



# fluke\_net



By Connor Barlow, Caelan Booker,  
Adicus Finkbeiner, Logan Pashby,  
Dylan Thompson



# The Problem

---

- Whale populations devastated by whaling
  - Photo identification is primary means of tracking population
- Differentiate individual whales using only a picture of its tail
  - Shape
  - Patterns/Colors
  - Unique Markings
- Data provided by Happywhale
  - Track whales worldwide
  - Massive database contributed to by scientists and citizens alike



# Why Deep Learning?

---

- Past 40 years it's been manually recorded
- Massive amounts of data
  - Don't have the manpower to process the data
  - Constantly growing dataset
- Large scale image processing



Philip Robinson, Staff Software Engineer at HappyWhale and WWU alumni

# Sample Quiz Results

☐ Whale 1



☐ Whale 2



☐ Whale 3



☐ Whale 4



☐ Whale 5



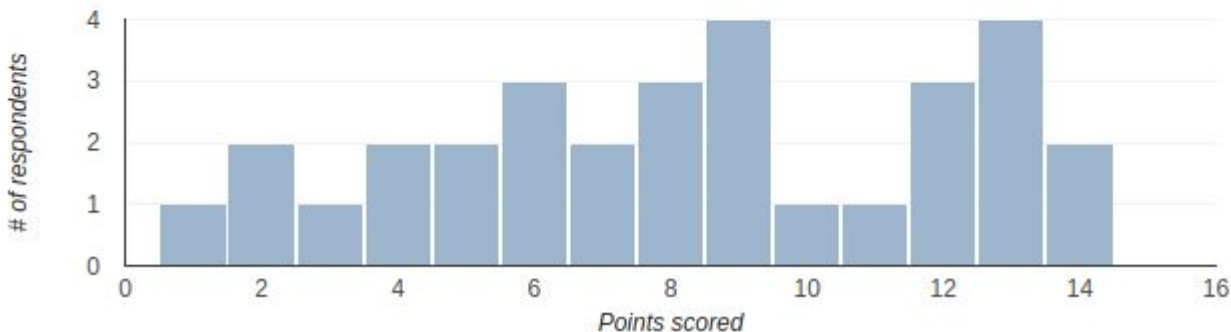
- Surveyed 31 people
- Provided a “training set” of 15 whales broken into 5 classes and quizzed them on a 15 whale “test set”

**Average**  
8.23 / 15 points

**Median**  
8 / 15 points

**Range**  
1 - 14 points

**Total points distribution**



# Dataset Examples

---

- Varying degrees of quality
- Even with “good” images, patterns can be hard to spot
- Large variance in what makes an image “poor” quality



# Dataset Structure

---

- 2 distinct categories of classes
  - unique\_whale classes
  - new\_whale class (singular)

## Training Dataset (5K classes/25K examples)

### Individual Whale Classes (5K)

id: unique\_whale\_id  
examples: anywhere from 1 to 80

id: new\_whale  
examples: 9K

# Dataset Problem #1: “new\_whale” class

- Denotes “this whale is not in any other labeled class”
- Takes up 9k of our 25k total examples
- Unusable as a target for classification

## Training Dataset (5K classes/16K examples)

Individual Whale Classes (5K)

id: unique\_whale\_id  
examples: anywhere from 1 to 80

~~id: new\_whale  
examples: 9K~~

# Dataset Problem #2: Huge Class Imbalance

- Spread of examples-per-class is huge
  - ~2K classes contain only one example
  - Examples/class goes up to 80

## Training Dataset (5K classes/16K examples)

### Few-Example Whale Classes (4.7K)

id: unique\_whale\_id  
examples: <10

### Remaining Whale Classes (273)

id: unique\_whale\_id  
examples: >=10



# Dataset Problem #2: Huge Class Imbalance

- Spread of examples-per-class is huge
  - ~2K classes contain only one example
  - Examples/class goes up to 80
- Complexity of approach reduced, chance of overfitting increased

## Training Dataset (273 classes/5K examples)

~~Few Example Whale Classes (1.7K)~~

~~id: unique\_whale\_id  
examples: <10~~

Remaining Whale Classes (273)

id: unique\_whale\_id  
examples: >=10

# Resulting Dataset and Split

- Limitations in data evaluation forced further splitting
- Diverges from learning goal only in no “new\_whale”
- Allows more typical FSL approaches to be applied

## Fluke-Net Dataset (273 classes/5K examples)

### Training Classes (205)

id: unique\_whale\_id  
examples:  $\geq 10$

### Dev Classes (34)

id: unique\_whale\_id  
examples:  $\geq 10$

### Test Classes (34)

id: unique\_whale\_id  
examples:  $\geq 10$

# Our Approach

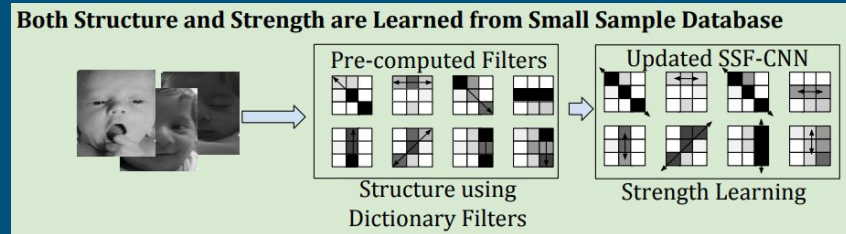
---

- Problem: few examples per class; “dirty data”
- Solution: data augmentation
  - Rotation
  - Crop
  - Horizontal reflection
  - Grayscale
  - Color jitter

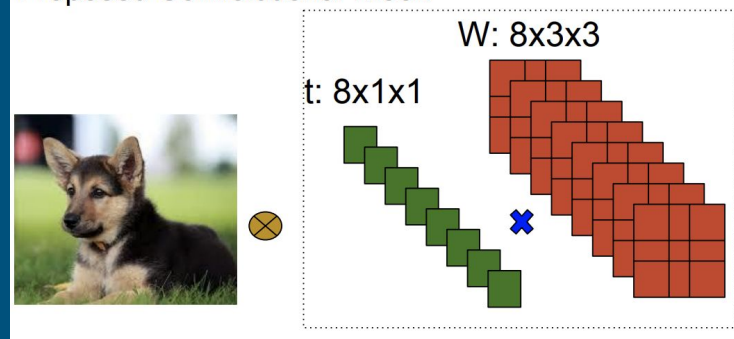


# Our Approach

- Problem: large number of parameters relative to size of dataset
- Solution: “Learning Structure and Strength of CNN Filters for Small Sample Size Training” (Keshari et al.)



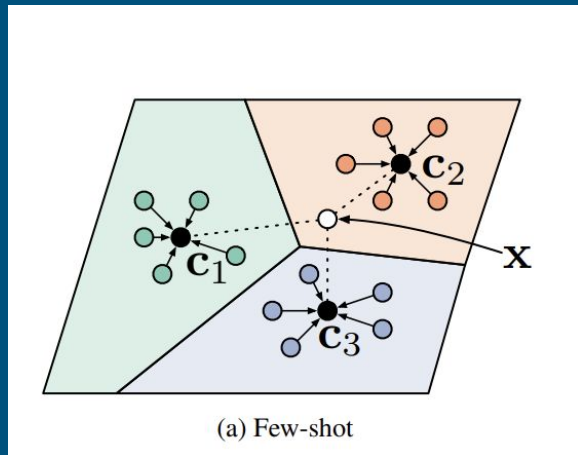
Proposed Convolutional Block



# Our Approach

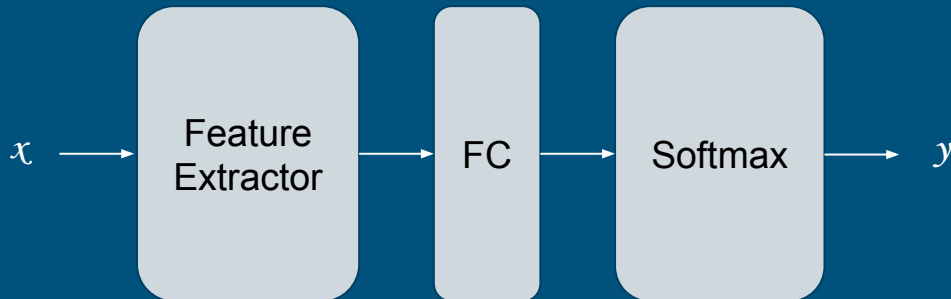
---

- Problem: few examples per class
- Solution: “Prototypical Networks for Few-shot Learning” (Snell et al.)



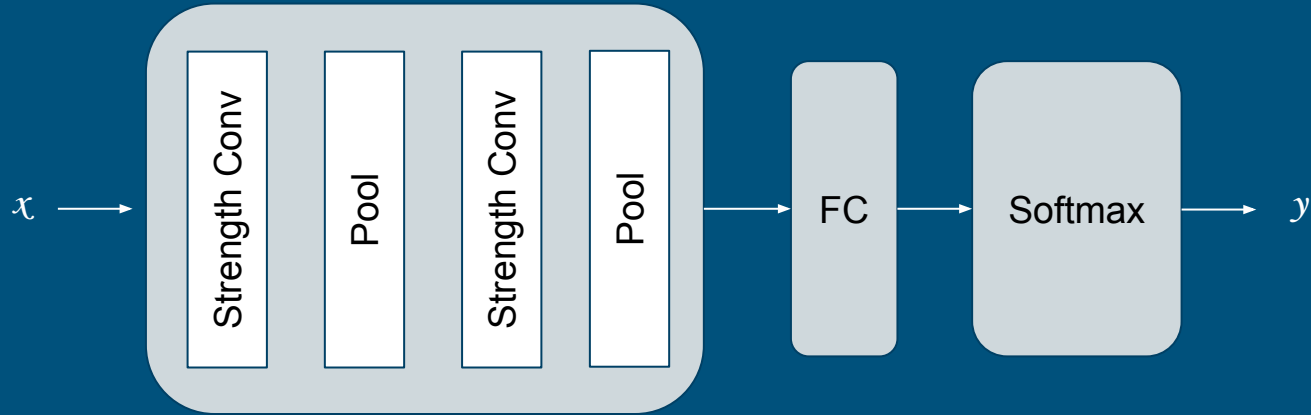
# Model Architecture - Classifier Overview

---

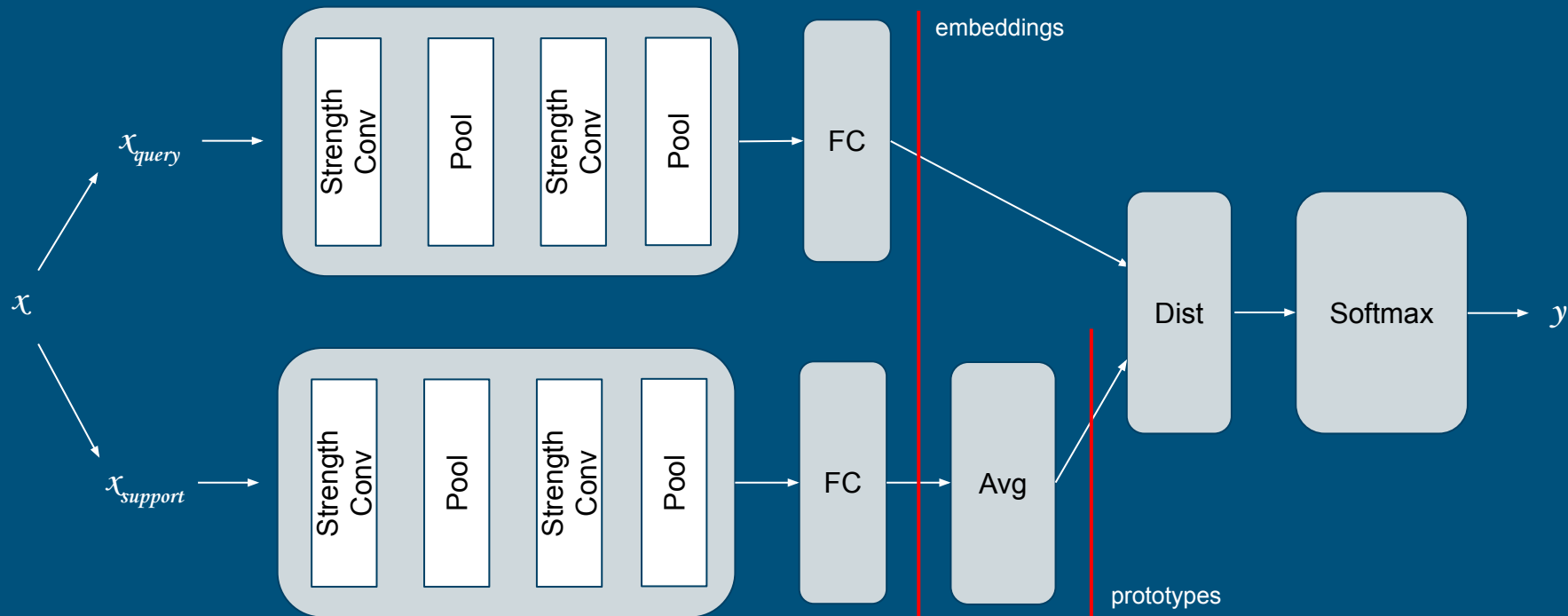


# Model Architecture - Feature Extraction

---



# Model Architecture - Complete





# Results – Baselines

Strategy	Test Set Accuracy
Random: Stratified	0.0053
Random: Frequency	0.0976
Random: Prior	0.0976
Random: Uniform	0.0053
K-Nearest-Neighbors (K=1, 8 examples per test class)	0.0189
Vanilla CNN	0.0224
Humans	0.55

# Results - Hyperparameter Sweep

Learning Rate Sweep	
	mAP@1
1e-4	0.11
1e-3	0.15
<b>1e-2</b>	<b>0.34</b>
1e-1	0.26
1e0	0.24

Minibatch Size Sweep	
	mAP@1
<b>4</b>	<b>0.28</b>
8	0.27
16	0.23
32	0.20
64	—

Pretrained / Strength Filters			
Strength	Pretrained		
	mAP@1	Yes	No
	Yes	0.22	—
	<b>No</b>	0.25	<b>0.28</b>

# of Epochs Sweep	
	mAP@1
40	0.28
80	0.31
<b>120</b>	<b>0.38</b>
160	0.38

# Results – Test Set Accuracy

---

- mAP@1: 0.33
- mAP@5: 0.44
- mAP@20: 0.46

Not bad compared to our human mAP@1 of 0.55

# Potential Next Steps

## Siamese Network

- Another popular few-shot technique
- Two identical neural networks on two separate images
- Compares the embedding of each image to each other via the distance
- Parameters trained to create encodings of like images to be small, and vice versa for unlike images

## Semi-Supervised Few-Shot Learning

*(using unlabeled examples in each episode)*

- Iterate through episodes of support, query, and unlabeled
- Refine via the unlabeled images with soft k-means
- Unlabeled can include 'distractor' images that should be masked as they get further away from the existing prototypes
  - Soft masks
  - Feed small NN stats

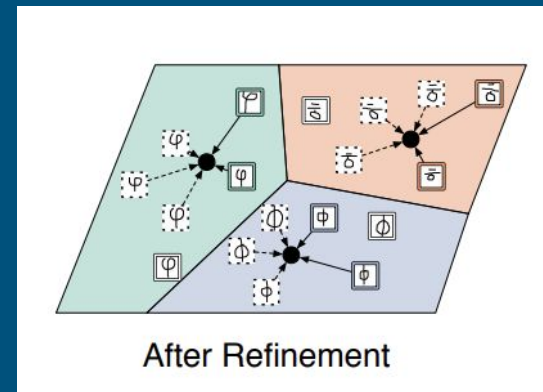
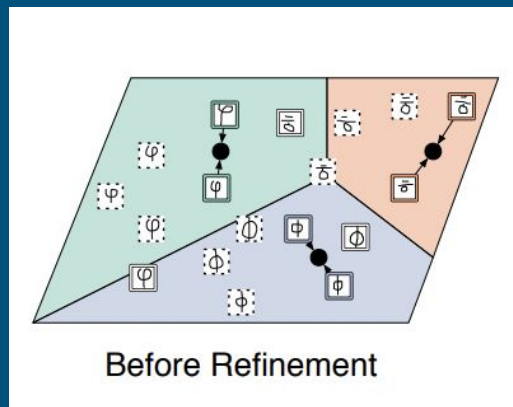
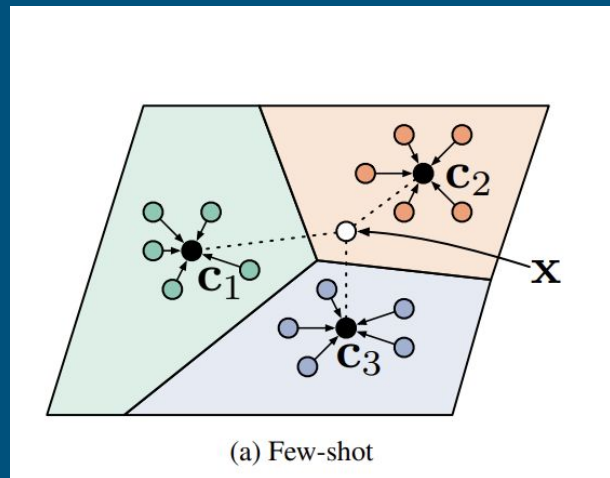
# Siamese network could add an attention span for the model

## Key:

- Pink - places where value of max appears often
- Green - places where Std is large
- White - Pink + Green



# Semi-supervised would allow for adjustments of prototype embeddings



Our Model

Semi-Supervised

fin

