



南京航空航天大学

Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics



模式分析与机器智能
工业和信息化部重点实验室

MIIT Key Laboratory of
Pattern Analysis & Machine Intelligence

Exploring data bias: from the known to the unknown

Prelude

- Bias is a reflection of **real-world structure**, but they affect the fairness of the model and may also lead to a decrease in the model's generalizability in real-world applications.

- Format:

- ✓ spurious correlation
 - ✓ distribution shift
 - ✓ Shortcut learning
- Texture bias,
background bias
scene bias
....

- Way:

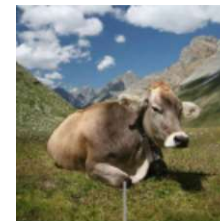
- ✓ Inductive Bias [**No free lunch theorem**]

- Aspect:

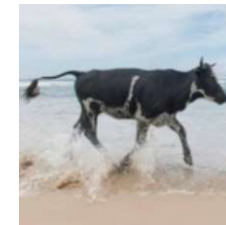
- Known bias
- Unknown bias



Specific
properties →



Specific
context →

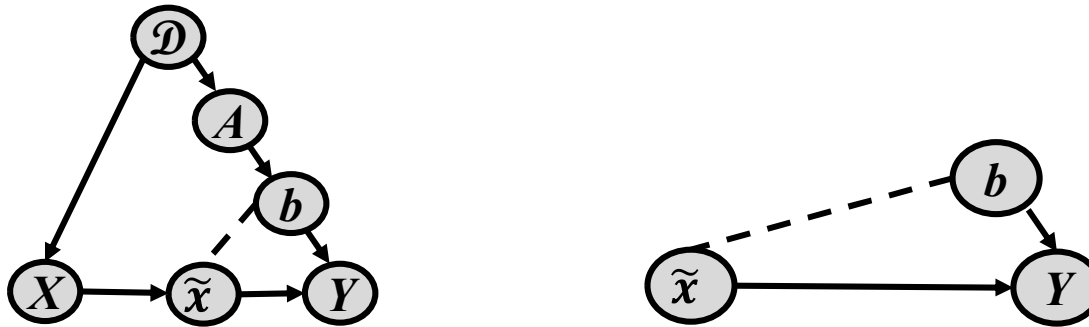


Specific
style →



Image
corruption →





$$P(y | do(x)) = \sum_A P(y | do(x), a)P(a | do(x)) = \sum_A P(y | x, a)P(a)$$

If b is a complete bias from X , then the goal is to make b and Y as independent as possible

- Random experiment
- $P(Y|B) = P(Y)$
- $\min I(\tilde{X}; B) \text{ i. e. } \min D_{KL}(p(\tilde{x}, b) || P(\tilde{x})P(b))$

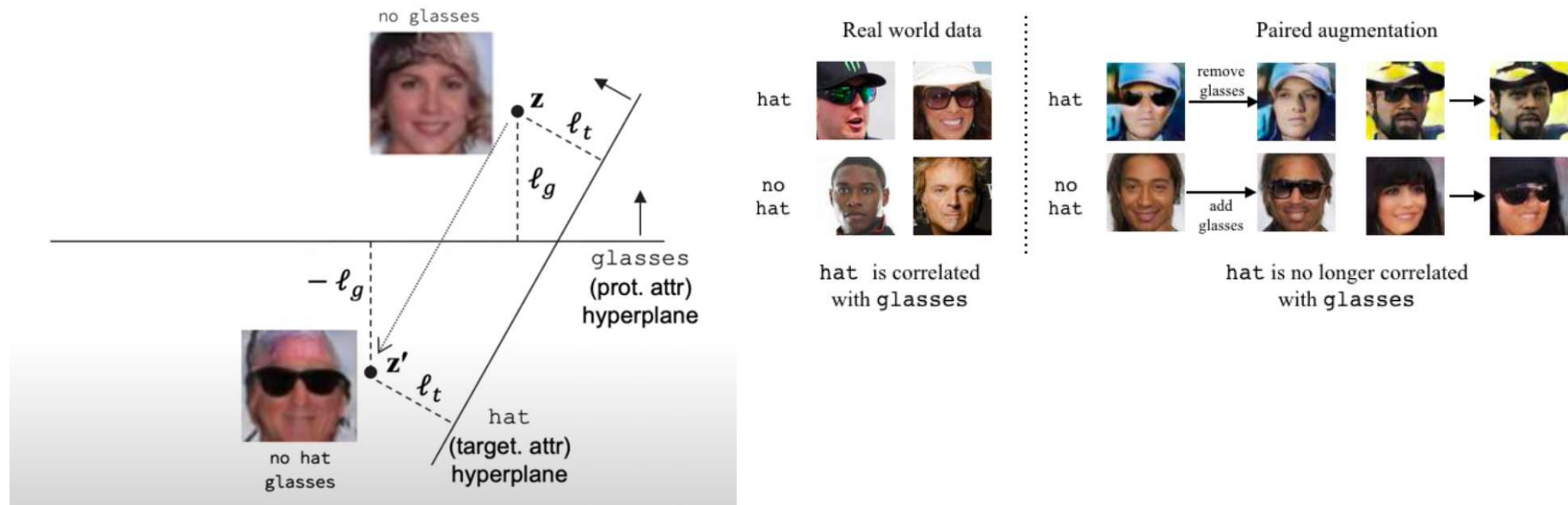
Fair data space

Fair Attribute Classification through Latent Space De-biasing

Vikram V. Ramaswamy, Sunnie S. Y. Kim, Olga Russakovsky
Princeton University

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- Constructing a fair dataset by GAN-based data augmentation
 - Assume: linearly differentiable in semantic properties
 - Target: Learning interpretable operational directions, constructing complementary vectors



Fair sampling distribution

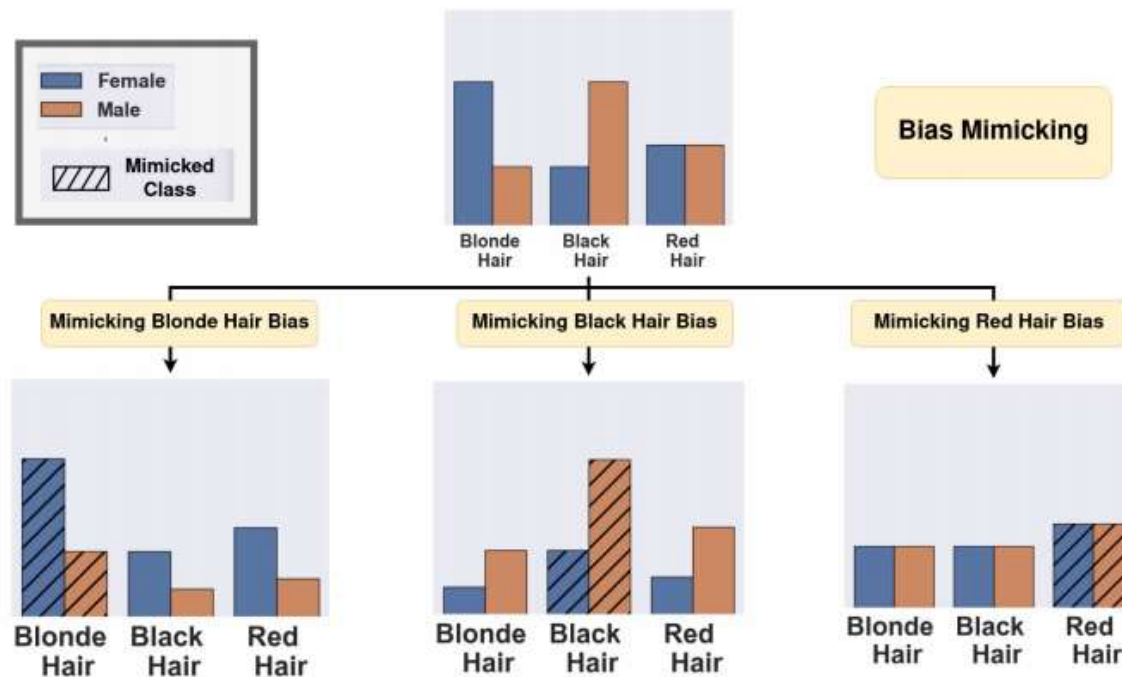
Maan Qraitem¹, Kate Saenko^{1,2}, Bryan A. Plummer¹
¹Boston University ²MIT-IBM Watson AI Lab
 {mqraitem, saenko, bplum}@bu.edu

- We want to guarantee $P_D(Y|B) = P_D(Y)$
- Bias Mimicking: Given class “c” :
 Ensure that is $P_D(B|Y = c)$
 “mimicked” in each other class

$$P_{d_c}(B = s|Y = c) = P_{d_c}(B = s|Y = c') \quad \forall s \in S.$$

$$P_D(B = s) = \sum_{c \in C} P_D(B = s|Y = c)P_D(Y = c)$$

$$P_D(B = s) = P_D(B = s|Y = c) \sum_{c' \in C} P_D(Y = c') \\ = P_D(B = s|Y = c)$$



Fair sampling distribution

Maan Qraitem¹, Kate Saenko^{1,2}, Bryan A. Plummer¹
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How to Bias Mimick?

- constrain the solution space such that the solution retains **the most number** of samples.
- obtain the set of solutions using a linear program.

c: preserved class
 c': mimicked class
 s: bias
 l: count

$$\max \sum_s l_s^{c'}$$

$$\text{s.t. } l_s^{c'} \leq |D_{c',s}|$$

$$\frac{l_s^{c'}}{\sum_s l_s^{c'}} = P_D(B = s | Y = c) \quad s \in S$$

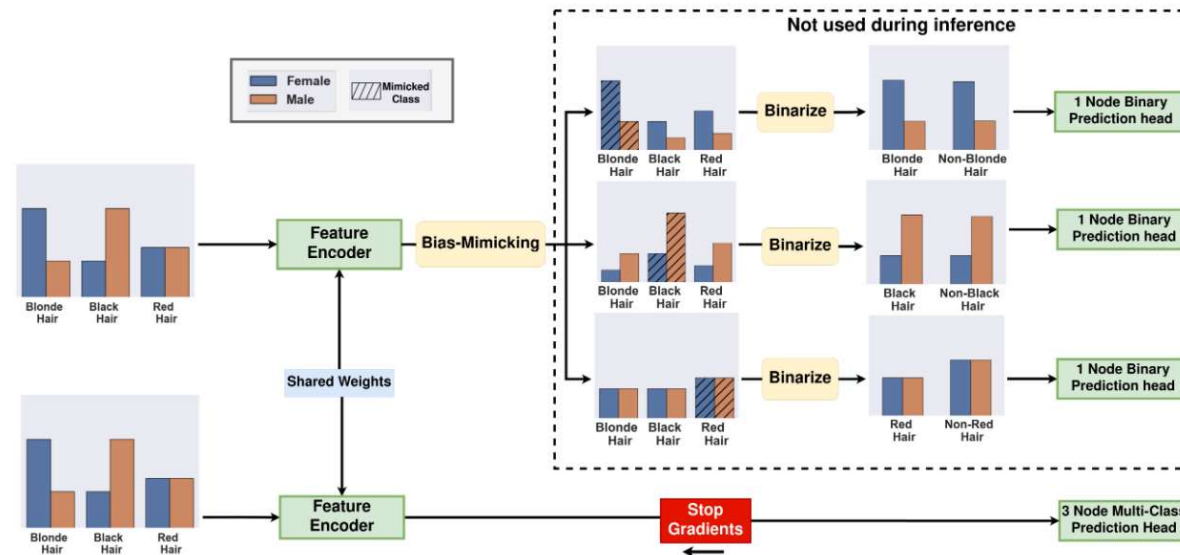
Set of biases

$$s \in S$$

Fair sampling distribution

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- How to train & inference?

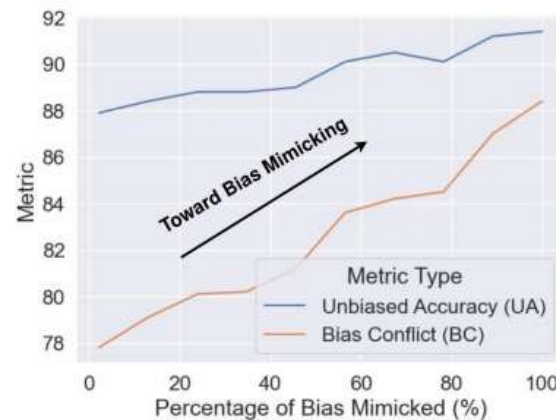


- ✓ Too many additional parameters
- ✓ The scores may not be calibrated with respect to each other

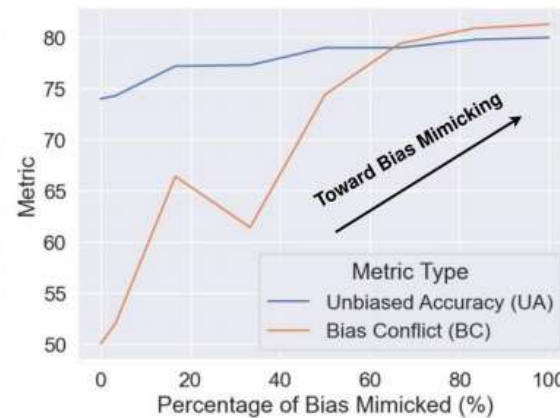
Results

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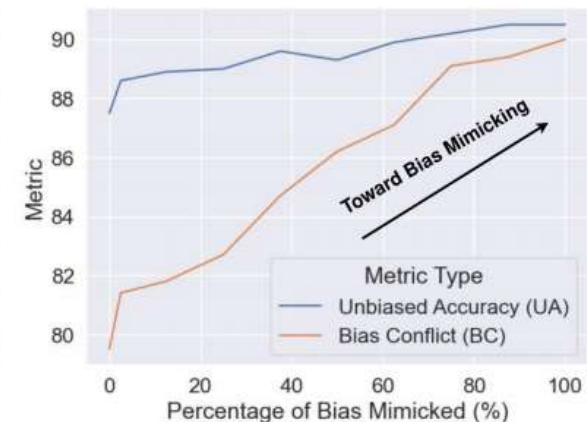
- How sensitive is the model to the mimicking condition?
 - 0%: distribution remains the same
 - 100%: Complete bias mimicking



a) CelebA/Blonde



b) Utk-Face/Age



a) Utk-Face/Race

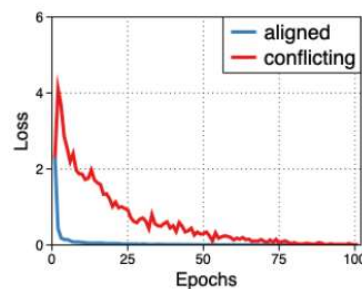
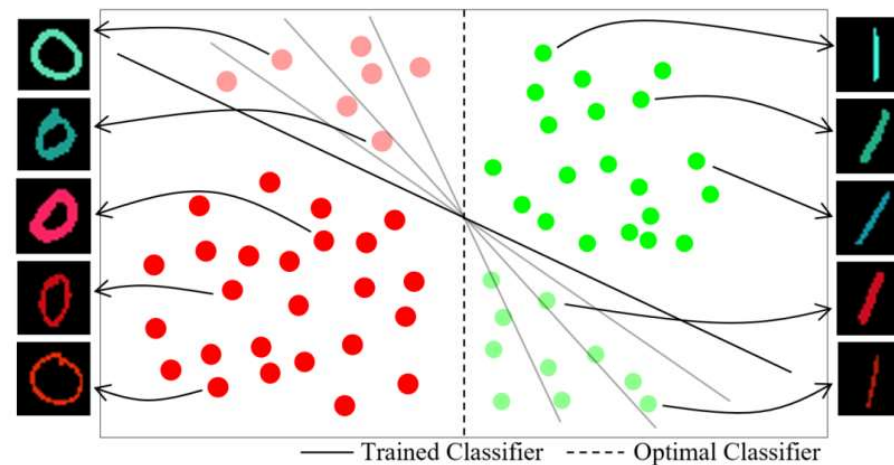
The performance of the model is **highly dependent** on the degree of bias mimicry, particularly the bias conflict groups

Fair network

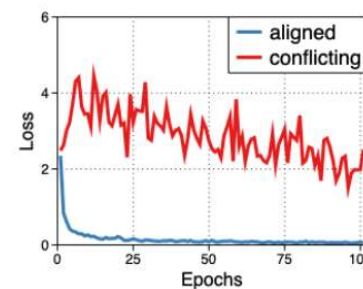
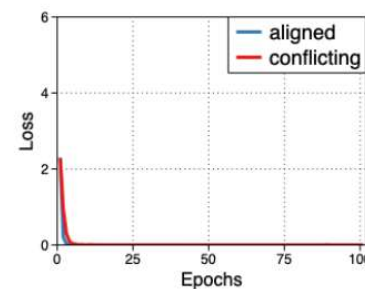
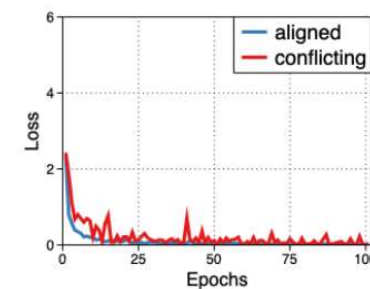
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- How does the bias affect model training?

The **malignant bias** attributes are **easier to learn** than the original task[5]



(a) Colored MNIST, (Digit, Color)

(b) Corrupted CIFAR-10¹, (Object, Corruption)

[4] Nam J et al. Learning from failure: De-biasing classifier from biased classifier.(NeurIPS2020).

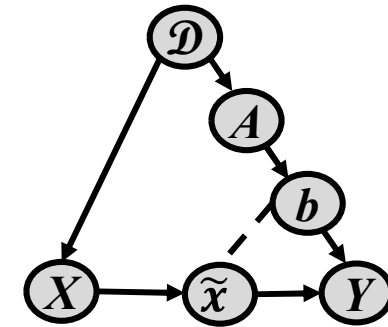
[5] Kim B et al. Learning not to learn: Training deep neural networks with biased data.(CVPR2020).

Fair network

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- How to unlearn the malignant bias?
 - **Minimize the mutual information** between feature embedding and target bias

$$\min I(\tilde{X}; B) \quad i.e. \min D_{KL}(p(\tilde{x}, b) || P(\tilde{x})P(b))$$

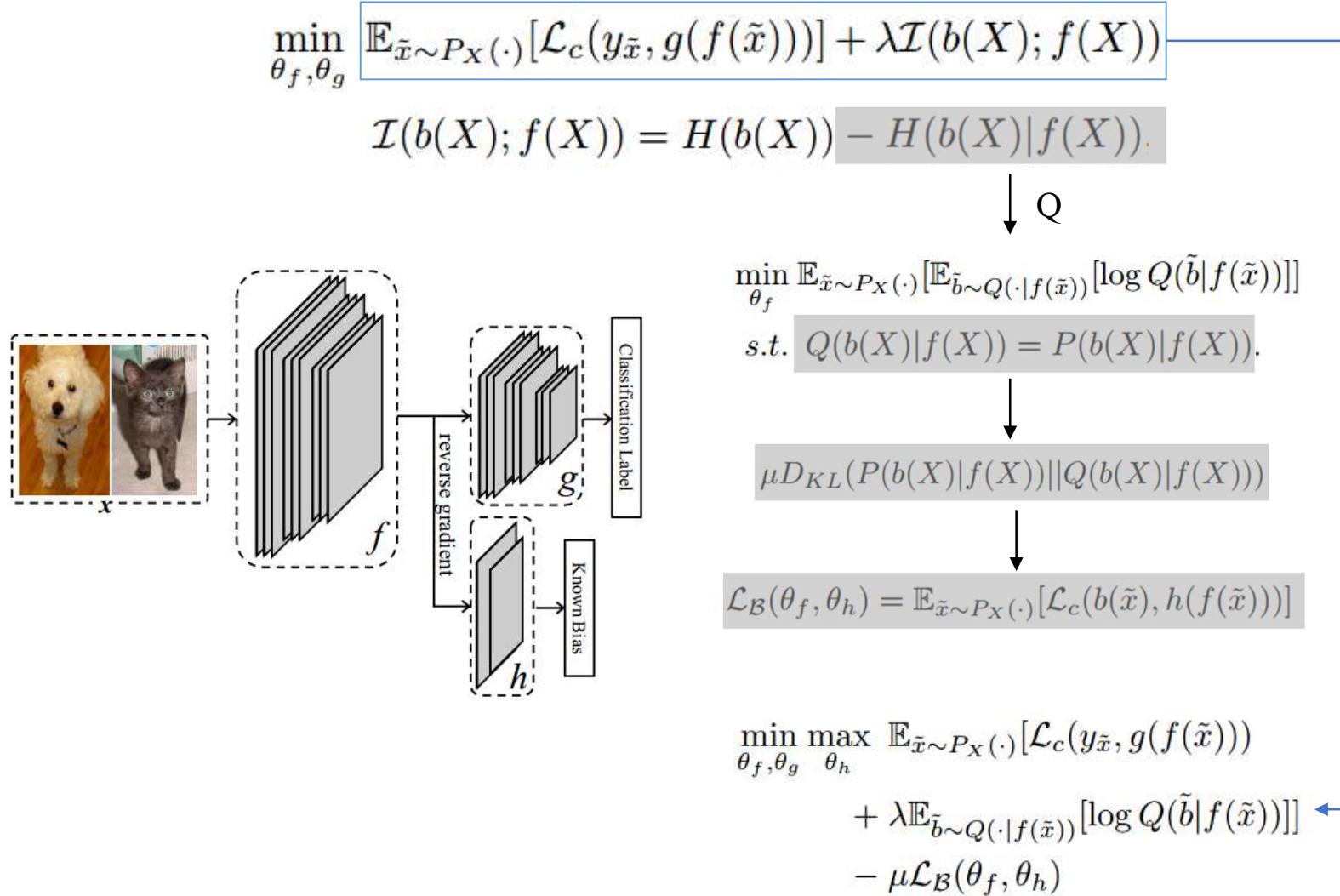


- malignant bias $\mathcal{I}(b(X^{train}); Y) \gg \mathcal{I}(b(X^{test}); Y) \approx 0$
- Ultimate optimization goal

$$\min_{\theta_f, \theta_g} \mathbb{E}_{\tilde{x} \sim P_X(\cdot)} [\mathcal{L}_c(y_{\tilde{x}}, g(f(\tilde{x})))] + \lambda \mathcal{I}(b(X); f(X))$$

- Issues: How to capture **the distribution of bias** in a network?

Fair network





What's more? ———Uncertainty Modeling and Optimization

The data distribution is p . Optimize θ to find the model $M(\theta)$ that makes the evaluation function l optimal

- **Ignoring uncertainty**
- **Stochastic optimization (Known about p completely)**
Optimize θ to maximize the expected value of l under p
- **Robust optimization (Only basic information about p)**
Find the optimal solution when p is the worst case
- **Distributionally robust optimization (Extraordinarily known distributional characteristics)**
Finding the worst distribution function that satisfies the uncertain parameter features

$$\text{ERM: } \hat{\theta}_{\text{ERM}} := \arg \min_{\theta \in \Theta} \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim \hat{P}} [\ell(\theta; (x, y))].$$

$$\text{DRO: } \min_{\theta \in \Theta} \left\{ \mathcal{R}(\theta) := \sup_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}} \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim Q} [\ell(\theta; (x, y))] \right\} \quad \text{e.g. } f\text{-divergence based}$$

What's more? ———Uncertainty Modeling and Optimization

ERM: $\hat{\theta}_{\text{ERM}} := \arg \min_{\theta \in \Theta} \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim \hat{P}} [\ell(\theta; (x, y))]$

DRO: $\min_{\theta \in \Theta} \left\{ \mathcal{R}(\theta) := \sup_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}} \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim Q} [\ell(\theta; (x, y))] \right\}$

Group DRO: $\hat{\theta}_{\text{DRO}} := \arg \min_{\theta \in \Theta} \left\{ \hat{\mathcal{R}}(\theta) := \max_{g \in \mathcal{G}} \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim \hat{P}_g} [\ell(\theta; (x, y))] \right\}$

Δ^m is an $(m - 1)$ -dimensional probabilistic simplex

$\mathcal{Q} := \{ \sum_{g=1}^m q_g P_g : q \in \Delta_m \}$

$\min_{\theta \in \Theta} \sup_{q \in \Delta_m} \sum_{g=1}^m q_g \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim P_g} [\ell(\theta; (x, y))]$

Algorithm 1: Online optimization algorithm for group DRO

Input: Step sizes η_q, η_θ ; P_g for each $g \in \mathcal{G}$

Initialize $\theta^{(0)}$ and $q^{(0)}$

for $t = 1, \dots, T$ **do**

$g \sim \text{Uniform}(1, \dots, m)$

 // Choose a group g at random

$x, y \sim P_g$

 // Sample x, y from group g

$q' \leftarrow q^{(t-1)}; q'_g \leftarrow q'_g \exp(\eta_q \ell(\theta^{(t-1)}; (x, y)))$

 // Update weights for group g

$q^{(t)} \leftarrow q' / \sum_{g'} q'_{g'}$

 // Renormalize q

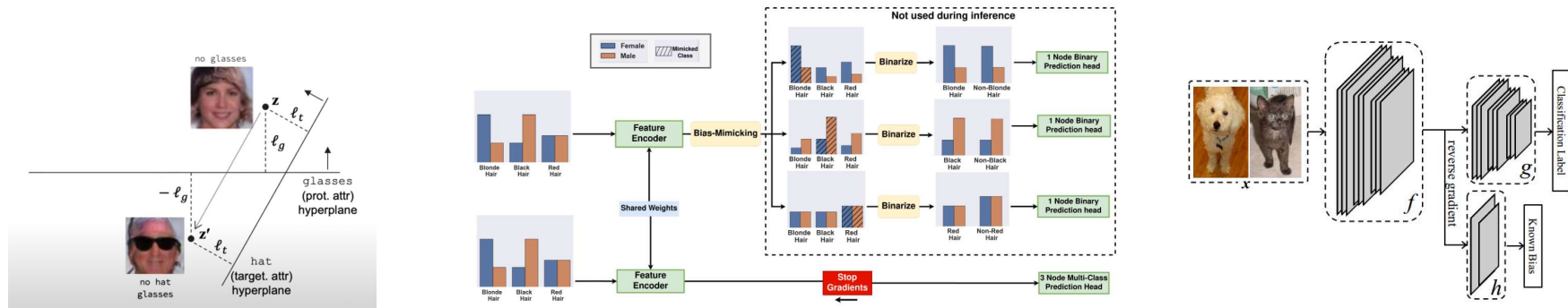
$\theta^{(t)} \leftarrow \theta^{(t-1)} - \eta_\theta q_g^{(t)} \nabla \ell(\theta^{(t-1)}; (x, y))$

 // Use q to update θ

end

From known to unknown

- Still need to know a priori information about the bias



- How to trick unknown bias?
 - Unsupervised learning
 - Self-supervised learning
 - MLLM-based

Aspect 1 — Clustering

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➤ Observation:

For a particular attribute (other than the target attribute), samples with **the same label** tend to have **similar representations** in the feature space of a fully trained model

➤ Motivation :

Define groups using **biased pseudo-attribute** information obtained through any **clustering algorithm** in the feature embedding space.

➤ Optimization goals :

$$\min_{\theta} \left\{ \mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{K}}(\theta) := \mathbb{E}_{(\mathbf{x}, y) \sim P} \left[\omega_{h((\mathbf{x}, y); \tilde{\theta})} \ell((\mathbf{x}, y); \theta) \right] \right\}$$

cluster membership

Aspect 1——Clustering

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Group DRO:
$$\min_{\theta \in \Theta} \sup_{q \in \Delta_m} \sum_{g=1}^m q_g \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim P_g} [\ell(\theta; (x, y))]$$

Revised version
$$\min_{\theta} \left\{ \mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{K}}(\theta) := \mathbb{E}_{(\mathbf{x}, y) \sim P} \left[\omega_{h((\mathbf{x}, y); \tilde{\theta})} \ell((\mathbf{x}, y); \theta) \right] \right\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_k &= \frac{\mathbb{E}_{(\mathbf{x}, y) \sim P_k} [\ell((\mathbf{x}, y); \theta)]}{N_k} \\ &= \frac{\mathbb{E}_{(\mathbf{x}, y) \sim P} [\ell((\mathbf{x}, y); \theta) \mid h((\mathbf{x}, y); \tilde{\theta}) = k]}{\sum_i \mathbb{1}(h((\mathbf{x}_i, y_i); \tilde{\theta}) = k)} \end{aligned}$$

Step1: Clustering the training samples in the feature embedding space of the fully optimized base model, assuming that each cluster corresponds to a bias pseudo-attribute

Step2: Weighting between groups considering the size and average difficulty of each cluster

Algorithm 1: Debiasing with bias pseudo-attribute

```

1 Require: step size  $\eta_\theta$ , momentum  $m$ , training steps  $T$ ,
   batch size  $B$ , the number of clusters  $K$ 
2 Base model:
3 Initialize  $\tilde{\theta}$ 
4 for  $t = 1, \dots, T$  do
5   Sample  $(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) \sim P$  for  $i = 1, \dots, B$ ;
6    $\tilde{\theta} \leftarrow \tilde{\theta} - \eta_\theta \sum_{i=1}^B \nabla \ell((\mathbf{x}_i, y_i); \tilde{\theta})$ ;
7 end
8 for  $k = 1, \dots, K$  do
9    $P_k = \{(\mathbf{x}_n, y_n) \mid h((\mathbf{x}_n, y_n); \tilde{\theta}) = k \text{ for all } n\}$ ;
10   $N_k = |P_k|$ ;
11 end
```

12 Target model:

```

13 Initialize  $\theta$  and  $\omega_k$  for  $k = 1, \dots, K$ 
14 for  $t = 1, \dots, T$  do
15    $\omega_k \leftarrow (1 - m)\omega_k + \frac{m}{N_k} \mathbb{E}_{(\mathbf{x}, y) \sim P_k} [\ell((\mathbf{x}, y); \theta)]$ 
16   for  $k = 1, \dots, K$ ;
17   Sample  $(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) \sim P$  for  $i = 1, \dots, B$ ;
18    $\alpha_i = \omega_{h((\mathbf{x}_i, y_i); \tilde{\theta})}$ ;
19    $\bar{\alpha}_i = \alpha_i / \sum_{i=1}^B \alpha_i$ ;
20    $\theta \leftarrow \theta - \eta_\theta \sum_{i=1}^B \bar{\alpha}_i \nabla \ell((\mathbf{x}_i, y_i); \theta)$ ;
21 end
```

Aspect 2—Contrastive Approach

Correct-N-Contrast: A Contrastive Approach for Improving Robustness to Spurious Correlations

Michael Zhang[†], Nimit S. Sohoni[‡], Hongyang R. Zhang[‡], Chelsea Finn[†] & Christopher Ré[†]

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➤ Observation:

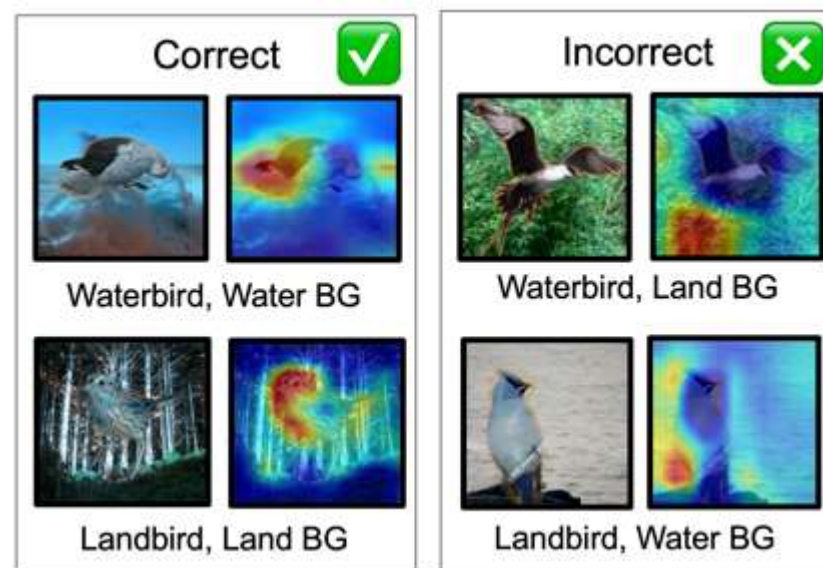
The **worst population accuracy** of the neural network in the false correlation case is closely related to its representation - i.e., the output of its last hidden layer - only to **the extent that it relies on true labels** rather than false attributes

➤ Motivation :

By **improving alignment** while keeping the class mean error low, we can help improve the worst group error for the class

➤ New sampling scheme

Samples with the same category but different spurious attributes as **different “views”** (anchors and **positive samples**) of the same category, and samples **negative samples** of data points with the same inferred spurious attributes but different categories



Aspect 2—Contrastive Approach

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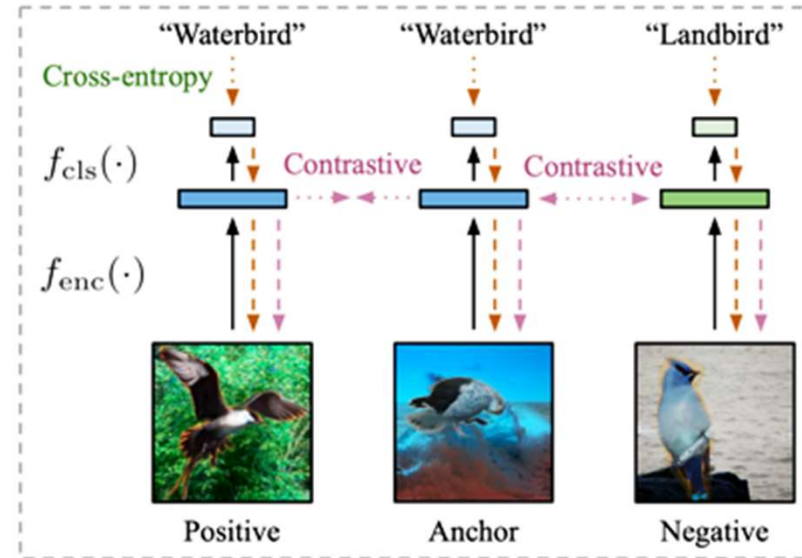
Stage 1: ERM Training

- Train model with ERM to predict ground-truth labels from data
- Collect predictions of the trained ERM model on the *training data*
- Get contrastive batches from predictions:



Stage 2: Supervised Contrastive Learning

- Train a new model with supervised contrastive loss + classification loss using contrastive batches



$$\hat{\mathcal{L}}(f_{\theta}; x, y) = \lambda \hat{\mathcal{L}}_{\text{con}}^{\text{sup}}(f_{\text{enc}}; x, y) + (1 - \lambda) \hat{\mathcal{L}}_{\text{cross}}(f_{\theta}; x, y)$$

$$\hat{\mathcal{L}}_{\text{con}}^{\text{sup}}(f_{\text{enc}}) = \underbrace{\hat{\mathcal{L}}_{\text{con}}^{\text{sup}}(x_1, \{x_m^+\}_{m=1}^M, \{x_n^-\}_{n=1}^N; f_{\text{enc}})}_{\text{Contrastive Loss}} + \hat{\mathcal{L}}_{\text{con}}^{\text{sup}}(x_1^+, \{x_i\}_{i=1}^M, \{x_n^{\prime-}\}_{n=1}^N; f_{\text{enc}})$$

$$-\frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \log \frac{\exp(z_1^{\text{T}} z_m^+ / \tau)}{\sum_{m=1}^M \exp(z_1^{\text{T}} z_m^+ / \tau) + \sum_{n=1}^N \exp(z_1^{\text{T}} z_n^+ / \tau)}$$

Aspect 2—Theoretical proof

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➤ Motivation:

Reducing alignment losses can narrow the gap between the worst and average group losses

➤ Metrics design:

- Alignment loss

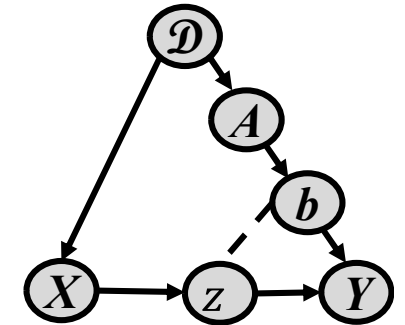
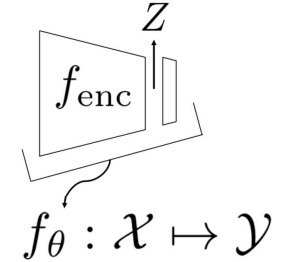
$$\hat{\mathcal{L}}_{\text{align}}(f_{\text{enc}}; g, g') = \frac{1}{|G|} \frac{1}{|G'|} \sum_{(x, y, a) \in G} \sum_{(x', y, a') \in G'} \|f_{\text{enc}}(x) - f_{\text{enc}}(x')\|_2$$

Degree to which samples with the same class but different spurious attributes map to neighborhood vectors

- Mutual information

$$\hat{I}(Y; Z) = \frac{1}{|Z|} \sum_{z \in Z} \sum_{y \in Y} p(y | z) \log \frac{p(y | z)}{p(y)}$$

Approximate MI between model-learned representations and labels



$$D_{KL}\{P(y|z) || P(y)\}$$

Aspect 2—Theoretical proof

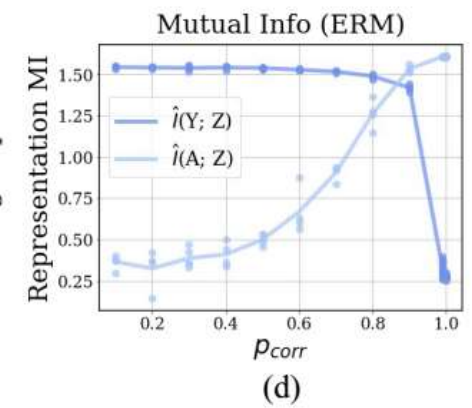
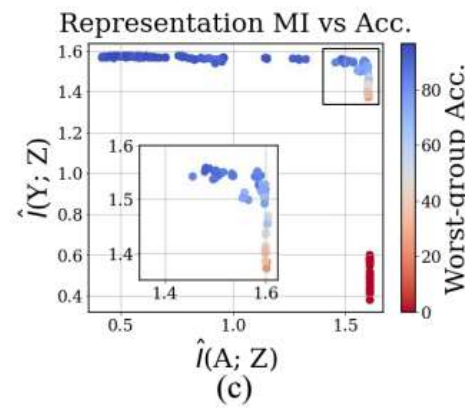
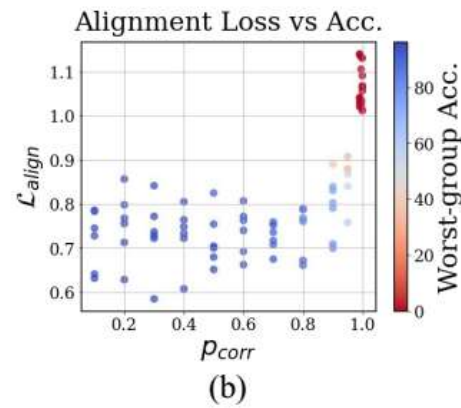
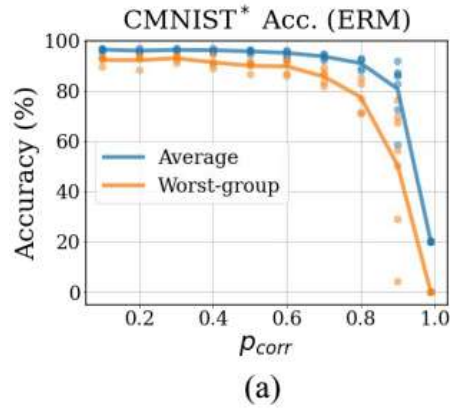
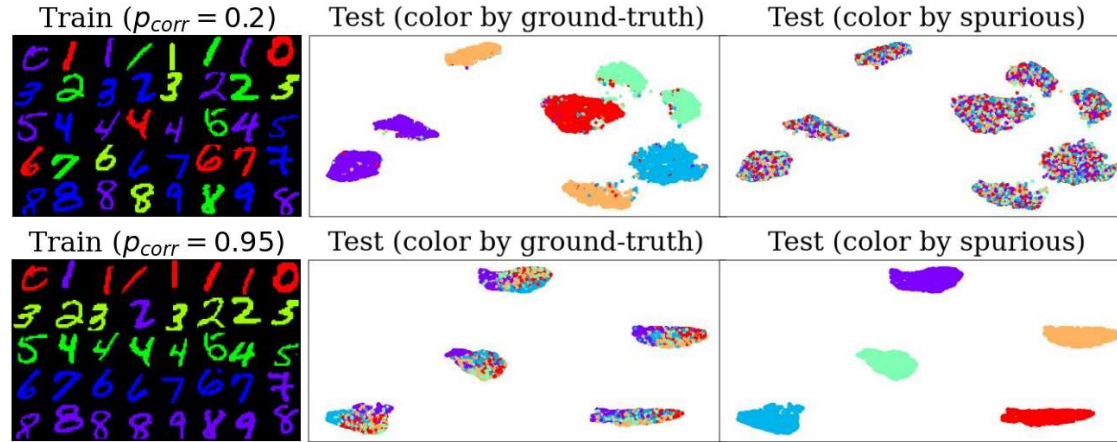
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Aspect 2—Theoretical proof

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Let $\mathcal{L}_{\text{wg}}(f_\theta; y)$ be the worst-group loss among groups in \mathcal{G}_y :

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{wg}}(f_\theta; y) := \max_{g \in \mathcal{G}_y} \mathbb{E}_{(x, \tilde{y}, a) \sim P_g} [\ell(f_\theta(x), \tilde{y})].$$

Let $\mathcal{L}_{\text{avg}}(f_\theta; y)$ be the average loss among groups in \mathcal{G}_y :

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{avg}}(f_\theta; y) := \mathbb{E}_{(x, \tilde{y}, a) \sim P: \forall a \in \mathcal{A}} [\ell(f_\theta(x), \tilde{y})].$$

Additionally, let $\mathcal{L}_{\text{align}}(f_\theta; y)$ be the largest cross-group alignment loss among groups in \mathcal{G}_y :

$$\hat{\mathcal{L}}_{\text{align}}(f_\theta; y) := \max_{g \in \mathcal{G}_y, g' \in \mathcal{G}_y: g \neq g'} \hat{\mathcal{L}}_{\text{align}}(f_{\text{enc}}; g, g').$$

Theorem 3.1. *In the setting described above, suppose the weight matrix of the linear classification layer W satisfies $\|W\|_2 \leq B$, for some $B > 0$. Suppose the loss function $\ell(x, y)$ is C_1 -Lipschitz in x and bounded from above by C_2 , for some $C_1 > 0$ and $C_2 > 0$. Let n_g be the size of any group $g \in \mathcal{G}$ in the training set. Then, for any $\delta > 0$, with probability $1 - \delta$, the following holds for any $y \in \mathcal{Y}$:*

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{L}_{\text{wg}}(f_\theta; y) - \mathcal{L}_{\text{avg}}(f_\theta; y) \\ & \leq BC_1 \cdot \hat{\mathcal{L}}_{\text{align}}(f_\theta; y) + \max_{g \in \mathcal{G}_y} C_2 \sqrt{8 \log(|\mathcal{G}_y|/\delta)/n_g}. \end{aligned}$$

The **upper bound** of the loss gap between the worst and average groups is **linearly and positively** correlated with the largest cross-group alignment loss

Aspect 2—Results

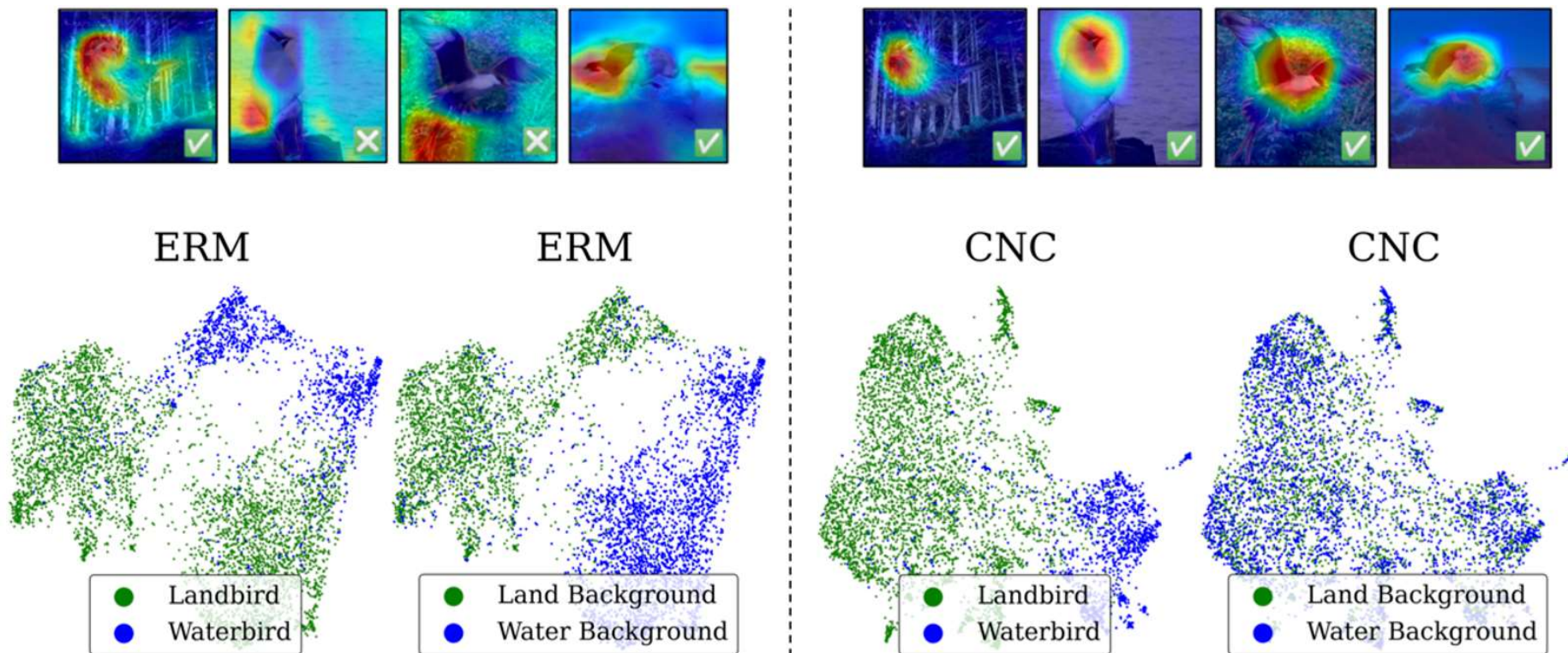
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Aspect 3—Keyword Explanation

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➤ Motivation: Unknown visual bias can't be interpreted

- Visualized spurious features that are **not human-readable**
- Thus, they are hard to be directly utilized for debiasing

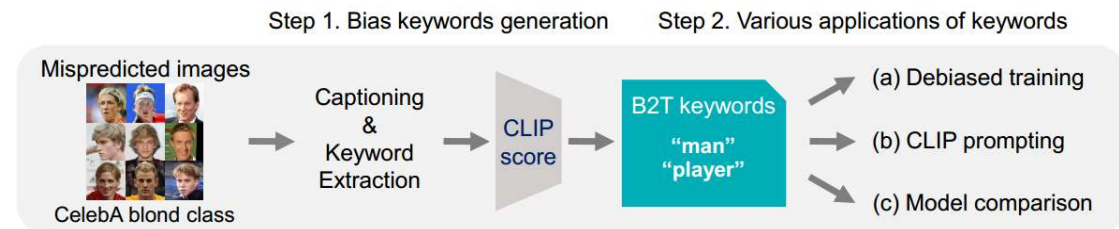


(a) **class:** band aid, **spurious feature:** fingers, **-41.54%** (b) **class:** space bar, **spurious feature:** keys, **-46.15%** (c) **class:** plate, **spurious feature:** food, **-32.31%** (d) **class:** butterfly, **spurious feature:** flowers, **-21.54%** (e) **class:** potter's wheel, **spurious feature:** vase, **-21.54%**

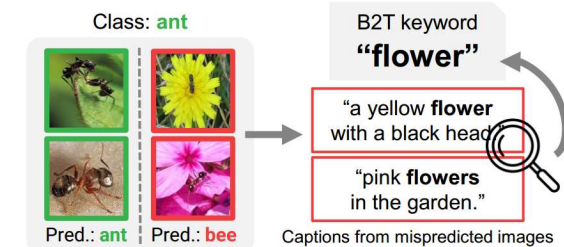
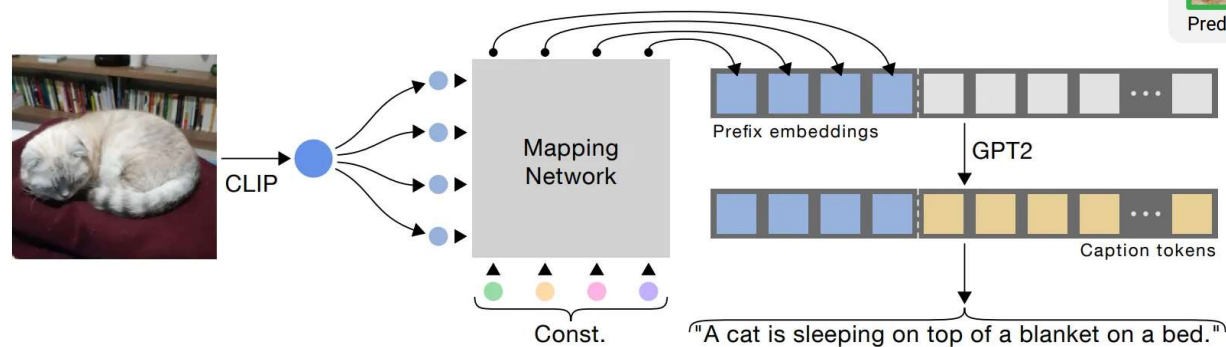
Aspect 3—Keyword Explanation

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➤ Method: B2T: Bias-to-text



Step1: use ClipCap as our default captioning model



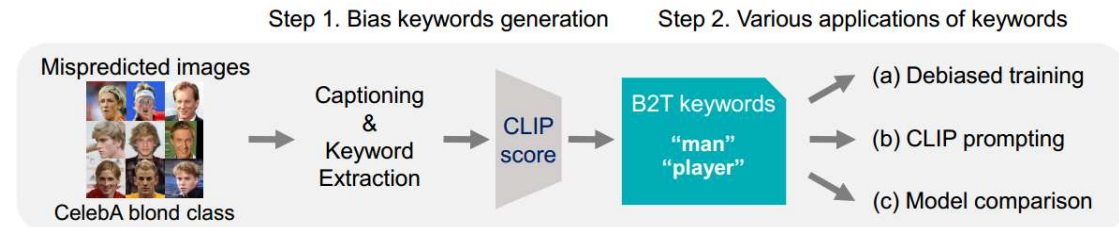
Step2: apply the YAKE algorithm to extract keywords

Text Preprocessing (Segmentation) --> Feature Extraction -->
 Individual Word Weight Calculation --> Candidate Keyword Generation

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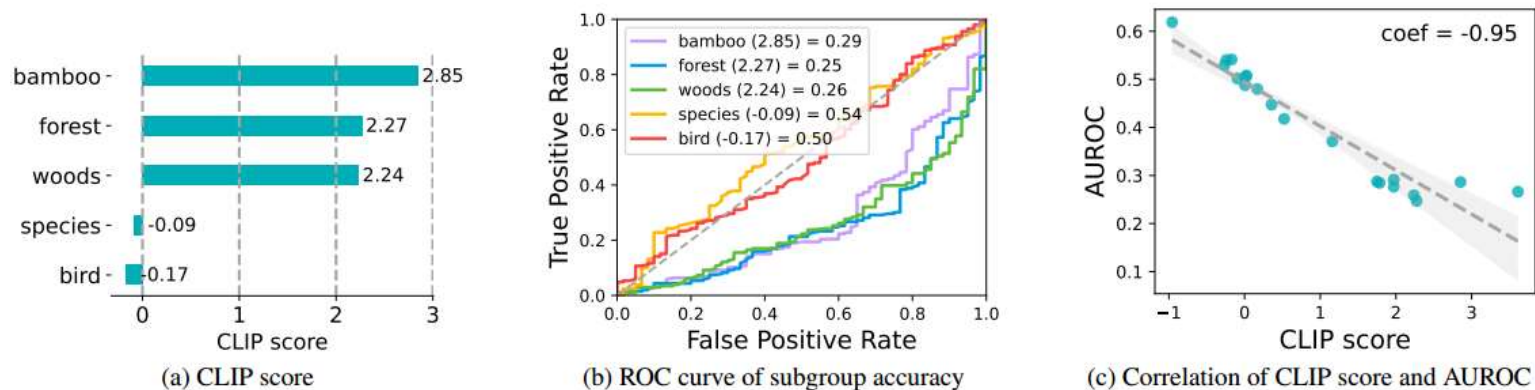


Step3: verify that keywords represent bias by CLIP score

To **measures the similarity** between the keywords and the incorrectly predicted images

$$s_{\text{CLIP}}(a; \mathcal{D}) := \text{sim}(a, \mathcal{D}_{\text{wrong}}) - \text{sim}(a, \mathcal{D}_{\text{correct}})$$

$$\text{sim}(a, \mathcal{D}) := \frac{1}{|\mathcal{D}|} \sum_{x \in \mathcal{D}} f_{\text{image}}(x) f_{\text{text}}(a).$$








Effect of the CLIP score (waterbird class)



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We first extract B2T keywords, then use them to various applications:

- **Debiased training**
- CLIP prompting
- Model comparison
- Label diagnosis

	(a) CelebA blond		(b) Waterbirds		(c) ImageNet-R		(d) ImageNet-C snow / frost	
Keyword	Man		Forest	Ocean	Illustration	Drawing	Snow	Window
Samples								
Actual	blond	blond	waterbird	landbird	backpack	white shark	airliner	American egret
Pred.	not blond	not blond	landbird	waterbird	maze	envelope	damselfly	quill
Caption	person, a man with a beard.	actor as a young man.	a bird in the forest.	a bird in the ocean.	hand drawn illustration of a backpack.	a drawing of a shark attacking [...]	airliner in the snow , photo.	a bird on a frozen window .

	(e) Dollar Street				(f) ImageNet			
Keyword	Cave	Fire	Bucket	Hole	Flower	Playground	Baby	Interior
Samples								
Actual	wardrobe	stove	plate rack	toilet seat	ant	horizontal bar	stethoscope	monastery
Pred.	poncho	caldron	oil filter	wheelbarrow	bee	swing	baby pacifier	arched ceiling
Caption	the cave is full of surprises.	a fire in the kitchen.	a bucket of water and a few tools.	the hole in the ground.	a yellow flower with a black head.	person on a swing in the playground .	a newborn baby boy in a stethoscope.	the interior of the church.

□ B2T discovers spurious correlations and distributions shifts

- e.g.)
 - “man” for CelebA blond 、
 - “forest” and “ocean” for Waterbirds、
 - “illustration” and “drawing” for IN-R 、
 - “snow” and “window” for IN-C

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Table 8. Prompt designs for debiasing zero-shot classifiers.

Dataset	Dataset-wise Template	Class Name
CelebA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [class name] • [class name] man • [class name] player • [class name] person • [class name] artist • [class name] comedy • [class name] film • [class name] actor • [class name] face 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • blond hair • celebrity of blond hair 2. Non blond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • non blond hair • celebrity of non blond hair
Waterbirds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [class name] • [class name] on the forest • [class name] with woods • [class name] on a tree • [class name] on a branch • [class name] in the forest • [class name] on the tree • [class name] on the ocean • [class name] on a beach • [class name] on the lake • [class name] with a surfer • [class name] on the water • [class name] on a boat • [class name] on the dock • [class name] on the rocks • [class name] in the sunset • [class name] with a kite • [class name] on the sky • [class name] is on flight • [class name] is on flies 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Landbird <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • landbird 2. Waterbird <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • waterbird

❑ **Modify** the cue by adding a keyword, e.g., “[class]’s photo” in [group], where the keyword represents the name of the group





- **Obtaining** the average prompts embedding for a class in all groups
- **Comparing** broader class embeddings for image classification

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- **Model comparison**
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Keyword	Work		Supermarket	
Samples				
ViT-B	O	O	O	O
RN50	O	X	O	X
Actual (RN50)	dumbbell	dumbbell	shopping basket	shopping basket
Pred (RN50)	dumbbell	horizontal bar	shopping basket	grocery store
Caption	a set of dumbbells with weights.	person works out in the gym.	a basket full of food.	woman shopping in a supermarket .

❑ Bias keywords can be used to analyze and compare different classifiers based on their keywords

e.g.) architecture: ResNet vs. ViT





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- Debiased training
- CLIP prompting
- Model comparison
- **Label diagnosis**

- ❑ B2T can diagnose common labeling errors, such as mislabeling and label ambiguities

Keyword	Bee	Boar	Desk	Market
Samples				
Label	fly	pig	computer mouse	custard apple
Pred.	bee	wild boar	desktop computer	grocery store
Caption	a bee on a yellow flower.	wild boar in the forest.	the desk in the office.	fruit and vegetables at the market .



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模式分析与机器智能
工业和信息化部重点实验室

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Pattern Analysis & Machine Intelligence

THANKS
