# Robust Fine-tuning of Zero-shot Models

## Ludwig Schmidt

# WASHINGTON A

## (Samir Gadre filling in)











## Fine-tuning vs. zero-shot inference

State-of-the-art ML models often come from a **two-step process**.



## What is the best way to fine-tune a large pre-trained model?

## Focus today: out-of-distribution robustness



### Transportation



### **Robotics**





### Health care



### Chat assistants

## Need reliable machine learning



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# Robustness on ImageNet

## Lots of progress on ImageNet over the past 10 years, but models are still not robust.

## Evaluation: **new test sets**





## ImageNetV2

[Recht, Roelofs, Schmidt, Shankar '19]

# Chairs











## ObjectNet

[Barbu, Mayo, Alverio, Luo, Wang, Gutfreund, Tenenbaum, Katz '19]



## ImageNet-Sketch

[Wang, Ge, Lipton, Xing '19]

### ImageNet-R

[Hendrycks, Basart, Mu, Kadavath, Wang, Dorundo, Desai, Zhu, Parajuli, Guo, Song, Steinhardt, Gilmer '20]







[Taori, Dave, Shankar, Carlini, Recht, Schmidt '20]







## What robustness interventions help?



## Baseline out-of-distribution accuracy from in-distribution accuracy.

## What robustness interventions help?



Do current robustness interventions achieve effective robustness?

Humans

[Shankar, Roelofs, Mania, Fang, Recht, Schmidt '20]





No current robustness technique achieves non-trivial effective robustness.

Only training on (a lot) more data gives a small amount of effective robustness.





## Same trend: only more data gives effective robustness.

[Barbu, Mayo, Alverio, Luo, Wang, Gutfreund, Tenenbaum, Katz '19]



### OpenAI

## CLIP: Connecting Text and Images

We're introducing a neural network called CLIP which efficiently learns visual concepts from natural language supervision. CLIP can be applied to any visual classification benchmark by simply providing the names of the visual categories to be recognized, similar to the "zero-shot" capabilities of GPT-2 and GPT-3.

January 5, 2021 15 minute read

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### DATASET



ImageNet



ImageNet V2



ImageNet Rendition



ObjectNet



ImageNet Sketch



ImageNet A

Very large improvements in out-of-distribution robustness.

	IMAGENET RESNET101	CLIP VIT-L	
	76.2%	76.2%	E rc
	64.3%	70.1%	
	37.7%	88.9%	4
	32.6%	72.3%	+
K Z	25.2%	60.2%	+
	2.7%	77.1%	+

Effective robustness

+6%	
+51%	
+40%	
+35%	
+74%	



[Radford, Kim, Hallacy, Ramesh, Goh, Agarwal, Sastry, Askell, Mishkin, Clark, Krueger, Sutskever '21]

## Large robustness gains



What makes CLIP robust?

**But:** fine-tuning reduces robustness

> Can we get **both** high in-distribution and out-of-distribution accuracy?





# What makes CLIP robust?

Data Determines Distributional Robustness in Contrastive Language Image Pre-training (CLIP) Alex Fang<sup>†</sup> Gabriel Ilharco<sup>†</sup> Mitchell Wortsman<sup>†</sup> Yuhao Wan<sup>†</sup>

Vaishaal Shankar<sup>\$</sup>

Contrastively trained image-text models such as CLIP, ALIGN, and BASIC have demonstrated unprecedented robustness to multiple challenging natural distribution shifts. Since these image-text models differ from previous training approaches in several ways, an important question is what causes the large robustness gains. We answer this question via a systematic experimental investigation. Concretely, we study five different possible causes for the robustness gains: (i) the training set size, (ii) the training distribution, (iii) language supervision at training time, (iv) language supervision at test time, and (v) the contrastive loss function. Our experiments show that the more diverse training distribution is the main cause for the robustness gains, with the other factors contributing little to no robustness. Beyond our experimental results, we also introduce ImageNet-Captions, a version of ImageNet with original text annotations from Flickr, to enable further controlled experiments of language-image training.

CV] 3 May 2022

### Abstract



## Hypotheses for CLIP's robustness **Standard ImageNet CLIP** supervised learning No Yes ??? ImageNet 400M 1.2M Supervised Contrastive No Yes ViTs CNNs

## Language supervision

- **Training distribution**
- **Training set size**
- Loss function
- **Test-time prompting**
- **Model architecture**





### **Language supervision**

## **Training distribution**

**Training set size** 

oss tunction

**Test-time prompting** 

**Model architecture** 





## One takeaway: datasets are a key for improving models

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Multimodal datasets are a critical component in recent breakthroughs such as Stable Diffusion and GPT-4, yet their design does not receive the same research attention as model architectures or training algorithms. To address this shortcoming in the ML ecosystem, we introduce DATACOMP, a testbed for dataset experiments centered around a new candidate pool of 12.8 billion image-text pairs from Common Crawl. Participants in our benchmark design new filtering techniques or 

## Workshop tomorrow at ICCV!

25 Jul 2023 cs.CV

DATACOMP: In search of the next generation of multimodal datasets

### Abstract



## Can we fine-tune CLIP without losing robustness?

Robust fine-tuni

Mitchell Wortsman<sup>\*†</sup> Gabriel II

> Simon Kornblith<sup>\*</sup> Rebecca

Ali Farhadi<sup>\*†</sup> Hannaneh Hajishirzi<sup>†°</sup>

Large pre-trained models such as CLIP or ALIGN offer consistent accuracy across a range of data distributions when performing zero-shot inference (i.e., without fine-tuning on a specific dataset). Although existing fine-tuning methods substantially improve accuracy on a given target distribution, they often reduce robustness to distribution shifts. We address this tension by introducing a simple and effective method for improving robustness while fine-tuning: ensembling the weights of the zero-shot and fine-tuned models (WiSE-FT). Compared to standard fine-tuning, WiSE-FT provides large accuracy improvements under distribution shift, while preserving high accuracy on the target distribution. On ImageNet and five derived distribution shifts, WiSE-FT improves accuracy under distribution shift by 4 to 6 percentage points (pp) over prior work while increasing ImageNet accuracy by 1.6 pp. WiSE-FT achieves similarly large robustness gains (2 to 23 pp) on a diverse set of six further distribution shifts, and accuracy gains of 0.8 to 3.3 pp compared to standard fine-tuning on seven commonly used transfer learning datasets. These improvements come at no additional computational cost during fine-tuning or inference.

ng of zero-shot models				
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### Abstract



# The problem with fine-tuning



Raised as an open problem by researchers from OpenAI, Stanford, Google, etc.

## A simple but effective solution CLIP **Fine-tuned** 2 Task accuracy Robustness

## Weight-space ensembles for fine-tuning (WiSE-FT)

Building on [Nagarajan, Kolter '19], [Frankle, Dziugaite, Roy, Carbin '20], [Neyshabur, Sedghi, Zhang '20].



# Training from scratch

Linearly interpolating the weights of two models trained from scratch encounters a high error barrier (Frankle et al., 2020).

 $\theta^0$ 



Schematic.

Accuracy remains high when linearly interpolating the weights of two networks fine-tuned from a shared initialization (Neyshabur et al., 2020).

# Fine-tuning



Schematic.

• From schematic to **experiment**: fine-tuned models often appear to lie in a single, low-error region.















CLIP zero-shot

- Linear fit (CLIP zero-shot)
- CLIP fine-tuned end-to-end
- Weight-space ensemble (end-to-end)
- Best OOD without reducing ID
- Standard ImageNet models
  - Linear fit (standard ImageNet models)

$$y = x$$





### Koh et al., 2021

### iWildCam

	Train		Test (OOD)
d = Location 1	d = Location 2	d = Location 245	d = Location 246
Vulturine      Guineafowl	African Bush Elephant	unknown	Wild Horse
Cow	Cow	Southern Pig-Tailed Macaque	Great Curassow
	Test (ID)		
d = Location 1	d = Location 2	d = Location 245	
Giraffe	Impala	Sun Bear	+6.5pp 00D

### Beery et al., 2018



### FMoW

### +3.7pp OOD

### Christie et al., 2018

	Train			Test	
Satellite Image (x)					
Year / Region (d)	2002 / Americas	2009 / Africa	2012 / Europe	2016 / Americas	2017 / Africa
Building / Land Type (y)	shopping mall	multi-unit residential	road bridge	recreational facility	educational institution

### +2.2pp OOD



Predicted: domestic\_cat





### Best paper finalist, CVPR 2022

### +3.0pp OOD



Predicted: monkey

CIFAR-10.1. Recht et al., 2019

CIFAR-10.2. Lu et al., 2020

### +8.3pp OOD

ImageNet-Vid-Robust

Shankar et al., 2019

YTBBRobust +14.7pp OOD

















## Robustness gains invariant as compute scale increases

Final result (high accuracy models)

Reliable extrapolation via "Accuracy on the line"

Where most experiments happened (low accuracy models)

 $\rightarrow$  cheaper  $\rightarrow$  faster iteration



## All experiments measured effective robustness









Experiment with the full-scale model worked on first try

**ID-OOD** trends are a reliable scaling law for model design

## Robustness gains invariant as compute scale increases



Finetuning image-text models such as CLIP achieves state-of-the-art accuracies on a variety of benchmarks. However, recent works (Wortsman et al., 2021a; Kumar et al., 2022c) have shown that even subtle differences in the finetuning process can lead to surprisingly large differences in the final performance, both for in-distribution (ID) and out-of-distribution (OOD) data. In this work, we show that a natural and simple approach of mimicking contrastive pretraining consistently outperforms alternative finetuning approaches. Specifically, we cast downstream class labels as text prompts and continue optimizing the contrastive loss between image embeddings and class-descriptive prompt embeddings (contrastive finetuning).

- Finetune like you pretrain: Improved finetuning of zero-shot vision models
- Sachin Goyal<sup>1</sup>, Ananya Kumar<sup>2</sup>, Sankalp Garg<sup>1</sup>, Zico Kolter<sup>1,3</sup>, and Aditi Raghunathan<sup>1</sup>
  - <sup>1</sup>Carnegie Mellon University <sup>2</sup>Stanford University <sup>3</sup>Bosch Center for AI
    - December 2, 2022

### Abstract



## Why stop at averaging two models?

## Model soups: averaging weights of multiple fine-tuned models improves accuracy without increasing inference time

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# Conventional procedure for maximizing accuracy while fine-tuning



1. Fine-tune with various hyper-parameters.

## **Conventional procedure for maximizing accuracy** while fine-tuning



**Evaluate on held-out val** 

81.3%

- **1. Fine-tune with various** hyper-parameters.
- 2. Choose the model with the best accuracy on the heldout validation set.

79.6%

## Downsides of the conventional fine-tuning recipe

## **Choosing the best** individual model on the held-out validation set





### Lower accuracy

## **Ensemble**





### **Higher inference cost**





## Best of both worlds:



Same high accuracy as the ensemble



Same fast inference time as an individual model



Results

- ImageNet SotA
- Gains on many more dataset
- Widely used for multimodal models





# Can we fine-tune a model while preserving its zero-shot abilities?

### Patching open-vocabulary models by interpolating weights

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Open-vocabulary models like CLIP achieve high accuracy across many image classification tasks. However, there are still settings where their zero-shot performance is far from optimal. We study *model patching*, where the goal is to improve accuracy on specific tasks without degrading accuracy on tasks where performance is already adequate. Towards this goal, we introduce PAINT, a patching method that uses interpolations between the weights of a model before fine-tuning and the weights after fine-tuning on a task to be patched. On nine tasks where zero-

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### Abstract

# Conclusions

Pre-trained models often can be improved by fine-tuning on task-specific data.

> Both in vision and in NLP (instruction tuning, RLHF, etc.)

"Standard" fine-tuning can negatively affect the capabilities of the pre-trained model.

preserve robustness while improving task performance.

**Open questions** 

- Simple weight interpolation seems naive → are there better fine-tuning methods?
- Can we remove fine-tuning entirely and improve pre-training instead?



Interpolating between the pre-trained and fine-tuned models can

