

Replication: Contrastive Learning and Data Augmentation in Traffic Classification Using a Flowpic Input Representation

A. Finamore, C. Wang, J. Krolkowski, J. M. Navarro, F. Cheng, D. Rossi

Huawei Technologies SASU, France

ACM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC)

Montreal, 24-26 Oct, 2023



from my TMA22
keynote

If I had three wishes for the genie



1

More “code challenges”

They can be occasion to release data and put focus on specific problems

2

Create one permanent replicability track/workshop

- Decouple study state-of-the-art from promoting new ideas*
- Foster data/code sharing for the benefit of the community*



3

Federate universities/research centers for data access/sharing

Break the barrier of 1-to-1 cooperations

The data divide affects the whole measurements community
AI-driven measurement methods is just exacerbating it

Lot of literature for a **REPLICABILITY** study on **TRAFFIC CLASSIFICATION** to choose from

...But

Replicability Track:

IMC 2023 will trial a new Replicability Track for submissions that aim to reproduce or replicate results that have been previously published at IMC. Papers accepted to this track will be published in ACM SIGCOMM Computer Communication Review (CCR). Priority will be given to replicability studies, although reproducibility studies are also in scope. For the definitions, please see [ACM's site](#). The authors of outstanding replicability papers may receive an invitation to present at the main conference. In that case, the paper would also be included in IMC's proceedings (rather than CCR).

Short paper @ IMC'22



A Few Shots Traffic Classification with mini-FlowPic Augmentations

Eyal Horowicz
eyalhorowicz@mail.tau.ac.il
Tel Aviv University
Israel

Tal Shapira*
talshapirala@gmail.com
Reichman University
Israel

Yuval Shavitt
shavitt@eng.tau.ac.il
Tel Aviv University
Israel



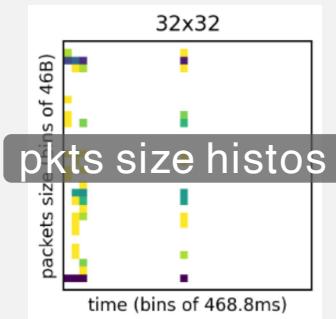
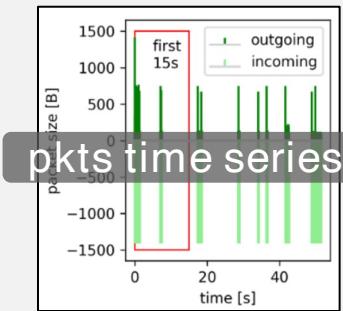
Outline

1. Introduce the IMC22 paper and set our goals
2. Datasets and methodology
3. Results
4. Closing remarks

Outline

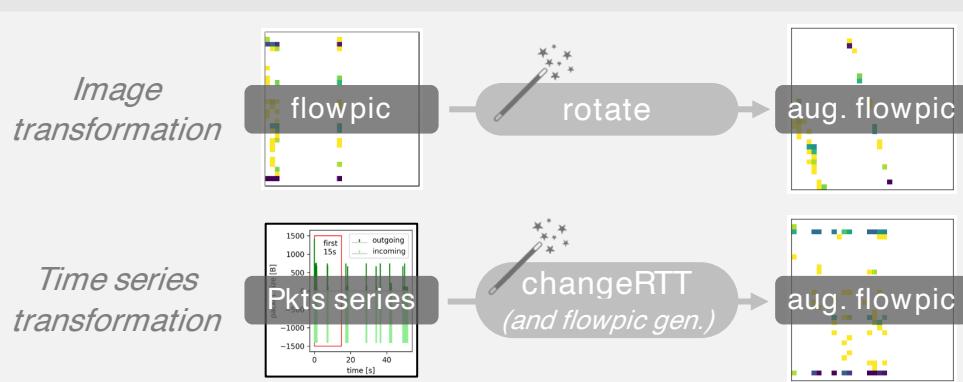
1. Introduce the IMC22 paper and set our goals
2. Datasets and methodology
3. Results
4. Closing remarks

IMC22 paper : TLDR (1/2)



Flowpic input representation

1



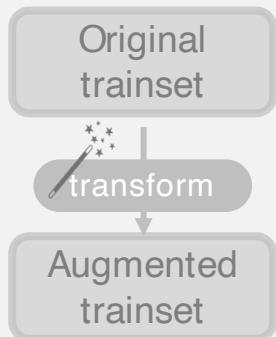
Data augmentation

2

Few-shot learning

3

Few samples (100 per class)
10x trainset size



Supervised training

4

Self-supervision

Original trainset
Few samples (10 per class)

Contrastive learning training
(via augmentations)

Unsupervised Pretraining

Supervised training

Supervised Finetune

IMC22 paper : TLDR (2/2)

Evaluation settings

- UCDAVIS-19 dataset [1]
5 QUIC-based Google services
- Benchmarking flowpic computed from 15sec of traffic at different resolutions
($32 \times 32 \rightarrow 1500 \times 1500$)
- 6 augmentations
3 image-based, 3 time series-based
- 100 samples per class augmented 10 times
- Contrastive learning via SimCLR [2] and finetune with 10 labeled samples

[1] How to Achieve High Classification Accuracy with Just a Few Labels: A Semi-supervised Approach Using Sampled Packets, ICDM19

[2] A Simple Framework for Contrastive Learning of Visual Representations, ICML20

IMC22 paper : TLDR (2/2)

Evaluation settings

- UCDAVIS-19 dataset [1]
5 QUIC-based Google services
- Benchmarking flowpic computed from 15sec of traffic at different resolutions
($32 \times 32 \rightarrow 1500 \times 1500$)
- 6 augmentations
3 image-based, 3 time series-based
- 100 samples per class augmented 10 times
- Contrastive learning via SimCLR [2] and finetune with 10 labeled samples

Takeaways

- Time series transformations are superior wrt image transformations
- 100 labeled samples and a 32×32 flowpic are enough for good accuracy
- SimCLR performance almost on par with supervised training

[1] How to Achieve High Classification Accuracy with Just a Few Labels: A Semi-supervised Approach Using Sampled Packets, ICDM19
[2] A Simple Framework for Contrastive Learning of Visual Representations, ICML20

Our goals



ML reference baseline NEW

How complex is the problem? Do we really need DL?



Reproduce IMC22 **augmentations benchmark** in supervised setting
+ statistical analysis to compare augmentations NEW



Reproduce IMC22 **contrastive learning benchmark**
+ considering more scenarios NEW



Replicate G1 with **3 alternative datasets** NEW



Treat our paper a “**software deliverable**”
Contribute curated artifacts NEW

Outline

1. Introduce the IMC22 paper and set our goals

2. Datasets and methodology

3. Results

4. Closing remarks

Datasets

Class imbalance

$$\rho = \frac{\text{Max (flows per class)}}{\text{Min (flows per class)}}$$

Name	Partition	Filter	Classes	Flows				ρ (class imbal.)	Pkts Mean (per flow)
				All	Min (per class)	Max (per class)			
UCDAVIS-19 [1]	Human	Pretraining	5	6,439	592	1,915	3.2	6,653	
		Human		83	15	20	1.3		
		Script		150	30	30	1.0		
MIRAGE-19 [2]	n.a.	<i>none</i>	20	122,007	1,986	11,737	5.9	23	
		<i>>10pkts</i>		64,172	1,013	7,505	7.4		
MIRAGE-22 [2]	n.a.	<i>none</i>	9	59,071	2,252	18,882	8.4	3,068	
		<i>>10pkts</i>		26,773	970	4,437	4.6		
		<i>>1,000pkts</i>		4,569	190	2,220	11.7		
UTMOBILENET-21 [4]	4-into-1	<i>none</i>	17	34,378	159	5,591	35.2	664	
		<i>>10pkts</i>		9,460	130	2,246	19.2		

[1] How to Achieve High Classification Accuracy with Just a Few Labels: A Semi-supervised Approach Using Sampled Packets, ICDM19

[2] The MIRAGE project: <https://traffic.comics.unina.it/mirage/>

[3] UTMobileNetTraffic2021: A Labeled Public Network Traffic Dataset, IEEE Networking letters

Datasets

Class imbalance

$$\rho = \frac{\text{Max (flows per class)}}{\text{Min (flows per class)}}$$

Name	Partition	Filter	Classes	Flows			ρ (class imbal.)	Pkts Mean (per flow)
				All	Min (per class)	Max (per class)		
UCDAVIS-19 [1]	Pretraining	<i>nor</i>	Google Doc Google Music Google Drive Google Search YouTube	6,439	592	1,915	3.2	6,653
	Human			83	15	30	Very long flows	7,666
	Script			150	30	30	1.0	7.131
MIRAGE-19 [2]	n.a.	none	20	122,007	1,986	11,737	5.9	23
		>10pkts		64,172	1,013	7,505	7.4	17
MIRAGE-22 [2]	n.a.	none		59,071	2,252	18,882	8.4	3,068
		>10pkts	9	26,773	970	4,437	4.6	6,598
		>1,000pkts		4,569	190	2,220	11.7	38,321
UTMOBILENET-21 [4]	4-into-1	none	17	34,378	159	5,591	35.2	664
		>10pkts	14	9,460	130	2,246	19.2	2,366

[1] How to Achieve High Classification Accuracy with Just a Few Labels: A Semi-supervised Approach Using Sampled Packets, ICDM19

[2] The MIRAGE project: <https://traffic.comics.unina.it/mirage/>

[3] UTMobileNetTraffic2021: A Labeled Public Network Traffic Dataset, IEEE Networking letters



Datasets

Class imbalance

$$\rho = \frac{\text{Max (flows per class)}}{\text{Min (flows per class)}}$$

Name	Partition	Filter	Classes	Flows			ρ (class imbal.)	Pkts Mean (per flow)
				All	Min (per class)	Max (per class)		
UCDAVIS-19 [1]	Pretraining Human Script	Large training set Small testing sets	5	6,439 83 150	592 15 30	1,915 20 30	3.2 1.3 1.0	6,653 Light imbalance 7,131
MIRAGE-19 [2]	n.a.	none $>10pkts$	20	122,007 64,172	1,986 1,013	11,737 7,505	5.9 7.4	23 17
MIRAGE-22 [2]	n.a.	none $>10pkts$ $>1,000pkts$	9	59,071 26,773 4,569	2,252 970 190	18,882 4,437 2,220	8.4 4.6 11.7	3,068 6,598 38,321
UTMOBILENET-21 [4]	4-into-1	none $>10pkts$	17 14	34,378 9,460	159 130	5,591 2,246	35.2 19.2	664 2,366

[1] How to Achieve High Classification Accuracy with Just a Few Labels: A Semi-supervised Approach Using Sampled Packets, ICDM19

[2] The MIRAGE project: <https://traffic.comics.unina.it/mirage/>

[3] UTMobileNetTraffic2021: A Labeled Public Network Traffic Dataset, IEEE Networking letters

Datasets

Class imbalance

$$\rho = \frac{\text{Max (flows per class)}}{\text{Min (flows per class)}}$$

Name	Partition	Filter	Classes	Flows				ρ (class imbal.)	Pkts Mean (per flow)
				All	Min (per class)	Max (per class)			
UCDAVIS-19 [1]	Human	none	5	6,439	592	1,915	3.2	6,653	
				83	15	20	1.3	7,666	
				150	30	30	1.0	7.131	
MIRAGE-19 [2]	n.a.	none <i>>10pkts</i>	20 Variety of Android apps	122,007	1,013	17,737	...but short	23	17
				64,172	7,505	7.4			
MIRAGE-22 [2]	n.a.	none <i>>10pkts</i> <i>>1,000pkts</i>	9 Only video Meeting apps	59,071	2,252	18,882	8.4	3,068	
				26,773	970	4,437	4.6	6,598	
				4,569	190	2,220	11.7	38,321	
UTMOBILENET-21 [4]	4-into-1	none <i>>10pkts</i>	17 In between MIRAGE datasets	34,378	159	5,591	35.2	664	
				9,460	130	2,246	19.2	2,366	

[1] How to Achieve High Classification Accuracy with Just a Few Labels: A Semi-supervised Approach Using Sampled Packets, ICDM19

[2] The MIRAGE project: <https://traffic.comics.unina.it/mirage/>

[3] UTMobileNetTraffic2021: A Labeled Public Network Traffic Dataset, IEEE Networking letters

Datasets

Class imbalance

$$\rho = \frac{\text{Max (flows per class)}}{\text{Min (flows per class)}}$$

Name	Partition	Filter	Classes	Flows				ρ (class imbal.)	Pkts Mean (per flow)
				All	Min (per class)	Max (per class)			
UCDAVIS-19 [1]	Pretraining	<i>none</i>	5	6,439	592	1,915	3.2	6,653	
	Human			83	15	20	1.3	7,666	
	Script			150	30	30	1.0	7.131	
MIRAGE-19 [2]	n.a	Data curation <i>>10pkts</i>	20	122,007	1,986	11,737	5.9	23	
				64,172	1,013	7,505	7.4	17	
				59,071	2,252	18,882	Larger imbalance	3,068	
MIRAGE-22 [2]	n.a	Data curation <i>>10pkts</i> <i>>1,000pkts</i>	9	26,773	970	4,437		6,598	
				4,569	190	2,220		38,321	
				34,378	159	5,591		664	
UTMOBILENET-21 [4]	4-intc	Data curation <i>>10pkts</i>	17	9,460	130	2,246	35.2	2,366	
			14	159	5,591	19.2			

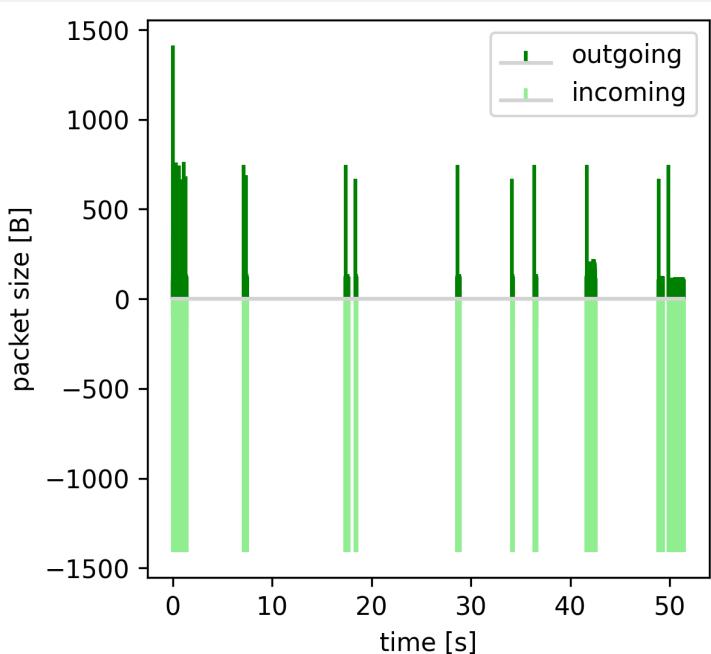
[1] How to Achieve High Classification Accuracy with Just a Few Labels: A Semi-supervised Approach Using Sampled Packets, ICDM19

[2] The MIRAGE project: <https://traffic.comics.unina.it/mirage/>

[3] UTMobileNetTraffic2021: A Labeled Public Network Traffic Dataset, IEEE Networking letters

Flowpics: *computation*

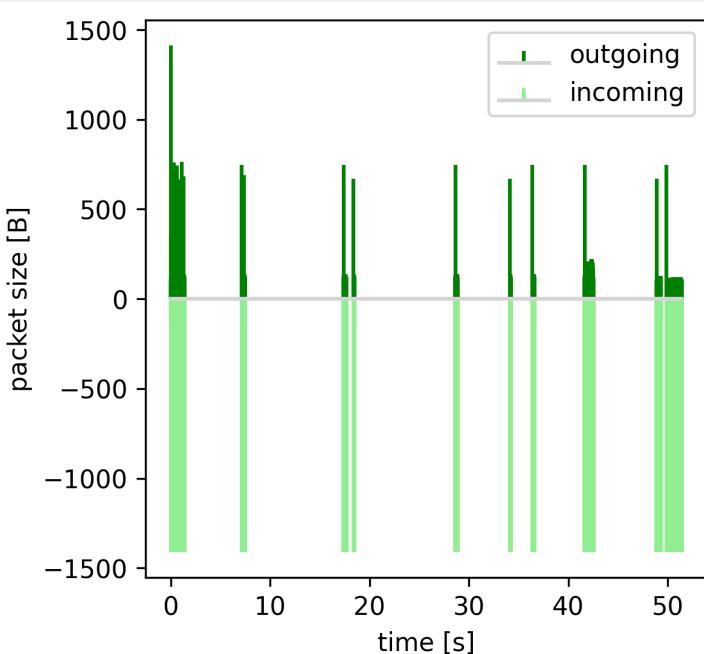
1 Get pkts time series



Example of a YouTube flow

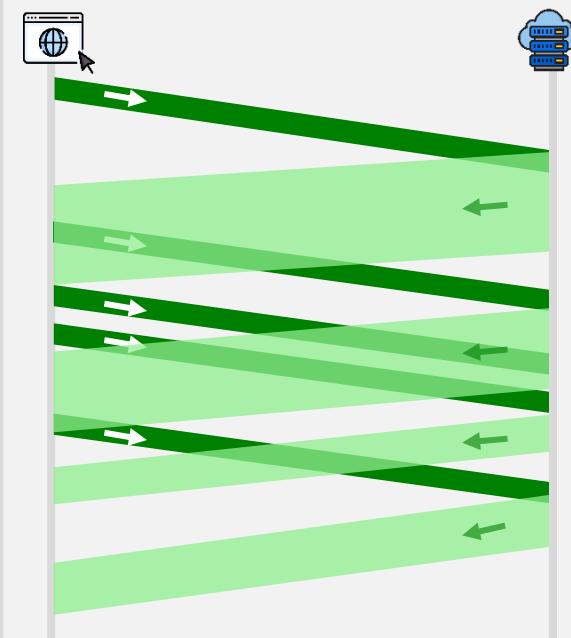
Flowpics: *computation*

1 Get pkts time series



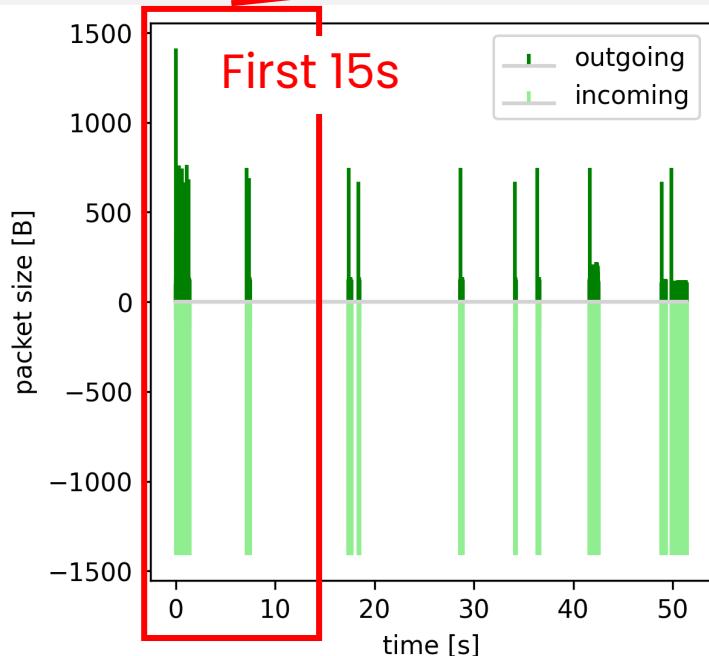
Example of a YouTube flow

2 Pkts size histograms



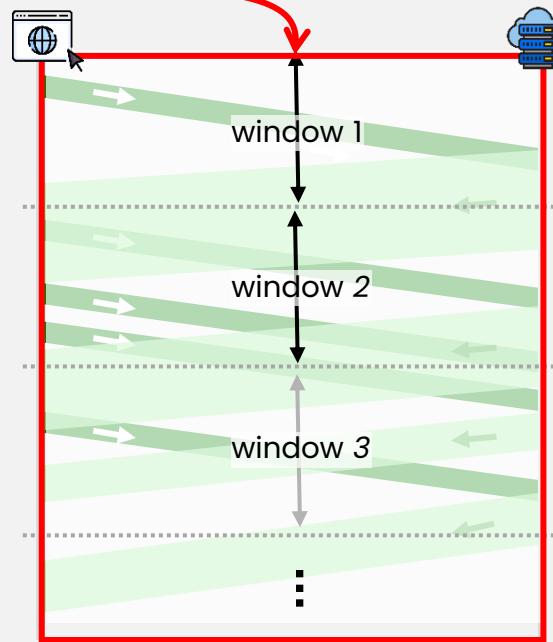
Flowpics: computation

1 Get pkts time series



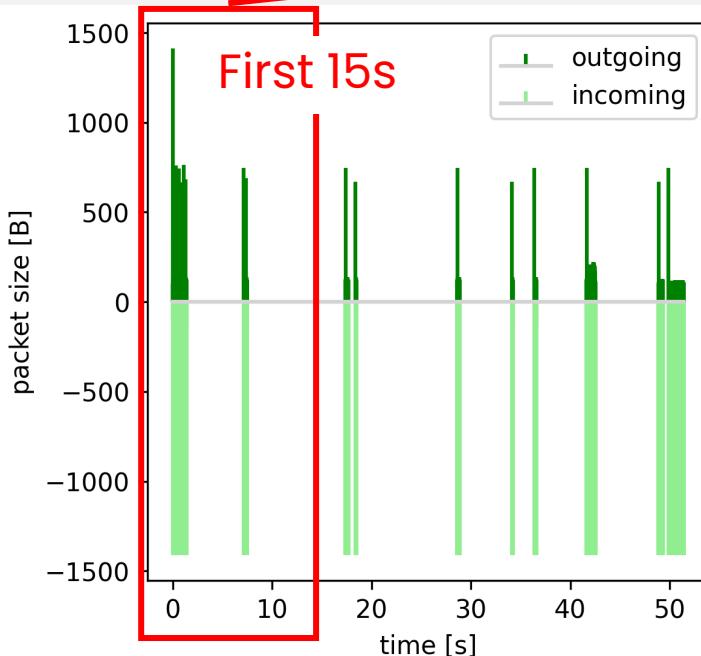
Example of a YouTube flow

2 Pkts size histograms



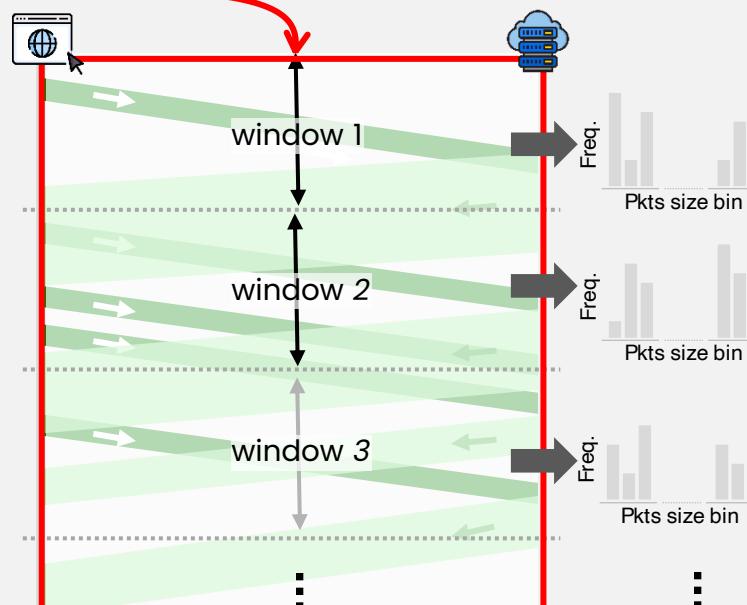
Flowpics: computation

1 Get pkts time series



Example of a YouTube flow

2 Pkts size histograms



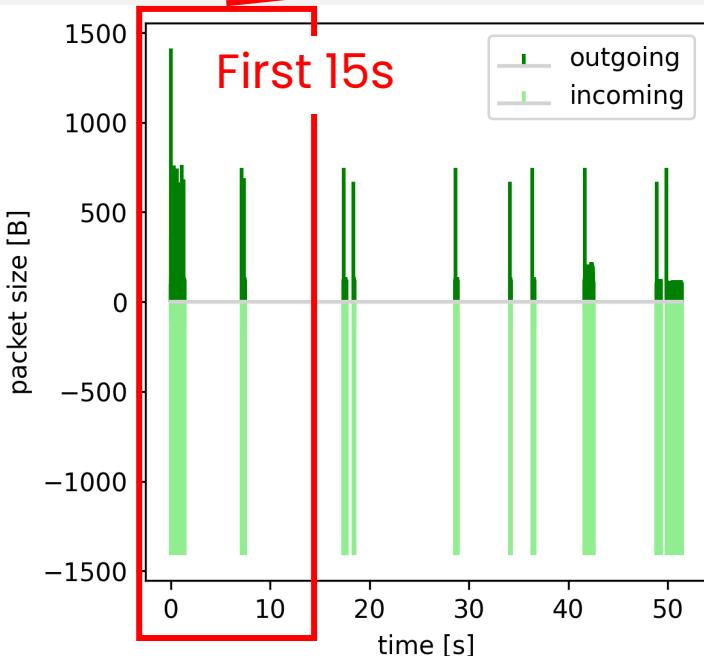
For 32x32 resolution

Window size of $15s/32 = 468ms$

Packets bin or ceil($1500/32$) = 47B

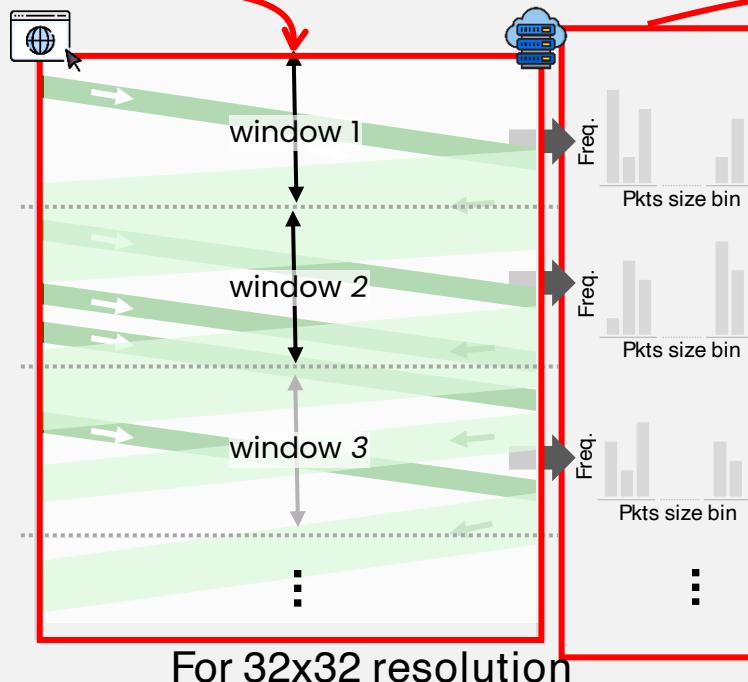
Flowpics: computation

1 Get pkts time series

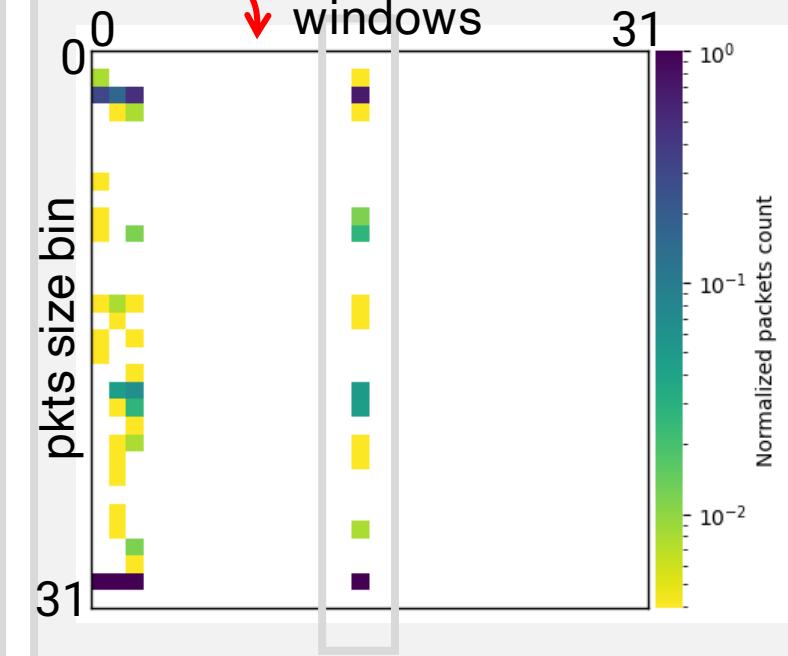


Example of a YouTube flow

2 Pkts size histograms

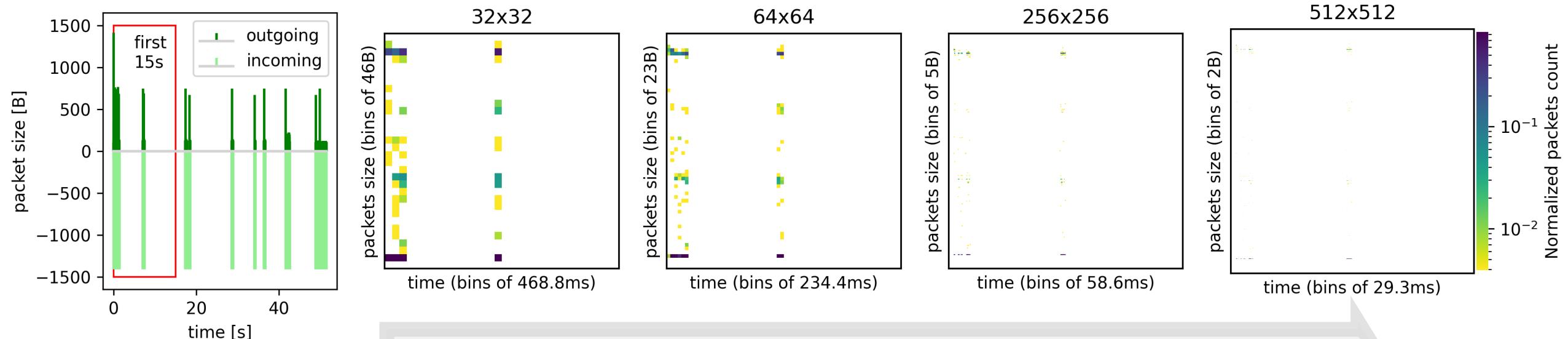


3 Stack histograms



Each column is a frequency histogram of a different window

Flowpics: *resolution*



Sparsity proportional to image resolution

mini-flowpic

IMC22 paper contrasts ~~32x32~~ against 1500x1500

Experimental settings

Augmentations

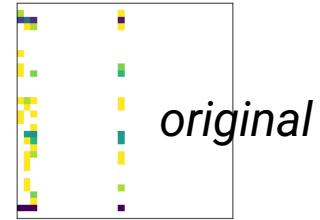
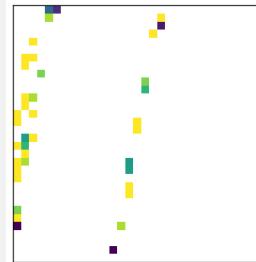
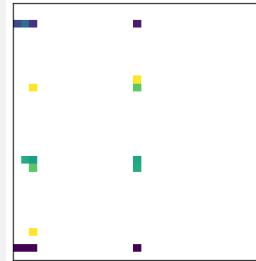


Image-based

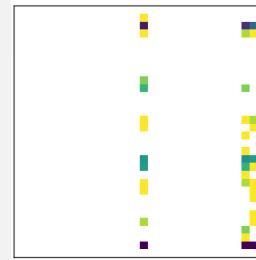
Rotate



Color jitter

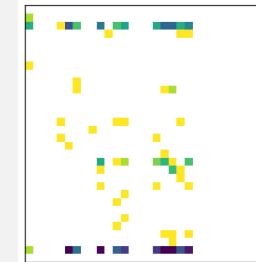


Horizontal flip

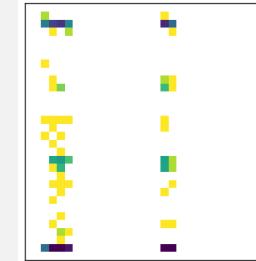


Time series-based

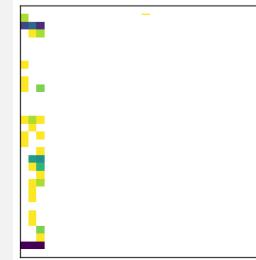
Change RTT



Time shift



Packet loss



Multiply packets timestamp
by a random factor

Add a random factor to
Packets timestamp

Remove a window of packets

Experimental settings (1/3)

Dataset folds

UCDAVIS-19

pretraining

Script

Human

Experimental settings (1/3)

Dataset folds

UCDAVIS-19

pretraining

Script

Human

100 samples
per class

+

Augmented
9 times

Experimental settings (1/3)

Dataset folds

UCDAVIS-19

pretraining

Script

Human

100 samples
per class

+

Augmented
9 times

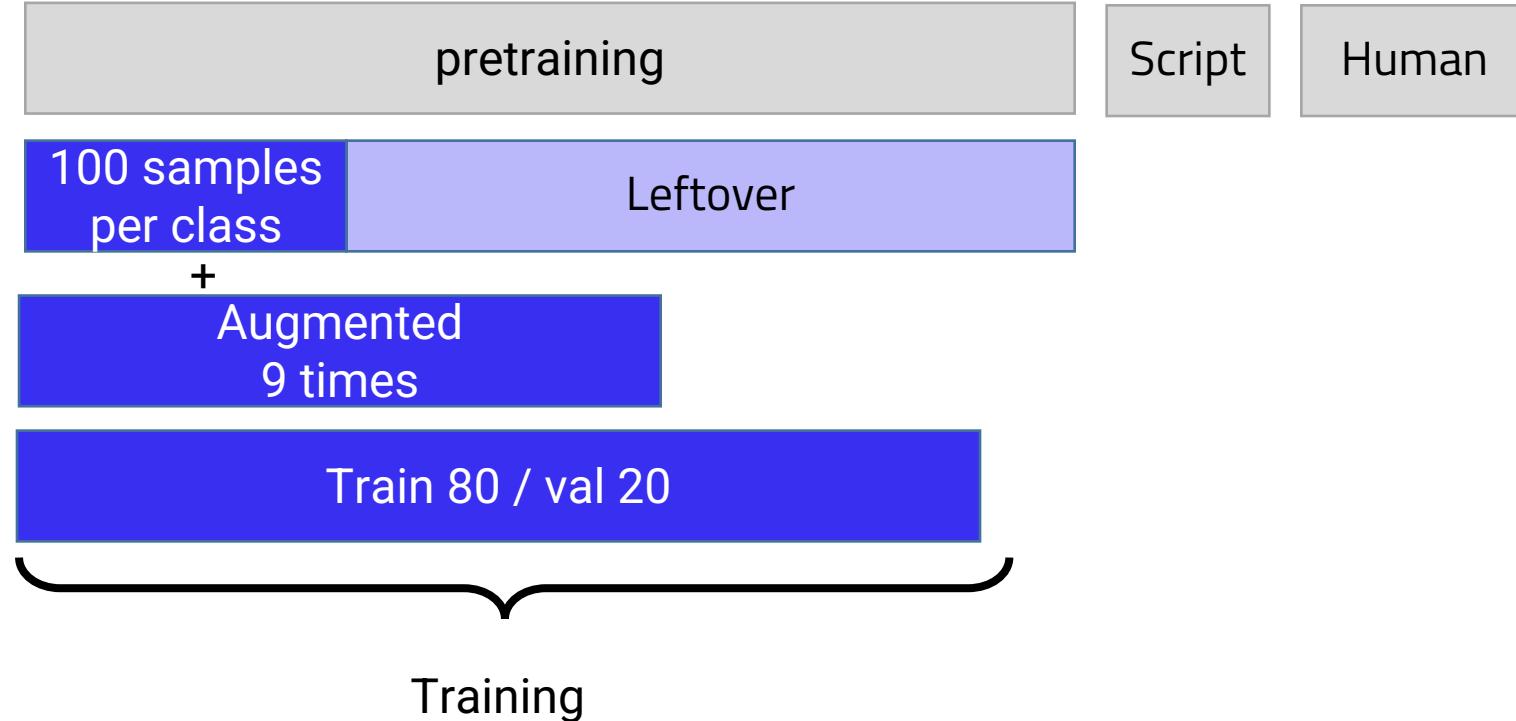
Train 80 / val 20

Training

Experimental settings (1/3)

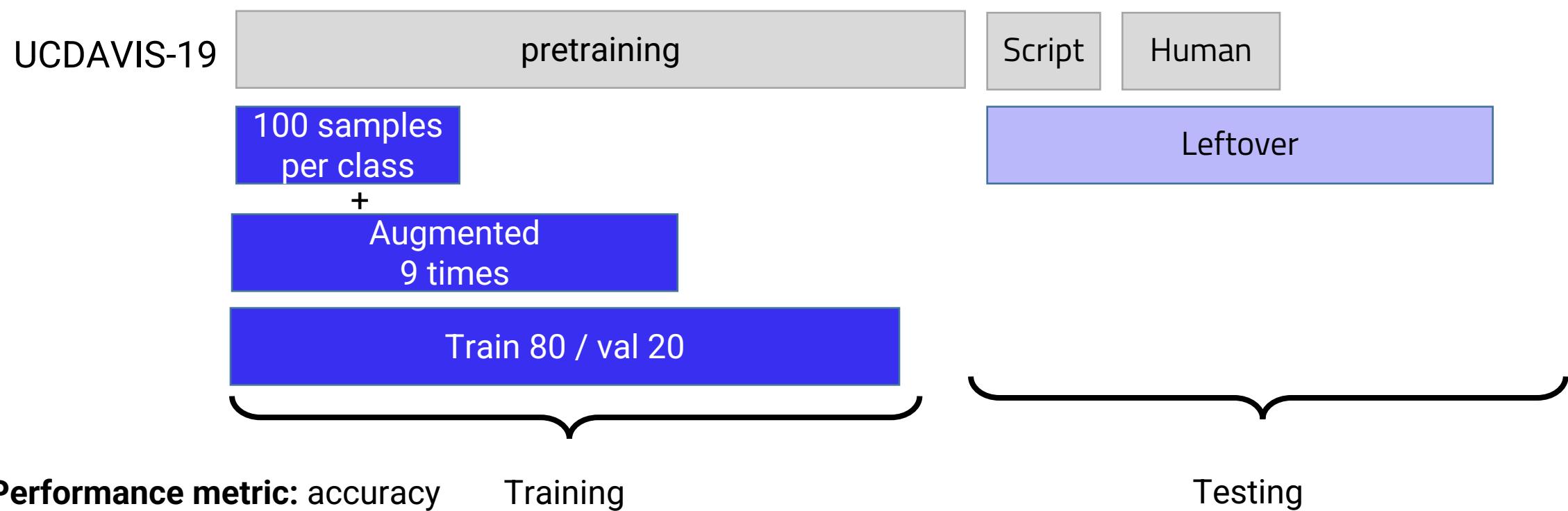
Dataset folds

UCDAVIS-19



Experimental settings (1/3)

Dataset folds



Experimental settings (1/3)

Dataset folds



Performance metric: accuracy

Training

Testing

Other datasets

Train (80)

Val (10)

Test (10)

Performance metric: F1 score

Experimental settings (2/3)

Modeling framework and Artifacts

Created a framework to

- Trigger multiple modeling campaigns
- Fine-grained tracking of model training/inference performance
- Collect model artifacts
- Bind modeling to dataset splits



Experimental settings (2/3)

Modeling framework and Artifacts

Created a framework to

- Trigger multiple modeling campaigns
- Fine-grained tracking of model training/inference performance
- Collect model artifacts
- Bind modeling to dataset splits



Created 13 campaigns for a total of 2,760 experiments

Code artifacts



<https://github.com/tcbenchstack/tcbench>

Data artifacts



<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.c.6849252.v3>

Documentation



<https://tcbenchstack.github.io/tcbench/papers/imc23/>

Experimental settings (3/3)

More from IMC22 paper's authors

The IMC22 paper has a github repo <https://github.com/eyalho/mini-flowpic-traffic-classification>

...but available code is not usable

- *Code only for SimCLR pretraining*
- *Network architectures and training are not the same as in the paper*
- *As is, the code is mixing training includes also testing samples*

We contacted IMC22 paper's authors mostly during camera ready

...but we received only short and delayed answers

Outline

1. Introduce the IMC22 paper and set our goals
2. Datasets and methodology

3. Results

- 1. ML baseline**
- 2. Supervision**
- 3. Contrastive learning**

4. Closing remarks

ML Baseline

Input (size)	Model	Paper	Accuracy 95 th CI		
			Script	Human	
Flowpic (32x32)	CNN LeNet5	IMC22	98.67 <i>n.a.</i>	92.40 <i>n.a.</i>	
(a) Flowpic (32x32)	XGBoost	Ours	96.80±0.37	73.65±2.14	
(b) Time series (3x10)	XGBoost	Ours	94.53±0.56	66.91±1.40	

(a) Flattened flowpic; (b) concat first 10 values of packet size, direction and inter arrival time

Our results are aggregation of 15 experiments (5 splits x 3 seeds)

Input (size)	Model	Paper	Accuracy 95 th CI		
			Script	Human	
Flowpic (32x32)	CNN LeNet5	IMC22	98.67	n.a.	92.40 n.a.
(a) Flowpic (32x32)	XGBoost	Ours	-1.87	96.80±0.37	73.65±2.14
(b) Time series (3x10)	XGBoost	Ours	-4.14	94.53±0.56	66.91±1.40

(a) Flattened flowpic; (b) concat first 10 values of packet size, direction and inter arrival time

Our results are aggregation of 15 experiments (5 splits x 3 seeds)

- On **Script**, results on par with flowpic
but lower performance with time series
(10 pkts -vs- 15s of traffic)

Input (size)	Model	Paper	Accuracy 95th CI	
			Script	Human
Flowpic (32x32)	CNN LeNet5	IMC22	98.67 -1.87	92.40 -18.75
(a) Flowpic (32x32)	XGBoost	Ours	96.80±0.37 -4.14	73.65±2.14 -25.49
(b) Time series (3x10)	XGBoost	Ours	94.53±0.56	66.91±1.40

(a) Flattened flowpic; (b) concat first 10 values of packet size, direction and inter arrival time

Our results are aggregation of 15 experiments (5 splits x 3 seeds)

- On **Script**, results on par with flowpic but lower performance with time series (*10 pkts -vs- 15s of traffic*)
- On **Human**, unexpectedly large differences

Input (size)	Model	Paper	Accuracy 95 th CI	
			Script	Human
Flowpic (32x32)	CNN LeNet5	IMC22	98.67 -1.87	92.40 n.a.
(a) Flowpic (32x32)	XGBoost	Ours	96.80±0.37 -4.14	73.65±2.14 -25.49
(b) Time series (3x10)	XGBoost	Ours	94.53±0.56	66.91±1.40

(a) Flattened flowpic; (b) concat first 10 values of packet size, direction and inter arrival time

Our results are aggregation of 15 experiments (5 splits x 3 seeds)

- On **Script**, results on par with flowpic but lower performance with time series (*10 pkts -vs- 15s of traffic*)
- On **Human**, unexpectedly large differences



Be **very cautious** to understand the cause of the **performance discrepancy**

Supervised settings

Benchmark augmentations in supervised setting

Each ours value is an aggregation of 15 experiments (5 splits x 3 seeds)

flowpic res.	Test on Script						Test on Human						Test on Leftover		
	IMC22			Ours			IMC22			Ours			Ours		
	32	64	1500	32	64	1500	32	64	1500	32	64	1500	32	64	1500
No augment.	98.67	99.10	96.22	95.64 \pm 0.37	95.87 \pm 0.29	94.93 \pm 0.72	92.40	85.60	73.30	68.84 \pm 1.45	69.08 \pm 1.35	69.32 \pm 1.63	95.78 \pm 0.29	96.09 \pm 0.38	95.79 \pm 0.51
Rotate	98.60	98.87	94.89	96.31 \pm 0.44	96.93 \pm 0.46	95.69 \pm 0.39	93.73	87.07	77.30	71.65 \pm 1.98	71.08 \pm 1.51	68.19 \pm 0.97	96.76 \pm 0.35	97.00 \pm 0.38	95.79 \pm 0.31
Horizontal flip	98.93	99.27	97.33	95.47 \pm 0.45	96.00 \pm 0.59	94.86 \pm 0.79	94.67	79.33	87.90	69.40 \pm 1.63	70.52 \pm 2.03	73.90 \pm 1.06	95.68 \pm 0.40	96.32 \pm 0.59	95.97 \pm 0.80
Color jitter	96.73	96.40	94.00	97.56 \pm 0.55	97.16 \pm 0.62	94.93 \pm 0.68	82.93	74.93	68.00	68.43 \pm 2.82	70.20 \pm 1.99	69.08 \pm 1.72	96.93 \pm 0.56	96.46 \pm 0.46	95.47 \pm 0.49
Packet loss	98.73	99.60	96.22	96.89 \pm 0.52	96.84 \pm 0.63	95.96 \pm 0.51	90.93	85.60	84.00	70.68 \pm 1.35	71.33 \pm 1.45	71.08 \pm 1.13	96.99 \pm 0.39	97.25 \pm 0.39	96.84 \pm 0.49
Time shift	99.13	99.53	97.56	96.71 \pm 0.60	97.16 \pm 0.49	96.89 \pm 0.27	92.80	87.30	77.30	70.36 \pm 1.63	71.89 \pm 1.59	71.08 \pm 1.33	97.02 \pm 0.50	97.51 \pm 0.46	97.67 \pm 0.29
Change RTT	99.40	100.00	98.44	97.29 \pm 0.35	97.02 \pm 0.46	96.93 \pm 0.31	96.40	88.60	90.70	70.76 \pm 1.99	71.49 \pm 1.59	71.97 \pm 1.08	98.38 \pm 0.18	97.97 \pm 0.39	98.19 \pm 0.22
<i>Mean diff</i>	<i>-2.05</i>			<i>-2.26</i>			<i>-21.96</i>			<i>-13.27</i>			<i>-9.13</i>		

Benchmark augmentations in supervised setting

Each ours value is an aggregation of 15 experiments (5 splits x 3 seeds)

flowpic res.	Test on Script						Test on Human						Test on Leftover		
	IMC22			Ours			IMC22			Ours			Ours		
	32	64	1500	32	64	1500	32	64	1500	32	64	1500	32	64	1500
No augment.	98.67	99.10	96.22	95.64±0.37	95.87±0.29	94.93±0.72	92.40	85.60	73.30	68.84±1.45	69.08±1.35	69.32±1.63	95.78±0.29	96.09±0.38	95.79±0.51
Rotate	98.60	98.87	94.89	96.31±0.44	96.93±0.46	95.69±0.39	93.73	87.07	77.30	71.65±1.98	71.08±1.51	68.19±0.97	96.76±0.35	97.00±0.38	95.79±0.31
Horizontal flip	98.93	99.27	97.33	95.47±0.45	96.00±0.59	94.86±0.79	94.67	79.33	87.90	69.40±1.63	70.52±2.03	73.90±1.06	95.68±0.40	96.32±0.59	95.97±0.80
Color jitter	96.73	96.40	94.00	97.56±0.55	97.16±0.62	94.93±0.68	82.93	74.93	68.00	68.43±2.82	70.20±1.99	69.08±1.72	96.93±0.56	96.46±0.46	95.47±0.49
Packet loss	98.73	99.60	96.22	96.89±0.52	96.84±0.63	95.96±0.51	90.93	85.60	84.00	70.68±1.35	71.33±1.45	71.08±1.13	96.99±0.39	97.25±0.39	96.84±0.49
Time shift	99.13	99.53	97.56	96.71±0.60	97.16±0.49	96.89±0.27	92.80	87.30	77.30	70.36±1.63	71.89±1.59	71.08±1.33	97.02±0.50	97.51±0.46	97.67±0.29
Change RTT	99.40	100.00	98.44	97.29±0.35	97.02±0.46	96.93±0.31	96.40	88.60	90.70	70.76±1.99	71.49±1.59	71.97±1.08	98.38±0.18	97.97±0.39	98.19±0.22
<i>Mean diff</i>	$\leftarrow 2.21 \rightarrow$			-2.05	-2.26	-0.63	$\leftarrow 12.19 \rightarrow$			-21.96	-13.27	-9.13			

From IMC22 evaluation

- 32x32 is superior to higher resolutions

Benchmark augmentations in supervised setting

Each ours value is an aggregation of 15 experiments (5 splits x 3 seeds)

flowpic res.	Test on Script						Test on Human						Test on Leftover			
	IMC22			Ours			IMC22			Ours			Ours			
	32	64	1500	32	64	1500	32	64	1500	32	64	1500	32	64	1500	
No augment.	98.67	99.10	96.22	95.64±0.37	95.87±0.29	94.93±0.72	92.40	85.60	73.30	68.84±1.45	69.08±1.35	69.32±1.63	95.78±0.29	96.09±0.38	95.79±0.51	
Rotate	98.60	98.87	94.89	96.31±0.44	96.93±0.46	95.69±0.39	93.73	87.07	77.30	71.65±1.98	71.08±1.51	68.19±0.97	96.76±0.35	97.00±0.38	95.79±0.31	
Horizontal flip	98.93	99.27	97.35	95.47±0.45	96.00±0.59	94.86±0.79	94.67	79.33	87.90	69.40±1.63	70.52±2.03	73.90±1.06	95.68±0.40	96.32±0.59	95.97±0.80	
Color jitter	96.73	96.40	94.00	97.5	6.61	97.16±0.02	94.95±0.08	82.93	74.93	68.00	68.43±2.82	70.20±1.99	69.08±1.72	96.93±0.56	96.46±0.46	95.47±0.49
Packet loss	98.73	99.60	96.21	96.89±0.52	96.84±0.63	95.96±0.51	90.93	85.60	84.00	70.68±1.35	71.33±1.45	71.08±1.13	96.99±0.39	97.25±0.39	96.84±0.49	
Time shift	99.13	99.53	97.56	96.71±0.60	97.16±0.49	96.89±0.27	92.80	87.30	77.30	70.36±1.63	71.89±1.59	71.08±1.33	97.02±0.50	97.51±0.46	97.67±0.29	
Change RTT	99.40	100.00	98.44	97.29±0.35	97.02±0.46	96.93±0.31	96.40	88.60	90.70	70.76±1.99	71.49±1.59	71.97±1.08	98.38±0.18	97.97±0.39	98.19±0.22	
<i>Mean diff</i>		-2.05	-2.26	-0.63				-21.96	-13.27	-9.13						

From IMC22 evaluation

- 32x32 is superior to higher resolutions
- Contained difference between Script and Human partitions

Benchmark augmentations in supervised setting

Each ours value is an aggregation of 15 experiments (5 splits x 3 seeds)

flowpic res.	Test on Script						Test on Human						Test on Leftover			
	IMC22			Ours			IMC22			Ours			Ours	32	64	1500
	32	64	1500	32	64	1500	32	64	1500	32	64	1500	32	64	1500	
No augment.	98.67	99.10	96.22	95.64±0.37	95.87±0.29	94.93±0.71	92.40	85.60	73.30	68.84±1.45	69.08±1.35	69.32±1.63	95.78±0.29	96.09±0.38	95.79±0.51	
Rotate	98.60	98.87	94.89	96.31±0.44	96.93±0.46	95.69±0.39	93.73	87.07	77.30	71.65±1.98	71.08±1.51	68.19±0.97	96.76±0.35	97.00±0.38	95.79±0.31	
Horizontal flip	98.93	99.27	97.33	95.47±0.45	96.00±0.59	94.86±0.79	94.67	79.33	87.90	69.40±1.63	70.52±2.03	73.90±1.06	95.68±0.40	96.32±0.59	95.97±0.80	
Color jitter	96.73	96.40	94.00	97.56±0.55	97.62	94.93±0.68	82.93	74.93	68.00	68.43±2.82	-0.64	69.08±1.72	96.93±0.56	96.46±0.46	95.47±0.49	
Packet loss	98.73	99.60	96.22	96.89±0.52	96.84±0.63	95.96±0.51	90.93	85.60	84.00	70.68±1.35	71.33±1.45	71.08±1.13	96.99±0.39	97.25±0.39	96.84±0.49	
Time shift	99.13	99.53	97.56	96.71±0.60	97.16±0.49	96.89±0.27	92.80	87.30	77.30	70.36±1.63	71.89±1.59	71.08±1.33	97.02±0.50	97.51±0.46	97.67±0.29	
Change RTT	99.40	100.00	98.44	97.29±0.35	97.02±0.46	96.93±0.31	96.40	88.60	90.70	70.76±1.99	71.49±1.59	71.97±1.08	98.38±0.18	97.97±0.39	98.19±0.22	
<i>Mean diff</i>			-2.05	-2.26	-0.63				-21.96	-13.27	-9.13					

From IMC22 evaluation

- 32x32 is superior to higher resolutions
- Contained difference between Script and Human partitions

From Our evaluation

- Small differences between resolutions
but 1 model @1500x1500 takes ~20min vs <1min @32x32

Benchmark augmentations in supervised setting

Each ours value is an aggregation of 15 experiments (5 splits x 3 seeds)

flowpic res.	Test on Script						Test on Human						Test on Leftover		
	IMC22			Ours			IMC22			Ours			Ours		
	32	64	1500	32	64	1500	32	64	1500	32	64	1500	32	64	1500
No augment.	98.67	99.10	96.22	95.64 \pm 0.37	95.87 \pm 0.29	94.93 \pm 0.72	92.40	85.60	73.30	68.84 \pm 1.45	69.08 \pm 1.35	69.32 \pm 1.63	95.78 \pm 0.29	96.09 \pm 0.38	95.79 \pm 0.51
Rotate	98.60	98.87	94.89	96.31 \pm 0.44	96.93 \pm 0.46	95.69 \pm 0.39	93.73	87.07	77.30	71.65 \pm 1.98	71.08 \pm 1.51	68.19 \pm 0.97	96.76 \pm 0.35	97.00 \pm 0.38	95.79 \pm 0.31
Horizontal flip	98.93	99.27	97.33	95.47 \pm 0.45	96.00 \pm 0.59	94.86 \pm 0.79	94.67	79.33	87.90	69.40 \pm 1.63	70.52 \pm 2.03	73.90 \pm 1.06	95.68 \pm 0.40	96.32 \pm 0.59	95.97 \pm 0.80
Color jitter	96.73	96.40	94.00	97.56 \pm 0.55	97.16 \pm 0.62	94.93 \pm 0.68	82.93	74.93	68.00	68.43 \pm 2.82	70.20 \pm 1.99	69.08 \pm 1.72	96.93 \pm 0.56	96.46 \pm 0.46	95.47 \pm 0.49
Packet loss	98.73	99.60	96.22	96.89 \pm 0.52	96.84 \pm 0.63	95.96 \pm 0.51	90.93	85.60	84.00	70.68 \pm 1.35	71.33 \pm 1.45	71.08 \pm 1.13	96.99 \pm 0.39	97.25 \pm 0.39	96.84 \pm 0.49
Time shift	99.13	99.53	97.56	96.71 \pm 0.60	97.16 \pm 0.49	96.89 \pm 0.27	92.80	87.30	77.30	70.36 \pm 1.63	71.89 \pm 1.59	71.08 \pm 1.33	97.02 \pm 0.50	97.51 \pm 0.46	97.67 \pm 0.29
Change RTT	99.40	100.00	98.44	97.29 \pm 0.35	97.02 \pm 0.46	96.93 \pm 0.31	96.40	88.60	90.70	70.76 \pm 1.99	71.49 \pm 1.59	71.97 \pm 1.08	98.38 \pm 0.18	97.97 \pm 0.39	98.19 \pm 0.22
<i>Mean diff</i>				-2.05	-2.26	-0.63				-21.96	-13.27	-9.13			

From IMC22 evaluation

- 32x32 is superior to higher resolutions
- Contained difference between Script and Human partitions

From Our evaluation

- Small differences between resolutions
but 1 model @1500x1500 takes ~20min vs <1min @32x32
- Confirmed discrepancy observed via XGBoost

Benchmark augmentations in supervised setting

Each ours value is an aggregation of 15 experiments (5 splits x 3 seeds)

flowpic res.	Test on Script			Test on Human			Test on Leftover								
	IMC22			Ours			IMC22			Ours			Ours		
	32	64	1500	32	64	1500	32	64	1500	32	64	1500	32	64	1500
No augment.	98.67	99.10	96.22	95.64±0.37	95.87±0.29	94.93±0.72	92.40	85.60	73.30	68.84±1.45	69.08±1.35	69.32±1.63	95.78±0.29	96.09±0.38	95.79±0.51
Rotate	98.60	98.87	94.89	96.31±0.44	96.93±0.41	95.69±0.53	93.73±0.67	-0.23	-	71.65±1.58	71.08±1.51	68.19±1.97	96.76±0.35	97.00±0.38	95.79±0.31
Horizontal flip	98.93	99.27	97.33	95.47±0.45	96.00±0.59	94.86±0.79	94.67	79.33	87.90	69.40±1.63	70.52±2.03	73.90±1.06	95.68±0.40	96.32±0.59	95.97±0.80
Color jitter	96.73	96.40	94.00	97.56±0.55	97.16±0.62	94.93±0.60	82.93	74.93	66.00	-0.23	-	69.08±1.72	96.93±0.56	96.46±0.46	95.47±0.49
Packet loss	98.73	99.60	96.22	96.89±0.52	96.84±0.63	95.96±0.51	90.93	85.60	84.00	70.68±1.35	71.33±1.45	71.08±1.13	96.99±0.39	97.25±0.39	96.84±0.49
Time shift	99.13	99.53	97.56	96.71±0.60	97.16±0.49	96.89±0.27	92.80	87.50	77.50	70.56±1.65	-0.79	71.08±1.53	97.02±0.50	97.51±0.46	97.67±0.29
Change RTT	99.40	100.00	98.44	97.29±0.35	97.02±0.46	96.93±0.31	96.40	88.60	90.70	70.76±1.99	71.49±1.59	71.97±1.08	98.38±0.18	97.97±0.39	98.19±0.22
Mean diff	-2.05			-2.26			-0.63			-21.96			-13.27		

From IMC22 evaluation

- 32x32 is superior to higher resolutions
- Contained difference between Script and Human partitions

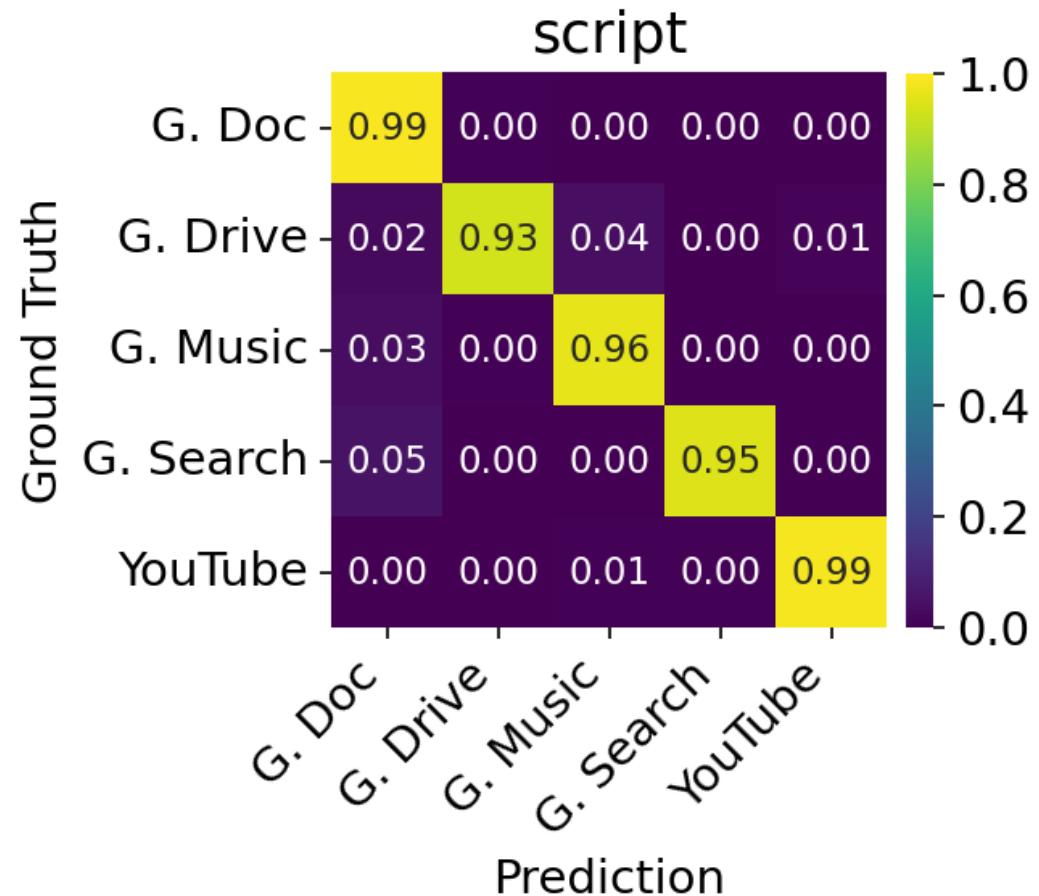
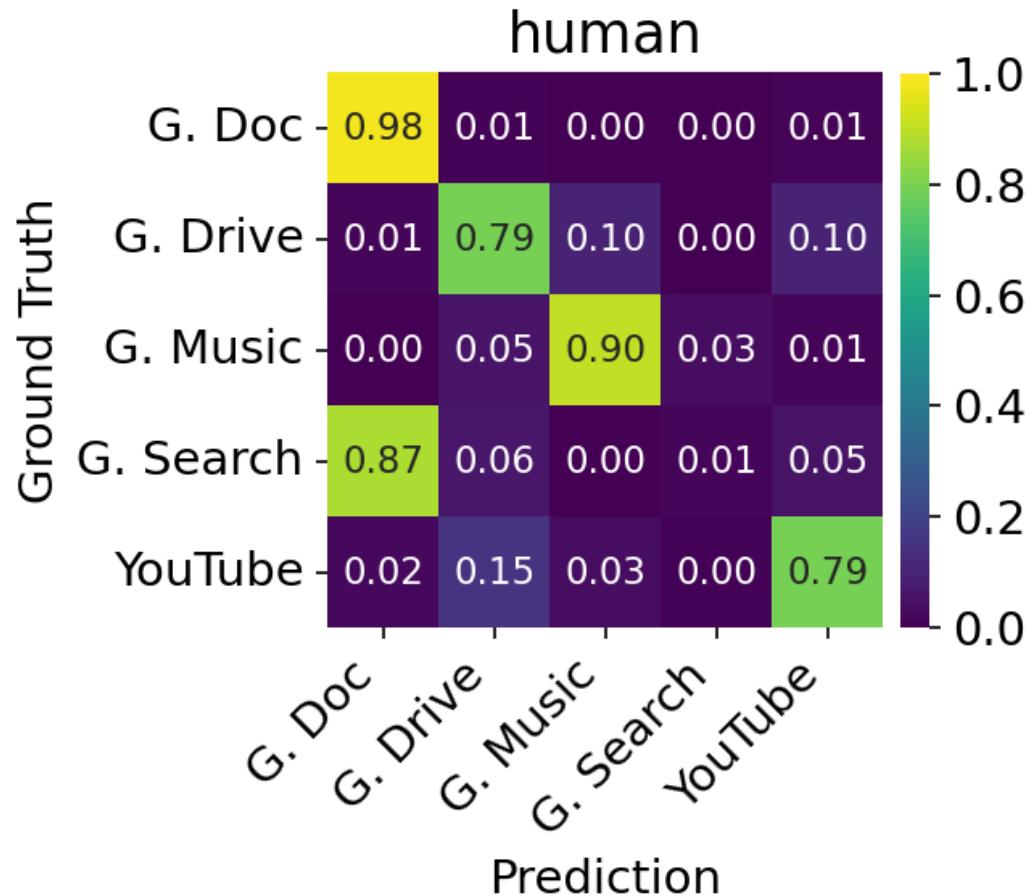
From Our evaluation

- Small differences between resolutions
but 1 model @1500x1500 takes ~20min vs <1min @32x32
- Confirmed discrepancy observed via XGBoost
- Leftover is consistent with Script

...so, what's the
problem with Human?

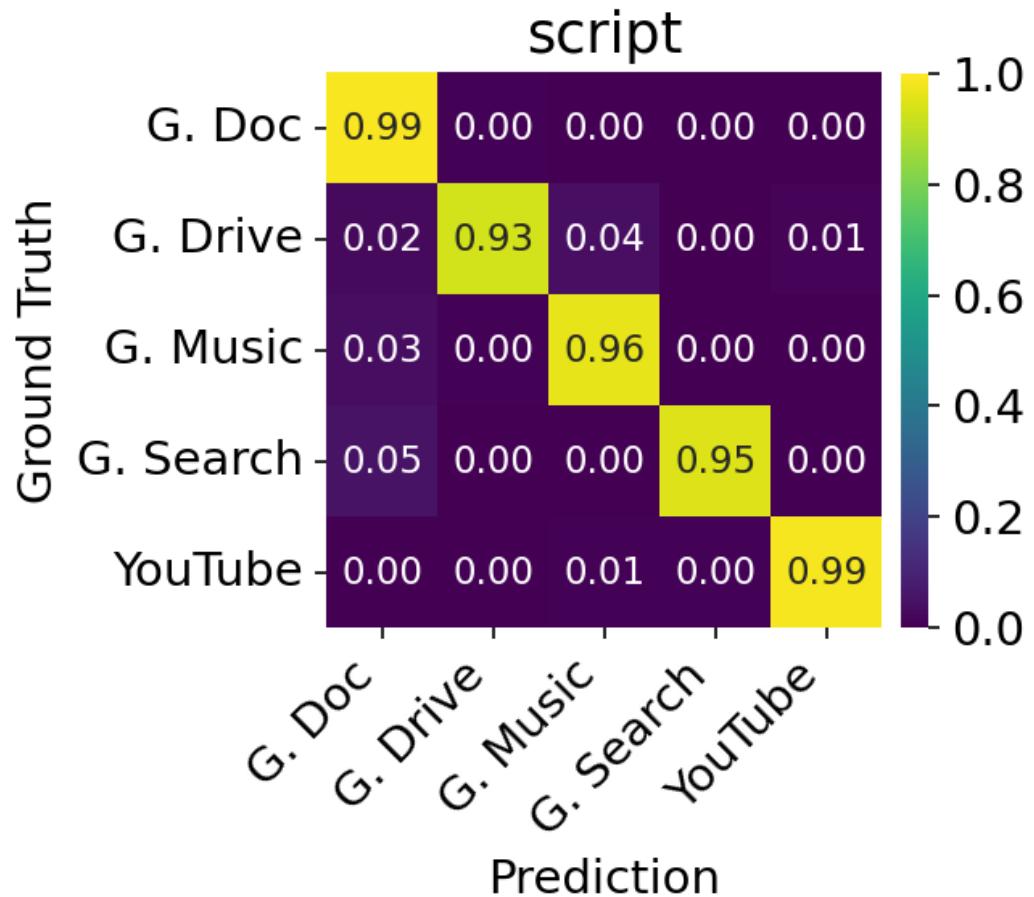
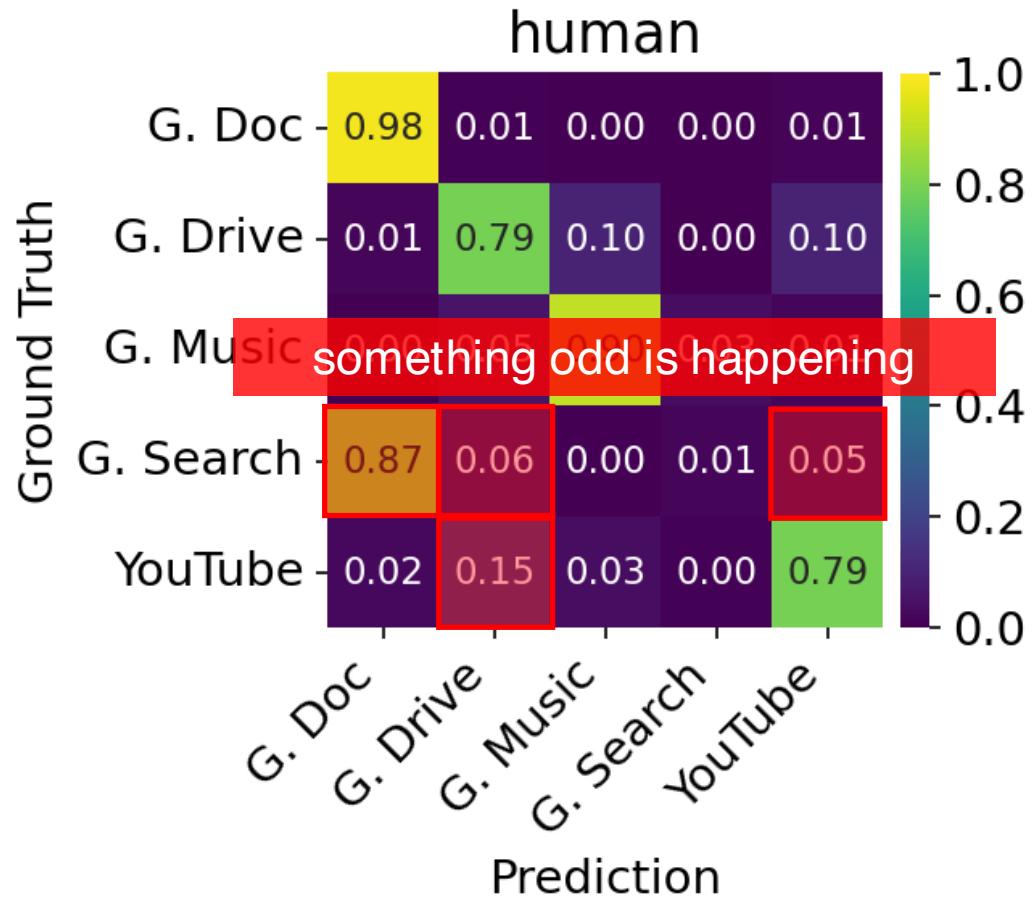
Investigating human-vs-script performance gap

Confusion matrixes



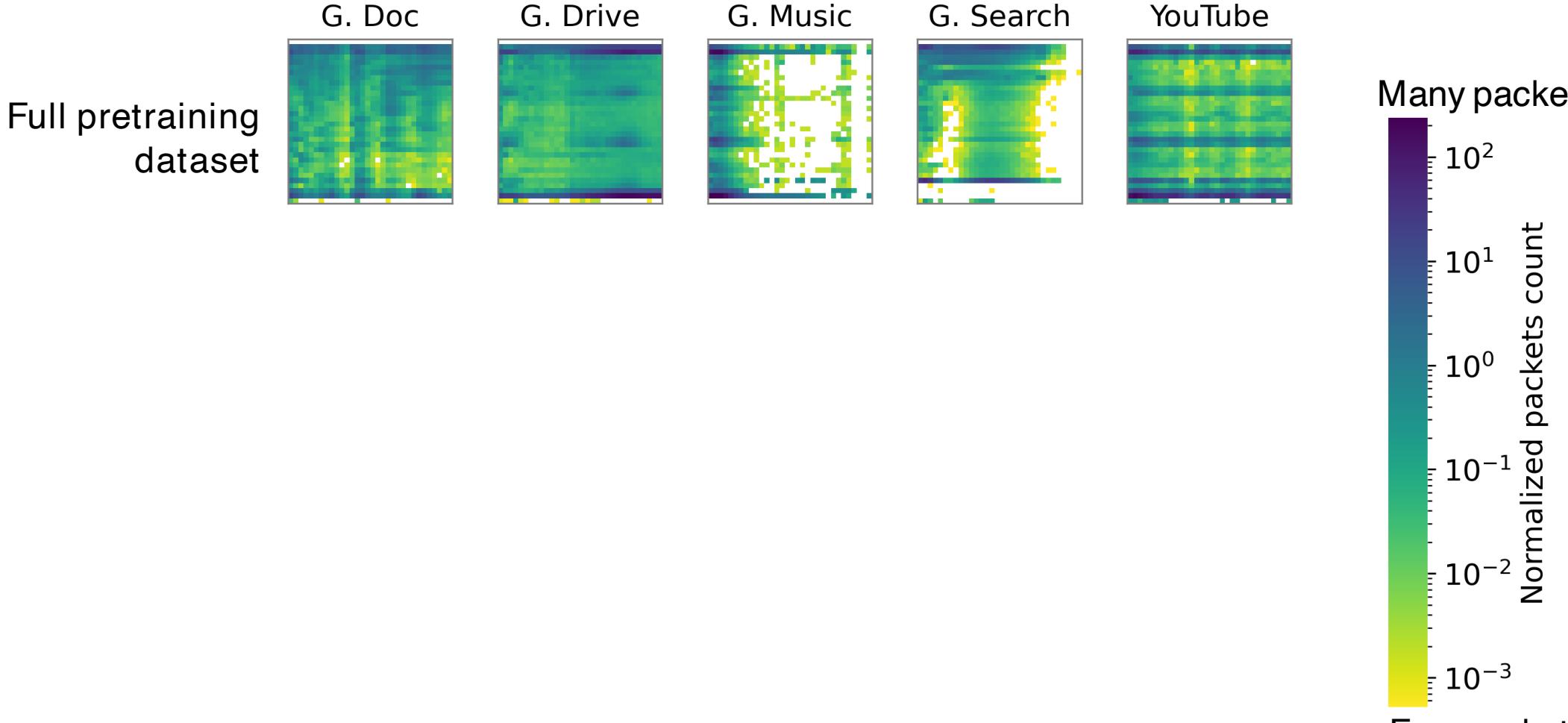
Investigating human-vs-script performance gap

Confusion matrixes



Investigating human-vs-script performance gap

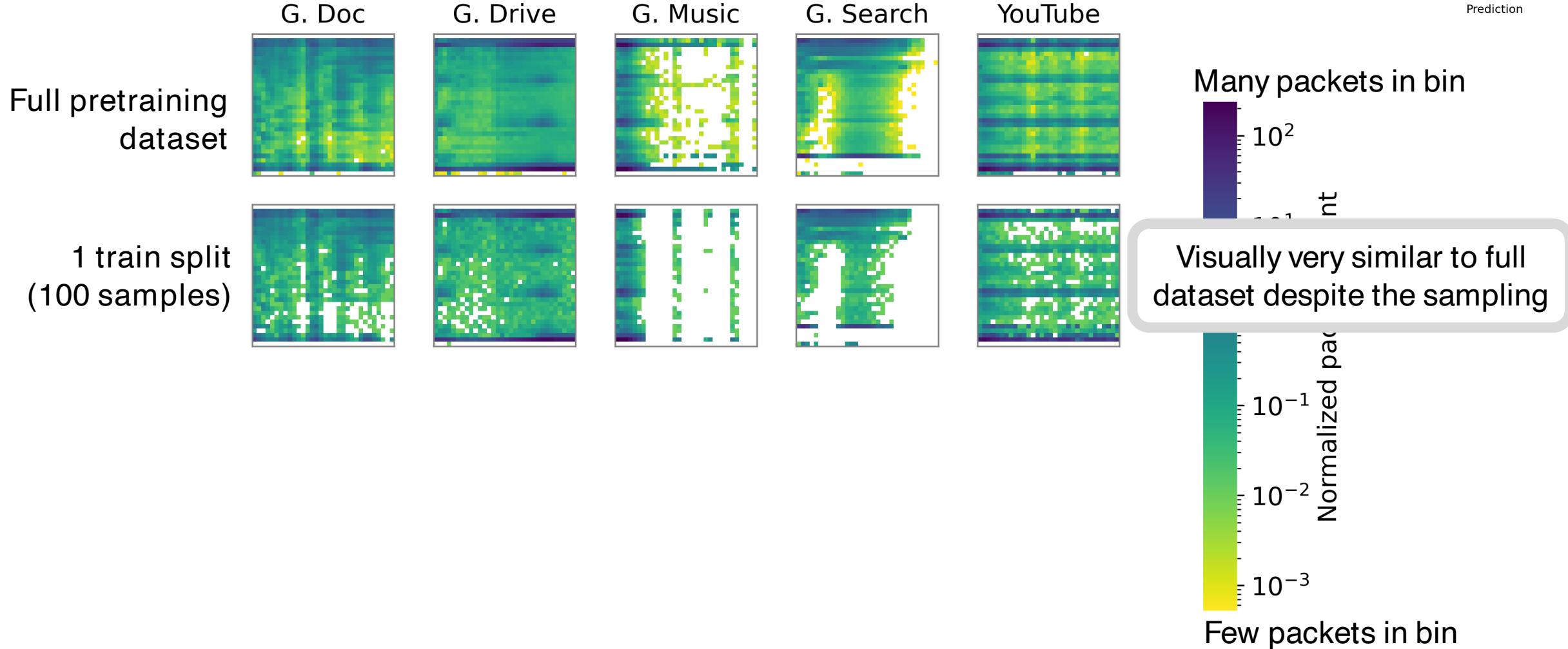
Average flowpics



		human				
		G. Doc	G. Drive	G. Music	G. Search	YouTube
Ground Truth	G. Doc	0.98	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
	G. Drive	0.01	0.79	0.10	0.00	0.10
G. Music	0.00	0.05	0.90	0.03	0.01	
G. Search	0.87	0.06	0.00	0.01	0.05	
YouTube	0.02	0.15	0.03	0.00	0.79	
		G. Doc	G. Drive	G. Music	G. Search	YouTube
		Prediction	Prediction	Prediction	Prediction	Prediction

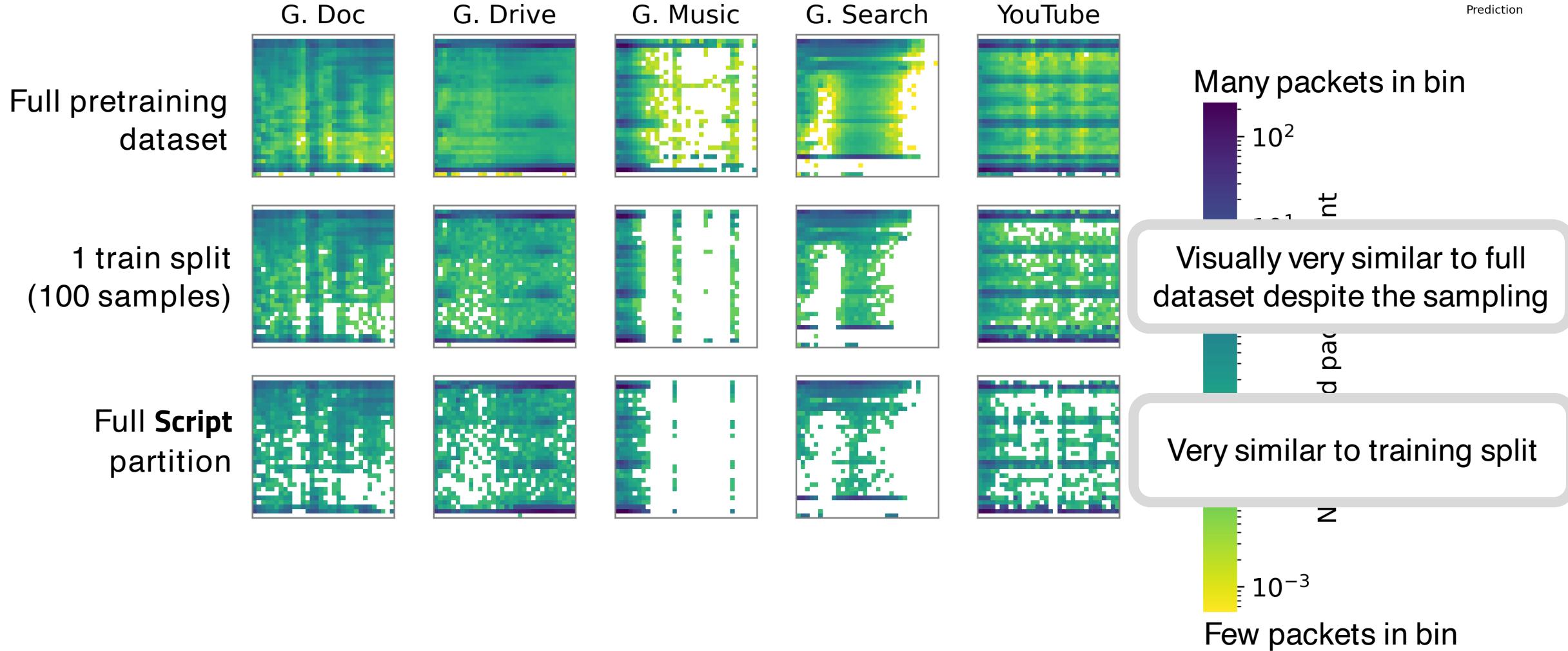
Investigating human-vs-script performance gap

Average flowpics



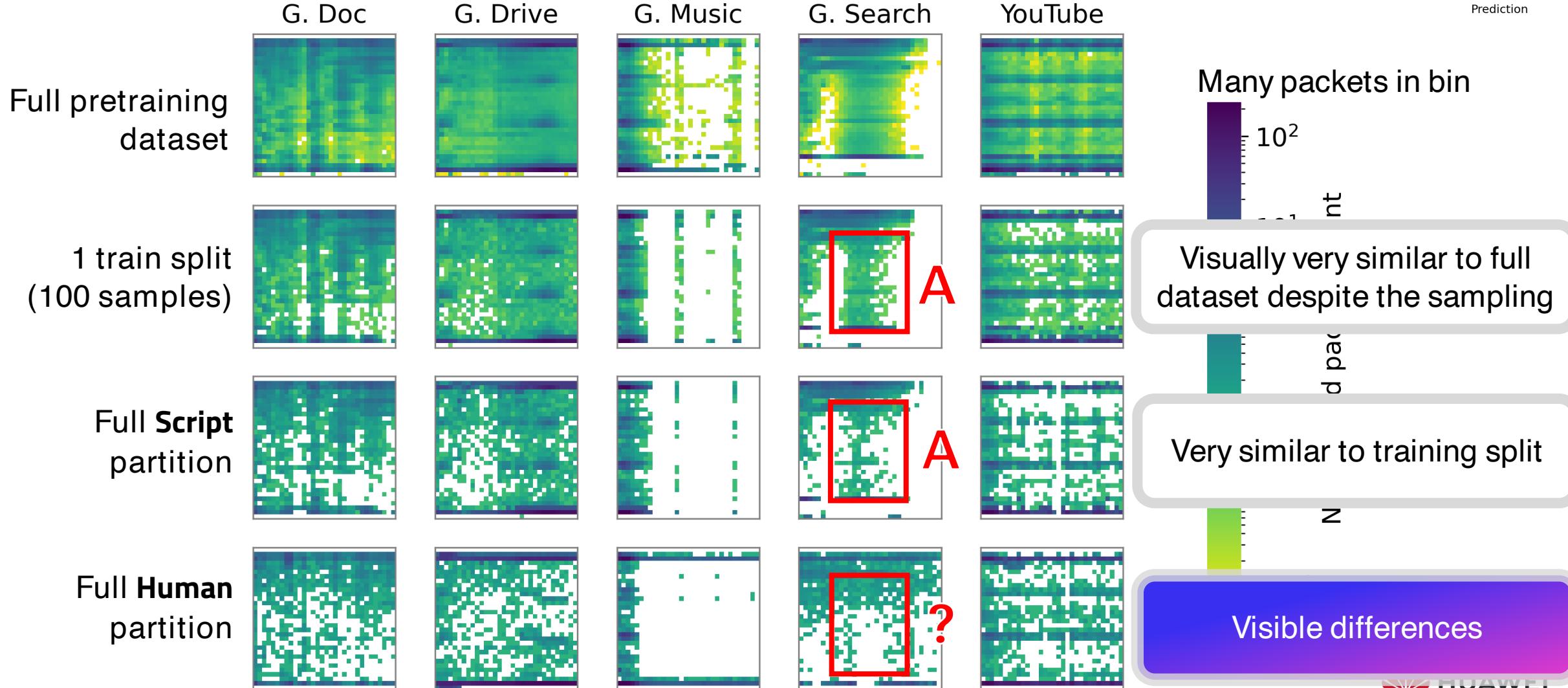
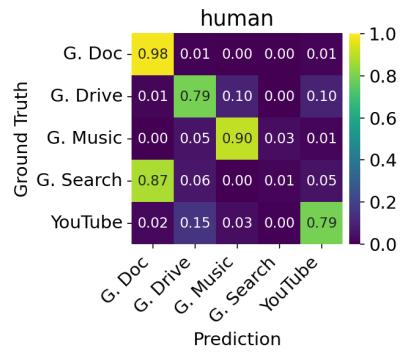
Investigating human-vs-script performance gap

Average flowpics



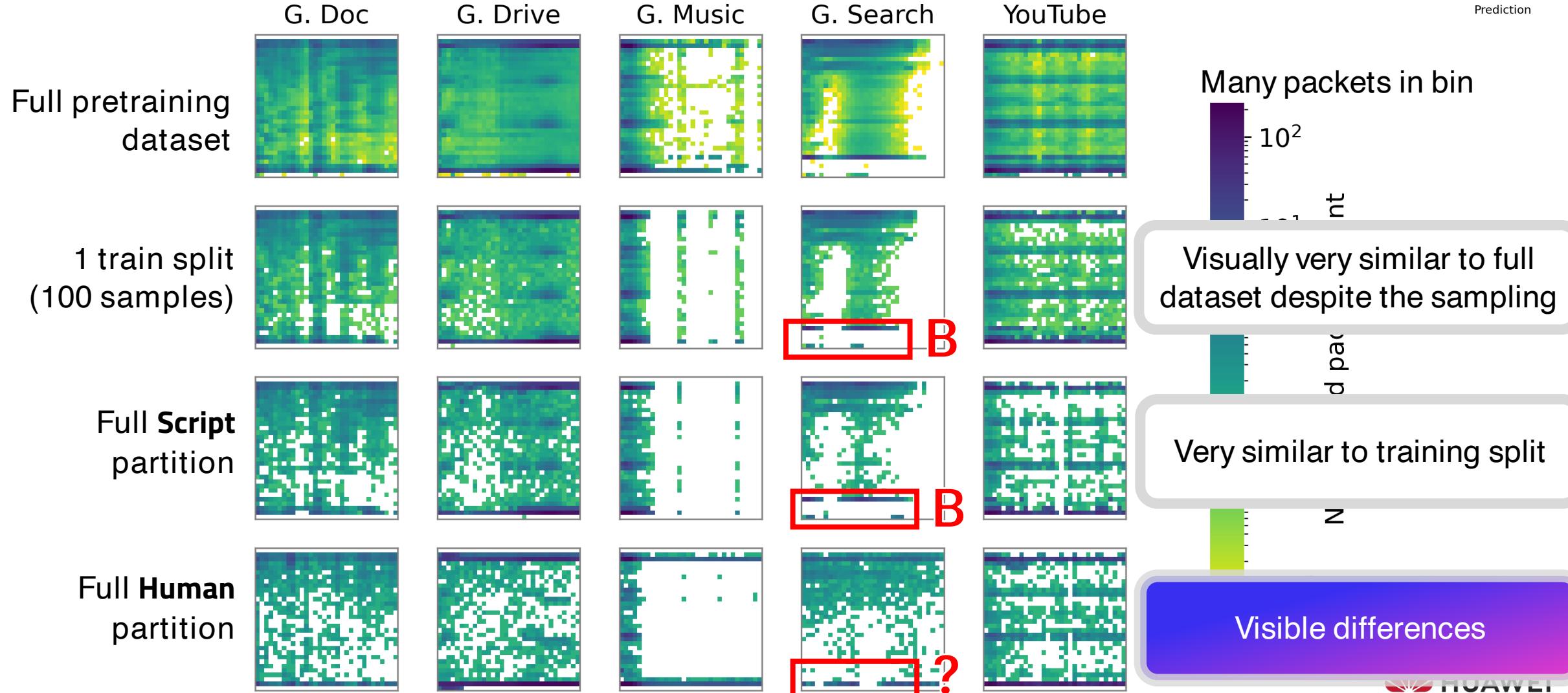
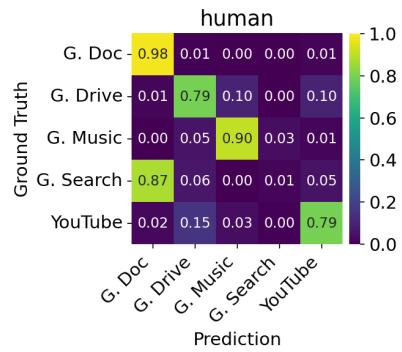
Investigating human-vs-script performance gap

Average flowpics



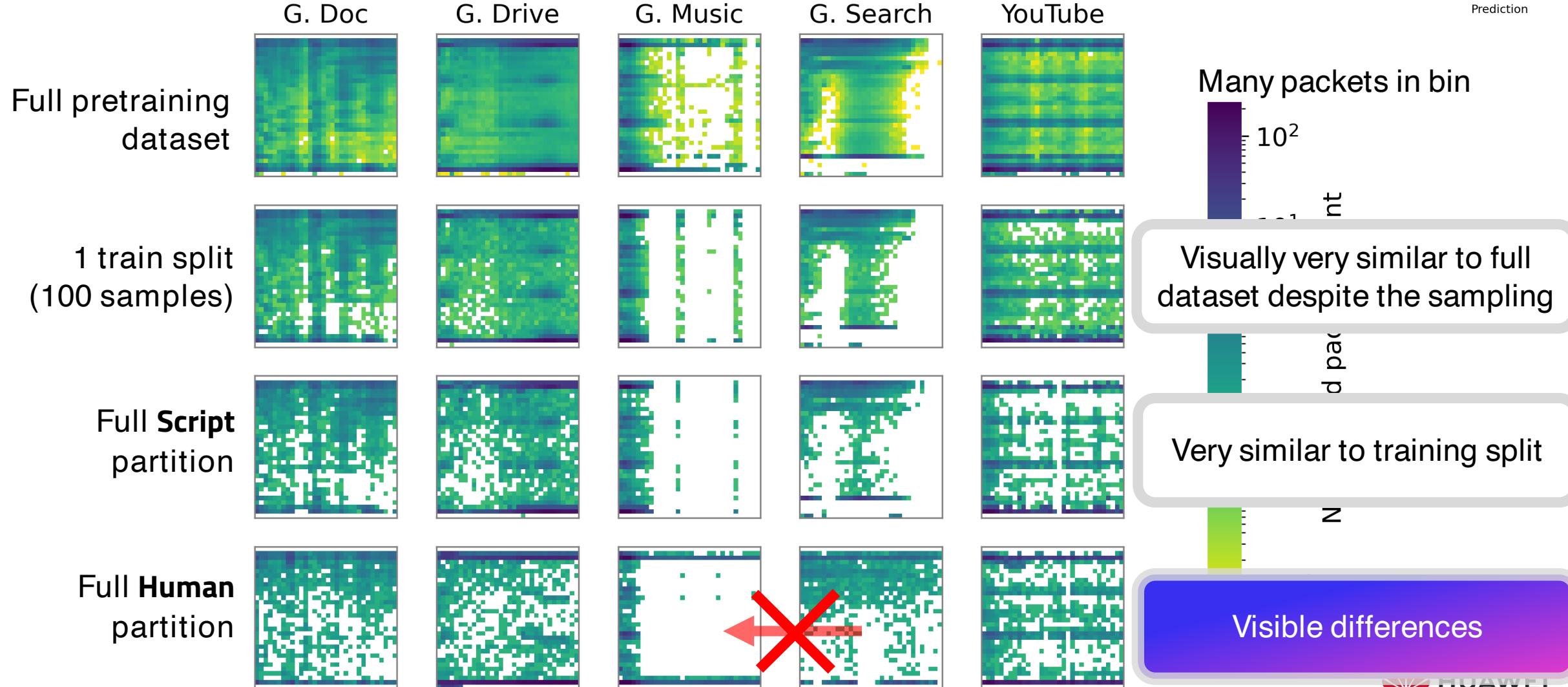
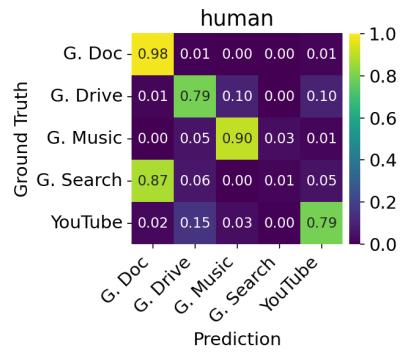
Investigating human-vs-script performance gap

Average flowpics



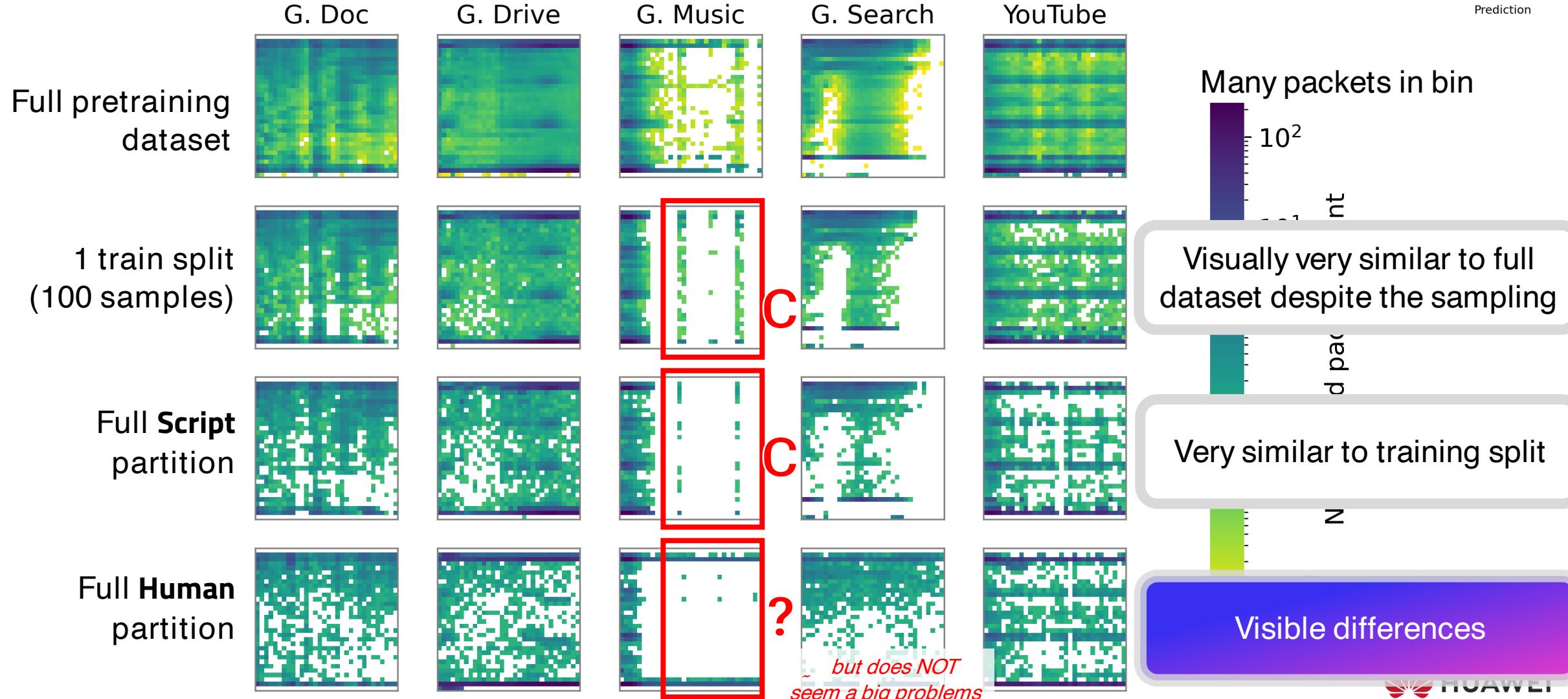
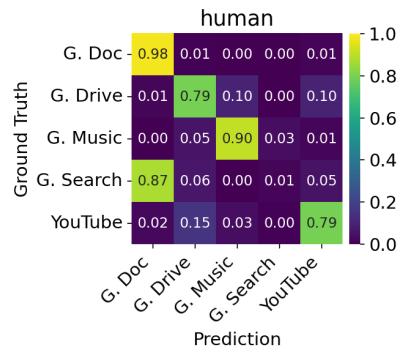
Investigating human-vs-script performance gap

Average flowpics



Investigating human-vs-script performance gap

Average flowpics



UCDAVIS-19 human partition suffers from a data shift

confirmed by

1. More analysis of the dataset
2. Replication of results of [1]

check our paper appendix 😊

Unclear why this did not affect IMC22 paper results

[1] How to Achieve High Classification Accuracy with Just a Few Labels: A Semi-supervised Approach Using Sampled Packets, ICDM19

Benchmark augmentations in supervised setting

Ranking augmentations

In the **IMC22** paper states that

- Change RTT is the best performing augmentations
- Time series augmentations are better than image transformations

...but no confidence reported

Benchmark augmentations in supervised setting

Ranking augmentations

In the **IMC22** paper states that

- Change RTT is the best performing augmentations
- Time series augmentations are better than image transformations

...but no confidence reported

We study **augmentations performance** via **critical distance [1]**

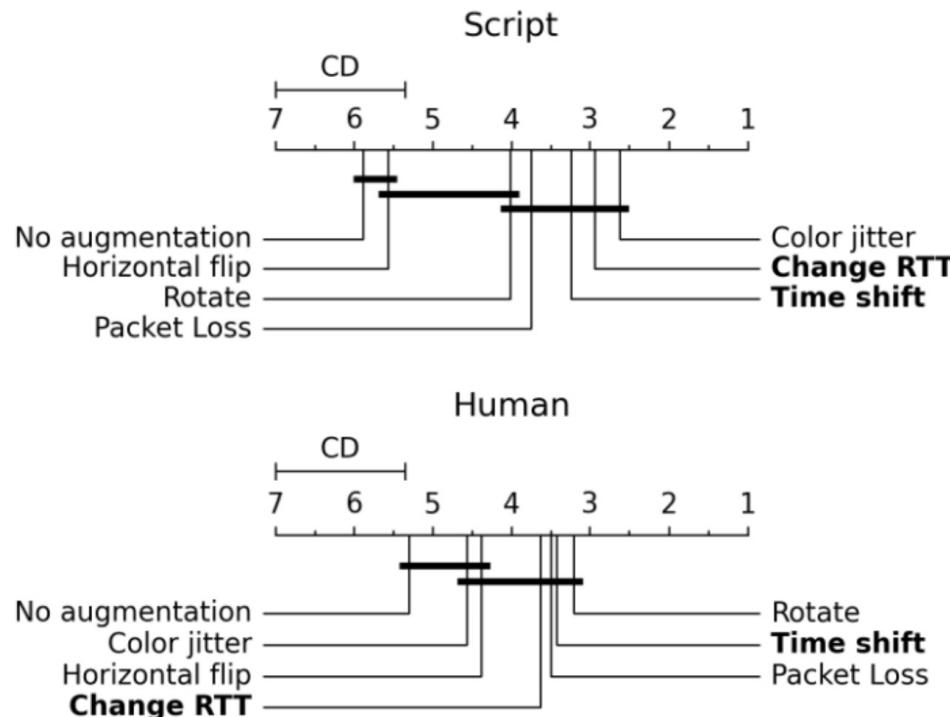
- For the same input configuration, rank augmentations from best (1) to worse (7)
- Compute average rank for each augmentation
- Use a pair-wise post-hoc Nemenyi test based and CD to assess statistical similarity

$$\text{Critical Distance (CD)} = q_\alpha \sqrt{\frac{k(k+1)}{6N}}$$

k : number of augmentations
 N : number of experiments
 q_α : studentized range statistic

Benchmark augmentations in supervised setting

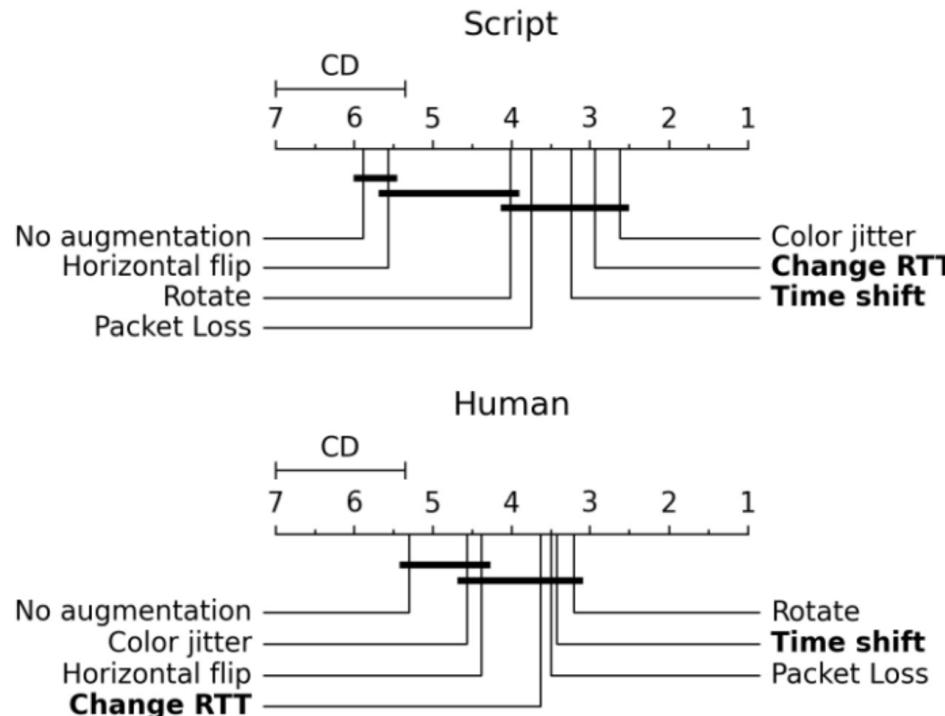
Ranking augmentations



Augmentations connected by horizontal lines
are NOT statistically different

Benchmark augmentations in supervised setting

Ranking augmentations



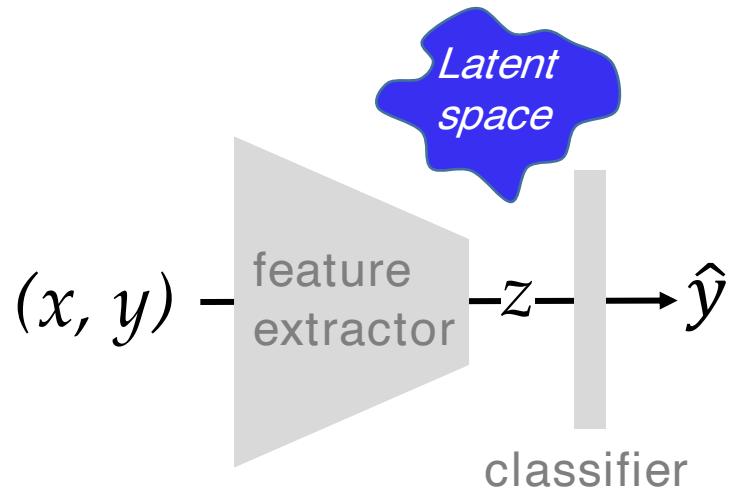
Takeaway

- Augmentations improve performance
- Time series augmentations are not statistically different from image augmentations

Augmentations connected by horizontal lines
are NOT statistically different

Contrastive learning settings

Supervised -vs- Contrastive learning



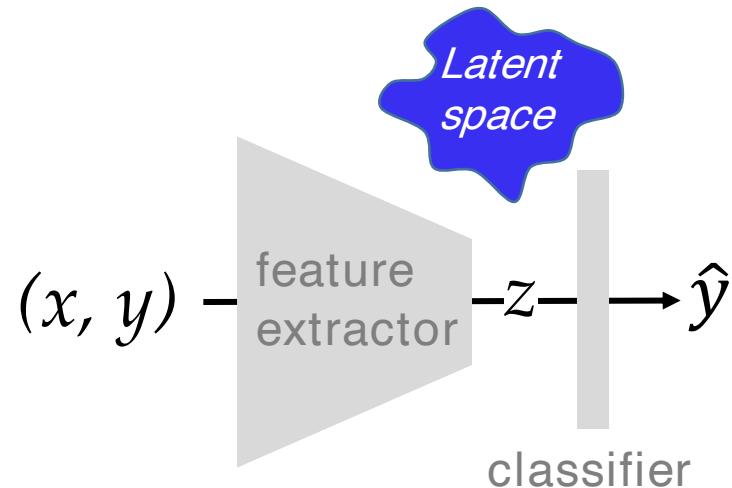
In **supervised** training

Good separation in the latent space leads to good performance

...but

- The (cross entropy) loss is computed after the classifier
- The latent space geometry is *indirectly* controlled

Supervised -vs- Contrastive learning

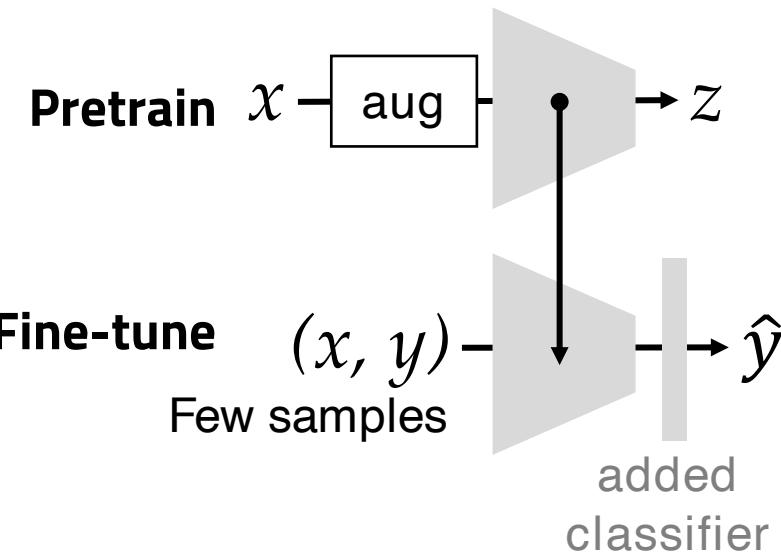


In **supervised** training

Good separation in the latent space leads to good performance

...but

- The (cross entropy) loss is computed after the classifier
- The latent space geometry is *indirectly* controlled

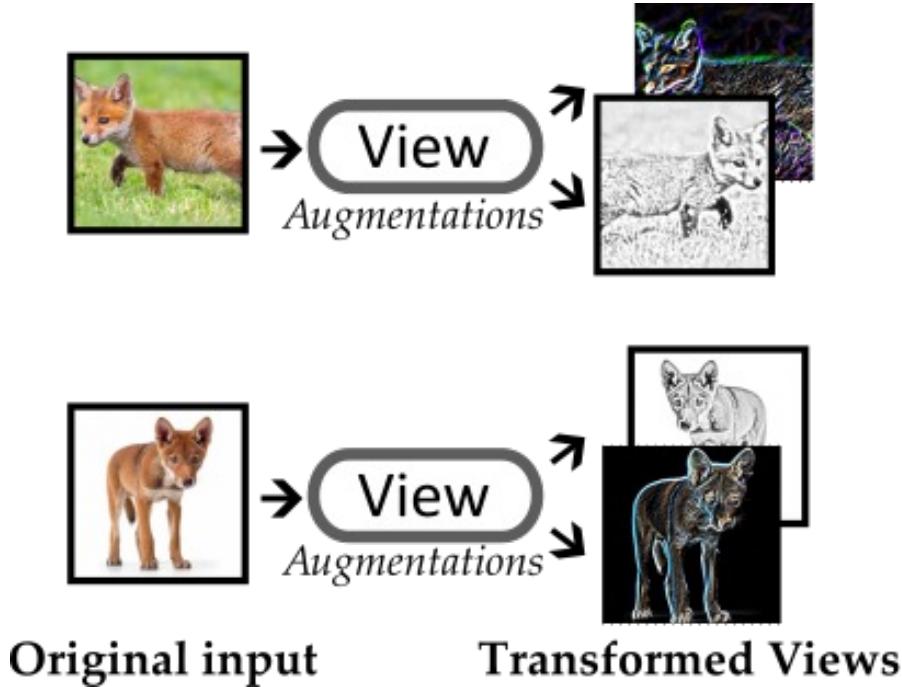


In **contrastive learning** training

- **First** a model is trained in an **unsupervised** manner controlling the latent space geometry
- **Then** the learned representation is finetuned with a **few labeled samples** for the specific classification task

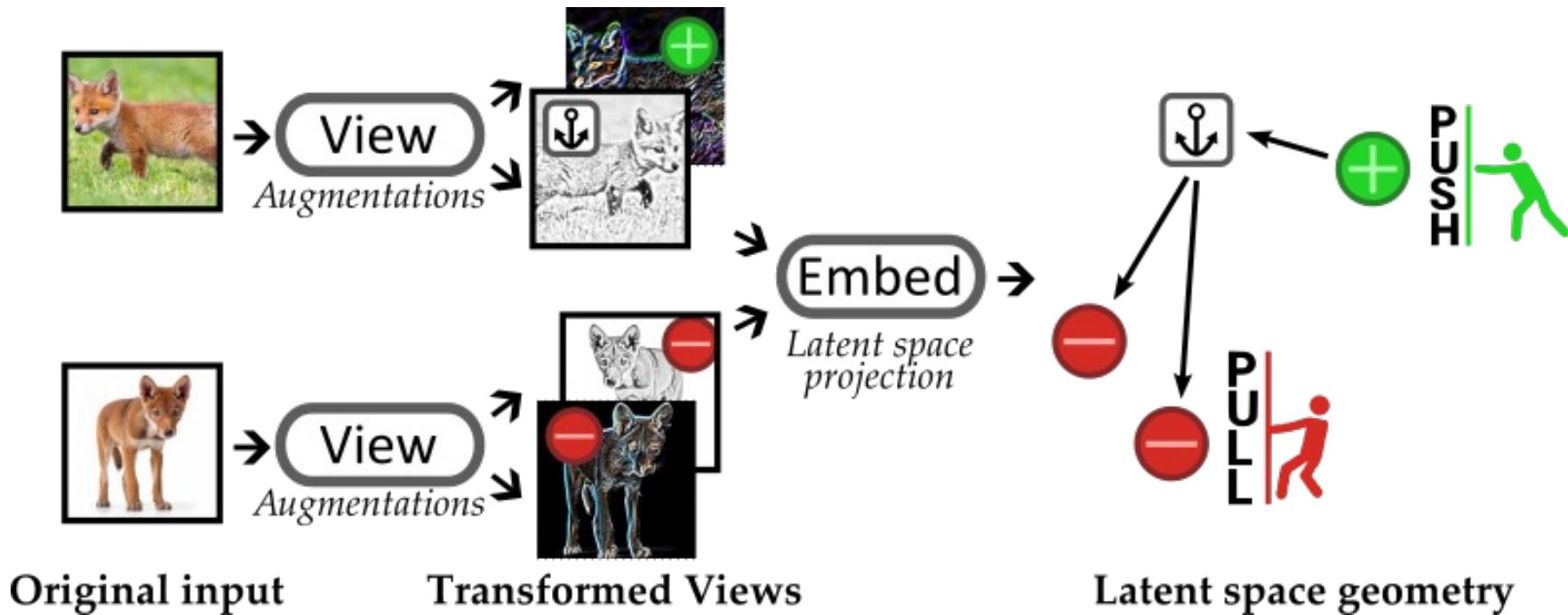
Self-supervision in contrastive learning

Base principle: In the absence of a label, a sample can only be similar to itself



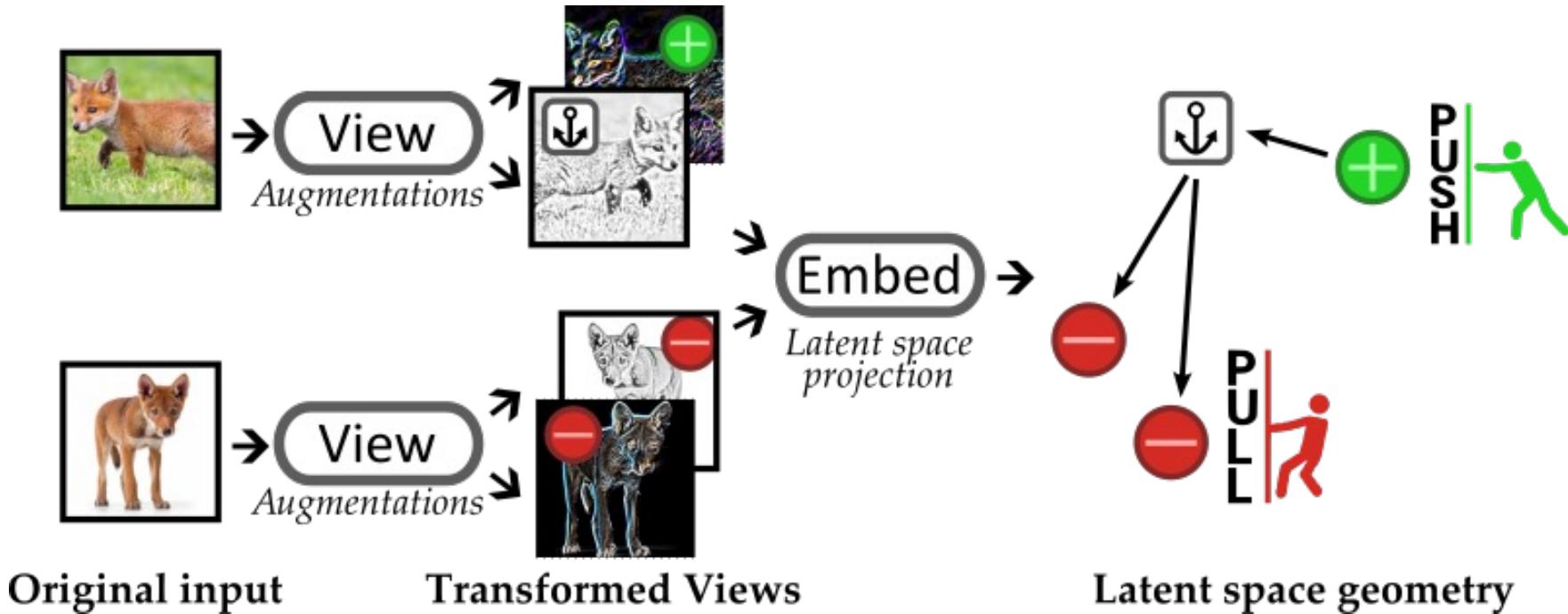
Self-supervision in contrastive learning

Base principle: In the absence of a label, a sample can only be similar to itself



Self-supervision in contrastive learning

Base principle: In the absence of a label, a sample can only be similar to itself



- Positive and anchor form *their own class* → harder problem than supervision
- The better the representation, the smaller the trainset to finetune a classifier

Contrastive learning + finetuning (1/2)

Small pretraining

- Which *algorithm*? SimCLR [1]
- Which *augmentations*? TimeShift and ChangeRTT
- Which *dataset size*? 100 samples for pretrain, 10 for finetune

Contrastive learning + finetuning (1/2)

Small pretraining

- Which algorithm? SimCLR [1]
- Which augmentations? TimeShift and ChangeRTT
- Which dataset size? 100 samples for pretrain, 10 for finetune

<i>1st augment.</i>	IMC22	Change RTT		Packet loss		Change rtt		Color jitter
<i>2nd augment.</i>		Time shift	Color jitter	Rotate	Color jitter	Rotate	Rotate	Rotate
Test on Script	94.5	92.18 \pm 0.31	90.17 \pm 0.41	91.94 \pm 0.30	91.72 \pm 0.36	92.38 \pm 0.32	91.79 \pm 0.34	
Test on Human	~80.0	74.69 \pm 1.13	73.67 \pm 1.24	71.22 \pm 1.20	75.56 \pm 1.23	74.33 \pm 1.26	71.64 \pm 1.23	

Contrastive learning + finetuning (1/2)

Small pretraining

- Which algorithm? SimCLR [1]
- Which augmentations? TimeShift and ChangeRTT
- Which dataset size? 100 samples for pretrain, 10 for finetune

<i>1st augment.</i>	IMC22	Change RTT		Packet loss		Change rtt		Color jitter
<i>2nd augment.</i>		Time shift	Color jitter	Rotate	Color jitter	Rotate	Rotate	Rotate
Test on Script	94.5	92.18 \pm 0.31	90.17 \pm 0.41	91.94 \pm 0.30	91.72 \pm 0.36	92.38 \pm 0.32	91.79 \pm 0.34	
Test on Human	~80.0	74.69 \pm 1.13	73.67 \pm 1.24	71.22 \pm 1.20	75.56 \pm 1.23	74.33 \pm 1.26	71.64 \pm 1.23	

Takeaways

- On **Script**, performance are comparable to IMC22
- On **Human**, still evident performance gap
- Any transformation pair is qualitative equivalent

Contrastive learning + finetuning (2/2)

Large pretraining

Lifting the constraint of 100 samples per class → 80/20 train/val split on the whole pretraining

- Script improves in supervised setting
- Human improves in contrastive learning setting

		Script	Human
Supervised	No augmentation	98.37±0.19	72.95±0.96
	Rotate	98.47±0.25	73.73±1.09
	Horizontal flip	98.20±0.15	74.58±1.16
	Color jitter	98.63±0.21	72.47±1.02
	Packet loss	98.63±0.19	73.43±1.25
	Time shift	98.60±0.22	73.25±1.17
	Change rtt	98.33±0.16	72.47±1.04
SimCLR + fine-tuning		93.90±0.74	80.45±2.37

Contrastive learning + finetuning (2/2)

Large pretraining

Lifting the constraint of 100 samples per class → 80/20 train/val split on the whole pretraining

- Script improves in supervised setting
- Human improves in contrastive learning setting

		Script	Human
Supervised	No augmentation	98.37±0.19	72.95±0.96
	Rotate	98.47±0.25	73.73±1.09
	Horizontal flip	98.20±0.15	74.58±1.16
	Color jitter	98.63±0.21	72.47±1.02
	Packet loss	98.63±0.19	73.43±1.25
	Time shift	98.60±0.22	73.25±1.17
	Change rtt	98.33±0.16	72.47±1.04
SimCLR + fine-tuning		93.90±0.74	80.45±2.37

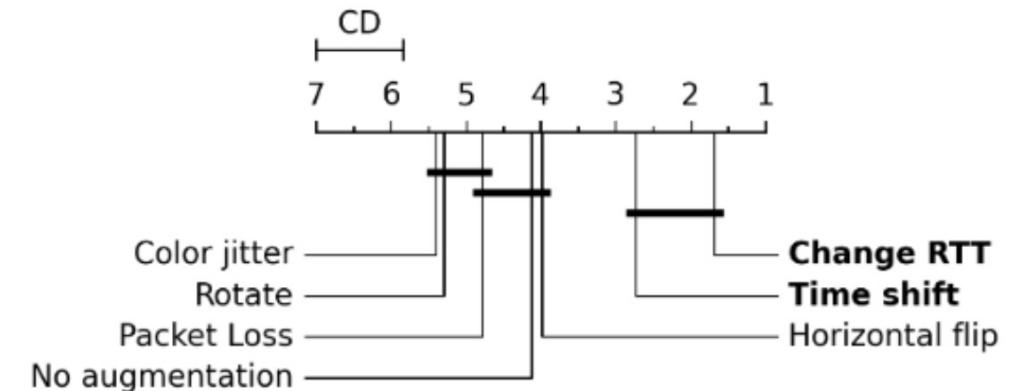
Takeaways

- Augmentations are not the final replacement for real samples
- Contrastive learning can help to reduce data shift (?)

Other datasets

Benchmarking augmentations on other datasets

	MIRAGE-22 (>10pkts)	MIRAGE-22 (>1000pkts)	UTMOBILENET-21 (>10pkts)	MIRAGE-19 (>10pkts)
Augmentations				
No augmentation	90.97±1.15	83.35±3.13	79.82±1.53	69.91±1.57
Rotate	88.25±1.20	87.32±2.24	79.45±1.28	60.35±1.17
Horizontal flip	91.90±0.84	83.82±2.26	80.03±1.33	69.78±1.28
Color jitter	89.77±1.16	81.40±3.62	78.68±2.14	67.00±1.11
Packet loss	92.34±1.10	87.19±2.52	72.07±1.73	67.55±1.46
Time shift	92.80±1.21	86.73±3.88	81.91±2.21	70.33±1.26
Change RTT	93.75±0.83	91.48±2.12	81.32±1.54	74.28±1.22



Takeaways

Change RTT and Time Shift are better than other augmentations

Want more?

- Analysis of dropout
- Analysis of SimCLR projection layers
- ...and other details

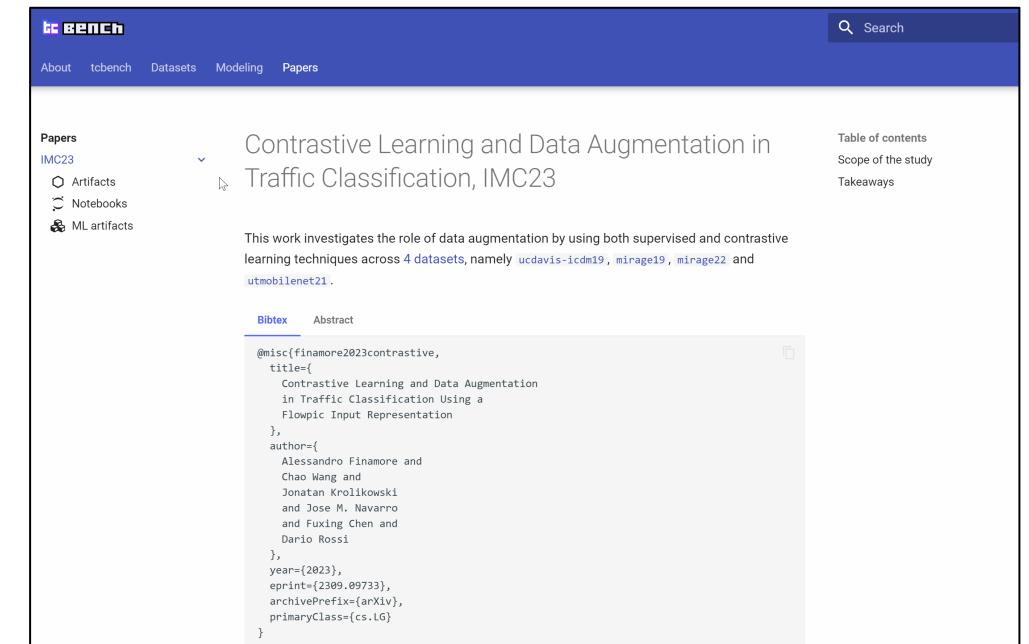
...in the paper

Outline

1. Introduce the IMC22 paper and set our goals
2. Datasets and methodology
3. Results
4. Closing remarks

Closing remarks

Replication is incredibly hard
...but worth if **geared toward**
community contributions



The screenshot shows a website for 'tc_bench' with a dark blue header containing navigation links for 'About', 'tcbench', 'Datasets', 'Modeling', and 'Papers'. A search bar is in the top right. The main content area is titled 'Contrastive Learning and Data Augmentation in Traffic Classification, IMC23'. On the left, there's a sidebar for 'Papers' under 'IMC23' with categories 'Artifacts', 'Notebooks', and 'ML artifacts'. The main content includes a summary: 'This work investigates the role of data augmentation by using both supervised and contrastive learning techniques across 4 datasets, namely [ucdavis-icdm19](#), [mirage19](#), [mirage22](#) and [utmobilenet21](#)'. Below this are 'BibTeX' and 'Abstract' sections, with the BibTeX code shown as:

```
@misc{finamore2023contrastive,
  title={Contrastive Learning and Data Augmentation in Traffic Classification Using a Flowpic Input Representation},
  author={Alessandro Finamore and Chao Wang and Jonatan Krolikowski and Jos{\'e} M. Navarro and Fuxing Chen and Dario Rossi},
  year={2023},
  eprint={2309.09733},
  archivePrefix={arXiv},
  primaryClass={cs.LG}
}
```

Qualitatively our results are aligned with the IMC22 paper
but the UCDAVIS-19 **data shift has an impact**

There is **space for more research** in the areas touched
by our paper (check our paper for inspiration 😊)

Thank you



*alessandro.finamore@huawei.com
mail@afinamore.io*



*<https://afinamore.io>
<https://prc-ai4net.github.io/>*

Code artifacts



<https://github.com/tcbenchstack/tcbench>

Data artifacts



<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.c.6849252.v3>

Documentation



<https://tcbenchstack.github.io/tcbench/papers/imc23/>