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Robust fine-tuning of zero-shot models

Mitchell, Wortsman, et al. CVPR '22

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- Methods (Weight-space ensembles for fine-tuning)
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- Discussion & Conclusion

 $(+\alpha)$  Individual opinion

#### Overview

- A foundation goal of machine learning is to develop models that work reliably across a broad range of data distributions
- Recently, large pre-trained models such as CLIP, ALIGN and BASIC have demonstrated novel to these challenging distribution shifts.
- However, these robustness improvements are largest in the zero-shot setting.
- When a pre-trained zero-shot model is fine-tuned on target distribution, which often yields large performance gains on the target distribution.
- This paper propose a simple and effective methods for improving robustness while fine-tuning
  - Ensembling between the weights of the zero-shot and fine-tuned models

# Problem

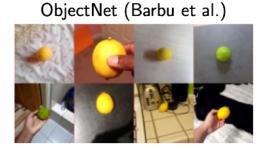
- The main question what this paper try to answer is
  - Can zero-shot models be fine-tuned without reducing accuracy under distribution shift?

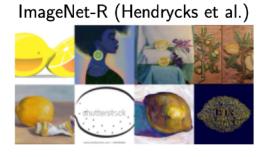
- Distribution shifts
  - Taori et al. categorized distribution shifts into two broad categories
    - Synthetic : artificial change (contrast, brightness)
    - Natural: Naturally occurring variations in lighting, geographic location, crowdsourcing process, image styles etc.
- Effective robustness and scatter plots
  - The effective robustness framework introduced by Taori et al.
    - Effective robustness: Quantifies robustness as accuracy beyond a baseline trained on reference distribution.
  - Scatter plots display accuracy on the reference distribution on the x-axis and accuracy under distribution shift on the y-axis
    - Empirically, when applying logit axis scaling, models trained on the reference distribution approximately lie on linear trend.
- Zero-shot models and CLIP
  - Zero-shot models exhibit effective robustness and lie on a qualitatively different linear trend

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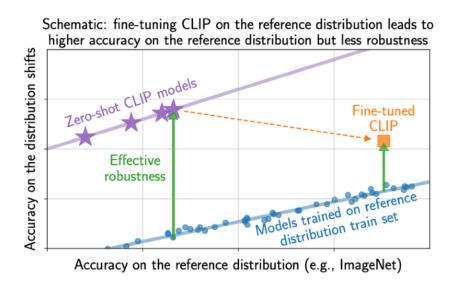


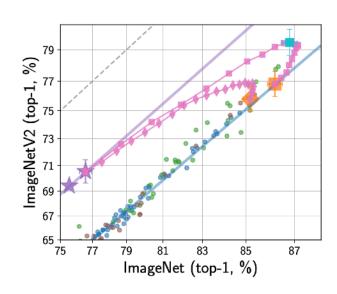
- Effective robustness and scatter plots
  - The effective robustness framework introduced by Taori et al.
    - Effective robustness

$$\rho(f) = Acc_{shift}(f) - \beta(Acc_{ref}(f)).$$

\*When we say that a model is robust to distribution shift, we mean that effective robustness is positive.

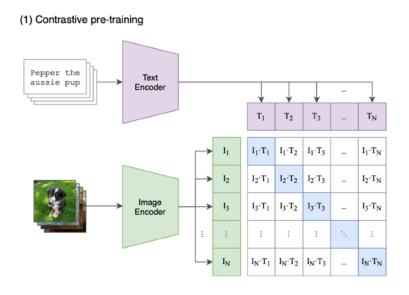
#### Scatter plots

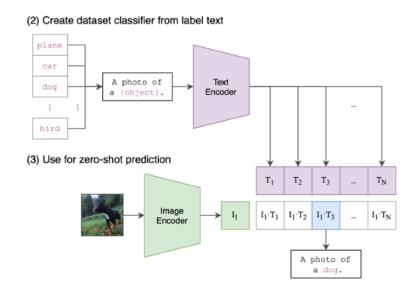




Source: Figure 1 p2

#### Zero-shot models and CLIP

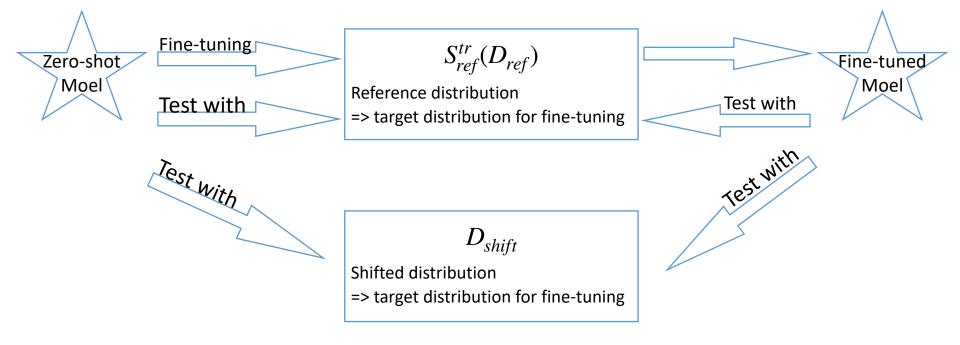




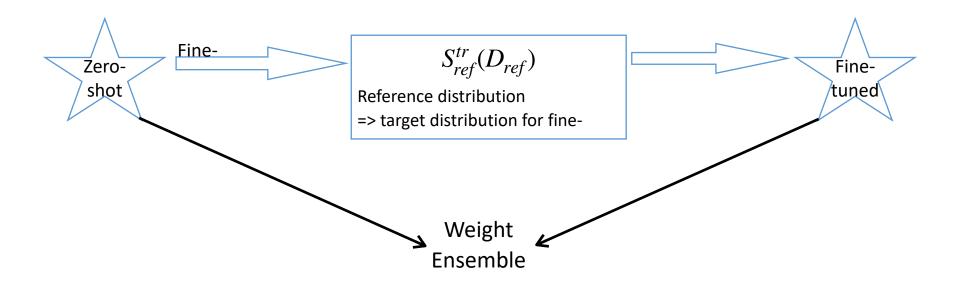
- CLIP-like models perform zero-shot k-way classification given an image x and class names  $C = \{c_1, ..., c_k\}$  by matching x with potential captions.
- Using caption  $s_i$  = "a photo of a  $\{c_i\}$ " for each class I, the zero shot model predicts the class via  $argmax_j < g(x), h(s_j) > 1$

$$f(x) = g(x)^T \mathbf{W}_{zero-shot}$$
$$\mathbf{W}_{zero-shot} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times k}$$

Source: Learning Transferable Visual Models From Natural Language Supervision



# Methods (Weight-space ensembles for fine-tuning)



- WiSE-FT consists of two simple steps
  - First, fine-tune the zero-shot model on application-specific data.
  - Second, combine the original zero-shot and fine-tuned models by "linearly interpolating between their weights"

Source:

# Methods (Weight-space ensembles for fine-tuning)

- Step 1 : Standard fine-tuning
  - $f(x, \theta) = g(x, V_{enc})W_{classifier}$  where  $W_{classifier} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times k}$
  - ullet The parameters of f :  $heta = [\mathbf{V}_{enc}, \mathbf{W}_{classifier}]$

$$\mathrm{argmin}_{\theta} \{ \sum_{(x_i, y_i) \in S_{ref}^{tr}} l(f(x_i, \theta), y_i) + \lambda R(\theta) \} \text{ , } l \text{ : cross-entropy loss}$$

- Two most common variants of fine-tuning
  - end-to-end
  - ightharpoonup fine-tuning only a linear classifier. =>  $V_{enc}$  is fixed
- Step 2: Weight-space ensembling

$$wse(x, \alpha) = f(x, (1 - \alpha) \cdot \theta_0 + \alpha \cdot \theta_1)$$

 $\alpha$ : mixing coefficient  $\in [0,1]$ 

 $heta_0$  : parameters of zero-shot model

 $\theta_1$ : parameters of fine-tuned model

Source:

# Methods (Weight-space ensembles for fine-tuning)

Weight-space ensembling

$$wse(x, \alpha) = f(x, (1 - \alpha) \cdot \theta_0 + \alpha \cdot \theta_1)$$

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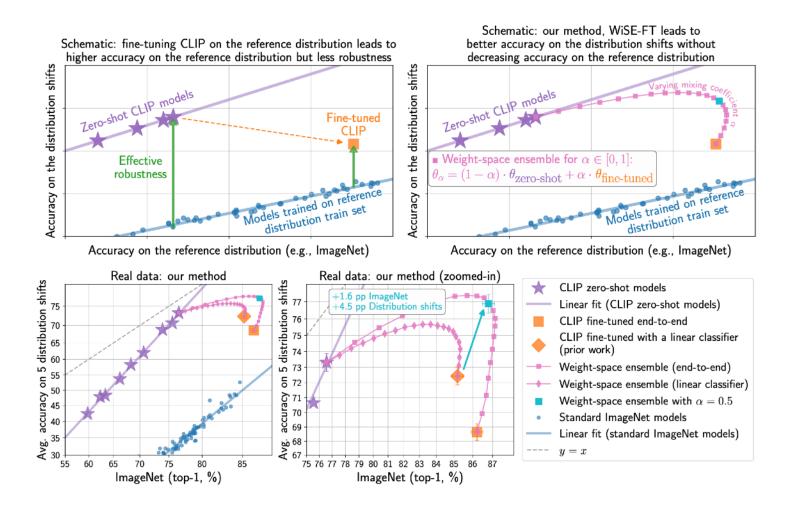
 $\theta_0$ : parameters of zero-shot model

 $\theta_1$ : parameters of fine-tuned model

 When fine-tuning only the linear classifier, weight-space ensembling is equivalent to the traditional output-space ensemble

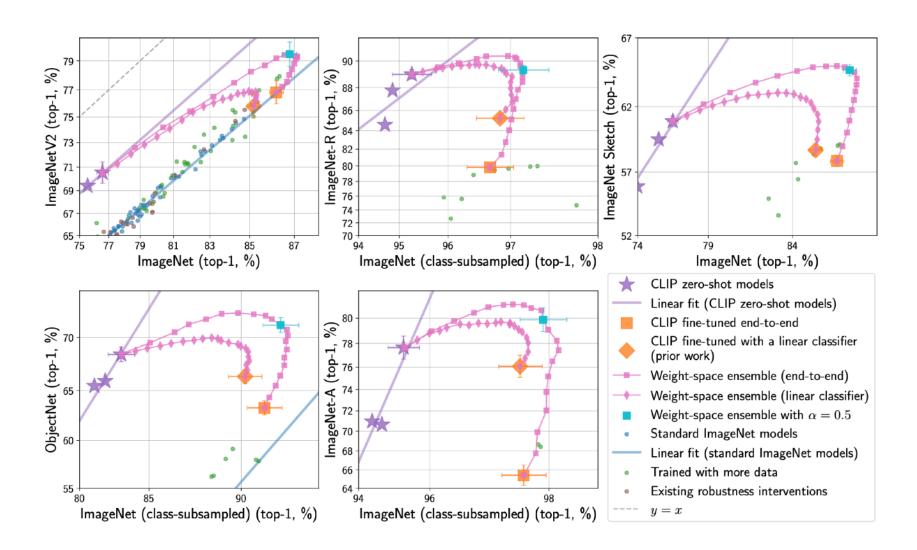
$$(1 - \alpha) \cdot f(x, \theta_0) + \alpha \cdot f(x, \theta_1)$$
$$(1 - \alpha) \cdot g(x, \mathbf{V}_{enc})^T \mathbf{W}_{zero-shot} + \alpha \cdot g(x, \mathbf{V}_{enc})^T \mathbf{W}_{classifier}$$

### Main results: ImageNet and associated distribution shifts



Source: Figure 1 p2

# Main results: ImageNet and associated distribution shifts



Source:

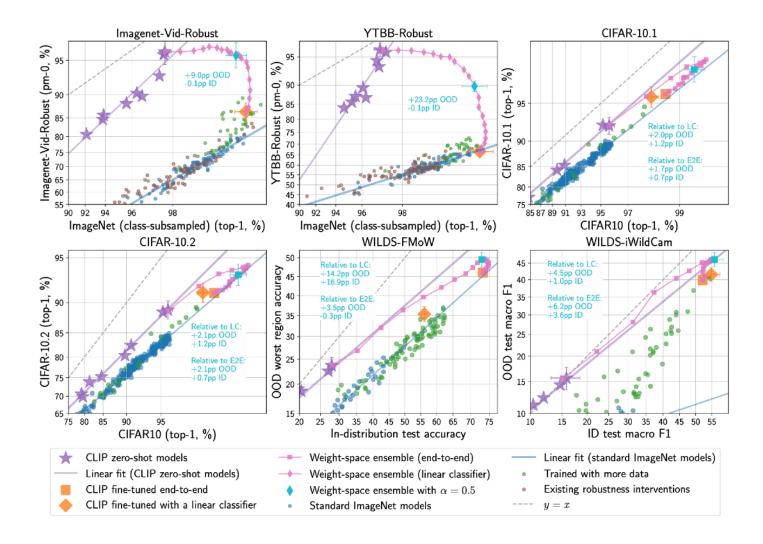
#### Main results: ImageNet and associated distribution shifts

- Appendix B
  - You should find optimal  $\alpha$  manually. Recommend using 0.5 when no domain knowledge is available.
  - There is no additional cost(train) when you find  $\alpha$ .

			Avg	Avg				
	IN (ref.)	IN-V2	IN-R	IN-Sketch	${\bf ObjectNet}$	IN-A	shifts	ref., shifts
ViT-B/16, end-to-end	0.9	0.4	1.4	0.2	0.4	2.4	0.5	0.0
ViT-B/16, linear classifier	1.8	0.6	1.2	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.2
ViT-L/14@336, end-to-end	0.3	0.0	0.9	0.3	1.0	1.1	0.5	0.1
ViT-L/14@336, linear classifier	1.6	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4

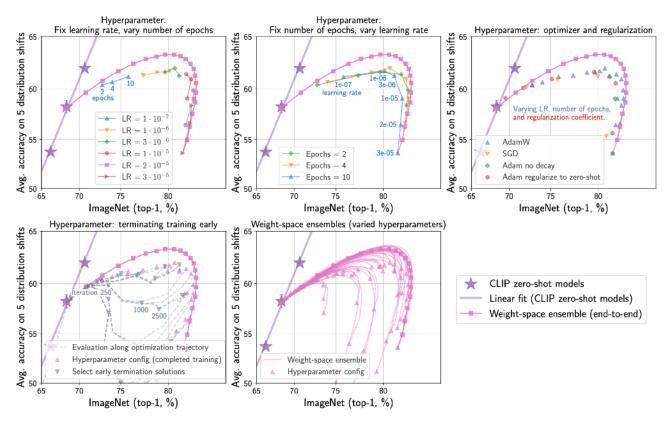
Table 3: Difference in performance (percentage points) between WiSE-FT using the optimal mixing coefficient and a fixed value of  $\alpha$ =0.5 for CLIP ViT-B/16 and ViT-L/140336. For each cell in the table, the optimal mixing coefficient  $\alpha$  is chosen individually such that the corresponding metric is maximized. Results for all mixing coefficients are available in Tables 4 and 5. Avg shifts displays the mean performance among the five distribution shifts, while Avg reference, shifts shows the average of ImageNet (reference) and Avg shifts.

#### Robustness on additional distribution shifts



#### Hyperparameter variation and alternatives

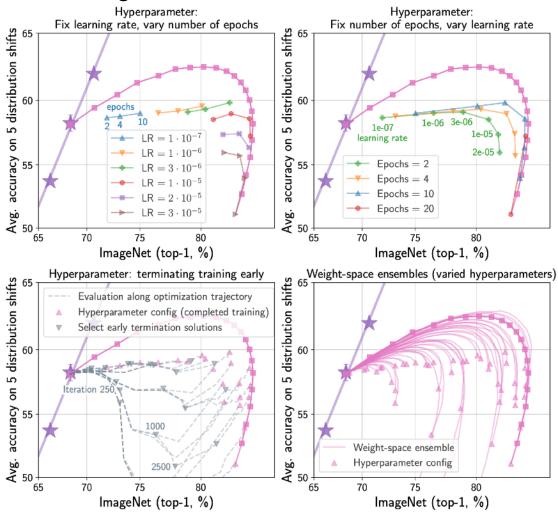
- While there is a huge improvement of accuracy on distribution shift, it is not seen that much on reference distribution.
- Tuning the hyper-parameters on ImageNet dataset could deteriorate robustness.



Source: Figure 3 p8

# Hyperparameter variation and alternatives

C.4 Changes in data augmentation



# Accuracy gains on reference distributions

 WiSE-FT has higher accuracy than fine-tuned model at the target distributions

	ImageNet	CIFAR10	CIFAR100	Cars	DTD	SUN397	Food101
Standard fine-tuning WiSE-FT ( $\alpha$ =0.5) WiSE-FT (opt. $\alpha$ )	86.2 86.8 (+0.6) 87.1 (+0.9)		92.2 93.3 (+1.1) 93.4 (+1.2)				

Table 2: Beyond robustness, WiSE-FT can improve accuracy after fine-tuning on several datasets.

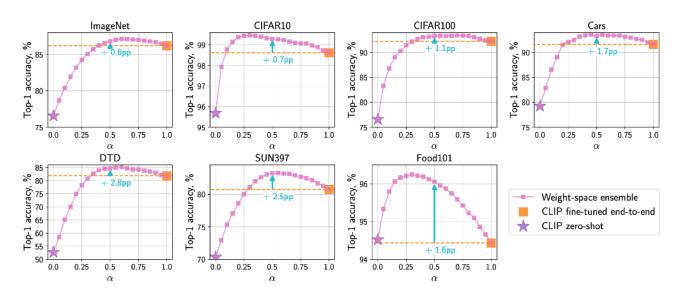


Figure 15: The accuracy of WiSE-FT (end-to-end) with mixing coefficient  $\alpha$  on ImageNet and a number of datasets considered by Kornblith et al. [50]: CIFAR-10, CIFAR-100 [52], Describable Textures [14], Food-101 [10], SUN397 [101], and Stanford Cars [51].

# **Beyond CLIP**

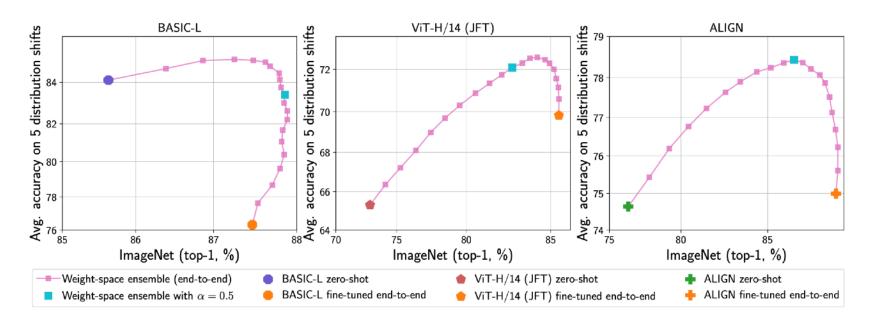


Figure 4: WiSE-FT applied to BASIC-L [75], a ViT-H/14 [21] model pre-trained on JFT-300M [91] and ALIGN [44].

- Zero-shot and fine-tuned models are complementary
  - Zero-shot and fine-tuned models are diverse
  - Models are more confident where they excel
- An error landscape perspective
  - Observation 1
  - Observation 2

# Zero-shot and fine-tuned models are complementary

- Zero-shot and fine-tuned models are diverse
  - Two measures of diversity
    - Prediction diversity

$$PD(f, g, \mathcal{S}) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{1 \le i \le N} \mathbb{1} \left[ d_f \lor d_g \right],$$
$$d_f = \left( \hat{y}_f^{(i)} = y^{(i)} \land \hat{y}_g^{(i)} \ne y^{(i)} \right).$$

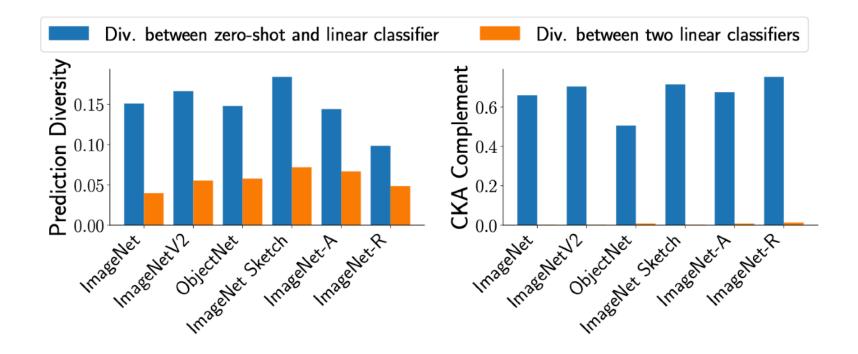
 $d_g = (\hat{y}_f^{(i)} \neq y^{(i)} \land \hat{y}_g^{(i)} = y^{(i)}).$ 

Centered Kernel Alignment Complement (CKA)

$$\mathrm{CKA}(f, g, \mathcal{S}) = \frac{||S_g^\top S_f||_F^2}{||S_f^\top S_f||_F ||S_g^\top S_g||_F},$$

# Zero-shot and fine-tuned models are complementary

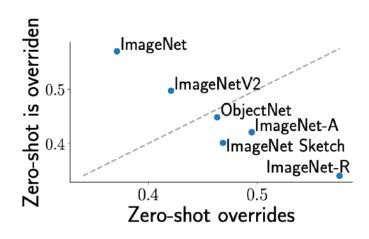
Zero-shot and fine-tuned models are diverse

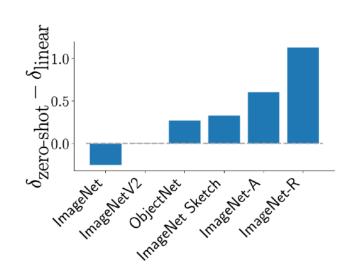


Source: Figure 5 p10

#### Zero-shot and fine-tuned models are complementary

- Zero-shot and fine-tuned models are diverse
- Models are more confident where they excel
  - If zero-shot and fine-tuned model's prediction disagree and the zero-shot prediction matches with weight-space ensemble, we say the zero-shot model overrides.
  - When we say the zero-shot is overridden which means the opposite case to the above situation.
  - Measuring model confidence: the margin between the largest and second largest output of each classifier





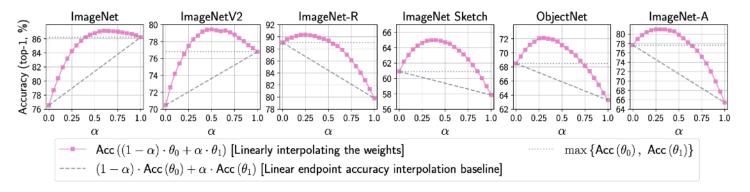
Source: Figure 5 p10

#### An error landscape perspective

- Observation 1
  - Where the accuracy of both endpoints are similar, this equation is equivalent to the definition of Linear Mode Connectivity of Frankle et al.

$$\mathsf{Acc}_{\mathcal{D},f}((1-\alpha)\cdot\theta_0+\alpha\cdot\theta_1) \geq (1-\alpha)\cdot\mathsf{Acc}_{\mathcal{D},f}(\theta_0)+\alpha\cdot\mathsf{Acc}_{\mathcal{D},f}(\theta_1)$$

- Linear mode connectivity has been observed, when
  - Part of the training trajectory is shared
  - Two models are fine-tuned with a shared initialization [Neyshabur et el.]
    - => It may give us a clue about the reason why weight-space ensemble attain high accuracy.
- Observation 2
  - $Acc_{\mathcal{D},f} ((1-\alpha) \cdot \theta_0 + \alpha \cdot \theta_1) \geq \max \{Acc_{\mathcal{D},f} (\theta_0), Acc_{\mathcal{D},f} (\theta_1)\}.$



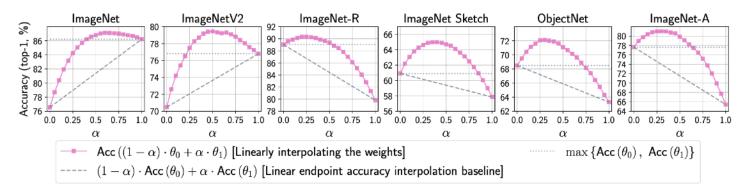
Source: https://arxiv.org/pdf/1912.05671.pdf Figure 6 p11

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- Observation 2



Source: https://arxiv.org/pdf/1912.05671.pdf

# $(+\alpha)$ Individual opinion

- What if our downstream task has a different number of class(or objective function/task) than the pre-training dataset?
- How much similar  $\mathbf{W}_{zero-shot}$  (CLIP) and  $\mathbf{W}_{classifier}$  (fine-tuned only linear classifier)