Structured Deep Hashing with Convolutional Neural Networks for Fast Person Re-identification

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Abstract

Given a pedestrian image as a query, the purpose of person re-identification is to identify the correct match from a large collection of gallery images depicting the same person captured by disjoint camera views. The critical challenge is how to construct a robust yet discriminative feature representation to capture the compounded variations in pedestrian appearance. To this end, deep learning methods have been proposed to extract hierarchical features against extreme variability of appearance. However, existing methods in this category generally neglect the efficiency in the matching stage whereas the searching speed of a re-identification system is crucial in real-world applications. In this paper, we present a novel deep hashing framework with Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) for fast person re-identification. Technically, we simultaneously learn both CNN features and hash functions/codes to get robust yet discriminative features and similarity-preserving hash codes. Thereby, person re-identification can be resolved by efficiently computing and ranking the Hamming distances between images. A structured loss function defined over positive pairs and hard negatives is proposed to formulate a novel optimization problem so that fast convergence and more stable optimized solution can be obtained. Extensive experiments on two benchmarks CUHK03 [Li et al., 2014] and Market-1501 [Zheng et al., 2015] show that the proposed deep architecture is efficacy over state-of-the-arts.

1 Introduction

Re-identification is task of matching persons observed from non-overlapping camera views based on visual appearance. It has gained considerable popularity in video surveillance, multimedia, and security system by its prospect of searching a person of interest from a large amount of video sequences [Wang et al., 2016c; Ye et al., 2016; Sunderrajan and Manjunath, 2016]. The major challenge arises from the variations in human appearances, poses, viewpoints and background cluster across camera views. Some examples are shown in Fig. 2. Towards this end, many approaches [Farenzena et al., 2010; Yang et al., 2014; Zhao et al., 2014; Pedagadi et al., 2013; Li et al., 2013; Paisitkriangkrai et al., 2015] have been proposed by developing a combination of low-level features (including color histogram [Gray and Tao, 2008], spatial co-occurrence representation [Wang et al., 2007], LBP [Xiong et al., 2014] and color SIFT [Zhao et al., 2013]) against variations (e.g., poses and illumination) in pedestrian images. However, these hand-crafted features are still not discriminative and reliable to such severe variations and misalignment across camera views.

Recently, deep learning methods [Li et al., 2014; Ahmed et al., 2015; Yi et al., 2014; Ding et al., 2015; Wu et al., 2016b; Chen et al., 2016; Xiao et al., 2016] have been proposed to address the problem of person re-identification by learning deeply discriminative Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) features in a feed-forward and back-propagation manner. It extracts hierarchical CNN features from pedestrian images; the subsequent metric-cost part compares the CNN features with a chosen metric encoded by specific loss functions, e.g., contrastive (pair-wise) [Li et al., 2014; Ahmed et al., 2015; Wu et al., 2016b] or triplet [Yi et al., 2014; Chen et al., 2016] loss functions. However, such typical deep learning methods are not efficient in real-time scenario, due to the less-efficiency of matching two pedestrian images by extracting and comparing hierarchical CNN features. In fact, the excellent recognition accuracy in neural network-based architectures comes at expense of high computational cost both at training and testing time. The main computational expense for these deep models comes from convolving filter maps with the entire input image, making their computational complexity at least linear in the number of pixels. And matching these CNN features to obtain similarity values is not fast enough to be applicable in real-world applications. In this paper, we aim to reduce the computational burden of person re-identification by developing a fast re-identification framework.
1.1 Motivation

To cope with ever-growing amounts of visual data, deep learning based hashing methods have been proposed to simultaneously learn similarity-preserved hashing functions and discriminative image representation via a deep architecture [Lai et al., 2015, Zhao et al., 2015, Zhang et al., 2015]. Simply delving existing deep hashing approaches into a person re-identification system is not trivial due to the difficulty of generalizing these pre-trained models to match pedestrian images in disjoint views. Fine-tuning is a plausible way to make pre-trained models suitable to re-identification, however, to suit their models, training images are commonly divided into mini-batches, where each mini-batch contains a set of randomly sampled positive/negative pairs or triplets. Thus, a contrastive or triplet loss is computed from each mini-batch, and the networks try to minimize the loss function feed-forwardly and update the parameters through back-propagation by using Stochastic Gradient Decent (SGD) [Wilson and Martinez, 2003].

We remark that randomly sampled pairs/triplets carry little helpful information to SGD. For instance, many triplet units can easily satisfy the relative comparison constraint in a triplet loss function (Eq (3)), resulting into a slow convergence rate in the training stage. Worse still, mini-batches with random samples may fail to obtain a stable solution or collapsed into a local optimum if a contrastive/triplet loss function is optimized [Song et al., 2016]. To this end, a suitable loss function is highly demanded to work well with SGD over mini-batches.

In this paper, we propose a deep hashing based on CNNs to efficiently address the problem of person re-identification. To mitigate the undesirable effects caused by contrastive/triplet loss function, we propose a structured loss function by actively adding hard negative samples into mini-batches, leading to a structured deep hashing framework. The proposed structured loss can guide sub-gradient computing in SGD to have correct directions, and thus achieves a fast convergence in training.

1.2 Our Approach

One may easily generate a straightforward two-stage deep hashing strategy by firstly extracting CNN features from a pre-trained model e.g., AlexNet [Krizhevsky et al., 2012], followed by performing the learned hash functions (separate projection and quantization step) to convert such CNN features into binary codes. However, as demonstrated in section 4, such a strategy cannot obtain optimal binary codes. As such binary codes may not well characterize the supervised information from training data i.e., intra-personal variation and inter-personal difference, due to the independence of two stages. In fact, such two stages can boost each other to achieve much better performance, that is, the learned binary codes can guide the learning of useful CNN features, while CNN features can in turn help learn semantically similarity-preserving hash function/codes.

Motivated by this, we present a structured deep hashing architecture to jointly learn feature representations and hash codes for person re-identification. The overall framework is illustrated in Fig[1]. In our architecture, mini-batches contain all positive pairs for a particular pedestrian, meanwhile each positive pair (has a query image and its correct match image from a different camera view) is augmented by actively selected hard negatives for its query and match image, respectively. Such mini-batches are taken into the inputs of deep network with a structured loss function optimized to learn CNN features and hash functions jointly.

The major contributions are summarized below:

- To the best of our knowledge, we are the first to solve person re-identification efficiently by presenting a structured deep hashing model. This makes our paper distinct from existing studies [Wang et al., 2016c, Ye et al., 2016, Sunderrajan and Manjunath, 2016] where the matching efficiency is not addressed.

- By simultaneously learning CNN features and hash functions/codes, we are able to get robust yet discriminative features against complex pedestrian appearance and boosted hash codes, so that every two deep hashing codes learned from the same identities are close to each other while those from different identities are kept away.

- To combat the drawbacks of the contrastive/triplet loss, we propose a structured loss function where mini-batches are augmented by considering hard negatives. Also, the proposed structured loss function that is imposed at the top layer of the network can achieve fast convergence and a stable optimized solution.
2 Related Work

In this section, we briefly review deep learning based on CNNs for person re-identification and several typical hashing methods, as they are closely related to our proposed technique.

In literature of person re-identification, many studies try to address this challenging problem by either seeking a robust feature representation [Parezena et al., 2010; Zhao et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2013; Wu et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2015a; Wang et al., 2015c; Wang et al., 2017b; 2; Wang et al., 2016b; Gray and Tao, 2008; Zhao et al., 2013] or casting it as a metric learning problem where more discriminative distance metrics are learned to handle features extracted from person images across camera views [Li et al., 2013; Kostinger et al., 2012; Pedagadi et al., 2013; Xiong et al., 2014; Liao et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2016]. The first aspect considers to find features that are robust to challenging factors while preserving identity information. The second stream generally tries to minimize the intra-class distance while maximize the inter-class distance. Also, person re-identification can be approached by a pipeline of image search where a Bag-of-words (Zheng et al., 2015) model is constructed to represent each pedestrian image and visual matching refinement strategies can be applied to improve the matching precision. Readers are kindly referred to Gong et al., 2014 to have more reviews.

A notable improvement on person re-identification is achieved by using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) [Li et al., 2014; Ahmed et al., 2015; Yi et al., 2014; Ding et al., 2015; Wu et al., 2016b; Wu et al., 2016a; Chen et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2017a; Xiao et al., 2016], which can jointly learn robust yet discriminative feature representation and its corresponding similarity value in an end-to-end fashion. However, existing deep learning methods in person re-identification are facing a major challenge of efficiency, where computational time required to process an input image is very high due to the convolution operations with the entire input through deep nets. Thus, from a pragmatic perspective, an advanced yet fast neural network-based architecture is highly demanded. This motivated us to develop an efficient deep learning model to alleviate the computational burden in person re-identification.

Hashing is an efficient technology in approximate nearest neighbor search with low storage cost of loading hash codes. Learning-based hash methods can be roughly divided into two categories: unsupervised and supervised methods. Unsupervised methods including Spectral Hashing [Weiss et al., 2008; Wang et al., 2015b] and Iterative Quantization [Gong and Lazebnik, 2011] only use the training data to learn hash functions. Supervised methods try to leverage supervised information to learn compact binary codes. Some representative methods are Binary Reconstruction Embedding (BRE) [Kulis and Darrell, 2009], Minimal Loss Hashing (MLH) [Norouzi and Blei, 2011], and Supervised Hashing with Kernels (KSH) [Liu et al., 2012].

Nonetheless, these hashing methods often cope with images represented by hand-crafted features (e.g., SIFT [Zhao et al., 2013]), which are extracted before projection and quantization steps. Moreover, they usually seek a linear projection which cannot capture the nonlinear relationship of pedestrian image samples. Even though some kernel-based hashing approaches [Liu et al., 2012; Wu and Wang, 2017] have been proposed, they are stricken with the efficiency issue. To capture the non-linear relationship between data samples while keeping efficient, Liong et al. [Liong et al., 2015] present a Deep Hashing to learn multiple hierarchical nonlinear transformation which maps original images to compact binary code and thus supports large-scale image retrieval. A supervised version named Semantic Deep Hashing is also presented in [Liong et al., 2015] where a discriminative item is introduced into the objective function. However, the above methods did not include a pre-training stage in their networks, which may make the generated hash codes less semantic. To keep the hash codes semantic, Xia et al. [Xia et al., 2014] proposed a deep hashing architecture based on CNNs, where the learning process is decomposed into a stage of learning approximate hash codes from supervised priors, which are used to guide a stage of simultaneously learning hash functions and image representations.

More recently, to generate the binary hash codes directly from raw images, deep CNNs are utilized to train the model in an end-to-end manner where discriminative features and hash functions are simultaneously optimized [Lai et al., 2015; Zhao et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2015]. However, in training stage, they commonly take mini-batches with randomly sampled triplets as inputs, which may lead to local optimum or unstable optimized solution.

By contrast, in this paper we deliver the first efforts in proposing a structured deep hashing model for person re-identification, which allows us to jointly learn deep feature representations and binary codes faithfully. The proposed structured loss function benefits us from achieving fast convergence and more stable optimized solutions, compared with pairwise/triplet ranking loss.

Figure 2: Illustrations on different loss functions. (a) Contrastive loss; (b) Triplet ranking loss; (c) Our structured loss. Here, x’s and y’s indicate hash codes of pedestrian images captured by query and gallery camera view, respectively. For a specific pedestrian’s hash codes x_i, its correct match’s code is y_i from a different view. Green edges and red edges represent similar and dissimilar examples, respectively. Our method explicitly adds hard negatives (e.g., y_m, y_n) for all positive pairs (e.g., (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2)) into mini-batches.

1Pedestrian images typically undergo compounded variations in the form of human appearance, view angles, and human poses.
3 Structured Deep Hashing for Person Re-identification

Our major contribution is to jointly learn feature representation from raw person images and their mappings to hash codes by presenting an improved deep neural network. The proposed network takes a mini-batch as its input which contains images in a form of positive/negative pairs. The architecture consists of three components: 1) a stack of convolution layers followed by max pooling to learn non-linear feature mappings from raw pedestrian images; 2) a hash layer connected to the first and the second fully connected layers; 3) a structured loss function is designed to optimize the whole mini-batch. The architecture overview is illustrated in Fig[1]

3.1 Learning Deep Hashing Functions

Assuming \( I \) to be the original image space, a hash function \( f : \mathcal{I} \rightarrow \{0,1\}^r \) is treated as a mapping that projects an input image \( I \) into a \( r \)-bit binary code \( f(I) \) while preserving the similarities of person images across camera views.

Learning based hashing methods aim to seek a set of hash functions to map and quantize each sample into a compact binary code vector. Assuming we have \( r \) hash functions to be learned, which map an image \( I \) into a \( r \)-bit binary code vector \( f(I) = [f_1(I), f_2(I), \ldots, f_r(I)] \). Although many learning-based hashing methods have been proposed [Gong et al., 2012; Gong and Lazebnik, 2011; He et al., 2013; Norouzi and Blet, 2011; Kulis and Darrell, 2009], most of them essentially learn a single linear projection matrix, which can not well capture the nonlinear relationship of samples. Admittedly, some kernel-based hashing methods are available [Liu et al., 2012; He et al., 2010], they instead suffer from the efficiency issue because kernel-based methods cannot have explicit nonlinear mapping.

In this work, we propose to learn deep hash functions with CNNs to jointly learn feature representation from raw pixels of pedestrian images and their mappings to hash codes. In this way, feature representations for person images can be learned more optimally compatible with the coding process, thus producing optimal hash codes.

During training, the input to our network is a mini-batch containing pairs of fixed-size \( 160 \times 60 \) RGB images. The images are passed through four convolutional layers, where we use filters with a very small receptive filed: \( 3 \times 3 \). The convolution stride is fixed to 1 pixel. Spatial pooling is carried out by three max-pooling layers. Max-pooling is performed over a \( 2 \times 2 \) pixel window, with stride 2. After a stack of convolution layers, we have two fully-connected layers which map an image \( I \) into a compact binary code. We show details of layers in CNNs in Table 1.

Table 1: Layer parameters of convolutional neural networks. The output dimension is given by height \times width. FS: filter size for convolutions. Layer types: C: convolution, MP: max-pooling, FC: fully-connected. All convolution and FC layers use hyperbolic tangent as activation function.

| Name | Type | Output Dim | FS | Stride |
|------|------|------------|----|--------|
| Conv0 | C   | 157 \times 57 \times 32 | 3 \times 3 | 1 |
| Pool0 | MP  | 79 \times 29 \times 32 | 2 \times 2 | 2 |
| Conv1 | C   | 76 \times 26 \times 32 | 3 \times 3 | 1 |
| Pool1 | MP  | 38 \times 13 \times 32 | 2 \times 2 | 2 |
| Conv2 | C   | 35 \times 10 \times 32 | 3 \times 3 | 1 |
| Pool2 | C   | 18 \times 5 \times 32 | 3 \times 3 | 1 |
| Conv3 | C   | 15 \times 2 \times 32 | 3 \times 3 | 1 |
| Pool4 | MP  | 15 \times 2 \times 16 | 1 \times 1 | 1 |
| FC1  | FC  | -          | 4096 | -      |
| FC2  | FC  | -          | 512  | -      |

where \( \text{sign}(t) = 1/(1 + \exp(-w^T I)) \), \( w_i \) denotes the weights in the \( i \)-th hash function, \( g_1(\cdot) \) and \( g_2(\cdot) \) represent feature vectors from the outputs of the two fully connected layers, respectively. Then, we have \( f(I, W) = [f(I, w_1), \ldots, f(I, w_r)] \). After the deep architecture is trained, the hashing code for a new image \( I \) can be done by a simple quantization \( b = \text{sign}(f(I, W)) \), where \( \text{sign}(v) \) is a sign function on vectors that for \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, r, \text{sign}(v_i) = 1 \) if \( v_i > 0 \), otherwise \( \text{sign}(v_i) = 0 \).

3.2 Structured Loss Optimization

In deep metric learning for person re-identification, the network is often trained on data in the form of pairs [Li et al., 2014; Ahmed et al., 2015; Yi et al., 2014] or triplet ranking [Ding et al., 2015]. Thus, there are two commonly used cost functions, contrastive/pairwise loss and triplet ranking loss, which can be used in hash code optimization. We briefly revisit the two loss functions and then introduce the proposed structured loss function.

Contrastive/Pairwise Loss Function  Given a person’s binary codes \( x_i \) and its correct match’s codes \( y_i \) from a different camera view, the contrastive training tries to minimize the Hamming distance between a positive pair of \( (x_i, y_j) \) and penalize the negative pairs \( (x_i, y_j) \) \((i \neq j)\) with a Hamming distance smaller than a margin. The contrastive cost function can be defined as

\[
F = \sum_{(i, j)} a_{ij} \|x_i - y_j\|_H + (1 - a_{ij}) \left( \max\{0, 1 - \|x_i - y_j\|_H\} \right)
\]  (2)

where \( x_i, y_j \in \{0, 1\}^r \) and \( \| \cdot \|_H \) represents the Hamming distance. The label \( a_{ij} \in \{0, 1\} \) indicates whether a pair of binary codes \( (x_i, y_j) \) depicting the same person.

Triplet Ranking Loss Function  Some recent studies have been made to learn hash functions that preserve relative similarities of the form of a triplet data \( (I, I^+, I^-) \) where image \( I \) (anchor) of a specific person is more similar to all other
Images $I^+ (\text{positive})$ of the same person than it is to any image $I^- (\text{negative})$ of any other person (images $I^+$ and $I^-$ are from a different camera view from $I$). Specifically, in hash function learning, the goal is to find a mapping $f(\cdot)$ such that the binary code $f(I) = x_i$ is closer to $f(I^+) = y_i$ than to $f(I^-) = y_j$ ($j \neq i$). Thus, we want

$$||x_i - y_j||_H + 1 < ||x_i - y_j||_H, \forall (x_i, y_j, y_j) \in T,$$

(3)

where $T$ is the set of all possible triplets in the training set and has cardinality $N$. Accordingly, the triplet ranking hinge loss is defined by

$$F = \sum \max \left(0, 1 - \left( ||x_i - y_j||_H - ||x_i - y_i||_H \right) \right)$$

s.t. $x_i, y_i, y_j \in \{0, 1\}^r$.

A noticeable difference between a contrastive embedding and a triplet embedding is that a triplet unit with similar and dissimilar inputs provide some distance comparison context for the optimization process, as opposed to the contrastive loss that the network minimizes (same class) or maximizes (different classes) as much as possible for each pair independently [Hoffer and Ailon, 2014].

In triplet embedding, however, generating all possible triplets would result in many triplets that easily fulfill the constraint in Eq. (3), which is known as over-sampling. These triplets would not contribute to the training whereas resulting in slow convergence. An alternative strategy is to perform a smart sampling where one must be careful to avoid too much focus on hard training exemplars due to the possibility of over-fitting. Thus, it is crucial to actively select informative hard exemplars in order to improve the model.

Below, we introduce our structured loss which can avoid aforementioned over or under-sampling dilemmas by virtue of actively adding difficult neighbors to positive pairs into training batches.

The Proposed Structured Loss Function  Previous works on person re-identification implement a Stochastic Gradient Decent (SGD) [Wilson and Martinez, 2003] by drawing pairs or triplets of images uniformly at random. They didn’t fully makes use of the information of the mini-batch that is sampled at a time and not only individual pairs or triplets. By contrast, we propose a structured loss over a mini-batch in order to take fully advantage of the training batches used in SGD. Meanwhile, the proposed structured loss can ensure fast convergence and stableness in training.

As shown in Fig.2 (c), the structured loss is conducted on all positive pairs and corresponding close (“difficult”) negative pairs across camera views. Specifically, it can be formulated as

$$F = \frac{1}{|P|} \sum_{x_i, y_i, y_k \in P} \max \left(0, F_{x_i, y_i} \right),$$

$$F_{x_i, y_i} = \max \left(0, 1 - \left( ||x_i - y_k||_H - ||x_i - y_i||_H \right) \right)$$

s.t. $x_i, y_i, y_k, y_l \in \{0, 1\}^r, (x_i, y_k) \in \bar{N}, (y_i, y_l) \in \bar{N},$

(5)

where $P$ and $\bar{N}$ denote the set of positive and negative pairs in each mini-batch. The process of selecting positive and negative samples is elaborated in Section 3.3.

**Difference to contrastive and triplet ranking loss:**

- In pairwise training with $O(m)$ separate pairs in the batch, a total of $O(m^2)$ pairs can be generated accordingly. However, these negative edges induced between randomly sampled pairs carry very limited information [Song et al., 2016]. By contrast, selected difficult exemplars are sharper cases that a full sub-gradient method would more likely focus on;

- Compared with triplet embedding containing randomly sampled triplets, our training batch is augmented by adding negative neighbors bilaterally for each positive pair. By doing this, the optimization process is conducted on most violate constraints, leading to fast convergence.

Fig.2 (a) and (b) illustrates a batch of positive/negative pairs and triplets with corresponding contrastive loss and triplet ranking loss. Green edges represent positive pairs (the same person) and red edges represent negative pairs (different individuals). Please note that these pairs and triplets are select completely random into a mini-batch. Fig.2 (c) illustrates the mining process for two positive pairs in the batch where for each image in a positive pair we seek its close (hard) negative images. We can see that our method allows mining the hard negatives from both the query image (e.g., $x_i$) and its correct match (e.g., $y_l$) of a pair against gallery images (e.g., $y_m, m \neq 1$).

**Optimization**  For ease of optimization, we relax Eq. (5) by replacing the Hamming norm with the $\ell_2$-norm and replacing the integer constraints on $x$’s and $y$’s with the range constraints. The modified loss function is

$$F = \frac{1}{|P|} \sum_{x_i, y_i, y_k \in P} \max \left(0, F_{x_i, y_i} \right),$$

$$F_{x_i, y_i} = \max \left(0, 1 - ||x_i - y_k||_2 \right), \max \left(0, 1 - ||y_i - y_l||_2 \right)$$

$$+ ||x_i - y_i||_2,$$

s.t. $x_i, y_i, y_k, y_l \in \{0, 1\}^r, (x_i, y_k) \in \bar{N}, (y_i, y_l) \in \bar{N},$

(6)

The variant of structured loss is convex. Its sub-gradients with respect to $x_i, y_i, y_k$, and $y_l$ are

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial x_i} = (2y_k - 2y_l) \times ||x_i - y_k||_2 > ||x_i - y_k||_2 + ||y_i - y_l||_2$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial y_i} = (2y_l - 2y_k) \times ||x_i - y_l||_2 > ||x_i - y_k||_2 + ||y_i - y_l||_2$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial y_k} = 2x_i \times ||x_i - y_l||_2 > ||x_i - y_k||_2 + ||y_i - y_l||_2$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial y_l} = 2y_l \times ||x_i - y_l||_2 > ||x_i - y_k||_2 + ||y_i - y_l||_2$$

(7)
The indicator function $I[\cdot]$ is the indicator function which outputs 1 if the expression evaluates to true and outputs 0 otherwise. Thus, the loss function in Eq. (5) can be easily integrated into back propagation of neural networks. We can see that our structured loss provides informative gradients signals for all negative pairs which are within the margin of any positive pairs. In contrast to existing networks like [Li et al., 2014, Ahmed et al., 2015] where only hardest negative gradients are updated, making the training easily over-fit, the proposed structured loss makes the optimization much more stable.

### 3.3 Hard Negative Mining for Mini-batches

As mentioned before, our approach differs from existing deep methods by making full information of the mini-batch that is sampled at a time, including positive pairs and their difficult neighbors. Please note that difficult neighbors are defined only with respect to the gallery camera view. The motivation of doing this is to enhance the mini-batch optimization in network training because the sub-gradient of $F_{x,y}$ would use the close negative pairs. Thus, our approach makes the sample towards including "difficult" pairs.

In this paper, we particularly select a few positive pairs at random, and then actively add their difficult (hard) neighbors into the training mini-batch. This augmentation adds relevant information that a sub-gradient would use. Specifically, we determine the elements in mini-batches by online generation where all anchor-positive pairs in any identity are kept while selecting the hard negatives for both the anchor and its positive correspondence. In fact, this procedure of mining hard negative edges amounts to computing the loss augmented inference in structured prediction setting [Tschantz et al., 2004, Joachims et al., 2009, Song et al., 2016]. Intuitively, the loss from hard negative pairs should be penalized more heavily than a loss involving other pairs. In this end, our structured loss function contains enough negative examples within the margin bound, which can push the positive examples towards the correct direction and thus making the optimization much more stable.

**Example 1** Fig. 3 shows failure cases in 2D profile with samples from three different classes, visualized by pink circles, green squares, and magenta triangles, respectively. The contrastive embedding has failure conditioned that randomly sampled negative $y_j$ is collinear with examples from a third class (purple triangles). For triplet embedding, the degenerated case happens when a negative $y_j$ is within the margin bound with respect to the anchor $x_i$ and its positive $y_i$. In this situation, both contrastive and triplet embedding incorrectly enforce the gradient direction of positives towards examples from the third class. By contrast, through explicitly mining hard negatives within the margin w.r.t. the positive $x_i$, the proposed structured embedding can push the positives towards the correct direction.

**Theorem 1** Margin maximization. Hard negative mining on mini-batches is equivalent to computing the loss augmented inference, which promotes margin maximization in pairwise/triplet units.

**Proof.** Following the definitions in Eq. (5), the condition of zero training error can be compactly written as a set of non-linear constraints

$$\forall i, \max_{y \in \mathcal{Y} \setminus y_i} \{\langle w, H(x_i, y) \rangle < \langle w, H(x_i, y_i) \rangle\}. \quad (8)$$

where $\mathcal{Y}$ contains training samples from cross-camera view against $x_i$. $H(\cdot)$ denotes Hamming distance. Each non-linear inequality in Eq. (8) can be equivalently replaced by $|\mathcal{Y}| - 1$ linear inequalities, and thus we have

$$\forall i, \forall y \in \mathcal{Y} \setminus y_i : \langle w, \delta H_i(y) \rangle < 0; \quad \delta H_i(y) \equiv H(x_i, y) - H(x_i, y_i). \quad (9)$$

Recall Eq. (5) that the hard negative mining is equivalent to augmenting the loss as $H_i(y) = H(x_i, y) - H(x_i, y_i) + H(y_i, y)$. Thus, the linear constraint in Eq. (9) is updated as

$$\forall i, \forall y \in \mathcal{Y} \setminus y_i : \langle w, \delta H_i(y) \rangle < 0; \quad \iff \langle w, \delta H_i(y) \rangle + \langle w, H(y_i, y) \rangle < 0. \quad (10)$$

In Eq. (10), since the term $\langle w, H(y_i, y) \rangle \geq 1 - \epsilon_i, \epsilon_i \geq 0$ is a small slack variable, the term $\langle w, \delta H_i(y) \rangle$ is imposed a more tight constraint on its margin maximization. □

### 4 Experiments

In this section, we conduct extensive evaluations of the proposed architecture on two largest datasets in person re-identification: CUHK03 [Li et al., 2014] and Market-1501 [Zheng et al., 2015].

#### 4.1 Experimental Settings

**Datasets** Person re-identification comes with a number of benchmark datasets such as VIPeR [Gray et al., 2007], PRID2011 [Hirzer et al., 2011], and iLIDS [Zheng et al., 2009]. However, these datasets are moderately...
small/medium-sized, rendering them not suitable to be the test bed for our fast hashing learning framework. More recently, to facilitate deep learning in person re-identification, two large datasets \textit{i.e.}, CUHK03 and Market1501 are contributed with more identities captured by multiple cameras in more realistic conditions.

- The CUHK03 dataset \cite{Li2014} includes 13,164 images of 1360 pedestrians. The whole dataset is captured with six surveillance cameras. Each identity is observed by two disjoint camera views, yielding an average 4.8 images in each view. This dataset provides both manually labeled pedestrian bounding boxes and bounding boxes automatically obtained by running a pedestrian detector \cite{Felzenszwalb2010}. In our experiment, we report results on labeled data set.

- The Market-1501 dataset \cite{Zheng2015} contains 32,643 fully annotated boxes of 1501 pedestrians, making it the largest person re-id dataset to date. Each identity is captured by at most six cameras and boxes of person are obtained by running a state-of-the-art detector, the Deformable Part Model (DPM) \cite{Huang2015}. The dataset is randomly divided into training and testing sets, containing 750 and 751 identities, respectively.

**Competitors** We present quantitative evaluations in terms of searching accuracies and compare our method with seven state-of-the-art methods:

- Kernel-based Supervised Hashing (KSH) \cite{Liu2012}: KSH is a kernel based method that maps the data to binary hash codes by maximizing the separability of code inner products between similar and dissimilar pairs. In particular, KSH adopts the kernel trick to learn nonlinear hash functions on the feature space.

- Minimal Loss Hashing (MLH) \cite{Norouzi2011}: MLS is working by treating the hash codes as latent variables, and employs the structured prediction formulation for hash learning.

- Binary Reconstructive Embedding (BRE) \cite{Kulis2009}: Without requiring any assumptions on data distributions, BRE directly learns the hash functions by minimizing the reconstruction error between the distances in the original feature space and the Hamming distances in the embedded binary space.

- CNNH \cite{Xia2014}: is a supervised hashing method in which the learning process is decomposed into a stage of learning approximate hash codes, followed by a second stage of learning hashing functions and image representations from approximate ones.

- Simulaneous Feature Learning and Hash Coding based
**Evaluation Protocol** We adopt four evaluation metrics in the experiments: Mean Average Precision (MAP), Precision curves with Hamming distance within 2, Precision-Recall curves, and Precision curves with respect to varied number of top returned samples.

In person re-identification, a standard evaluation metric is Cumulated Matching Characteristic (CMC) curve, which shows the probability that a correct match to the query identity appears in different sized candidate lists. This measurement is, however, is valid only in the single-shot setting where there is only one ground truth match for a given query (see an example in Fig.6). In the case of one-shot, precision and recall are degenerated to be the same manner. Nonetheless, given multiple ground truths regarding to a query identity, the CMC curve is biased due to the fact that the recall issue is not considered. For instance, two rank lists A and B in Fig.6 can yield their CMC value equal to 1 at rank=1, respectively, whereas CMC curves fail to provide a fair comparison of the quality between the two rank lists. By contrast, Average Precision (AP) can quantitatively evaluate the quality of rank list for the case of multi-ground-truth.

For Market-1501 (CUHK03) dataset, there are on average 14.8 (4.8) cross-camera ground truths for each query. Thus, we employ Mean Average Precision (MAP) to evaluate the overall performance. For each query, we calculate the area under the Precision-Recall curve, which is known as Average Precision (AP). Then, MAP is calculated as the mean value of APs over all queries. We have the definition of MAP in the following:

\[
MAP(Q) = \frac{1}{Q} \sum_{j=1}^{Q} \frac{1}{m_j} \sum_{k=1}^{m_j} \text{Precision}(R_{jk}),
\]

where \(Q\) denotes a set of queries, and \(\{d_1, \ldots, d_{m_j}\}\) are a set of relevant items with respect to a given query \(q_j \in Q\). \(R_{jk}\) is the set of ranked retrieval results from the top results until item \(d_k\) is retrieved.

Given a query, the precision with hamming distance within 2 (@ r-bits) w.r.t. the returned top \(N\) nearest neighbors is defined as

\[
\text{Precision}(||\cdot||_H < 2)@N = \frac{\sharp(\text{ims} \cap ||\text{ims} - \text{query}||_H < 2)}{N}
\]

where \(\text{ims}\) denote similar images to the query, the hamming distance between two binary vectors is the number of
coefficients where they differ. The four types of metrics are widely used to evaluate hashing models [Liu et al., 2012; Lai et al., 2015].

Implementation Details We implemented our architecture using the Theano [Bergstra et al., 2010] deep learning framework with contrastive, triplet, and the proposed structured loss. The batch size is set to 128 for contrastive and our method and to 120 for triplet. Network training converges in roughly 22-24 hours on NVIDIA GTX980. All training and test images are normalized to 160 by 60. We augment the training data by performing random 2D translation, as also done in [Li et al., 2014; Ahmed et al., 2015]. For an original image of size $W \times H$, we sample 5 images around the image center, with translation drawn from a uniform distribution in the range $[-0.05H, 0.05H] \times [-0.05W, 0.05W]$. In training, we exhaustively use all the positive pairs of examples and randomly generate approximately equal number of negative pairs as positives.

In Market-1501, there are 12,936 images for training and 19,732 images for test, corresponding to 750 and 751 identities, respectively. In CUHK03 dataset, we randomly partition the dataset into training, validation, and test with 1160, 100, and 100 identities, respectively. During testing, for each identity, we select one query image in each camera. The search process is performed in a cross-camera mode, that is, relevant images captured in the same camera as the query are regarded as “junk” [Philbin et al., 2007], which means that this image has no influence to re-identification accuracy. In this scenario, for Market-1501 dataset, each identity has at most 6 queries, and there are 3,563 query images in total. For CUHK03 dataset, each identity has at most 2 queries, and there are 200 query images in total.

In our implementation, we use all positive anchor positive pairs regarding to each identity. In pairwise training, anchor negative pairs are generated by randomly selecting a sample from a different identity with respect to the anchor’s identity. The same sampling scheme is applied on triplet selection. To add meaningful hard negatives into mini-batch in our model, we select hard neighbors from gallery view for each training image in a positive pair. Specifically, for an anchor $I$ and its positive $I^+$, their hard negatives $I^-$s are selected such that $\|s_I - s_{I^+}\|^2 < \|s_I - s_I^-\|^2$, where $s(I)$ is a visual descriptor and in our experiment we use SIFT features at the beginning of training. Since features are updated continuously as network is on training, $s(I)$ corresponds to feature extracted after each 50 epochs.

4.2 Results on Benchmark Datasets
We test and compare the search accuracies of all methods against two datasets. Comparison results are reported in Table 2 and Figs. 4-5. We can see that

| Method | 24 bits | 32 bits | 48 bits | 128 bits |
|--------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| MAP (CUHK03) | | | | |
| FC2 | 0.529 | 0.546 | 0.571 | 0.584 |
| FC1+FC2 | **0.579** | **0.594** | **0.602** | **0.601** |
| MAP (Market-1501) | | | | |
| FC2 | 0.417 | 0.420 | 0.439 | 0.437 |
| FC1+FC2 | **0.452** | **0.466** | **0.481** | **0.482** |

- On the two benchmark datasets, the proposed method outperforms all supervised learning baselines using CNN features in terms of MAP, precision with Hamming distance 2, precision-recall, and precision with varying size of top returned images. For instance, compared with KSH + AlexNet, the MAP results of the proposed method achieves a gain from 35.6% 58.5%, 28.8% 48.1% with 48 bits on CUHK03 and Market-1501, respectively.
- Comparing with CNNH [Xia et al., 2014], which is a two-stage deep network based hashing method, our method indicates a better searching accuracies. Specifically, the MAP results achieve a relative increase by a margin of 16% and 13% on two datasets, respectively. This observation can verify that jointly learning features and hashing codes are beneficial to each other.
- Comparing with the most related competitors DSRH [Zhao et al., 2015] and DRSC [Zhang et al., 2015], our structured prediction suits well to SGD and thus achieves superior performance. For example, in terms of MAP on CUHK03 dataset, a notable improvement can be seen from 49.4% (50.9%) to 54.7%, compared with DSRH [Zhao et al., 2015] (DRSC [Zhang et al., 2015]).

We also conduct self-evaluation of our architecture with skip layer connected to hash layers and its alternative with only the second fully connected layer. As can be seen in Table 3, the results of the proposed architecture outperforms its alternative with only the second fully connected layer as input to the hash layer. One possible reason is the hash layer can see multi-scale features by connecting to the first and second fully connected layers (features in the FC2 is more global than those in FC1). And adding this bypass connections can reduce the possible information loss in the network.

4.3 Comparison with State-of-the-art Approaches
In this section, we evaluate our method by comparing with state-of-the-art approaches in person re-identification. Apart from the above hashing methods, seven competitors are included in our experiment, which are FPNN [Li et al., 2014], JointRe-id [Ahmed et al., 2015], KISSSME [Kostinger et al., 2012], SDALF [Farenzena et al., 2010], eSDC [Zhao et al., 2013], KLFD [Xiong et al., 2014], XQDA [Liao et al., 2015], DomainDropout [Xiao et al., 2016], NullSpace [Zhang et al., 2016] and BoW [Zheng et al., 2015]. For KISSSME [Kostinger et al., 2012], SDALF [Farenzena et al., 2010], eSDC [Zhao et al., 2013], KLFD [Xiong et al., 2014], XQDA [Liao et al., 2015], DomainDropout [Xiao et al., 2016], NullSpace [Zhang et al., 2016] and BoW [Zheng et al., 2015], we implement their architectures and report the results on CUHK03 and Market-1501. The results are compared in Table 3.
and BoW model [Zheng et al., 2015], the experimental results are generated by their suggested features and parameter settings. For XQDA [Liao et al., 2015] and NullSpace [Zhang et al., 2016], the Local Maximal Occurrence (LOMO) features are used for person representation. The descriptor has 26,960 dimensions. FPNN [Li et al., 2014] is a deep learning method with the validation set adopted to select parameters of the network. JointRe-id [Ahmed et al., 2015] is an improved deep learning architecture in an attempt to simultaneously learn features and a corresponding similarity metric for person re-identification. DomainDropout [Xiao et al., 2016] presents a framework for learning deep feature representations from multiple domains with CNNs. We also extract the intermediate features from the last fully-connected layer, denoted as Ours (FC), to evaluate the performance without hash layer. To have fair comparison with DomainDropout [Xiao et al., 2016], we particularly leverage training data from CUHK03, CUHK01 [Li et al., 2012] with domain-aware dropout, and Market-1501, denoted as Ours (DomainDropout).

Table 3 displays comparison results with state-of-the-art approaches, where all of the Cumulative Matching Characteristics (CMC) Curves are single-shot results on CUHK03 dataset whilst multiple-shot on Market1501 dataset. All hashing methods perform using 128 bits hashing codes, and the ranking list is based on the Hamming distance. We can see that on Market-1501 dataset our method outperforms all baselines on rank 1 recognition rate except NullSpace [Zhang et al., 2016]. The superiority of NullSpace [Zhang et al., 2016] on Market-1501 comes from enough samples in each identity, which allows it to learn a discriminative subspace. Our result (48.06%) is very comparative to NullSpace [Zhang et al., 2016] (55.43%) while the time cost is tremendously reduced, as shown in Table 5. Besides, the performance of our model without hash layer (Ours (FC)) is consistently better than that with hashing projection. This is mainly because the dimension reduction in hashing layer and quantization bring about certain information loss.

On CUHK03 dataset, DomainDropout [Xiao et al., 2016] achieves the best performance in recognition rate at rank from 1 to 10. This is mainly because DomainDropout [Xiao et al., 2016] introduces a method to jointly utilize all datasets in person re-identification to produce generic feature representation. However, this action renders their model extremely expensive in training given a variety of datasets varied in size and distributions. To this end, we test the average testing time of our model and competing deep learning methods, and report results in Table 5. The testing time aggregates computational cost in feature extraction, hash code generation, and image search. For all the experiments, we assume that every image in the database has been represented by its binary hash codes. In this manner, the time consumption of feature extraction and hash code generation is mainly caused by the query image. It is obvious that our model achieves comparable performance in terms of efficiency in matching pedestrian images. Our framework runs slightly slower than DRSCH and SFLH C due to the computation of structured loss on each mini-batch.

4.4 Convergence Study

Figure 7: Convergence study on two benchmark datasets. It is obvious that our structured embedding has fast convergence compared with contrastive and triplet embeddings.

In this experiment, we study the convergence speed of optimizing contrastive, triplet, and structured embedding, respectively. The average loss values over all mini-batches are computed on three kinds of embeddings, as shown in Fig.7. We can see that the proposed structured embedding is able to converge faster than other two embeddings. This can be regarded as the response to the augment from hard negatives which provide informative gradient direction for positives.

5 Conclusion

In this paper, we developed a structured deep hashing architecture for efficient person re-identification, which jointly learn both CNN features and hash functions/codes. As a result, person re-identification can be resolved by efficiently computing and ranking the Hamming distances between images. A structured loss function is proposed to achieve fast convergence and more stable optimization solutions. Empirical studies on two larger benchmark data sets demonstrate the efficacy of our method. In our future work, we would explore more efficient training strategies to reduce training complexity, and possible solutions include an improved loss function based on local distributions.

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Table 4: Comparison with state-of-the-art approaches on two person re-identification datasets. The evaluation is based on CMC. “∞” indicates that the result is not available.

| Method                                      | CUHK03 (CMC %) | Market-1501 (CMC %) |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
|                                             | r=1            | r=5                | r=10           | r=20           | r=1            | r=5                | r=20           |
| Ours                                        | 37.41          | 61.28              | 77.46          | 88.42          | 48.06          | 61.23              | 75.67          | 87.06          |
| Ours (FC2)                                  | 43.20          | 69.07              | 84.24          | 90.92          | 50.12          | 63.50              | 76.82          | 89.24          |
| Ours (DomainDropout)                        | 74.20          | 92.27              | 94.24          | 95.92          | 58.12          | 68.50              | 80.82          | 92.24          |
| SFLHC [Lai et al., 2015]                    | 12.38          | 30.52              | 49.34          | 71.55          | 37.74          | 59.09              | 74.25          | 86.52          |
| DSRH [Zhao et al., 2015]                    | 9.75           | 28.10              | 47.82          | 67.95          | 34.33          | 59.82              | 71.27          | 86.09          |
| DRSCH [Zhang et al., 2015]                  | 20.84          | 49.39              | 72.66          | 83.03          | 41.25          | 58.98              | 76.04          | 85.33          |
| CNNH [Xia et al., 2014]                     | 8.27           | 22.53              | 45.09          | 59.74          | 16.46          | 39.95              | 51.24          | 71.23          |
| KSH+AlexNet [Liu et al., 2012]              | 5.65           | 15.71              | 22.75          | 34.68          | 12.57          | 31.22              | 48.66          | 66.72          |
| MLH+AlexNet [Nourozi and Blei, 2011]        | 5.75           | 15.62              | 27.61          | 42.68          | 10.89          | 29.93              | 46.78          | 66.32          |
| BRE+AlexNet [Kulis and Darrell, 2009]       | 4.91           | 11.24              | 17.83          | 29.20          | 12.65          | 32.68              | 49.08          | 67.70          |
| FPNN [Li et al., 2014]                      | 20.65          | 50.09              | 66.42          | 80.02          | -              | -                  | -              | -              |
| JointRe-id [Ahmed et al., 2015]             | 54.74          | 86.71              | 91.10          | 97.21          | -              | -                  | -              | -              |
| KISSME [Kosinger et al., 2012]              | 14.17          | 41.12              | 54.89          | 70.09          | 40.47          | 59.35              | 75.26          | 83.58          |
| SDALF [Farenzena et al., 2010]              | 5.60           | 23.45              | 36.09          | 51.96          | 20.53          | 47.82              | 62.45          | 80.21          |
| eSDC [Zhao et al., 2013]                    | 8.76           | 27.03              | 38.32          | 55.06          | 33.54          | 58.25              | 74.33          | 84.57          |
| kLFDA [Xiong et al., 2014]                  | 47.25          | 64.58              | 82.36          | 89.17          | -              | -                  | -              | -              |
| BoW [Zheng et al., 2015]                    | 24.33          | 58.42              | 71.28          | 84.91          | 47.25          | 62.71              | 75.33          | 86.42          |
| DomainDropout [Xiao et al., 2016]           | 72.60          | 92.22              | 94.50          | 95.01          | -              | -                  | -              | -              |
| NullSpace (LOMO) [Liao et al., 2015]        | 58.90          | 85.60              | 92.45          | 96.30          | 55.43          | -                  | -              | -              |
| XQDA (LOMO) [Liao et al., 2015]             | 52.20          | 82.23              | 92.14          | 96.25          | 43.79          | -                  | -              | -              |

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