Training AI to Classify Camera Data - Part 2!

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Overview

Training an AI model is becoming increasingly simple thanks to modern technology and the availability of openAI. Unfortunately, a lot of the resources available are written for engineers and data scientists - rarely are they written in a way that an average ecologist with an annoying backlog of camera data can easily understand. Let's fix that.

This tutorial assumes you have:

- a bunch of photos that need classifying
- a pre-defined number of objects/animals/classes that you want to tag in photos
- access to Python
- Time
- Already read Part 1 of this tutorial, to at least to Step 8
 (https://github.com/heathergaya/JAGS-NIMBLE-Tutorials/tree/master/Image_AI)

Part 1 - Roboflow or Similar

If you've read Part 1 of this tutorial, you'll know that in order to train an AI, you need to start with a tagged dataset. I personally enjoy Roboflow as an easy image labeler (just using their free version), but it's entire up to you. However you get the tagged dataset, you want it to have bounding boxes around the objects in your images and be possible to export into code in the format of YOLOv8.

If you've already created a "version" of your data in Roboflow, just click "download dataset" and download it in the YOLOv8 format. Now you're ready to go!

Step 1 - Python training via the ultralytics package

We begin by loading libraries into Python. If you haven't used Python before this can seem a little scary, but it's very similar to what we would do in R using the "library()" function. If you get an error that says "package NAME not available" or a similar error, this means you need to install the package. In terminal, shell or even right in your jupyter notebook, you can run the code "pip install NAME" first and then this error will go away. After the intial install, you can comment out that part of the code like I have below:

```
#%pip install ultralytics
from ultralytics import YOLO
import inference
import os
import shutil
import numpy as np
from collections import Counter
import supervision as sv
```

First step is to tell the ultralytics package what type of model you're going to fit! Today we'll use the YOLOv9 model. A file called "yolov8n.pt" will have been created somewhere on your computer when you downloaded the ultralytics package. Tell Python where that file is located:

```
model = YOLO('/Users/heather/yolov8n.pt') # for main AI
```

Now we can train a model! Crazy easy! We will need to know where our tagged dataset is located, but otherwise we are good to go. To train the model, we'll run something like this:

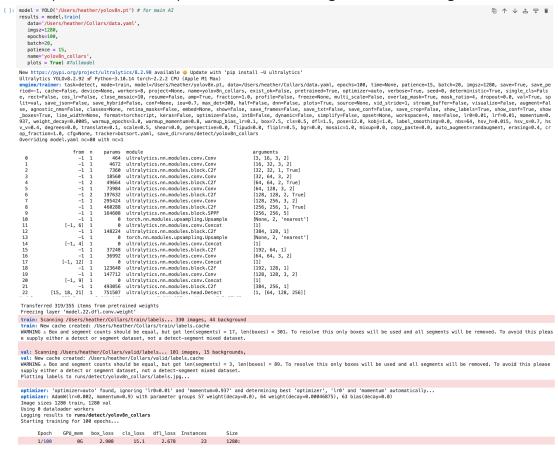
```
results = model.train(
   data='/Users/heather/Deer/data.yaml',
   imgsz=1280,
   epochs=100,
   batch=32,
   patience = 15,
   name='yolov8n_deer',
   plots = True) #fullmodel
```

Here's what's happening in the above code:

- First, we're telling python where our tagged dataset is located. In my case, my data
 is found in my Users/heather/Deer folder. I have directed python to the ".yaml" file
 within this folder, which will help it know which tags are found in which folder. If you
 used Roboflow, this file will be created automatically for you, so just tell python the
 path to find it on your computer
- Imgsz refers to the size of the images. Lower resolution images will train faster, but performance will suffer. 1280 is a decent resolution for something large like a deer, but you can change this if your images are at a different pixel resolution
- Epochs refers to how many times you're going to try and fit the model. Think of this as iterations. A good strategy is to start with a lower number here (<50) and see how the model trains, then increase this for future runs.
- Batch is how many photos will be analyzed together. Setting your batch size to 16, 32 or 64 usually leads to the best results. Setting your batch size lowers increases training time, while increasing it can lead to slightly worse results. I'd recommend running training with batch size 32. If you have no idea, set batch = 1 and python will auto-calculate a good size based on your computer's hardware capacity.

- Patience is how many times you want the model to change parameters without seeing any improvement before it gives up. The idea is that we want to fit the best model we can without over fitting. I find a patience of 10-20 will give you the best results. Setting this to 15 would mean that if your model run for 15 epochs and doesn't improve, it will stop before the 16th, even if you set epoch to 200 or 2000 or whatever.
- The name is just whatever you want to name the output folder
- plots = True is fun and good info, so best to leave it on.

Your python notebook will run for awhile (could take several days if you have a large dataset!) Your console output will look something like the following:



Great! Now let's see what sort of output we get from this.

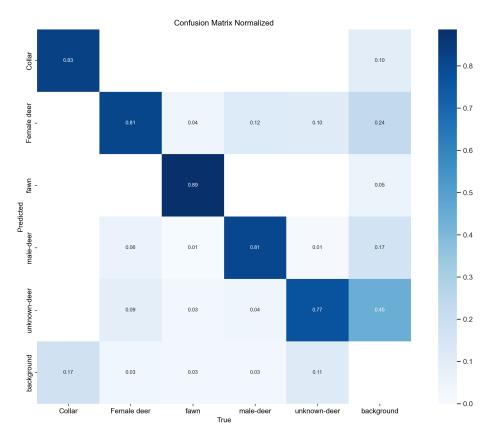
Step 2 - Model Stats

You'll get a variety of statistics from your model run that you can use to either fit more models or to determine that your AI is doing what you want and is ready to go!

Navigate to wherever python has put your results. For some reason mine ends up in the runs/detect/nameofmymodel folder, but that might just be my python settings.

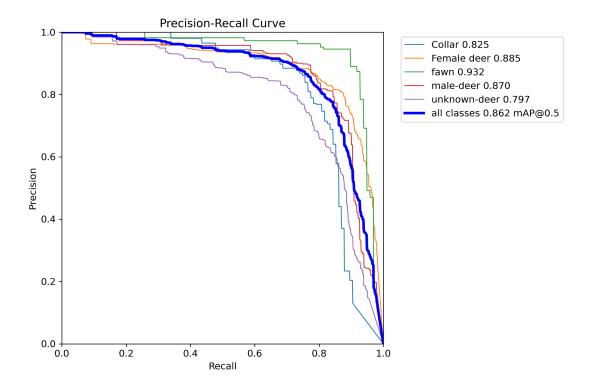
The first result will an image called results.png. I don't find these results particularly helpful. The plots in this image include box_loss (how accurately did the model predict the bounding boxes for the training dataset classes in each epoch), precision(B) (given the model detected a class, how often was it correct. False negatives do not affect precision), and Recall (This number is how often the model identified SOMETHING was present, regardless of what it said that something was. False positives don't affect this.) Generally you would hope that the more your model ran, the better these metrics got (box loss got smaller, both recall and precision values got higher).

The next two files are the confusion matrix and the confusion matrix normalized. The non-normalized one is counts of photos, normalized is just proportions. This is a great way to see how your model is doing! Each box represents how often the model identified a class given it's true and predicted state. For instance, in the below matrix, we can see that 81% of the time, the model labeled photos of female deer as female deer, but for 6% of female deer photos it incorrectly tagged the female as a male, 9% of the time it tagged the female as an unknown deer, and 3% of the time it didn't give the deer any tag at all.

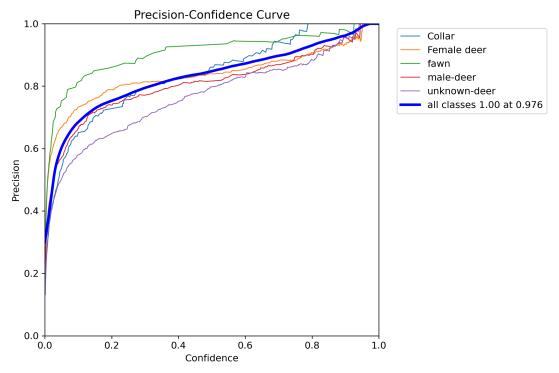


The next few images tell you about recall and precision at different confidence intervals. As confidence increases, your Precision will increase - but your recall will decline. This makes sense - if you only want the model to report results where it is very very sure about the classification, it will tend to produce more false negatives. On the other hand, it will give you junk results if you accept classifications at super lower confidence levels. You can

look at the "PR_curve" graph to find the optimal confidence level to use for predicting classes in new photos.

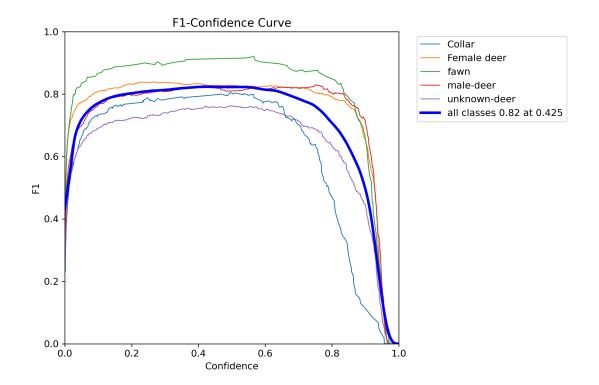


Let's say I wanted to minimize false negatives, so I want my model to consistently detect at least 90% of the tags in a photo. Given the below graph, that means I'd only expect about 50% of those detections to be correct! That's not super helpful. So maybe I'll change my mind and accept about 80% tag retention - that corresponds to about 80% of the tags detected also being the correct class. I can live with that. Then I could go check the precision graph (called "P_curve") and see that I'd want to set my confidence at about 60%. Note that I could make this decision at the class level, which is useful if your model is really good at detecting some classes and not so good at others:



You can

also just look at the "F1 curve" plot which tries to combine precision/recall into one metric (the harmonic mean of precision and recall) and plots it against confidence. It's the same concept. Either way, it's a subjective decision as to what confidence interval you want to use. The best strategy is often to try and find the highest confidence score you can use that won't drop your F1 score. Based on the F1 curve below, I might choose a confidence of 85% for Female deer, fawns and male-deer, but drop that confidence to 80% for unknown deer and 65% for collars. Or I might say "man I need to train this model better and give it more Collar photos!"



Step 3 - Re-train the Model

Let's assume that model training attempt #1 did not give us the perfect model. What to do? If you notice one class is failing more than the others, the best solution is to add more data. If it seems like the whole model is just kind of meh, trying running the model for more epochs. If it still sucks, try adding more data with as much variety as possible.

To re-train a model, you can save some time by using the model weights from your previous model runs! The only thing you need to change is that first line of code we ran that defined the model. Instead of using the "yolo8n.pt" model, we'll use the model we just trained! Your model should have created something called "best.pt" so just use that file instead.

```
model = YOLO('/Users/heather/runs/detect/yolov8n_deer/weights/best.pt')
```

Then just re-run the model, but make sure to name it something you'll remember:

```
results = model.train(
   data='/Users/heather/Deer/data.yaml',
   imgsz=1280,
   epochs=100,
   batch=32,
   patience = 15,
   name='yolov8n_deer_v2',
   plots = True) #fullmodel
```

Step 4 - Use the Model

Alright, so let's say that we finally have a model we're happy with. How do we use it?

If you just had one photo to process, you could just use something like the following (where you'd replace my example image path with the path to your own image):

```
results = model.predict('/Users/heather/deer/photo1.jpeg', conf= .5, verbose
= False)
```

But this doesn't really give us output in a way that's helpful and if you're only tagging 1 photo... well, I question why you built an AI at all.

What I find is easiest is to create a function that takes each photo, counts what's in the photo and then makes a folder of each unique count/class combo. So for me, I might end up with folders called "1Female deer", "1Female deer_1fawn", "2Male-deer", "1unknown-deer_1fawn_1Male-deer" etc etc. If you only have one class (say just "deer"), you could just end up with folders that count how many deer are in each photo. Here's some code you can use to iterate this process for all photos inside a subfolder. You would need to change the image_folder line to reflect your own data path.

```
image_folder =
'/Users/heather/Desktop/U Georgia/Chandler Meetings/heather/CWD Postdoc/Billi
onphotos/GR31_07.05.24/MDoutput_07_05_24/animals/deer'
destination folder = image folder
def get folder name(predictions):
    class_counts = Counter(predictions)
    #print(class counts)
    # If there are no class names, use "no dets"
    if not class_counts:
        return "no dets"
    # Create a list of class names with counts, sorted alphabetically by
class name
    folder_parts = [f"{count}{class_name}" for class_name, count in
sorted(class counts.items())]
    # Join parts with underscores
    folder_name = "_".join(folder_parts)
    return folder name
# Ensure destination folder exists
os.makedirs(destination_folder, exist_ok=True)
for filename in os.listdir(image folder):
```

```
# Check if the file is an image (you might want to adjust the extensions)
    if filename.lower().endswith(('.png', '.jpg', '.jpeg')):
        # Construct the full path to the image
        image path = os.path.join(image folder, filename)
        #print(image_path)
        # Process the image
        results = model.predict(image path, conf= .5, verbose = False)
        # Define the destination path
        dest_folder = os.path.join(destination_folder, folder_name)
        # Create the folder if it doesn't exist
        os.makedirs(dest folder, exist ok=True)
        # Define the source and destination paths
        src_path = os.path.join(image_folder, filename)
        dest_path = os.path.join(dest_folder, filename)
        # Move the file
        shutil.move(src path, dest path)
        #print(f"Moved {src path} to {dest path}")
print("All images processed")
```

Step 5 - Now What?

If all has gone well, you should now have a bunch of folders with photos sorted into different groups based on the folder name. So... now what?

Well, first I'd recommend double checking the AI. It will make mistakes. Move photos to their correct folders before analysis unless you have some alternative plan for accounting for incorrect tags. You could alternatively use the confidence matrix to model an observation process if you don't want to use manual checking.

But more importantly, you now want to try and get the metadata from your photos into some sort of useful format. The program Camelot is quite popular, so I'll explain a method that lets you get the data into a CSV that can be either used for direct analysis or sent to Camelot for bulk-upload.

The general idea is that we want to extract the metadata from each photo, then make one line in the CSV for each class detected. This code makes some modifications specific to deer, but you could remove or ignore those as needed for your own work.

You will also need a separate CSV file that has GPS information about your camera array. Mine is called "camera_projected.csv".

```
import re
import os
import pandas as pd
from PIL import Image
from PIL import ExifTags
from PIL.ExifTags import TAGS, GPSTAGS
```

```
from datetime import datetime
import mimetypes
gps_stuff =
pd.read_csv('/Users/heather/Desktop/U_Georgia/Chandler_Meetings/heather/CWD_P
ostdoc/Data/camera_projected.csv')
```

Next we need to define some functions. The first one extracts metadata, the second one makes it pretty and the third one is just splitting up our pathway so that we can subset our data just to certain animals/classes. This last step is only necessary because in my own data, I have all photos split into animal classes and then within the animal classes, only the deer get specifically counted and sexed/aged.

```
def get_image_metadata(file_path):
    try:
        with Image.open(file path) as img:
            # Extract basic metadata
            color space = img.mode
            compression = img.info.get('compression', 'N/A')
            data_precision = img.info.get('dpi', 'N/A')
            exif data = img. getexif() if hasattr(img, ' getexif') else None
            # Extract date/time if available
            date time = None
            if exif_data:
                for tag, value in exif data.items():
                    tag_name = ExifTags.TAGS.get(tag, tag)
                    if tag_name == 'DateTime':
                        date time = value
            # Extract image dimensions
            exif_image_height = img.height
            exif_image_width = img.width
            # Extract additional EXIF data
            exposure mode = None
            exposure time = None
            flash = None
            camera make = None
            camera_model = None
            if exif data:
                for tag, value in exif_data.items():
                    tag name = ExifTags.TAGS.get(tag, tag)
                    if tag name == 'ExposureMode':
                        exposure_mode = value
                    elif tag name == 'ExposureTime':
                        exposure time = value
                    elif tag_name == 'Flash':
                        flash = value
```

```
elif tag name == 'Make':
                        camera make = value
                    elif tag_name == 'Model':
                        camera model = value
            return {
                'Color Space': color_space,
                'Compression': compression,
                'Data Precision (DPI)': data precision,
                'Date/Time': date_time,
                'Image Height': exif_image_height,
                'Image Width': exif_image_width,
                'Exposure Mode': exposure mode,
                'Exposure Time': exposure_time,
                'Flash': flash,
                'Camera Make': camera make,
                'Camera Model': camera model
    except Exception as e:
        return {key: None for key in [
            'Color Space', 'Compression', 'Data Precision (DPI)',
            'Date/Time', 'Image Height', 'Image Width',
            'Exposure Mode', 'Exposure Time', 'Flash',
            'Camera Make', 'Camera Model'
        ]}
def get all file paths and metadata(directory):
    file data = []
    for root, dirs, files in os.walk(directory):
        for file in files:
            file_path = os.path.join(root, file)
            file size = os.path.getsize(file_path) # Get file size in bytes
            mime type = mimetypes.guess type(file path)[0] # Get MIME type
            file_name = os.path.basename(file_path) # Get file name
            metadata = get_image_metadata(file_path)
            file data.append({
                'File Path': file_path,
                'File Name': file name,
                'File Size (Bytes)': file size,
                'Detected MIME Type': mime_type,
                **metadata
            })
    return file_data
def add path components(df):
   # Split the file path into components and get the last 7 excluding the
```

```
file name
    # Note that if you had a shorter file path, you would probably not need 7
parts
    df[['Component 1', 'Component 2', 'Component 3', 'Component 4',
'Component 5', 'Component 6', 'Component 7']] = (
    df['File Path'].str.split('/', expand=True).iloc[:, -8:-1]
)
```

Now we give python the location of our photo folder:

```
directory_to_search =
'/Users/heather/Desktop/U_Georgia/Chandler_Meetings/heather/CWD_Postdoc/Billi
onphotos/Checked/GR66_07.03.24/MDoutput_07_03_24/animals'
# Get all file paths
file_dat = get_all_file_paths_and_metadata(directory_to_search)
# Create a DataFrame from the list of file paths
df = pd.DataFrame(file_dat)
add_path_components(df)
```

Awesome, this has extracted all our metadata. Now we want it to go through our folder system and get the tags/counts connected to the photos. At the end of all this, it creates a CSV with our data! Notice that this code is fairly deer specific - If you're just doing a model with one species and one group (aka just counting deer from a plane or something) you can skip everything after the line that says "df_exploded = subset_df.explode('Component 7_b')" (except the create csv part).

```
## For the purpose of this script, remove all rows that aren't in deer
folder:
subset df1 = df[df['Component 6'] == 'deer']
subset_df = subset_df1[subset_df1['Detected MIME Type'] == 'image/jpeg']
# Make a column for camera name; unclear why there is a warning, but ignore
subset_df.loc[:, 'cameraName'] = subset_df['Component 3'].str[:4]
#same idea with site name
subset_df.loc[:, 'siteName'] = subset_df['Component 3'].str[:2]
## Will need to make 2 columns for start and stop time for each camera.
Insert those here:
#Next, merge Lat/Lon info
subset_df = subset_df.merge(gps_stuff[['Station', 'gps_y', 'gps_x']],
                              left_on='cameraName', right_on='Station',
                              how='left')
#Species Name Stuff:
subset_df.loc[:, 'commonName'] = 'White-tailed deer'
subset df.loc[:, 'sciName'] = 'Odocoileus virginianus'
subset_df.loc[:, 'genus'] = 'Odocoileus'
subset_df.loc[:, 'family'] = 'Cervidae'
subset_df.loc[:, 'order'] = 'Artiodactyla'
subset_df.loc[:, 'class'] = 'Mammalia'
```

```
# could add in scientific species, family name, etc.
def sum_numbers(s):
    numbers = re.findall(r'\d+', s) # Find all sequences of digits
    return sum(map(int, numbers)) if numbers else 0 # Convert to int and sum
# Apply the function to 'Component 7' and create a new column 'groupSize'
subset df['groupSize'] = subset df['Component 7'].apply(sum numbers)
#Next, we want to add new line for each class, retaining all other
information
subset_df['Component 7_b'] = subset_df['Component 7'].str.split('_')
# Use explode to create a new row for each split value
df_exploded = subset_df.explode('Component 7_b')
# Rename 'Path Component 7' to 'Classified'
df_exploded.rename(columns={'Component 7_b': 'Classified'}, inplace=True)
# Now we add in Sex:
def determine_sex(classified_value):
    if "fawn" in classified_value or "unknown" in classified_value:
        return "Unknown"
    elif "Female" in classified value:
        return "Female"
    else:
        return "Male"
# Apply the function to the 'Classified' column to create/update the 'Sex'
column
df exploded['sex'] = df exploded['Classified'].apply(determine sex)
#Add in Age next:
def determine lifestage(classified value):
    if "fawn" in classified value:
        return "fawn"
    elif "unknown" in classified value:
        return "unknown"
    else:
        return "Adult"
# Apply the function to the 'Classified' column to create/update the
'Lifestage' column
df_exploded['lifestage'] =
df exploded['Classified'].apply(determine lifestage)
## Add in quantity tag:
df_exploded['quantity'] =
df exploded['Classified'].str.extract('(\d+)').fillna(0).astype(int)
```

```
## Remove information for tagged friends:
df_exploded.loc[df_exploded['Classified'].str.contains('tagged', case=False,
na=False), ['lifestage', 'sex']] = ''
df_exploded.loc[df_exploded['Classified'].str.contains('tagged', case=False,
na=False), 'earTag'] = 'TRUE'
df_exploded.loc[df_exploded['Classified'].str.contains('tagged', case=False,
na=False), 'groupSize'] = 0 #for now
df_exploded.loc[df_exploded['Classified'].str.contains('tagged', case=False,
na=False), 'quantity'] = 500 #make it obvious

#More tag friend cleanup:
df_exploded['earTag'] = df_exploded['Classified'].str.contains('tagged',
case=False, na=False).replace({True: 'TRUE', False: 'FALSE'})
df_exploded['MediaProcessed'] = df_exploded['earTag'].replace({'TRUE':
'FALSE', 'FALSE': 'TRUE'})
df_exploded.to_csv('Mycameradata.csv', index=False, escapechar='\\')
```

And there you go! A little gross, a little stressful but now we've got some tagged camera data! Much faster than manual!