An Empirical Study and Analysis of Generalized Zero-Shot Learning for Object Recognition in the Wild







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Wei-Lun (Harry) Chao<sup>\*1</sup> Soravit (B

Soravit (Beer) Changpinyo<sup>\*1</sup>



**Boqing Gong<sup>2</sup>** 



Fei Sha<sup>1,3</sup>

## **Challenges of recognition in the wild:**

large-scale labeling space with a long-tail distribution

## Zero-shot learning (ZSL):

 expand classifiers beyond *Seen* objects to *Unseen* objects using semantic embeddings (e.g., attributes, WORD2VEC)



## Training of ZSL:

learn from Seen classes' images and semantic embeddings

#### Testing of *"conventional"* ZSL:

 classify images from Unseen classes into Unseen classes, unrealistically assuming the absence of Seen classes

#### Testing of *"generalized"* ZSL:

classify images from BOTH Seen & Unseen classes into the space of BOTH Seen & Unseen classes



#### **Generalized ZSL (GZSL) is nontrivial!**

- joint labeling space T = (S)een + (U)nseen
- scoring function of each class  $f_c(\mathbf{x})$

$$\hat{y} = \operatorname{argmax}_{c \in T} f_c(x)$$

accuracy on Unseen classes suffers in GZSL

| CUB dataset                           | Au → u | $As \rightarrow s$ | Aυ→τ | $As \rightarrow T$ |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------------------|------|--------------------|
| <b>SynC</b> [Changpinyo et al., 2016] | 54.4   | 73.0               | 13.2 | 72.0               |

 $AP \rightarrow q$ : accuracy of classifying images from P into the space of Q

**Calibrated stacking:** 

$$\hat{y} = \operatorname*{argmax}_{c \in T} f_c(x) - \gamma \mathbb{I}[c \in S]$$

• effect:  $\gamma \to \infty$ : all into  $U \qquad \gamma \to -\infty$ : all into  $S = \gamma = 0$ : direct stacking

#### Area Under Seen Unseen Accuracy Curve (AUSUC):

- varying γ leads to the
  seen unseen accuracy
  curve (SUC) of (Aυ→τ, As→τ)
- Area Under SUC (AUSUC) to characterize the tradeoff

#### **Extensive empirical studies**

- Datasets: AwA, CUB, ImageNet (|S| = 1K, |U| = 21K)
- Comparing ZSL algorithms: DAP, IAP [Lampert et al., 2009], ConSE [Norouzi et al., 2014], SynC [Changpinyo et al., 2016]
- Calibrated stacking outperforms novelty detection
  [Socher et al., 2013] in adapting ZSL algorithms to GZSL



## How far are we from ideal multi-class & GZSL performance?

- ImageNet-2K (1K Seen + 1K subsampled Unseen)
- multi-class classifiers trained on data from S + U
- semantic embeddings of GZSL:
  - (1) WORD2VEC

(2) G-attr: average visual features of each class of S + U

| Method        |                   | hit @1 | hit @5 |  |
|---------------|-------------------|--------|--------|--|
| GZSL WORD2VEC |                   | 0.04   | 0.17   |  |
|               | G-attr            | 0.25   | 0.58   |  |
| multi-        | class classifiers | 0.35   | 0.66   |  |



[measured in AUSUC]

High quality semantic embeddings is vital to GZSL!

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