c = 255$ at the position of the keypoint in its corresponding zero-matrix and apply a Gaussian filter with mean $\mu_{out} = 0$ and standard deviation $\sigma_{out} = 1$ to smear out each heatmap. For missing keypoints, we do not place the value c in the corresponding heatmap, making the heatmap consist of only zeros. Further, as Penn Action is the only dataset with the position of the head annotated, as well as the only dataset missing a annotation for the nose, we treat the head-annotation of Penn Action as if it was a nose-annotation, as the position of the two annotations would be very close to each other.

The heatmaps that we produce by following the above description will be used as the groundtruth data. However, as we will be pretraining our models detached from the already developed pose-estimator, we will also need some data as input. We acquire this data by adding some noise to the data, such that they become similar to the output of the already developed pose-estimator, essentially simulating the output of the already developed pose-estimator. The noise

is introduced by randomly shifting each keypoint of each sample and by smearing our each keypoint of each sample by using a Gaussian filter with mean $\mu_{in} = 1$ and some standard deviation $\sigma_{in} \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$. For the shift-value we sample from a Gaussian distribution with mean $\mu = 0$ and standard deviation $\sigma = 3k$, where the **shifting-scalar** $k \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ is some fixed positive number based on what experiment is run. We clip the position of the shifted keypoints between 0 and 55, such that they cannot be outside of their corresponding heatmap.

5.2 Training Details

5.2.1 Data Configuration

For the data we use a window-size of $s = 5$ frames, as Artacho *et al.* found this to be the optimal number of frames to use [3], making our dataset consist of 345,120 windows. Further, we randomly split our dataset into a training, validation and test set, consisting of 60%, 20% and 20% of the data, respectively, without any overlapping or repeating windows among each other, as this results in minimal evaluation-bias. Lastly, to help the models learn the patterns of the data, we shuffle the three subsets, such that the order of which the data is given to the models does not influence the learning.

As the datasets for the pretraining stage are missing some keypoints of the ClimbAlong dataset, we have to cancel out the training of these missing keypoints, as this would otherwise result in the models learning to never predict the presence of these keypoints. There are multiple ways to do this. We handled it during training by setting the groundtruth heatmaps of the missing keypoints equal to the corresponding predicted heatmaps, making the loss of these missing heatmaps be zero and thus the weights of the model of these heatmaps would not be adjusted.

5.2.2 Experiments

For each of the four models we run three different experiments. In experiment 1 we uniformly at random sample the standard deviation used by the Gaussian filter at the input data σ_{in} from the set $\{1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3\}$. We do this, as the output heatmaps of the already developed pose-estimator does not use a fixed standard deviation, making the data a better representation of the pose-estimator output.

As we find it interesting how big of a difference the randomness experiment 1 makes, we fix this standard deviation in experiment 2, such that we have $\sigma_{in} = 1$, thus, essentially, the models only have to learn to translate the input heatmaps.

Finally, with 30 frames per second and a window-size of $s = 5$, we suspect that the models might be given too little context to actually be able to effectively smooth out the input data. We could fix this by increasing the window-size, however, we instead chose to make the models work at a lower frame rate, as the increased window-size would also increase the memory usage. Thus, for experiment 3 we still use a window-size of 5, however, with half the frame rate. For this experiment we also sample σ_{in} from the set $\{1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3\}$.

As we find it difficult to set the optimal value of the shifting-scalar k , such that the data becomes as close as possible to the finetuning data, we run each experiment twice for each model. In the first run we use a shifting-scalar of $s = 1$, whereas for the second run we increase the value of the shifting-scalar to $s = 2$, making the data a lot more noisy.

5.2.3 Configuration Choices

For optimizing the weights of the models, we use the ADAM optimizer with a batch size of 16, an initial learning rate of 10^{-3} and the MSE loss-function. During training we keep track of the lowest reached validation loss of an epoch. If this lowest validation loss has not been beaten for five consecutive epochs, we reduce the learning rate by a factor of 0.1. Further, if the lowest validation loss has not been beaten for ten consecutive epochs, we terminate the training of the corresponding model. In case this never happens, we terminate the training of the corresponding model once it has been trained for fifty epochs.

To reduce the likelihood of vanishing or exploding gradients, we initialize the weights of all models by sampling from the Glorot uniform distribution, defined by

$$\mathcal{U}\left(-\frac{\sqrt{6}}{\sqrt{n_j + n_{j+1}}}, \frac{\sqrt{6}}{\sqrt{n_j + n_{j+1}}}\right), \quad (28)$$

where n_j is the size of the previous layer and n_{j+1} is the size of the layer which is having its weights initialized [9].

Further, Zeng *Et al.* [30] have not described in their report their configuration choices for the various parameters of DeciWatch. However, by inspecting the official source code of the paper, we can actually find the configuration of the model, which we will be following ¹. Thus, our implementation of DeciWatch will be using $C = 128$ embedding dimensions, $M = 4$ multi-head Self-Attention blocks, a dropout-rate of 0.1 and five encoder and decoder layers. Zeng *Et al.* actually only sample every 10th frame. However, as the datasets we are using are a lot more fast-paced than the one used by Zeng *Et al.*, we have decided to change this sample rate, such that it instead samples every 5th frame, making the model process more frames of the input video.

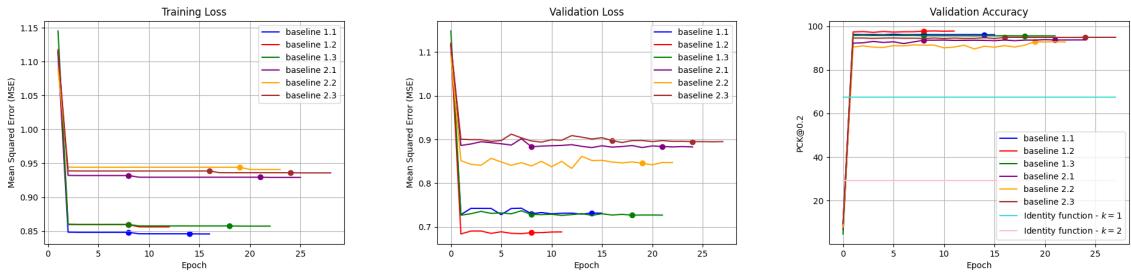
5.3 Training and Validation Results

We have in Figure 14 visualized the evolution of the training loss, validation loss and validation PCK@0.2 accuracy for our 24 models. Each model is delt two numbers seperated by a dot such that it follows a $x.y$ -format (for instance, '2.3'), indicating what type of shifing-scalar and experiment it refers to. x indicates what shifting-scalar was used when shifting the input keypoints, and y indicates which of the three experiments from Section 5.2 the run belongs to. Each plot has at least one dot, which indicates the reduction of the learning-rate due to five consecutive epochs without beating the minimum validation loss.

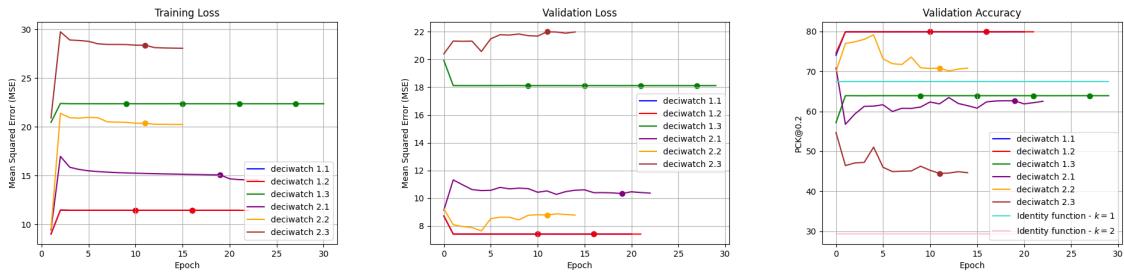
By comparing the validation accuracies of the various models against the identity function we see, that all of the models, except for DeciWatch 1.3, do learn to somewhat denoise the input data. The simple 3-dimensional convolutional layer seems to be the architecure that generally delivers the greatest results, whereas DeciWatch is generally the architecure that delivers the worst results. Further, the two architectures that are based on bidirectional convolutional LSTMs have close to no difference in their performance, indicating that our raised concern about one of the architectures not being able to prioritize one LSTM-branch over the other is not as great as we hypothesized it to be.

From the figure we can see, that generally the reduction of the learning rate has an effect on the training loss, as generally the training loss is immediately decreased after a reduction of

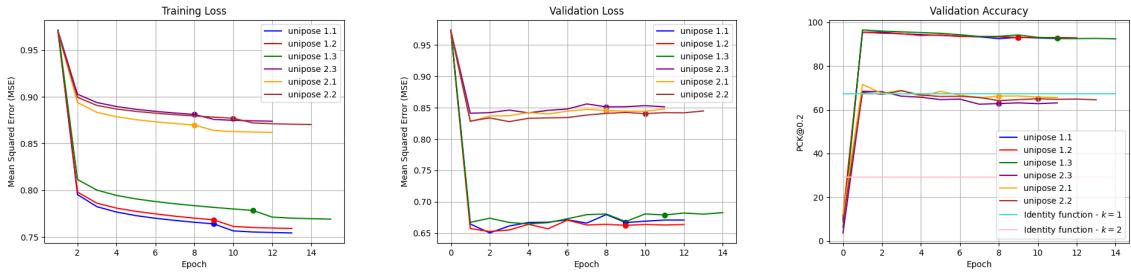
¹https://github.com/cure-lab/DeciWatch/blob/main/configs/config_jhmdb_simplepose_2D.yaml



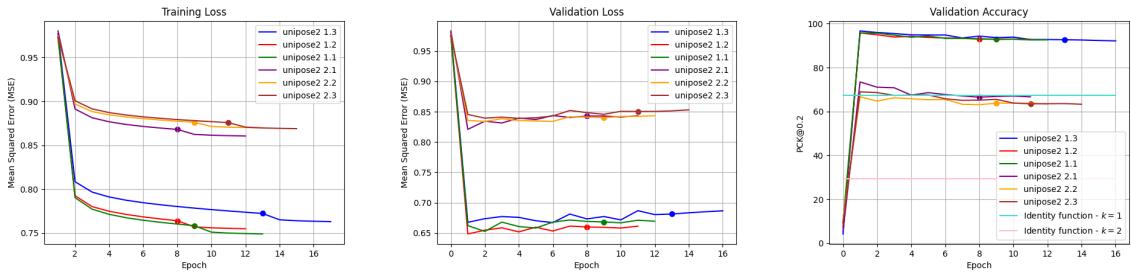
(a) Pretraining results of the 3-dimensional convolutional layer.



(b) Pretraining results of DeciWatch.



(c) Pretraining results of the bidirectional convolutional LSTM with summing.



(d) Pretraining results of the bidirectional convolutional LSTM with concatenation.

Figure 14: Evolution of the training loss, validation loss and validation PCK@0.2 accuracy of the 24 models during training, as well as the validation PCK@0.2 accuracy of the identity function of the two datasets. The dots indicates a reduction of learning-rate. First row: 3-dimensional convolutional layer. Second row: DeciWatch. Third row: Bidirectional Convolutional LSTM with summing. Fourth row: Bidirectional Convolutional LSTM with concatenation.

the learning rate. However, the same cannot be said about the validation loss and accuracy, as these do not immediately decrease after the learning rate has been reduced. Often, the training even terminates before a second reduction of the learning rate takes place, indicating the missing effect of the learning rate reduction on the validation loss.

Further, we can clearly see the effects of the shifting-scalar on the training of the models, as all of the models performs better on the dataset with a low shifting-scalar, than on their corresponding counterpart with a higher shifting-scalar. DeciWatch 1.3 and DeciWatch 2.3 do however seems to be struggling quite a bit, as the validation accuracies of these models are much lower than the other DeciWatch models with the same noise-scalar. However, we have to keep in mind here, that DeciWatch already only considers every fifth frame. This, combined with the fact that experiment 3 is only considering every other frame, makes these two models only consider every tenth frame, which of course makes the prediction very difficult.

5.4 Test Results

Accuracy metric	PCK@0.05			PCK@0.1			PCK@0.2		
Mean threshold distance (px)*	1.11			2.23			4.46		
Experiment	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3
Identity function	6.95	6.95	6.95	25.7	25.7	25.7	67.4	67.4	67.4
Conv3D	1.84	20.5	0.67	30.6	58.5	23.8	96.6	98.0	96.3
DeciWatch	51.4	51.4	44.5	64.6	64.6	51.5	80.2	80.2	64.2
bi-ConvLSTM - sum.	27.8	31.1	33.8	68.4	71.0	72.5	95.7	95.8	96.7
bi-ConvLSTM - concat.	29.5	31.7	31.8	69.5	71.3	71.8	96.1	96.1	96.9

Table 3: Testing accuracies of the various developed models for shifting-scalar $s = 1$. All the accuracies are in percentage. *: The mean maximum distance between the predicted keypoint and corresponding groundtruth keypoint for the prediction to count as being correct, measured in the heatmap coordinate system.

Accuracy metric	PCK@0.05			PCK@0.1			PCK@0.2		
Mean threshold distance (px)*	1.11			2.23			4.46		
Experiment	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.3
Identity function	1.84	1.84	1.84	7.75	7.75	7.75	29.3	29.3	29.3
Conv3D	0.80	2.40	0.11	21.6	27.6	16.8	94.2	91.8	95.5
DeciWatch	8.55	35.6	8.73	27.7	54.8	22.1	62.7	78.4	48.0
bi-ConvLSTM - sum.	10.5	11.6	10.1	31.1	33.4	29.5	68.5	67.8	69.6
bi-ConvLSTM - concat.	12.5	12.0	9.63	36.4	32.5	29.8	74.6	65.5	70.0

Table 4: Testing accuracies of the various developed models for shifting-scalar $s = 2$. All the accuracies are in percentage. *: The mean maximum distance between the predicted keypoint and corresponding groundtruth keypoint for the prediction to count as being correct, measured in the heatmap coordinate system.

We have in Table 3 and Table 4 illustrated the results of testing the epoch of each model that yielded the best validation PCK@0.2 accuracy.

For shifting-scalar $s = 1$ we see, that DeciWatch is the architecture that yields the best results for PCK@0.05, however, for PCK@0.2 DeciWatch actually tends to be the worst performing model. Further, as stated in section ?? DeciWatch 1.3 does perform worse than the identity

function when considering PCK@0.2, however, for both PCK@0.05 and PCK@0.1 DeciWatch 1.3 completely outperforms the identity function, hence why it actually does learn to denoise the data, unlike what we stated in section ?? where we just looked at the validation PCK@0.2. Generally, most of the predictions of DeciWatch that are considered correct, are actually very close to the groundtruth, however the predictions that are incorrect are pretty far away from their corresponding groundtruth location.

On the other hand, the simple 3-dimensional convolutional layer seems to be the architecture that generally performs the worst for PCK@0.05 and PCK@0.1, and actually the architecture that performs the best for PCK@0.2, except for run 1.3, where the two bidirectional convolutional LSTM based models actually outperforms it. Thus, the 3-dimensional convolutional layer is very good at inferencing a rough estimate of the position of the keypoints, however, the exact position of these predictions are generally incorrect.

Generally, the bidirectional convolutional LSTMs yield some decent results, as the predictions of these models are always pretty far away from the worst-performing model for any of the three used accuracy metrics, and for PCK@0.1 they even seem to yield the best results of the four architectures. Similarly to the validation results, the test results do only indicate a minor performance differences between the two different types of bidirectional convolutional LSTMs in favor of the bidirectional convolutional LSTM with concatenation. Likewise, similarly to the validation results, the test results indicate a major effect of a low frame rate for DeciWatch.

If we compare the performances of the models on experiment 2 against their performances on experiment 1 we see, that the 3-dimensional convolutional layer performs much better on experiment 2 than it does on experiment 1, the two bidirectional convolutional LSTM based architectures do also perform

If we compare the performances of the models on experiment 2 against their performances on experiment 1 we see, that all architectures, except for DeciWatch, performs better on experiment 2 than they do on experiment 1. This is especially true for the 3-dimensional convolutional layer, whose run on experiment 2 completely outperforms its run on experiment 1. On the other hand, if we compare the results of experiment 3 against the results of experiment 1 we see, that both the 3-dimensional convolutional layer and DeciWatch perform worse on experiment 3 than they do on experiment 1. However, the two architectures that are based on a bidirectional convolution LSTM actually continuously performs better in experiment 3 than they do in experiment 1, making us believe that the added context when decreasing the frame rate, actually helps these models.

Generally, the testing results of shifting-scalar $s = 2$ follow the same pattern with some minor differences. If we consider the results of PCK@0.2, the 3-dimensional convolutional layer is now the architecture that always yields the best results - and by a large margin, but it is on the other hand completely outperformed by the other models when considering PCK@0.05. This indicates, that the architecture can still yield decent rough estimations of the keypoints when a lot of noise is added, however, it does also indicate, that the exact position of these keypoints are very much effected by the level of noise. Further, its results in experiment 2 do not any longer outperform its results in experiment 1 when considering PCK@0.2, as it was the case for shifting-scalar $s = 1$.

DeciWatch is now generally no longer the model that performs the best when considering PCK@0.05, as it is now beaten by the architectures that are based on a bidirectional convolutional LSTM, except for experiment 2 where it completely outperforms the other models. Un-

like in the case when using shifting-scalar $s = 1$, experiment 3 for DeciWatch now outperforms the identity function when considering PCK@0.2. Further, if we compare DeciWatch 2.1 and DeciWatch 2.2 against each other we see, that DeciWatch 2.2 now continuously outperforms DeciWatch 2.1.

	Conv3D			DeciWatch			bi-ConvLSTM sum.			bi-ConvLSTM concat.			Total
	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3	
Experiment													
Nose	96.2	97.3	96.3	83.0	83.0	68.0	97.3	94.2	97.8	96.2	96.4	95.9	91.8
Ear	96.3	97.0	96.3	85.1	85.1	69.9	96.8	96.3	96.9	96.3	96.4	96.1	92.4
Shoulder	96.7	98.6	96.7	83.8	83.8	68.6	97.0	96.9	96.0	96.5	97.0	97.2	92.4
Elbow	96.7	98.7	96.4	78.3	78.3	61.8	96.1	97.6	97.6	96.1	96.5	98.5	91.1
Wrist	96.5	97.8	96.2	74.0	74.0	57.7	95.8	95.0	96.2	95.9	95.5	97.0	89.3
Hip	96.8	99.1	96.3	80.3	80.3	64.0	93.5	95.7	96.6	96.8	95.3	96.3	90.9
Knee	96.8	98.5	96.4	75.9	75.9	60.0	95.2	96.0	96.7	95.4	96.4	97.6	90.1
Ankle	96.2	96.9	95.8	72.8	72.8	57.9	95.1	94.1	96.7	95.7	95.6	96.4	88.8

Table 5: Keypoint-specific testing PCK@0.2-accuracies of the various models for shiting-scalar $s = 1$. All the accuracies are in percentage.

	Conv3D			DeciWatch			bi-ConvLSTM sum.			bi-ConvLSTM concat.			Total
	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	
Experiment													
Nose	92.5	84.5	94.4	64.9	82.7	47.9	75.8	70.6	73.5	73.9	72.2	73.7	75.6
Ear	92.0	91.1	94.4	72.5	84.7	43.9	80.3	77.7	77.7	80.8	79.2	79.9	79.5
Shoulder	93.7	91.9	95.6	65.4	79.9	43.7	74.7	68.2	68.9	70.4	68.1	68.3	74.1
Elbow	94.8	92.3	95.8	57.1	77.7	33.4	58.2	66.7	64.7	67.0	61.6	63.3	69.4
Wrist	94.8	92.6	96.0	60.5	73.9	54.7	69.4	66.3	69.4	75.6	65.4	69.4	74.0
Hip	94.5	91.6	95.7	62.4	72.4	44.9	64.7	61.9	67.5	80.7	57.3	74.8	72.4
Knee	95.0	92.7	95.7	53.0	75.7	51.8	60.1	65.9	64.7	68.6	57.0	54.5	69.5
Ankle	95.2	94.1	95.6	59.9	72.7	57.6	69.4	67.3	72.5	78.1	67.5	77.5	75.6

Table 6: Keypoint-specific testing PCK@0.2-accuracies of the various models for shiting-scalar $s = 2$. All the accuracies are in percentage.

We have further in Table 5 and Table 6 illustrated the keypoint-specific testing PCK@0.2 of these models.

Looking at Table 5 we see, that the models with shifting-scalar $s = 1$ generally perform the best on the ears and shoulders, whereas they perform the worst the wrists and ankles. The models in Table 6 tells another story, as instead of performing the worst on the ankles and wrists, the elbows and knees are now the most difficult keypoints, and the ears, nose and ankles are now the least difficult keypoints.

5.5 Technical Details

All models were trained and evaluated on a shared GPU cluster using a 24GB NVIDIA Titan RTX and an Intel(R) Xeon(R) Gold 6248 CPU @ 2.50GHz. All models were implemented in Python version 3.9.9 using PyTorch 2.0.0. The 3-dimensional convolutional layer took about 60 minutes per epoch, DeciWatch about 86 minutes per epoch, the bidirectional convolutional LSTM with summing about 75 minutes per epoch, and the bidirectional convolutional LSTM

with concatenation about 88 minutes per epoch.

6 Finetuning

As we now have finetuned our models, we need to finetune the models, such that they are specialized to yield optimal results on the ClimbAlong dataset. The following section describes the finetuning of these models. This includes the preprocessing of the data, the configuration details we use, as well as the obtained results.

In the finetuning stage we will be using the already developed pose-estimator to train our temporal-inclusive models. However, we will be freezing the pose-estimator, such that the weights of the model will not change during the training and we will thus only train our temporal-inclusive models. We do this for the following three reasons: (1) the training of the models will be quicker, as we just need to train the temporal-inclusive models and not the already developed pose-estimator, and (2) we get an greater understanding of the effects of our models when combined with the pose-estimator, as we can clearly see how big of a difference it makes by adding our temporal-inclusive models.

6.1 Data Preprocessing

For the ClimbAlong dataset we perform only minor preprocessing. First, the preprocessing of each video is done by having the already developed pose-estimator process the video, such that we have the output heatmaps of the pose-estimator, containing all of the pose-estimations of each video. Next, we preprocess the heatmaps by setting all negative values to 0 and normalizing each heatmap, such that each heatmap sums up to the fixed value $c = 255$ that we used when preprocessing the BRACE and Penn Action datasets, essentially making the heatmaps more similar to the preprocessed heatmaps of BRACE and Penn Action. These heatmaps will then be used as the input for our models.

For the groundtruth heatmaps we create twenty five heatmaps of each frame, similarly to how we did it for the BRACE and Penn Action datasets, however, in this case we use the predicted bounding-box of the pose-estimator as our bounding-box. In cases where the groundtruth keypoint is placed outside of the bounding-box, we place the groundtruth keypoint at the closest border of the bounding-box.

6.2 Training Details

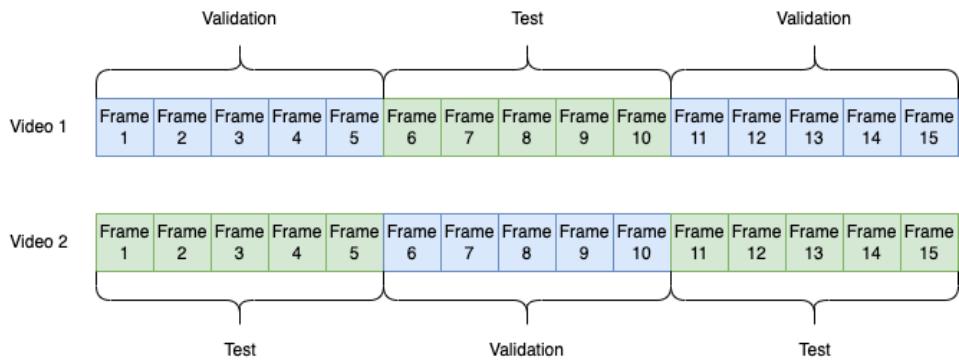


Figure 15: Illustration of how the ClimbAlong data has been split into a validation dataset and a test dataset.

Data Configuration Generally, we follow a similar approach to how we did in the pretraining stage. We again use a window-size of $k = 5$ frames, resulting in a total of 9,419 windows. Also

here are we using $c = 255$ as a representation of the ground truth placement of each keypoint.

As this dataset is much smaller than the dataset used during the pretraining-stage, we can much more easily introduce some evaluation-bias, hence why we also take much more careful steps. Thus, the splitting of the dataset is different than how we performed it in the pretraining-stage. First, we use the first 60% of the frame-windows and use those as the training dataset. For the remaining 40% of the frame-windows, we make sure that they have no overlapping frames with training dataset - if they do, the whole window is moved into the training dataset. As we still have to split the remaining 40% of the frame-windows into a validation dataset and a test dataset, we have to make sure, that (1) both datasets use as many video sequences as possible, which is especially important in this case due to the small dataset size, (2) that none of the windows are overlapping among the two datasets, and (3) both datasets conditions window-frames uniformly distributed throughout the video sequences, as there can be some special movements in certain parts of the video sequences. All of these constraints will make sure that we minimize the evaluation-bias of our models. The splitting of the remaining 40% of the window-frames into two datasets is then done by sorting the non-overlapping windows by their video and by their time of occurrence in their corresponding video. Then, if the i th window-frame is divisible by two, we move into the validation dataset, otherwise it is moved into the test dataset. By doing so we meet all three of our conditions. The overall idea has been illustrated in Figure 15.

Experiments As the finetuning dataset is so small, the fitting of the models is very quick, making us fit all of the 26 developed models from the pretraining stage. For each model we pick the epoch from the pretraining stage, that yielded the highest validation accuracy and use that for finetuning.

Training Configuration The optimization parameters are very similar to the ones from the pretraining stage. We again use the ADAM optimizer with a batch size of 16 and the MSE loss-function. During training, we again keep track of the lowest reached validation loss of an epoch and use learning-rate reduction and early-stopping in a similar manner to how we did in the pretraining stage. However, unlike the pretraining stage, we here use a smaller initial learning rate of 10^{-4} , as the weights only need to be fineadjusted, making us believe that greater learning rate would skew the weights too much.

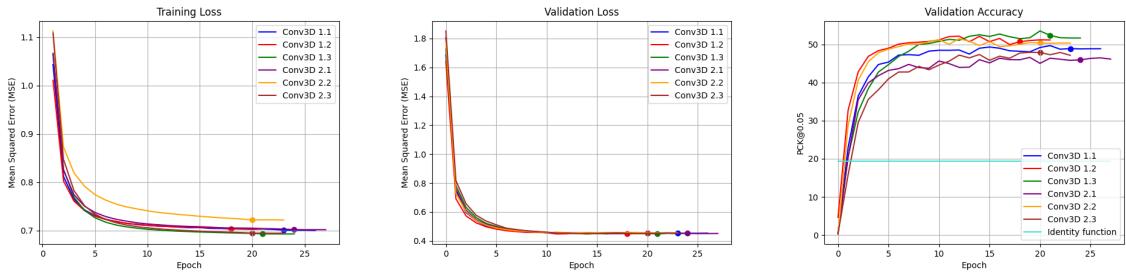
6.3 Training and Validation Results

We have in Figure 16 illustrated the evaluation of the training loss, validation loss, and validation PCK@0.05 accuracy of the various models during the finetuning.

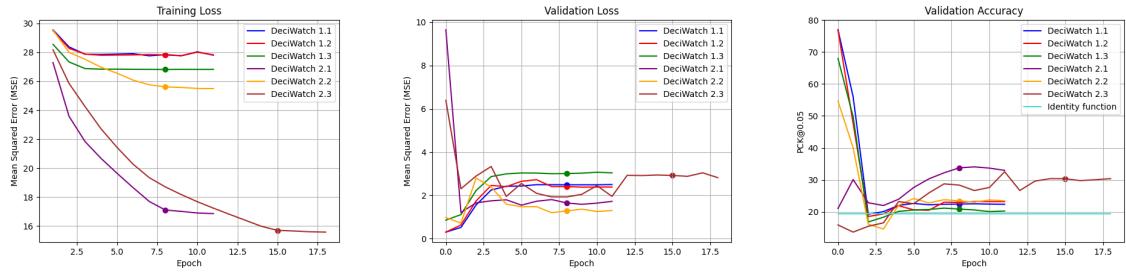
If we compare the models against the identity function we clearly see, how all models converge towards beating the identity function, indicating the positive effects of incorporating temporal information into pose estimation.

Generally, the 3-dimensional convolutional layer seems to be yielding the greatest results, as these models tend to achieve the highest validation PCK@0.05 accuracy. However, some Deci-Watch runs actually starts off with an even higher validation PCK@0.05 accuracy, which then decreases to a much lower value quickly. The two architectures that are based on a bidirectional convolutional LSTM tend to yield some decent results, however, their training tend to plateau rather early, hence why they also terminate very quickly.

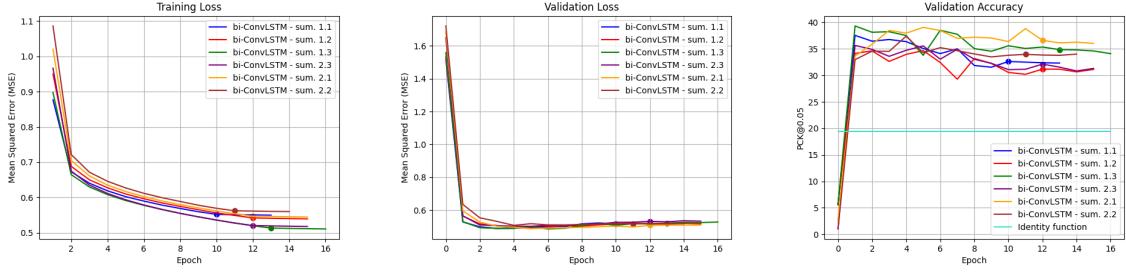
Further, the shifting-scalar seems to only have a minor effect on the models during the finetun-



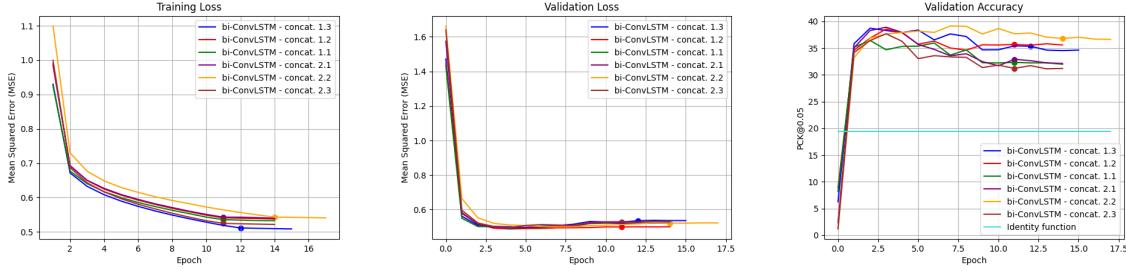
(a) Finetuning results of the 3-dimensional convolutional layer.



(b) Finetuning results of DeciWatch.



(c) Finetuning results of the bidirectional convolutional LSTM with summing.



(d) Finetuning results of the bidirectional convolutional LSTM with concatenation.

Figure 16: Evolution of the training loss, validation loss and validation PCK@0.05 accuracy of the 24 models during training, as well as the validation PCK@0.05 accuracy of the identity function of the two datasets. The dots indicates a reduction of learning-rate. First row: 3-dimensional convolutional layer. Second row: DeciWatch. Third row: Bidirectional Convolutional LSTM with summing. Fourth row: Bidirectional Convolutional LSTM with concatenation.

ing, as all six runs of each model tend converge towards the same result. This however does not hold for DeciWatch, as the DeciWatch models with shifting-scalar $s = 1$ seems to be having a lot of difficulty fitting compared to all of the other models, however, they do still yield some very accurate results.

6.4 Test Results

Accuracy metric	PCK@0.05			PCK@0.1			PCK@0.2		
Mean threshold distance (px)*	0.80			1.60			3.21		
Experiment	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3
Identity function	19.4	19.4	19.4	66.1	66.1	66.1	85.2	85.2	85.2
Conv3D	49.7	52.3	53.1	95.7	95.7	95.8	99.2	99.3	99.3
DeciWatch	76.9	76.7	68.7	94.3	94.4	86.9	99.2	99.2	96.2
bi-ConvLSTM - sum.	37.8	34.9	39.0	91.8	92.1	92.2	99.4	99.7	99.2
bi-ConvLSTM - concat.	35.9	39.0	38.5	93.1	93.6	92.6	99.8	99.7	99.7

Table 7: Testing accuracies of the various developed models for shifting-scalar $k = 1$. All the accuracies are in percentage. *: The mean maximum distance between the predicted keypoint and corresponding groundtruth keypoint for the prediction to count as being correct, measured in the heatmap coordinate system.

Accuracy metric	PCK@0.05			PCK@0.1			PCK@0.2		
Mean threshold distance (px)*	0.80			1.60			3.21		
Experiment	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.3
Identity function	19.4	19.4	19.4	66.1	66.1	66.1	85.2	85.2	85.2
Conv3D	46.5	51.6	47.3	95.5	95.5	95.8	99.2	99.3	99.2
DeciWatch	34.4	48.9	32.3	79.4	69.0	71.6	95.8	86.3	92.3
bi-ConvLSTM - sum.	38.8	37.4	35.9	92.7	92.1	91.2	99.4	99.5	99.3
bi-ConvLSTM - concat.	39.2	39.5	37.1	92.5	92.9	92.6	99.6	99.3	99.6

Table 8: Testing accuracies of the various developed models for shifting-scalar $k = 2$. All the accuracies are in percentage. *: The mean maximum distance between the predicted keypoint and corresponding groundtruth keypoint for the prediction to count as being correct, measured in the heatmap coordinate system.

We have in Table 7 and Table 8 illustrated the testing results of the epoch of each model that yielded the highest validation PCK@0.05 accuracy.

By comparing the two tables against each other we see, that the shifting-scalar tend to have a big effect on the results of DeciWatch. This is very similar to what we experienced in section 6.3, where we saw that the DeciWatch models with shifting-scalar $s = 1$ had a lot of difficulty fitting. For the remaining models we do see a performance difference between the two shifting-scalars, however, the performance difference is not as big as it is for DeciWatch. Generally however, the models do perform best with the noise-scalar $s = 1$.

Similarly to the pretraining stage, we also see here how the 3-dimensional convolutional layer from experiment 2 performs better than the 3-dimensional convolutional layer from experiment 1, however, this performance difference is now smaller than it was in the pretraining stage.

Further, for experiment 3 DeciWatch is not delivering great results, similarly to its results in the pretraining stage. For the other architectures, there do not seem to be any consistent pattern, as some of them experiment 3 yields the best results, whereas it for others yield the worst results.

Like in the pretraining stage, there does not seem to be any major performance differences between the two architectures that are based on the bidirectional convolutional LSTM, making us further believe that our concern about the missing opportunity of the model to prioritize a processing direction is not that important.

Experiment	Conv3D			DeciWatch			bi-ConvLSTM sum.			bi-ConvLSTM concat.			Total
	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3	
Nose	100	100	100	99.8	99.8	97.5	100	100	99.9	100	99.7	99.9	
Ear	100	100	100	99.8	99.8	99.8	97.7	99.9	100	100	100	99.9	
Shoulder	99.9	100	99.9	99.8	99.8	97.4	100	100	99.9	100	100	100	
Elbow	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.4	99.4	96.9	100	100	100	100	99.9	100	
Wrist	99.8	99.9	99.9	99.1	99.2	96.2	100	99.9	99.8	100	99.9	100	
Pinky	93.4	93.1	94.4	98.3	98.4	94.4	97.2	98.8	97.0	98.0	99.0	98.6	
Index finger	99.0	98.8	98.8	98.2	98.3	93.8	99.5	98.7	97.0	99.6	99.4	99.4	
Thumb	98.9	98.8	98.9	98.2	98.3	95.0	96.8	99.6	97.8	99.7	98.6	99.6	
Hip	99.9	100	100	99.7	99.7	97.6	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Knee	100	100	99.9	99.7	99.6	97.3	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Ankle	100	100	100	99.5	99.5	96.8	100	100	99.9	100	100	99.9	
Heel	100	100	100	99.3	99.3	96.1	99.3	99.9	99.9	99.9	100	99.8	
Toes	99.9	100	100	99.0	99.1	95.2	99.6	99.8	99.4	99.8	100	99.8	

Table 9: Keypoint-specific testing PCK@0.2-accuracies of the various models for shiting-scalar $k = 1$. All the accuracies are in percentage.

Experiment	Conv3D			DeciWatch			bi-ConvLSTM sum.			bi-ConvLSTM concat.			Total
	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	
Nose	100	100	100	99.0	99.8	97.2	100	99.9	99.7	99.7	99.9	100	
Ear	100	99.8	100	99.2	86.3	90.5	99.8	99.8	100	99.9	99.9	99.9	
Shoulder	99.9	99.7	99.9	43.8	99.6	97.1	99.9	99.8	100	99.9	100	100	
Elbow	99.8	99.9	99.9	93.3	65.8	91.6	100	99.5	100	100	100	100	
Wrist	99.8	100	99.9	94.1	98.4	93.9	99.8	99.7	99.8	99.8	100	99.7	
Pinky	93.1	93.7	93.9	91.9	98.3	87.3	97.7	98.0	97.9	99.1	96.0	98.2	
Index finger	98.9	99.0	98.8	98.2	97.9	92.3	99.4	99.1	99.2	99.6	98.0	97.5	
Thumb	98.6	98.6	98.6	96.5	98.2	92.8	95.7	96.6	98.6	97.5	98.3	99.6	
Hip	100	99.9	100	96.7	38.3	91.7	99.9	99.8	99.9	99.8	100	99.9	
Knee	100	100	99.9	95.1	99.5	91.8	100	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	
Ankle	100	99.9	100	94.1	99.5	92.7	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Heel	100	100	100	96.1	99.3	89.5	99.9	99.9	99.8	99.9	99.6	99.9	
Foot	99.9	100	100	97.2	99.1	93.7	99.9	99.4	98.4	99.8	99.6	99.8	

Table 10: Keypoint-specific testing PCK@0.2-accuracies of the various models for shiting-scalar $k = 2$. All the accuracies are in percentage.

We have in Table 9 and Table 10 illustrated the keypoint specific testing accuracies of the models. By comparing these tables to the equivalent tables from section 5.3 we see, that most

difficult keypoints are no longer the wrists and ankles, but are instead the pinkies, the index fingers and the thumbs, on which the models generally performs much worse than on the remaining keypoints.

6.5 Technical Details

All models were trained and evaluated using a 8GB NVIDIA GTX 1070 and an Intel Core i7-4790K @ 4.00GHz. All models were implemented in Python version 3.9.9 using PyTorch 2.0.0. The 3-dimensional convolutional layer took about 1.5 minutes per epoch, DeciWatch about 2 minutes per epoch, and the two bidirectional convolutional LSTMs took about 2.5 minutes per epoch each.

7 Discussion

The following section discusses our obtained results from the pretraining and finetuning stages, some concerns regarding possible suboptimal configuration choices we have made, as well as suggests some possible future work.

7.1 Results

In section 5 and section 6 we successfully implemented and tested the four architectures in various experiments. We will in the following be analysing and discussing the potential reasons for these obtained results.

7.1.1 Pretraining

We saw in section 5.3 how the 3-dimensional convolutional layer tend to perform much better in experiment 2, than it does in experiment 1 (of course with the exception of run 2.1 and 2.2). As the goal of experiment 1 is for the models to both learn translation and scaling, whereas the goal of experiment 2 is just for the models to learn translation, we can clearly see here how big of a difference the task of learning to also scale the data has on the results for the 3-dimensional convolutional layer. Of course, a tiny bit of randomness does also play in here, as the models for the two experiments were initialized with different weights. However, as the weights were sampled from the same distribution, as well as the 3-dimensional convolutional layer having very few weights, we find it hard to believe that this randomness has such a big impact on the results. Thus we claim that the performance differences between the two experiments is due to the task of scaling the data.

For the two architectures that are based on a bidirectional convolutional LSTM, a similar pattern is observed for the shifting scalar, however, this performance difference is much smaller than it was in the case for the 3-dimensional convolutional layer. We simply believe, that this improved performance is due to the bidirectional convolutional LSTMs predicting the position of the keypoints in a more sophisticated manner.

For DeciWatch there are no performance differences between experiment 1 and experiment 2 when considering shifting-scalar $s = 1$. However, this is expected, as unlike the other architectures, DeciWatch works directly on keypoint-coordinates instead of the heatmaps, making it scaling invariant and thus making it the two experiments equivalent to each other. On the other hand however, when considering shifting scalar $s = 2$, there is a clear performance difference between experiment 1 and experiment 2 for DeciWatch, which is very surprising for us, as the model is scaling invariant. However, if we inspect Figure 14 we can clearly see, that the initial performances of DeciWatch 2.1 and DeciWatch 2.2 are much farther away from each other, than the initial performances of DeciWatch 1.1 and DeciWatch 1.2 were from each other. Thus, we suggest that the final performance difference between DeciWatch 2.1 and DeciWatch 2.2 is simply due to the randomness in the weight initialization of the two models.

We further saw in section 5.4 the effects on the models of halving the frame rate. For both the 3-dimensional convolutional LSTM and DeciWatch this had a negative effect, whereas it actually had a positive effect for the two models that are based on a bidirectional LSTM. For DeciWatch we have to keep in mind, that it is already only considering every fifth frame, so by halving the frame rate it is actually only considering every tenth frame, giving it a lot less context for it to process. For the 3-dimensional convolutional layer and the two models based on a bidirectional convolutional LSTM, we again suggest that the performance difference is due to the later models yielding their predictions in a more sophisticated manner than the simple

3-dimensional convolutional layer. In the case of when the shifting-scalar is $s = 2$ all models generally perform worse in experiment 3 than they do in experiment 1, which we simply believe is due to the data being so noisy, that the models need the finer details to infer their predictions. As the distance-threshold for PCK is increased however, the 3-dimensional convolutional layer actually perform better in experiment 3 than it does in experiment 1. However, we have to note here, that the performance difference is rather small and that it is in the case where the the distance-threshold is at its greatest. Thus, we believe the performance difference is due to the random initialization of the models or the models learning a rough estimate of the keypoints over learning a very fine estimation as this is very difficult when the data is very noisy. We further strengthen our last belief when considering, that the model is the lowest performing model when considering PCK@0.05 but the highest performing model when considering PCK@0.2 and thus generally learns to yield a rough estiamte of the position of the keypoints.

We finally saw in 5.4 how the models for shifting-scalar $s = 1$ had the most difficulty with the wrists and ankles, whereas they performed the best on the ears and shoulders. However, we find this very expected, as the wrists and ankles tend to be the joints that have the highest amount of movements, especially in sports which our pretraining dataset is centered around, and thus are much more difficult to denoise than more static joints such as the ears and shoulders. On the other hand, in the case of using the shifting-scalar $s = 2$ we saw, that the models struggled the most with the elbows and knees, and performed the best on the ears, nose and the ankles. At first glance, one would find this rather unexpecting as the wrists and ankles are no longer the most difficult keypoints. However, we suggest that this could be caused by these keypoints being too close to the heatmap borders, such that when they are shifted a lot towards any of these borders, they will end up at the border, as they cannot exceed the border. Thus, the wrists and ankles are actually not shifted as far as the other keypoints, such as the knees and elbows which would then be the most difficult keypoints, as these keypoints are both shifted a lot and the corresponding joints contain a decent amount of movement.

7.1.2 Finetuning

In section 6.3 we saw how the 3-dimensional convolutional layer generally converged towards the highest validation accuracy, whereas the DeciWatch-based models and the models based on a bidirectional convolutional LSTM tended to plateau in validation accuracy, which even decreased over time for most of these models. This is most likely unexpected to some people, however, if take a look at the evolution of their training loss and validation loss through the finetuning of these models we can see, that the training loss is almost completely monotonically decreasing for all of these models through the whole finetuning-phase, whereas the validation loss is actually increasing. Thus for these models, where the validation loss is actually increasing, we are actually experiencing that they are overfitting. Further, the ClimbAlong-dataset is very small and these models are much bigger than the 3-dimensional convolutional layer (in terms of tuneable parameters), which means that they have a greater likelihood of "remembering" the ClimbAlong-dataset instead of learning its patterns and thus overfitting. We do however find it odd, that there are two Deciwatch-models that are not overfitting - DeciWatch 2.1 and DeciWatch 2.3. We are not too sure why these two models are not overfitting, however, we do find it interesting, that these two models were actually also the two worst performing model during the pretraining-stage.

In section 6.4 we saw how the models from the experiments with shifting-scalar $s = 1$ tend to yield better results than the models trained on data with shifting-scalar $s = 2$. We further saw, how the models from experiment 2 generally performs better than the models from

experiment 1. Generally however, these performance difference are very minor, which makes sense as the finetuning-data is the same for the two groups. We do note the minor performance differences however, which probably means, that (1) the noise in the finetuning data is more similar to the data with shifting-scalar $s = 1$ than the data with shifting-scalar $s = 2$, and (2) the standard deviation of the peaks of the finetuning data is not changing as much as they do in our experiment 2.

One could look at Figure 16 and claim that the pretraining-stage has had no effect, as the validation accuracy starts off very low. However, we disagree with for two reasons. First off, we just noted that the choice of shifting-scalar from the pretraining-stage had an effect on the final results, so the pretraining-stage must have had an effect. Secondly, most of the models actually reach a very high validation accuracy after just a single epoch, which we believe is due to the pretraining. One could argue, that a similar pattern was observed during the pretraining-stage and is thus just a general pattern. However, we have to remember, that the pretraining-dataset is much bigger than the finetuning-dataset and thus just after one epoch in the pretraining-stage, the models have already been trained on a lot of samples, which explains this major performance-jump during the pretraining-stage.

Lastly, one saw in section 6.4 how the models tend to perform the worst on keypoints related to the thumbs, pinkies and index fingers. We see two reasons for this observation. First off, these keypoints were not included in the pretraining dataset, meaning the models have learned to infer the position of these keypoints purely from the finetuning dataset. We believe this reason to only have a minor effect, as if we look at the performance of the models on the keypoints related to the heels and the toes, which were also not included in the pretraining dataset, we see, that the models generally performs only a tiny bit worse on these keypoints, than on the remaining keypoints. The second reason is, that the finger keypoints just have a lot of movement, as the related joints are the joints that are mostly used for bouldering. And as previously stated, keypoints that move a lot are more difficult to predict the position of.

Accuracy metric	PCK@0.05			PCK@0.1			PCK@0.2		
	0.87			1.77			3.55		
Experiment	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3
Identity function	21.2	21.2	21.2	65.5	65.5	65.5	84.7	84.7	84.7
Conv3D	58.4	61.4	61.7	98.7	98.9	99.0	99.6	99.8	99.7
DeciWatch	65.1	56.0	59.6	93.5	91.1	89.5	99.1	98.9	97.6
bi-ConvLSTM - sum.	45.7	45.0	47.6	97.3	96.9	97.0	99.6	99.6	99.1
bi-ConvLSTM - concat.	44.5	46.1	48.5	97.4	97.9	97.9	99.6	99.5	99.6

Table 11: Testing accuracies of the various developed models for shifting-scalar $k = 1$ on the additional test video. All the accuracies are in percentage. *: The mean maximum distance between the predicted keypoint and corresponding groundtruth keypoint for the prediction to count as being correct, using the units of the heatmap coordinates.

One might argue, that our way of splitting the finetuning dataset into a validation and test set might introduce some bias, as the two sets have overlapping videos and thus videos of the same person that might have some unique movement. To further minimize the likelihood of a bias evaluation of the models, we have in Table 11 and Table 12 tested the models on the longest video of the dataset, which was not used at all in any of the three datasubsets. By comparing these tables against Table 7 and 8 we can clearly see, that the models are not performing any worse than what they did in the evaluation of section 6.4, hence why we would argue, that the evaluation is believable. However, we have to note, that the evaluation in Table 11 and Table 12 does also contain some bias as the evaluation is of a single person who might have some

Accuracy metric	PCK@0.05			PCK@0.1			PCK@0.2		
Mean threshold distance*	0.87			1.77			3.55		
Experiment	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.3
Identity function	21.2	21.2	21.2	65.5	65.5	65.5	84.7	84.7	84.7
Conv3D	56.2	60.0	56.6	98.9	98.8	98.8	99.7	99.7	99.7
DeciWatch	35.2	48.8	40.5	75.9	89.3	79.3	94.1	98.9	95.5
bi-ConvLSTM - sum.	44.8	46.2	45.0	96.9	95.9	97.1	99.5	99.6	99.5
bi-ConvLSTM - concat.	45.9	47.9	46.7	96.7	97.1	98.1	99.6	99.4	99.6

Table 12: Testing accuracies of the various developed models for shifting-scalar $k = 2$ on the additional test video. All the accuracies are in percentage. *: The mean maximum distance between the predicted keypoint and corresponding groundtruth keypoint for the prediction to count as being correct, using the units of the heatmap coordinates.

easily predictable movements.

7.2 Why did the Models Perform Better during Finetuning than during Pretraining?

All of the finetuned models outperforms their pretrained counterpart. We see a couple of reasons for this.

First off, the models have been trained on more data, as they have been trained on both the pretraining data and the finetuning data, which of course is always positive.

Secondly, the models have been trained and tested on samples that have very similar to each other. On the other hand, the pretraining dataset consisted of people breakdancing, throwing a baseball, bench pressing and performing sit ups, which are all very different from each other, which could make it hard for the models to learn to generalize. Similarly, the samples from the pretraining dataset were all filmed from very similar camera angles, whereas the samples from the pretraining data were filmed from all kinds of camera angles, resulting in the same keypoints being placed at different locations

Further, the BRACE dataset was not fully manually annotated, but instead annotated using a pose estimator and only certain incorrectly predicted poses were manually annotated, where incorrectly predicted poses were detected by a machine learning model. However, if either the machine learning model for detecting incorrectly predicted poses or the pose estimator delivered suboptimal results, then the annotations would also be suboptimal and thus contain some noise, which is very difficult for our models to replicate. The finetuning dataset on the other hand was completely fully annotated by humans, making the annotations much more consistent and thus easier for the models to replicate.

We also see a problem with the Penn Action dataset, which can have an effect on the pre-training results. For the BRACE dataset, it is clearly documented, that the video sequences are filmed using 30 frames per second. For Penn Action, on the other hand, a similar information is not stated anywhere and the video sequences come as individual frames without the duration of the video sequences noted, hence why cannot neither compute the frame rate of these video sequences. This could cause some problems, as two windows of frames, one from each dataset, could span two different durations and thus capture two different duration of context, which can confuse the developed models. On the other hand, all of the video sequences of the finetuning dataset are all filmed using 30 frames per second, making the dataset much more

consistent, which again makes the fitting easier.

Lastly, one major reason behind the performance differences behind the models on the pre-training dataset and the finetuning dataset is the performance of the identity functions. If we compare the performance of the identity function on the pretraining dataset in Table 3 and Table 4 against the performance of the identity function on the finetuning dataset in Table 7 and Table 8, we clearly see, that the identity function performs much better during the fine-tuning than during the pretraining. Thus, a lot less temporal smoothing has to be done by our temporal-inclusive models, making the learning a lot easier.

7.3 Which Model is the Best for Denoising Human Pose Estimation for Boulder-ing?

7.4 General Reflections

- Hvad gjorde jeg forkert og hvorfor?

Generally, we believe that we made the correct choices throughout the execution of the project. However, looking back throughout the project, we do find some bad decision made by us, that could have been avoided or made in another way.

7.5 Future Work

If we were to work further with this project, we first find it interesting to experiment with other machine learning methods. We would for instance find it very interesting to test the effects of letting DeciWatch process all frames, instead of only processing every fifth frame. Further, we find it interesting whether or not it would improve the results if DeciWatch was adapted, such that it made use of Vision Transformers as introduced by Dosovitskiy *Et al.* [6].

Further, we see some potential work in trying to avoid the overfitting during the finetuning-stage that we experienced in section 6 and find it interesting how much this would improve the final results. This could for instance be done by (1) incorporating data augmentation to increase the size and variation of the dataset, for instance by rotation the data or adding some noise, (2) decrease the complexity of the models, such that they have less tuneable parameters, or (3) test various regularization techniques such as weight decay or dropout.

Lastly, we suggest that the models could be retrained multiple times. In section 7.1 we blamed some of the results on the random initialization of the weights of the models. By retraining the models multiple times, the likelihood of this randomness being the reasoning for these results decreases and thus we will be sure whether or not our results are due to the randomness of the weights.

8 Conclusion

9 References

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