# MnasNet: Platform-Aware Neural Architecture Search for Mobile

From EfficientNet

## Introduction

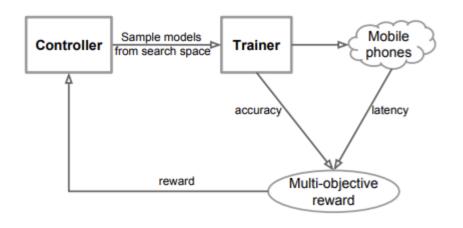


Figure 1: An Overview of Platform-Aware Neural Architecture Search for Mobile.

Automated neural architecture search approach

Multi-objective optimization

Directly measure real-world latency

Factorized hierarchical search space

# Aim: find CNN model with both high accuracy and low inference latency

#### Objective Function

Pareto Optimal

maximize 
$$ACC(m) \times \left[\frac{LAT(m)}{T}\right]^{w}$$

$$w = \begin{cases} \alpha, & \text{if } LAT(m) \leq T \\ \beta, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 (3)

#### Pareto Optimal:

Highest accuracy without increasing latency or lowest latency without decreasing accuracy

= simultaneously considers both accuracy and latency

# Aim: find CNN model with both high accuracy and low inference latency

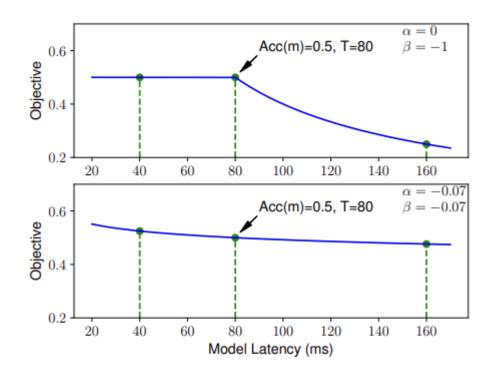


Figure 3: **Objective Function Defined by Equation 2**, assuming accuracy ACC(m)=0.5 and target latency T=80ms: (top) show the object values with latency as a hard constraint; (bottom) shows the objective values with latency as a soft constraint.

maximize 
$$ACC(m) \times \left[\frac{LAT(m)}{T}\right]^{w}$$
 (2) 
$$w = \begin{cases} \alpha, & \text{if } LAT(m) \leq T \\ \beta, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 (3)

#### 1. Factorized Hierarchical Search Space

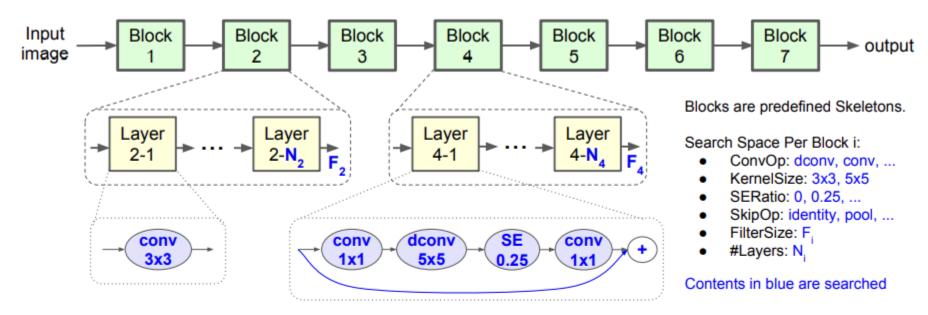
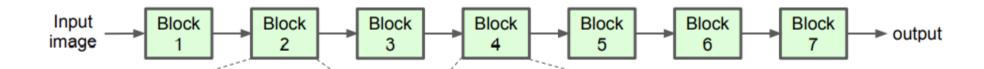


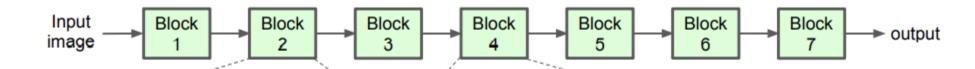
Figure 4: **Factorized Hierarchical Search Space.** Network layers are grouped into a number of predefined skeletons, called blocks, based on their input resolutions and filter sizes. Each block contains a variable number of repeated identical layers where only the first layer has stride 2 if input/output resolutions are different but all other layers have stride 1. For each block, we search for the operations and connections for a single layer and the number of layers N, then the same layer is repeated N times (e.g., Layer 4-1 to 4-N<sub>4</sub> are the same). Layers from different blocks (e.g., Layer 2-1 and 4-1) can be different.

#### 1. Factorized Hierarchical Search Space



- Convolutional ops ConvOp: regular conv (conv), depthwise conv (dconv), and mobile inverted bottleneck conv [29].
- Convolutional kernel size KernelSize: 3x3, 5x5.
- Squeeze-and-excitation [13] ratio SERatio: 0, 0.25.
- Skip ops SkipOp: pooling, identity residual, or no skip.
- Output filter size  $F_i$ .
- Number of layers per block N<sub>i</sub>.

#### 1. Factorized Hierarchical Search Space



Intuition: Layer diversity is critical for achieving both high accuracy and low latency.

Ex) based on input shapes and output shapes, specific sequence of operations return better results than fixed operations

#### 2. Search Algorithm

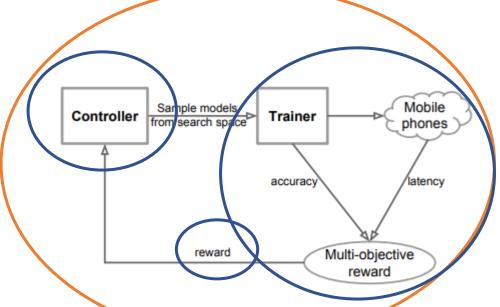
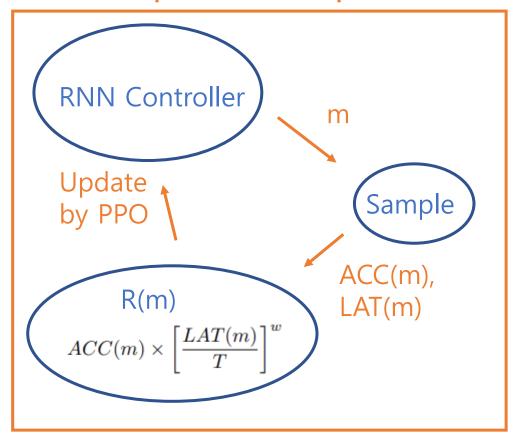
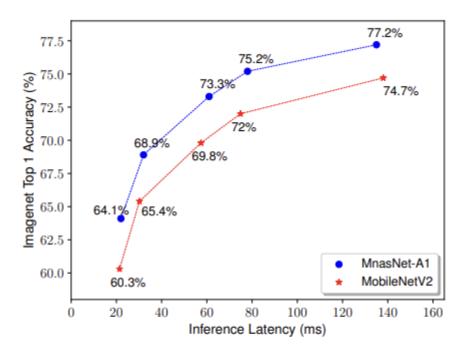


Figure 1: An Overview of Platform-Aware Neural Architecture Search for Mobile.

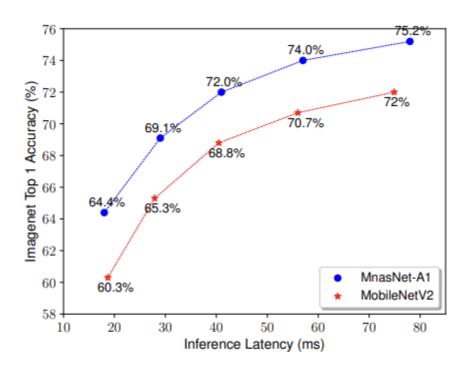
#### Sample-eval-update



## Scaling Performance



(a) Depth multiplier = 0.35, 0.5, 0.75, 1.0, 1.4, corresponding to points from left to right.



(b) Input size = 96, 128, 160, 192, 224, corresponding to points from left to right.

Figure 5: **Performance Comparison with Different Model Scaling Techniques**. MnasNet is our baseline model shown in Table 1. We scale it with the same depth multipliers and input sizes as MobileNetV2.

## **Ablation Study**

#### Soft vs. Hard Latency Constraint

maximize 
$$ACC(m) \times \left[\frac{LAT(m)}{T}\right]^{w}$$
 (2) 
$$w = \begin{cases} \alpha, & \text{if } LAT(m) \leq T \\ \beta, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 (3)

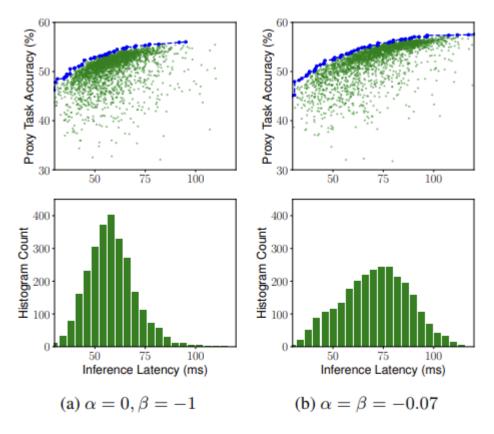


Figure 6: **Multi-Objective Search Results** based on equation 2 with (a)  $\alpha$ =0,  $\beta$ =-1; and (b)  $\alpha$ = $\beta$ =-0.07. Target latency is T=75ms. Top figure shows the Pareto curve (blue line) for the 3000 sampled models (green dots); bottom figure shows the histogram of model latency.

## Ablation Study

Reward and Search Space

Starting from NASNet

Reward	Search Space	Latency	Top-1 Acc.
Single-obj [36]	Cell-based [36]	183ms	74.0%
Multi-obj	Cell-based [36]	100ms	72.0%
Multi-obj	MnasNet	<b>78ms</b>	<b>75.2</b> %

## **Ablation Study**

#### Layer Diversity

	Top-1 Acc.	Inference Latency
MnasNet-A1	75.2%	78ms
MBConv3 (k3x3) only	71.8%	63ms
MBConv3 (k5x5) only	72.5%	79ms
MBConv6 (k3x3) only	74.9%	116ms
MBConv6 (k5x5) only	75.6%	146ms

Table 6: **Performance Comparison of MnasNet and Its Variants** – *MnasNet-A1* denotes the model shown in Figure 7(a); others are variants that repeat a single type of layer throughout the network. All models have the same number of layers and same filter size at each layer.

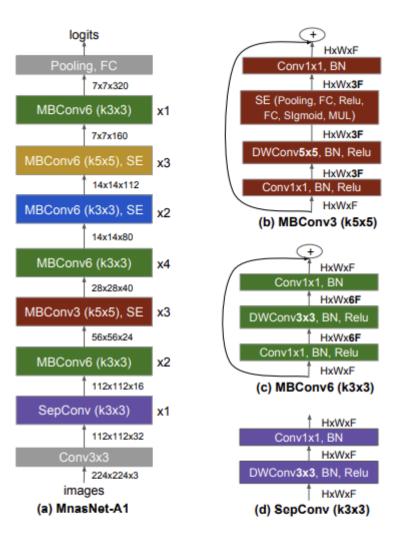


Figure 7: **MnasNet-A1 Architecture** – (a) is a representative model selected from Table 1; (b) - (d) are a few corresponding layer structures. *MBConv* denotes mobile inverted bottleneck conv, *DWConv* denotes depthwise conv, k3x3/k5x5 denotes kernel size, *BN* is batch norm, HxWxF denotes tensor shape (height, width, depth), and  $\times 1/2/3/4$  denotes the number of repeated layers within the block.