NYCU Introduction to Machine Learning, Final Project

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This assignment is dedicated to exploring and fine tuning a classification model for wild bird classification, trained and verified on the bird class dataset CUB200-2011, consisting 200 different kinds of bird. I adapted the model HERBS as the base line model of my research, credit of the model design is from the paper “Fine-grained Visual Classification with High-temperature Refinement and Background Suppression”. Below I will discuss training details and prediction performance.

**Part 1. Environmental Details**

1. **Python version**

--Python 3.8.0

1. **Framework**

--PyTorch

1. **Hardware**

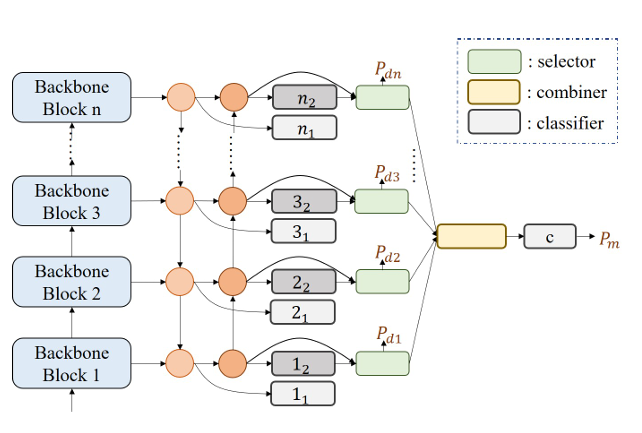
All experiments are trained on a single Nvidia GeForce RTX 2080. It takes approximately 40 hours to complete a full training session.

1. **Inference reproduction**

TODO

**Part 2. Implementation Details**

1. **Model Architecture**

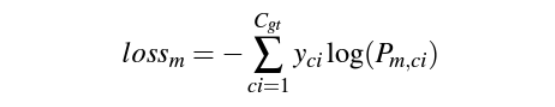


The model is composed of a back bone swing transformer to extract features from the input image. At different stage of the back bone block, these extracted features were passed to the top-down bottom-up feature fusion model (the orange dots above). We than train 8 different classifiers (dark gray and light gray block) to classify according to different stage of output features, and a selector combiner model to weight out all the predictions and make a final probability prediction of the classes. By this design we can learn information from different stages of feature, focusing on details in later layers and overall observations on earlier layers. The use of a top-down bottom-up feature fusion model benefits the classifiers by propagating different stage information to all the classifiers.

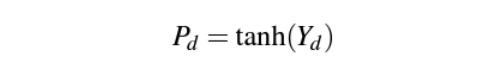
To fit this specific model design HERBS proposed two modules, Background Suppression, and High Temperature Refinement to supervise their loss.

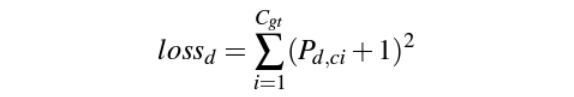
Background Suppression module could be depicted as the selector and combiner above. It selects features and makes a class prediction based on the merge feature, and the none selected features are named drop maps. The BS loss is composed of three terms:

1. Cross-entropy loss: Supervise the final classification, y is the label and P is the predicted probability.

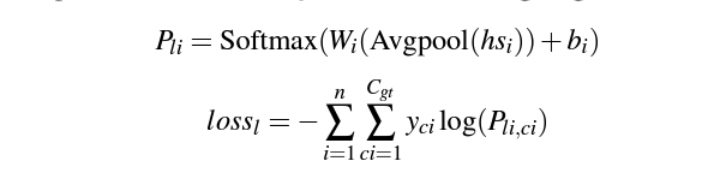
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1. Drop loss: Increase the gap between foreground and background, suppress features in the drop map. Yd is the drop map.

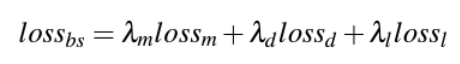




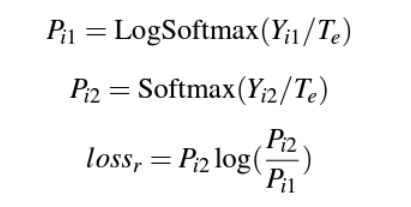
1. Average pooling loss: Prevent feature map from having same response in the same location.



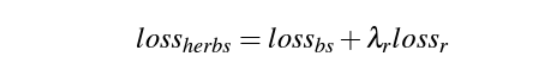
The background suppression module loss function is weighted out by the three above losses weighted out by hyper parameters.



High Temperature Refinement module is designed to help the model learn more widely in early layers and deeper in later layers. With the hyper parameter Te and classification result of classifier n1, n2 as Yi1 and Yi2, the HTR loss can be formulated as below:



To sum up, the total loss for the HERBS model could be written as below:



Balancing the loss between the BS and HTR module with hyper parameter λr.

1. **Hyperparameters**

Hyper parameters are saved in config.yaml under the same directory along side the model weight. These parameters could be divided into two class according to their usage.

Training parameters

* max\_lr: Maxima learning rate, which is then mapped into a cosine dacay function
* wdecay: Weight decay in the training process
* max\_epochs: Epochs in training process
* warmup\_batches: The amount of batch at the beginning where learning rate is scheduled linearly.
* batch\_size: The batch size during training.
* update\_freq: Counts the frequency that the module propagates.

Objective function parameters

* lambda\_b0: Balance the temperature and background suppression loss
* lambda\_b: Balance the Average pool loss in background suppression module.
* lambda\_n: Balance the drop loss in background suppression module.
* lambda\_c: Balance the cross-entropy loss in background suppression module.
* temperature: Controls the temperature value used in High Temperature Refinement.

1. **Training Strategy**

The model is guided by batches and a SGD optimizer.

Learning rate during training is scheduled by cosine decay, which maps the learning rate by a cosine function throughout the training process except for the warm up batches. A simple graph of the mapped learning rate is graphed below. To further increase the performance of our model and not limit it to local maxims, I tried to implement a circular learning rate scheduling also graphed below, the learning rate will go through 4 cycles and each time dividing the max learning rate by its iteration number. This yields a better performance on the testing set in the kaggle contest, yet a less effective prediction on the validation set.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Cosine Decay | Circular Cosine Decay |
| Top1  accuracy | C:\Users\bosyu\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\learning_rate_schedule.png | C:\Users\bosyu\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\learning_rate_schedule.png |
| validate | 92.7% | 92.5% |
| test | 91% | 91.1% |

**Part 3. Experimental Results**

1. **Evaluation Metrics**

The model gets an accuracy score of 92.5% predicting the classes of the birds in the validation images. Considering that there are 200 classes in the dataset, which can be hard even for humans to distinguish bird classes at first guess, the top3 and top5 scores are also measured, there by giving the prediction a positive score if the correct bird class was within its third our fifth likely guess.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Top 1 | Top 3 | Top 5 |
| Accuracy score | 92.503% | 97.619% | 98.328% |

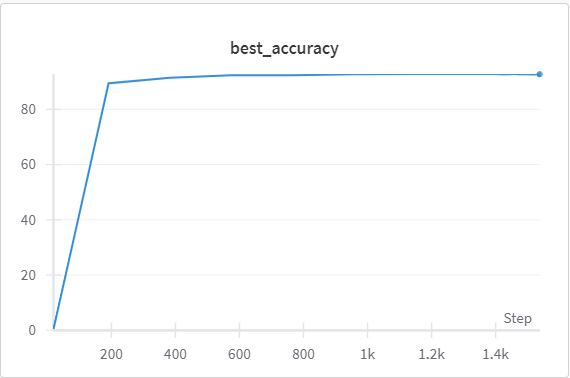
We also evaluate the model’s classification ability on different bird sub classes. It can be observed that the model performance badly on certain sub classes, this may result from imbalanced data distribution, and less training samples on these classes.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | flycatcher | gull | kingfisher | sparrow | tern | warbler |
| Accuracy | 92.5% | 87.1% | 75.6% | 98.0% | 91.8% | 78.6% |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | woodpecker | wren |
| Accuracy | 96.6% | 95.7% |

1. **Learning Curve**

Through the learning curve we can see that our model has reached a steady state after half of the training epochs. Indicating that we have reached a local or global minima of the objective function. Something worth noting is that the model has obtained over 80% accuracy after the first 10% of training, this is because of the pre-trained backbone network, and in our case am accurate swing transformer.

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1. **Ablation Study**

For the ablation study, we are especially interested in the contribution of the High Temperature Refinement (HTR) module in the HREBS’ structure. We first compare the module trained without the HTR loss term with the base line module.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Base line | Base line - HTR |
|  |  |
| 92.7% | 92.7% |

It was surprising to find that there was basically no performance gain by adding the HTR loss. Therefore, I further looked into the HTR module by testing different values for the hyper parameter “temperature”, which the author of the original paper claims to help the model learn diverse representations in early layers and let later layers to focus on details. However, it seems that the temperature term fails to play an important role in guiding the model, indicated by the little performance influence of the multiplied temperature factor.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Model | Temperature = 64 (base line) | Temperature = 128 |
| Accuracy | 92.7% | 92.6% |

After examining the influence of HTR module, I decided to verify the other terms in the objection function. In the Background Suppression (BS) module, there are 3 different loss terms, namely, average pooling loss, drop loss, and cross-entropy loss. We know that cross-entropy loss is essential for fine grained classification problems, therefore I tested the module without average pooling loss and drop loss independently. The result is graphed below.

From the result we can see that the Average pooling loss does indeed contribute greatly to the model’s performance. On the other hand, drop loss seems to have negative impact on the model’s performance. This may be due to the hyperbolic tangent term calculated for the drop loss, the original usage of the drop loss was to increase the gap between foreground and background, however this may result in losing important information from the input image.