Deep Denoising Models for Visual Representation Learning

Mido Assran

Representation Learning

Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/1206.5538.pdf

Pretraining:

How can we train a neural network to extract semantic features from unstructured data?

Evaluation:

How do we measure the quality of the learned features?

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Image decoder Classification Frozen Depth x-encoder decoder Prediction Object decoder Detection

Frozen Evaluation on Downstream Tasks

Pretraining:

How can we train a neural network to extract semantic features from unstructured data?

Supervised Learning



Train the image encoder by classifying labeled images



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How do we measure the quality of the learned features?

Image decoder Classification Frozen Depth x-encoder decoder Prediction Object decoder Detection

Frozen Evaluation on Downstream Tasks

Pretraining:

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Supervised Learning

Limitations:

- Need lots of human annotated data (expensive)
- Representations that are best for image classification are not necessarily the best for other tasks

Pretraining:

How can we train a neural network to extract semantic features from unstructured data?

Semi-Supervised Learning





Pretraining:

How can we train a neural network to extract semantic features from unstructured data?

Semi-Supervised Learning

Many previous approaches train the encoder parameters θ by minimizing a weighted sum of a supervised loss and an unsupervised loss, where $\lambda > 0$ is the relative weighting between the two losses

minimize_{$$\theta$$} $\ell(\theta; D_U, D_S) = \ell_{\text{unsupervised}}(\theta; D_U) + \lambda \ell_{\text{supervised}}(\theta; D_S)$

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minimize_{$$\theta$$} $\ell(\theta; D_U, D_S) = \ell_{\text{unsupervised}}(\theta; D_U) + \lambda \ell_{\text{supervised}}(\theta; D_S)$

Limitations:

- Tend to overfit without enough labeled examples
- Representations that are best for image classification are not necessarily the best for other tasks

Pretraining:

How can we train a neural network to extract semantic features from unstructured data?

Unsupervised Learning



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Unsupervised Learning

Underlying Hypothesis: There exist "proxy tasks" such that an encoder trained to solve such tasks on unlabeled data has learned to produce effective visual representations.

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Train the image encoder by solving Jigsaw Puzzels

x-encoder





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Rotation Rotated 90°

Train the image encoder by predicting image rotations

Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/1803.07728.pdf

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Train the image encoder by enforcing invariance to data augmentations



Paper: https://arxiv.org/abs/2002.05709

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(X) Meta

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Train the image encoder by reconstructing/denoising corrupted images

Generative Architecture



Paper: https://jmlr.csail.mit.edu/papers/volume11/vincent10a/vincent10a.pdf



decoder

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Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2304.03283.pdf

Pretraining:

How can train a neural network to extract semantic features from unstructured data?

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Gaussian Noise

Train the image encoder by reconstructing/denoising corrupted images

Generative Architecture



Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2304.03283.pdf

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Gaussian Noise

Generative Architecture

Forward Diffusion Process



2. Forward diffusion process adds Gaussian Noise to masked regions in each step









Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2304.03283.pdf

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Gaussian Noise

Generative Architecture



- 1. Divide image into "visible regions" and "masked regions"
- 2. Forward diffusion process adds Gaussian Noise to masked regions in each step

Similar to traditional diffusion models... forward process specified by Markov Process

$$p(x_t^m | x_{t-1}^m) = \mathcal{N}(x_t^m; \sqrt{1 - \beta_t} x_{t-1}^m, \beta_t \mathbf{I})$$

where the superscript *m* denotes a masked region of the image.

Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2304.03283.pdf

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Gaussian Noise

Generative Architecture



- 1. Divide image into "visible regions" and "masked regions"
- 2. Forward diffusion process adds Gaussian Noise to masked regions in each step

Samples from forward distribution are also Gaussian, and can be sampled without recursion:

$$p(x_t^m | x_0^m) = \mathcal{N}(x_t^m; \sqrt{\bar{\alpha_t}} x_0^m, (1 - \bar{\alpha}_t \mathbf{I}))$$

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Encoder is a Vision Transformer





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* For efficiency, encoder f_{θ} only processes visible regions * Decoder g_{ϕ} processes masked regions and visible regions

$$\ell(x;\theta,\phi) = \|x_0^m - g_\phi(x_t^m, f_\theta(x_0^v)\|)$$



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Pretraining:

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Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Gaussian Noise

Encoder learns effective representations for downstream image classification on the ImageNet-1K benchmark

| pre-train | w/ CLIP | ViT-B | ViT-L | ViT-H |
|-------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| from-scratch [34] | Х | 82.3 | 82.6 | 83.1 |
| MoCo v3 [11] | × | 83.2 | 84.1 | - |
| DINO [7] | × | 82.8 | - | - |
| iBOT [97] | × | 84.0 | 84.8 | - |
| BEiT [3] | × | 83.2 | 85.2 | - |
| MaskFeat [87] | × | 84.0 | 85.7 | - |
| MAE [34] | Х | 83.6 | 85.9 | 86.9 |
| DiffMAE | × | 83.9 | 85.8 | 86.9 |

Generalized Noise Patterns: Mask Noise

Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2304.03283.pdf

Pretraining:

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Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Gaussian Noise

Train the image encoder by reconstructing/denoising corrupted images

Generative Architecture

Do we really need to use Gaussian Noise in Forward Process?



Generalized Noise Patterns: Mask Noise

Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2111.06377.pdf

Pretraining:

How can train a neural network to extract semantic features from unstructured data?

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise

Train the image encoder by reconstructing missing patches

Generative Architecture





 g_{ϕ} decoder



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Generalized Noise Patterns: Mask Noise

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Pretraining:

How can train a neural network to extract semantic features from unstructured data?

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise

Encoder is still a Vision Transformer (processes sequence of patches)





Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2304.03283.pdf

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise

Generative Architecture

- 1. Divide image into a sequence of patches
- 2. Split seq. into "visible regions" and "masked regions"
- 3. Drop masked patches from the input sequence



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Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2304.03283.pdf

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise

Generative Architecture

Decoder takes "mask tokens" and patch representations to predict pixels of missing regions



Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2304.03283.pdf

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise

Generative Architecture

Loss is just L2 distance between predicted pixels and (normalized) ground truth pixels,

 $\ell(x;\theta,\phi) = \|x^m - g_\phi(m, f_\theta(x^v))\|$

where *m* denotes the mask tokens.

Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2304.03283.pdf

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise

Generative Architecture

Encoder learns effective representations for downstream object detection and segmentation on COCO benchmark

| | | AP ^{box} | | AP ^{mask} | | |
|------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|--|
| method | pre-train data | ViT-B | ViT-L | ViT-B | ViT-L | |
| supervised | IN1K w/ labels | 47.9 | 49.3 | 42.9 | 43.9 | |
| MoCo v3 | IN1K | 47.9 | 49.3 | 42.7 | 44.0 | |
| BEiT | IN1K+DALLE | 49.8 | 53.3 | 44.4 | 47.1 | |
| MAE | IN1K | 50.3 | 53.3 | 44.9 | 47.2 | |

Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2304.03283.pdf

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise

Generative Architecture

Encoder learns effective representations for downstream semantic segmentation on ADE20K benchmark

| method | pre-train data | ViT-B | ViT-L |
|------------|----------------|-------|-------|
| supervised | IN1K w/ labels | 47.4 | 49.9 |
| MoCo v3 | IN1K | 47.3 | 49.1 |
| BEiT | IN1K+DALLE | 47.1 | 53.3 |
| MAE | IN1K | 48.1 | 53.6 |

Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2304.03283.pdf

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise

Generative Architecture

Encoder learns effective representations for downstream image classification on the ImageNet-1K benchmark



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Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise

Generative Architecture

Encoder learns effective representations for downstream image classification on the ImageNet-1K benchmark

** Needs long training schedules and lots of compute... Is pixel prediction the most efficient approach?



Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2301.08243.pdf

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise in Latent Space

Joint-Embedding Predictive Architecture

Train the image encoder by predicting *representations* of missing patches, instead of raw pixels...

Similar to traditional latent diffusion models, idea is to improve efficiency by solving prediction task in a compressed latent space.

Intuition:

Low-level pixel details are not important for learning effective visual representations, so we abstract away irrelevant information, and solve prediction task in this new space.



∞ Meta

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Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise in Latent Space

Joint-Embedding Predictive Architecture

- 1. Divide image into a sequence of patches
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Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise in Latent Space

Joint-Embedding Predictive

<u>Architecture</u>

Predictor takes "mask tokens" and patch representations to predict representations of missing regions



Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2301.08243.pdf

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise in Latent Space

<u>Joint-Embedding Predictive</u> Architecture

Now we don't predict pixels... instead prediction representations of masked regions...

Note that target representations of masked regions are computed by processing the full image...

important for building *contextualized targets*!



Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2301.08243.pdf

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise in Latent Space

Joint-Embedding Predictive Architecture

Putting it all together... loss is just a simple L2 $\ell(x; \theta, \phi) = \|f_{\theta}(x^m) - g_{\phi}(m, f_{\theta}(x^v))\|$



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Can anything go wrong here?



Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2301.08243.pdf

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise in Latent Space

Joint-Embedding Predictive Architecture

To prevent collapse, add stop gradient operation $sg(\cdot)$ and compute target encoder weights from an exponential moving average of context encoder weights

$$\ell(x;\theta,\phi) = \|\operatorname{sg}(\overline{f}_{\theta}(x^m)) - g_{\phi}(m,f_{\theta}(x^v))\|$$



Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2301.08243.pdf

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise in Latent Space

Joint-Embedding Predictive Architecture

$$g^{\star} = \operatorname{argmin}_{g} \mathbb{E} \| g(f_{\theta}(x^{v})) - Y\| = \operatorname{median}(Y|f_{\theta}(x^{v}))$$

 $\nabla_{\theta} \mathbb{E} \| g^{\star}(f_{\theta}(x^{v})) - Y \| = \nabla_{\theta} \mathrm{MAD}(Y | f_{\theta}(x^{v}))$

Encoder must capture as much information about image as possible to minimize **median absolute deviation (MAD)**



Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2301.08243.pdf

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise in Latent Space

Joint-Embedding Predictive Architecture



Freeze pretrained encoder/predictor, and train a model to decode predictions to pixels.



Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2301.08243.pdf

Pretraining:

How can train a neural network to extract semantic features from unstructured data?

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise in Latent Space

Encoder learns effective representations for downstream image classification on the ImageNet-1K benchmark

... and with much less compute than pixel prediction methods

ImageNet-1K Linear Evaluation vs GPU Hours



Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2301.08243.pdf

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... and with much less compute than pixel prediction methods

... and with fewer labeled examples



Semi-Supervised ImageNet-1K 1% Evaluation vs GPU Hours

∞ Meta

Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2301.08243.pdf

Pretraining:

How can train a neural network to extract semantic features from unstructured data?

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise in Latent Space

Encoder learns effective representations for lower-level vision tasks as well (object counting and depth prediction)

... performs similarly to pixel prediction methods

| Method | Arch. | Clevr/Count | Clevr/Dist |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Methods with | out view date | augmentations | |
| data2vec [7] | ViT-L/16 | 85.3 | 71.3 |
| MAE [35] | ViT-H/14 | 90.5 | 72.4 |
| I-JEPA | ViT-H/14 | 86.7 | 72.4 |

Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2301.08243.pdf

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If we use pixels as targets, instead of representations (output of the target-encoder) the quality of the visual encoder degrades on downstream tasks Linear Probing on ImageNet-1k with only 1% of the labels

| Targets | Arch. | Epochs | Top-1 |
|-----------------------|----------|--------|-------|
| Target-Encoder Output | ViT-L/16 | 500 | 66.9 |
| Pixels | ViT-L/16 | 800 | 40.7 |

Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2301.08243.pdf

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise in Latent Space



Masking strategy is important for obtaining semantic representations...

multi-block

Paper: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2301.08243.pdf

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise in Latent Space

Masking strategy is important for obtaining semantic representations...

Linear Probing on ImageNet-1k with only 1% of the labels

| | Targets | | Context | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| Mask | Туре | Freq. | Туре | Avg. Ratio* | Top-1 |
| multi-block | Block(0.15, 0.2) | 4 | $Block(0.85, 1.0) \times Complement$ | 0.25 | 54.2 |
| rasterized | Quadrant | 3 | Complement | 0.25 | 15.5 |
| block | Block(0.6) | 1 | Complement | 0.4 | 20.2 |
| random | Random(0.6) | 1 | Complement | 0.4 | 17.6 |

*Avg. Ratio is the average number of patches in the context block relative to the total number of patches in the image.

Paper:

https://ai.meta.com/research/publications/revisiting-feature-prediction-for-learning-visual-representations-from-video/

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise in Latent Space

Generality of the prediction task means that we can extend the learning principle to video!



Paper:

https://ai.meta.com/research/publications/revisiting-feature-prediction-for-learning-visual-representations-from-video/

Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise in Latent Space

Freeze pretrained encoder/predictor, and train a model to decode predictions to pixels.



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Unsupervised Learning: Denoising Pixels with Mask Noise in Latent Space

Encoder learns effective representations for downstream video classification tasks



Frozen Evaluation

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... and with much less compute than pixel prediction methods



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| o. | | Frozen Evaluation | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | K400 (16×8×3) | | SSv2 (16×2×3) | | | |
| Method | Arch. | 5% (~29 samples per class) | 10% (~58 samples per class) | 50% (~287 samples per class) | 5% (~48 samples per class) | 10% (~96 samples per class) | 50% (~440 samples per class) |
| MVD VideoMAE VideoMAEv2 | ViT-L/16 ViT-H/16 ViT-g/14 | $\begin{array}{c} 62.6 \pm 0.2 \\ 62.3 \pm 0.3 \\ 37.0 \pm 0.3 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c} 68.3 \pm 0.2 \\ 68.5 \pm 0.2 \\ 48.8 \pm 0.4 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c} 77.2 \pm 0.3 \\ 78.2 \pm 0.1 \\ 67.8 \pm 0.1 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c} 42.9 \pm 0.8 \\ 41.4 \pm 0.8 \\ 28.0 \pm 1.0 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c} 49.5 \pm 0.6 \\ 48.1 \pm 0.2 \\ 37.3 \pm 0.3 \end{array}$ | $61.0 \pm 0.2 \\ 60.5 \pm 0.4 \\ 54.0 \pm 0.3$ |
| V-JEPA | ViT-H/16 ViT-H/16 ₃₈₄ | 67.0 ± 0.2 68.2 ± 0.2 | $\begin{array}{c} 72.1 \pm 0.1 \\ {\bf 72.8} \pm {\bf 0.2} \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c} 80.2 \pm 0.2 \\ 80.6 \pm 0.2 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c} 51.9 \pm 0.3 \\ 54.0 \pm 0.2 \end{array}$ | $57.5 \pm 0.4 \\ 59.3 \pm 0.5$ | $\begin{array}{c} 67.3 \pm 0.2 \\ \textbf{67.9} \pm \textbf{0.2} \end{array}$ |

... and with much fewer labeled examples