### Option 1

# **KASSL:** Knowledge Distillation Applied in Self Supervised Learning

Team 2. KASSL on the Hill

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Option 1

### Applying Knowledge Distillation to Self-supervised Learning in Image Classification

**Background** Knowledge distillation (KD) is currently actively applied in supervised learning.

**Goal** With KD, train a small model to perform similarly to large model in self-supervised learning (SSL).

**Approach** Transfer feature representation by reducing loss between teacher and student models.

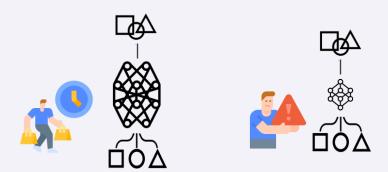
**Result** Our models (with KD) outperformed baseline in top-1 accuracy:

**63.52%** ⇒ **77.02%** & **81.82%**.

result

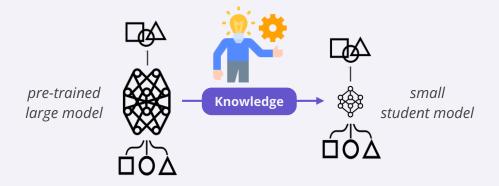
### Meaning

- 1. Successfully boosting performance of small network on image classification task with SSL.
- 2. Self-explored problem setting (KD in SSL) and suggesting working solution.



### **Problem**

Well-performing models are usually large → Lots of computation resources and time. Small models are needed to be deployed on end devices but relatively performs worse.



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#### **Current Solution**

With knowledge distillation (KD), a small model is trained to perform similarly as pre-trained large model.

• A large pre-trained model (teacher) transfers knowledge to a small model (student).



### **Restriction of Solution Area**

KD is so far mainly applied in **supervised learning**.

• Soft labels are transferred as the knowledge from a large pre-trained teacher model to a small model.



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### **Beyond the Current Solution Area**

Self-supervised learning (SSL) is a rising field in image classification task.

• Small model directly trained with SSL still relatively performs worse without KD.

# **Objective**

With **knowledge distillation**, **train a small model** to perform similarly to the large model which is already pre-trained **in self-supervised learning (SSL)** 

### **Directions of Related Work**

**DIRECTION 1** 

**Knowledge Distillation** 

How knowledge distillation is already done?

**DIRECTION 2** 

**Self-Supervised Learning** 

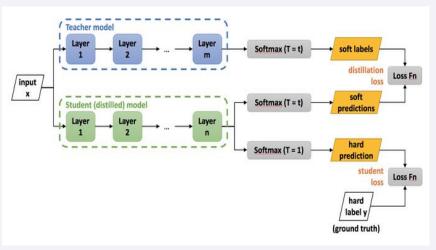
How self-supervised learning is done currently?

# **Direction 1. Knowledge Distillation**

### **Knowledge Distillation**

The way to distill knowledge depends on kinds of knowledge and how to transfer





\*Reference: Distilling the knowledge in a neural network

# **Direction 2. Self-supervised Learning**

### What is Self-supervised Learning?

In SSL, the model trains itself to learn one part of the input from another part of the input.

### **Example of Self-supervised Learning**

BYOL: Bootstrap Your Own Latent

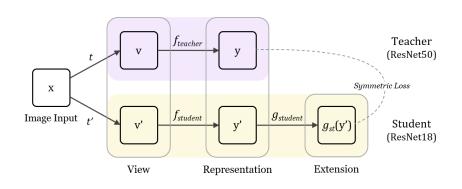
• Target: extract target representation / Online: extract target prediction

SimCLR: A simple framework for contrastive learning of visual representations

Data augmentation / contrastive representation learning

MoCo-v2: Improved Baselines with Momentum Contrastive Learning

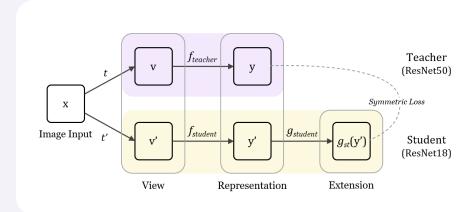
• Stronger augmentation, MLP projection head



### **High Level Idea**

Transfer knowledge from large model by passing **feature representation** 

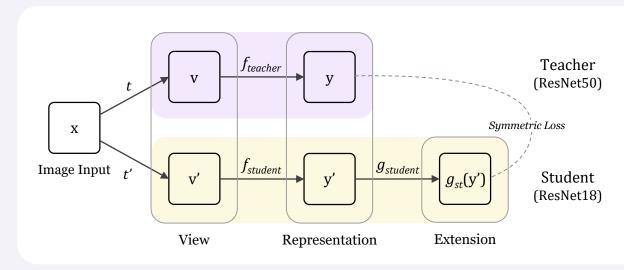
• Reduce loss between two feature representations made by teacher and student



- $\hat{\mathbb{I}} \quad \hat{\theta}_s = argmin_{\theta_s} \sum_{i}^{N} \mathcal{L}_{distill}(x_i, \theta_s, \theta_t)$
- 2  $\hat{\theta}_s = -argmin_{\theta_s} \sum_{i}^{N} \frac{\sum_{j}^{K} y_j g_s(y_j')}{\sqrt{\sum_{j}^{K} y_j^2} \sqrt{\sum_{j}^{K} g_s(y_j')^2}}$
- $\mathfrak{J}$   $\mathcal{L}_{student,teacher} = \mathcal{L}_{student,teacher} + \widetilde{\mathcal{L}}_{student,teacher}$

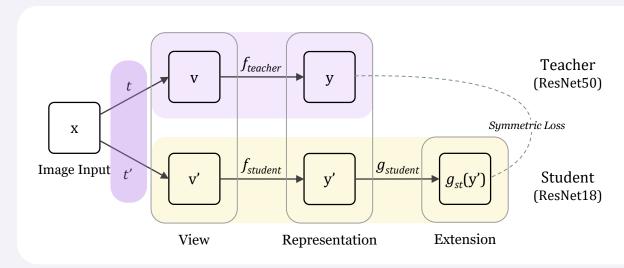
#### **Problem Formulation of KASSL**

- ① Problem formulation: Aim to minimize loss between teacher and student
- ② Apply negative cosine similarity loss to problem formulation
- ③ Total loss with Symmetric loss



#### **Details**

- 1. Image Augmentation
- 2. Encoder Extension
- 3. Use of Symmetric Loss



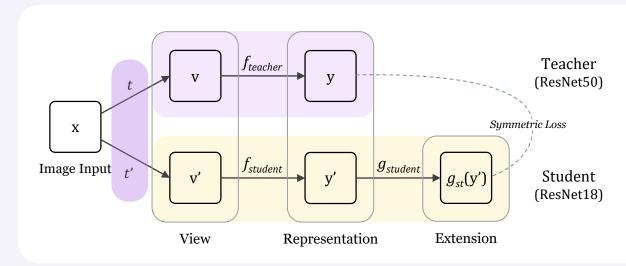
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- 2. Encoder Extension
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### **Image Augmentation**

Two random image augmentations done similar to SimCLR

Inspired from the contrastive learning where different image augmentations bring outperforming results.



#### **Details**

- 1. Image Augmentation
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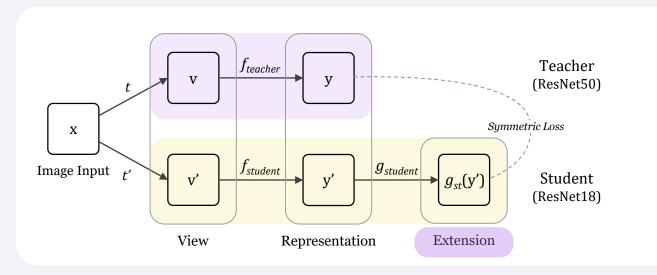
#### Augmentation t and t'

- 1. Patch selection & resizing
- 2. flip, color distortion, hue, etc.
- 3. Gaussian blur, solarization

### **Image Augmentation**

Two random image augmentations done similar to SimCLR

Inspired from the contrastive learning where different image augmentations bring outperforming results.



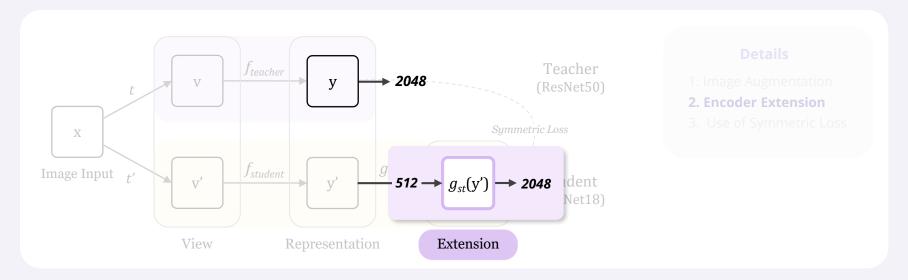
#### **Details**

- 1. Image Augmentation
- 2. Encoder Extension
- 3. Use of Symmetric Loss

#### **Encoder Extension**

Extend student feature vector to fit with the teacher's dimension

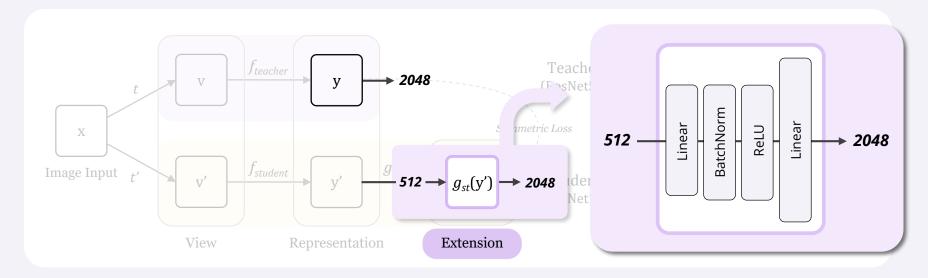
• Assuming teacher's representation as the answer, add 4 layers to fit to teacher's dimension.



#### **Encoder Extension**

Extend student feature vector to fit with the teacher's dimension

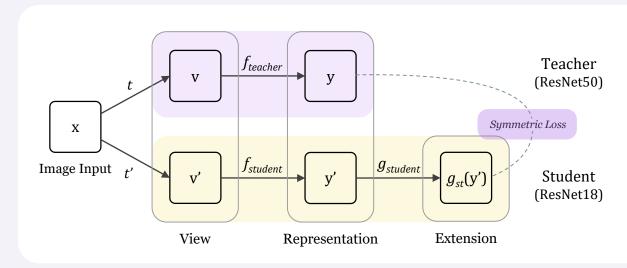
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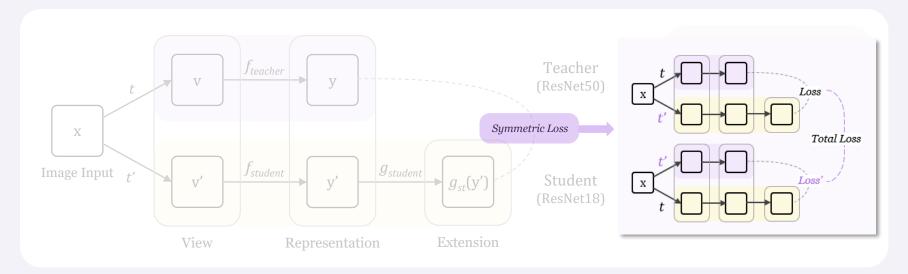
#### **Details**

- 1. Image Augmentation
- 2. Encoder Extension
- 3. Use of Symmetric Loss

### **Use of Symmetric Loss**

Symmetrize the loss by: Total Loss = Loss + Loss'

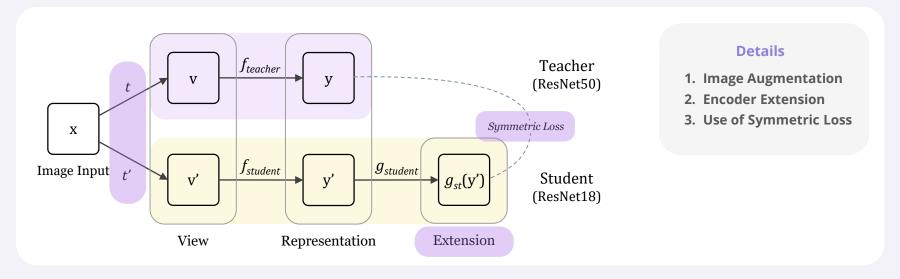
• Loss' is from reverse augmented image which is feeding t' to the teacher and t to the student.



### **Use of Symmetric Loss**

Symmetrize the loss by: Total Loss = Loss + Loss'

• Loss' is from reverse augmented image which is feeding t' to the teacher and t to the student.



With KASSL architecture, we could train a small model to perform similarly to the large model in SSL.

# **Experiment Plan**

# **Teacher** (ResNet50)

- Pretrained large network trained with existing SSL
- **Learning target** to mimic its performance

# Baseline (ResNet18)

- Baseline small network trained with existing SSL
- Comparison target to evaluate our model

**Student** (ResNet18)

- Small network trained with KASSL
- Our knowledge distilled result

```
Original — KASSL (Original)

Exp 1
```

Exp 2

Exp 3

Ablation Study (KASSL + Exp 1, 2, 3)

# **Experiment Plan: Teacher**

Teacher (ResNet50)

- Pretrained large network trained with existing SSL
- **Learning target** to mimic its performance

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**Student** (ResNet18)

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Original
Exp 1
Exp 2
Exp 3

### **Pretraining Teacher Network**

Architecture: ResNet50

Method: BYOL (default)
 MocoV2 (additional)

• **Dataset**: ImageNet-1k

Pretrained with 200 epochs
 (we did not train these networks)

# **Experiment Plan: Baseline**

# Teacher (ResNet50)

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- **Learning target** to mimic its performance

Baseline (ResNet18)

- Baseline small network trained with existing SSL
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**Student** (ResNet18)

- Small network trained with KASSL
- Our knowledge distilled result

Original
Exp 1

Exp 2

Exp 3

### **Training Baseline Network**

Architecture: ResNet18

Method: BYOL

• **Dataset**: ImageNet100

200 epochs

Hyperparameters based on BYOL

# **Experiment Plan: Baseline**

#### **Teacher** (ResNet50)

- Pretrained large network trained with existing SSL
- Learning target to mimic its performance

**Baseline** (ResNet18)

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Student (ResNet18)

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- Our knowledge distilled result

Original Exp 1 Exp 2 Exp 3

### **Training Baseline Network**

Architecture: ResNet18

Method: BYOL

**Dataset**: ImageNet100

- Subset of ImageNet-1k
- 10 classes
- 1300 images for training
- 30 images for validation

\*Due to the limitation of GPU resource, we chose ImageNet100 instead of 1k

<sup>\*</sup>Reference: ImageNet-100 from Olga Russakovsky & Fei-Fei, 2008

# **Experiment Plan: Student**

# Teacher (ResNet50)

- Pretrained large network trained with existing SSL
- Learning target to mimic its performance

Baseline (ResNet18)

- Baseline small network trained with existing SSL
- Comparison target to evaluate our model

**Student** (ResNet18)

- Small network trained with KASSL
- Our knowledge distilled result

Original
Exp 1
Exp 2
Exp 3

# **Distilling Student Network** (Original)

Architecture: ResNet18

• Method: KASSL (Ours)

• **Dataset**: ImageNet100

- 200 epochs (5 warm up)
- Hyperparameters
  - SGD optimizer with momentum 0.9
  - Learning rate: 0.03
  - Batch size: 64

# **Experiment Plan: Student**

# Teacher (ResNet50)

- Pretrained large network trained with existing SSL
- **Learning target** to mimic its performance

Baseline (ResNet18)

- Baseline small network trained with existing SSL
- Comparison target to evaluate our model

**Student** (ResNet18)

- Small network trained with KASSL
- Our knowledge distilled result

Original
Exp 1
Exp 2
Exp 3

# Distilling Student Network (Experiment 1, 2, 3)

 Ablation study done to experiment variations on original KASSL

\*Experiments will be explained later.

Architecture: ResNet18

Method: KASSL + experiments 1, 2, 3

• **Dataset**: ImageNet100

### **Evaluation Plan**

# **Teacher** (ResNet50)

- Pretrained large network trained with existing SSL
- **Learning target** to mimic its performance

# Baseline (ResNet18)

Baseline small network trained with existing SSL

Comparison target to evaluate our model

**Student** (ResNet18)

Small network trained with KASSL

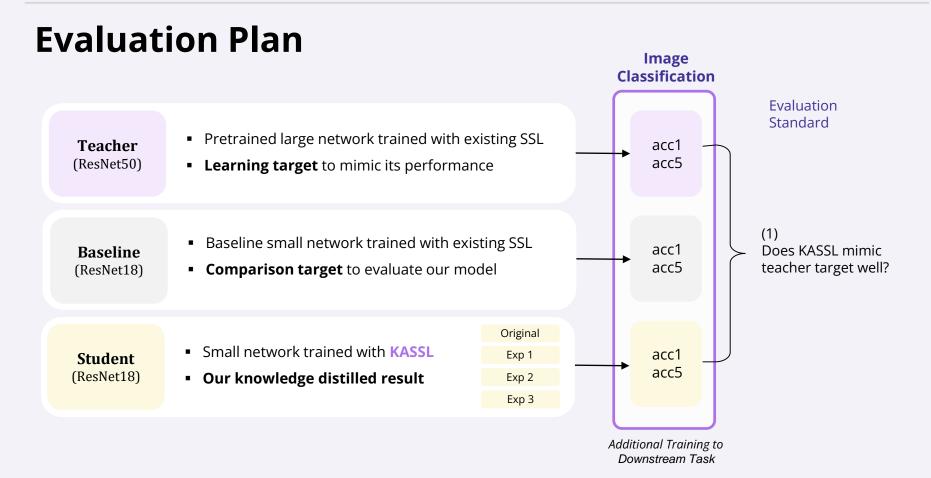
Our knowledge distilled result

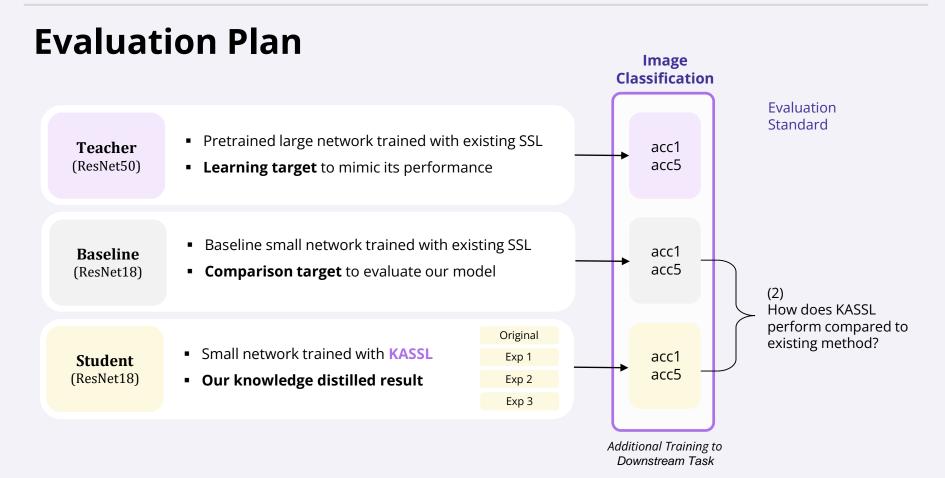
Original

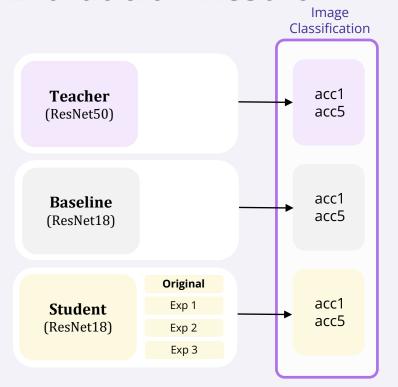
Exp 1

Exp 2

Exp 3





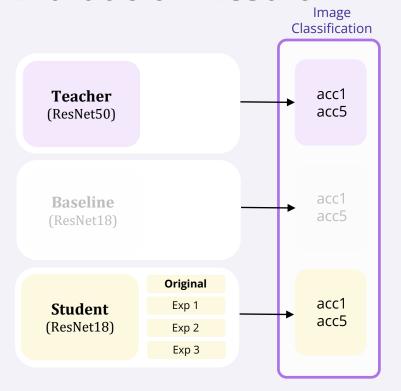


	Teacher	Baseline	Original		
Top 1 Acc	81.46	63.52	81.82		
Top 5 Acc	96.24	87.32	95.58		

Table 1: BYOL Results

	Teacher	Baseline	Original				
Top 1 Acc	80.28	-	77.02				
Тор 5 Асс	95.40	-	94.88	94.66	92.42	92.58	

Table 2: MOCO-V2 Results



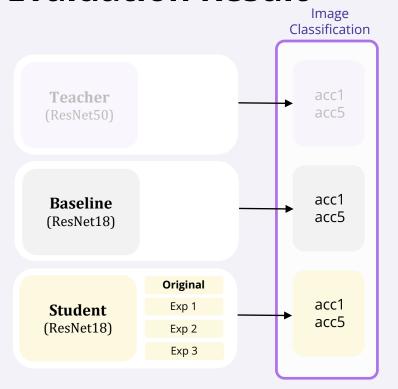
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Table 2: MOCO-V2 Results

→ KASSL overall mimics teacher target well.



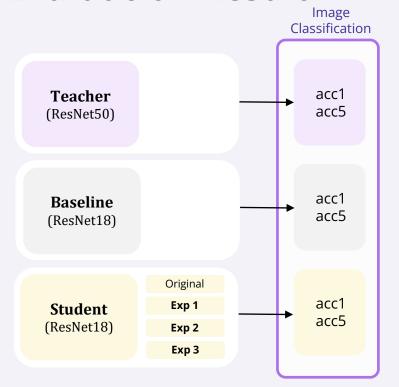
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Table 2: MOCO-V2 Results

→ KASSL outperforms baseline model.



	Teacher Baseline		Student				
		Baseline	Original	No Aug	Feature Red	No Aug + Feature Red	
Top 1 Acc	81.46	63.52	81.82	81.04	76.18	75.50	
Top 5 Acc	96.24	87.32	95.58	95.84	93.10	92.18	

Table 1: BYOL Results

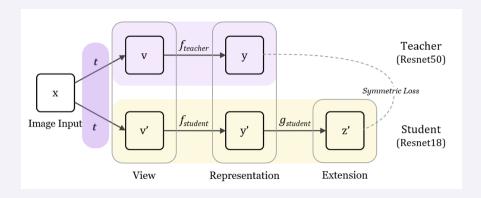
				Student			
	Teacher	Baseline	Original	No Aug	Feature Red	No Aug + Feature Red	
Top 1 Acc	80.28	-	77.02	77.52	71.56	71.34	
Top 5 Acc	95.40	-	94.88	94.66	92.42	92.58	

Table 2: MOCO-V2 Results

# **Experiment 1 and Result**

### **No Augmentation**

- Apply same image into teacher and student network
- Hypothesis: Teacher produces answer for each image



#### Result

BYOL	Original	No Aug
Top-1	81.82	81.04
Top-5	95.58	95.84

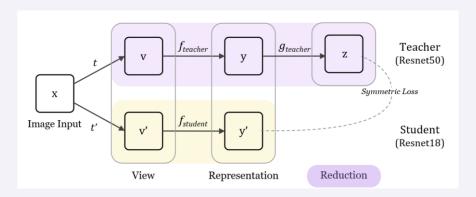
MoCo-v2	Original	No Aug
Top-1	77.02	77.52
Top-5	94.88	94.66

- Work as well as original method
- Possibly work better on larger dataset
   (e.g. ImageNet-1k)

# **Experiment 2 and Result**

#### **Feature Reduction**

- Add projection layer at teacher network
- Hypothesis: Giving generalizable knowledge by reducing the output dimension



#### Result

BYOL	Original	Feature Red
Top-1	81.82	76.18
Top-5	95.58	93.10

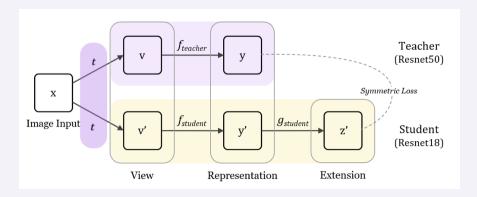
MoCo-v2	Original	Feature Red
Top-1	77.02	71.56
Top-5	94.88	92.42

- Fail to improve original's performance
- Possibly lost information while training

# **Experiment 3 and Result**

### **No Augmentation & Feature Reduction**

- Combine experiment 1 and 2
- Hypothesis: No Augmentation would complement the negative effect of feature reduction



#### Result

BYOL	Original	No Aug +F.R
Top-1	81.82	75.50
Top-5	95.58	92.18

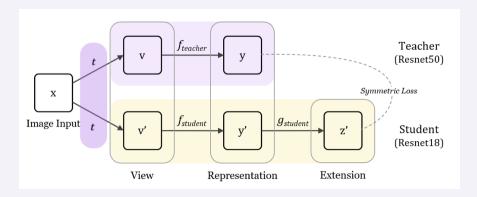
MoCo-v2	Original	No Aug +F.R	
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- Fail to improve original's performance
- Possible that feature reduction has great impact on the model's performance

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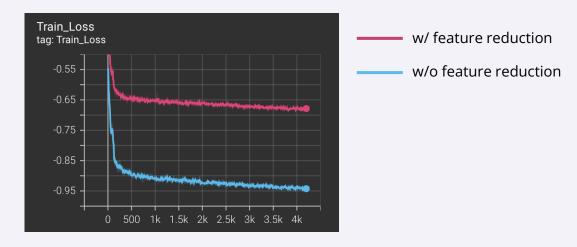
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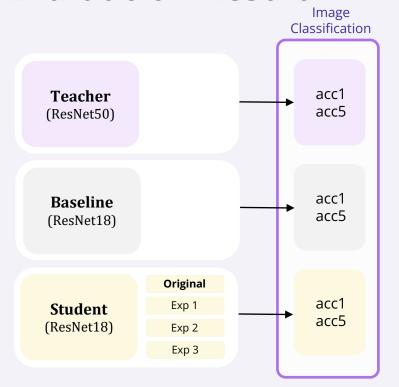
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# **Experiment Result Analysis**

#### Non-Feature Reduction vs. Feature Reduction



- Training graph w/o feature reduction converges around -0.9
- Training graph w/ feature reduction converges around -0.6
- → Difficulty in learning knowledge when reducing feature representation

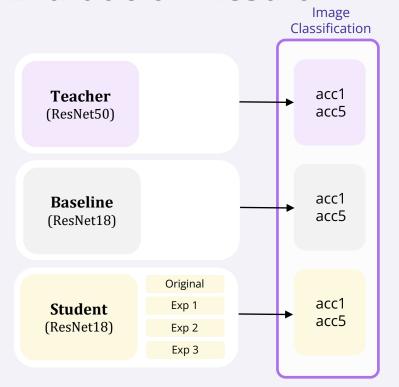


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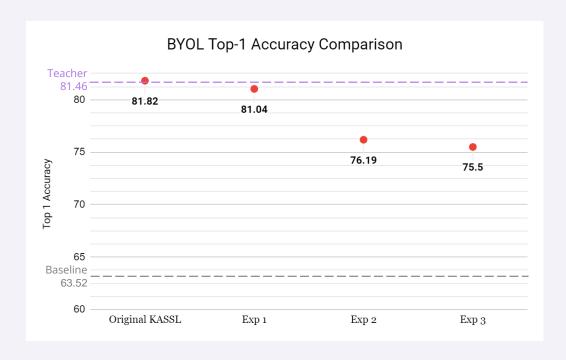
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1. KASSL VS Teacher

2. KASSL VS Baseline



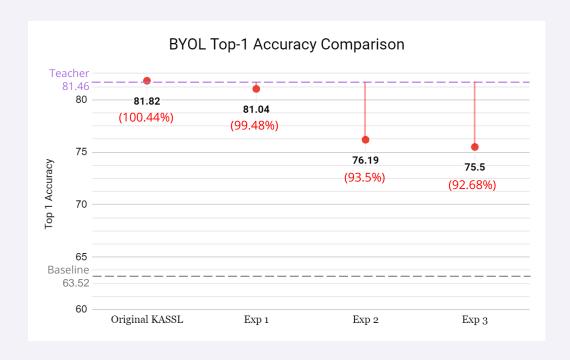
#### 1. KASSL VS Teacher

Mimics teacher's performance by

Average: 96.53%

Best: 100.44%

#### 2. KASSL VS Baseline



#### 1. KASSL VS Teacher

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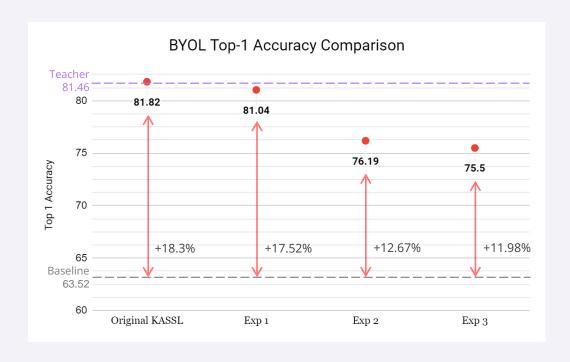
Best: 100.44%

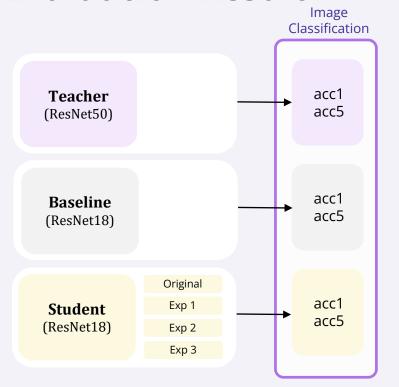
#### 2. KASSL VS Baseline

Outperform existing method by

• Average: +15.12%

Best: +18.3%



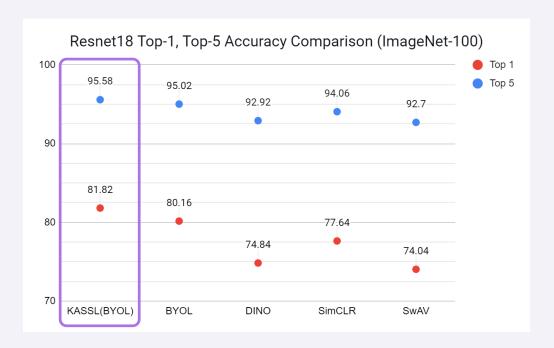


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### Contribution

### New method to train well-performing small networks in SSL domain w/ KD

- Successfully mimic teacher network
- Outperform networks trained by SSL methods
- Independent to how teacher network is trained

### New method to train small networks effectively

• Outperform networks trained by SSL methods w/ only half epochs

# **Limitation and Challenges**

#### Limitation

- Lack of large dataset (e.g. ImageNet-1K)
- Lack of experiment in various student architecture

### Challenge

• ~