Documentation for The Noisy Ostracods Dataset

Jiamian Hu¹, Yuanyuan Hong¹, Yihua Chen^{1,2}, He Wang^{1,3}, Moriaki Yasuhara¹

¹The University of Hong Kong ²The University of Tokyo ³Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology {jiamianh, u3001143, yihuaac, hw0701}@connect.hku.hk, yasuhara@hku.hk

1 Motivation and Backgrounds

The *Noisy Ostracods* dataset is a real-world taxonomy dataset characterized by various types of noise. It was created out of the need for a clean taxonomy dataset and the challenges we encountered during the cleaning process in our real use case. Our goal was to provide a benchmark for evaluating the performance of robust machine learning methods and label correction algorithms from a practical perspective. The imbalanced and fine-grained nature of the dataset introduces additional challenges to these methods.

The document is made by adapting the most relevant questions from datasheets for datasets[1] according to the property of our datasets.

2 Data Collection Detail

The dataset included Ostracods from the Hong Kong marine sediments collected over the past 10 years. The goal for collecting the ostracods is to exploring the quantitative correlation between common ostracod species composition and environmental factors[2, 3]. The details of collection process of sediments are available in the original works[3, 2, 4]. This document primarily focus on the collection process of the photos and the effort we made to ensure the quality of the dataset.

2.1 Collection process of Noisy Ostracods 2022

Ostracod samples from the original studies are stored in standard 60-grid microfossil slides. These slides are photographed using a Keyence-VHX-7000 microscope [5]. Images are captured at magnifications ranging from 40X to 80X. A sample slide image is shown in Figure 1. Initially, all images were taken at 50X magnification. In most cases, the photos resemble the surface_SS6 slide in Table 1. However, when the image resolution is excessively high, the microscope automatically compresses the images. As illustrated in Table 1, for slide HK14TLH1C_151_152, the expected resolution at 50X magnification is approximately 23000*9600. The actual resolution, however, is 11599*4841, roughly half of the anticipated resolution. We conducted experiments on slide HK14TLH1C_136_137 to determine the optimal resolution. Even after compression, the 80X images were still larger in native resolution than the 40X images. However, capturing photos at 80X took four times longer, with no significant improvement in quality. Consequently, we decided to use 40X magnification for slides where 50X images were compressed. Following the preparation sequence shown in Figure 1, the slides are cropped into grids for easier processing. A typical 50X grid is sized around 1600*1600 pixels. We then annotate the ostracods from the grid images using labelImg [6]. Since the original taxonomy record is organized per grid, we simply join the record with the annotation by grid number. Before this joining process, we cleaned the typographical errors in the original identification file. The typos addressed here were different from those present in the final version of the Noisy Ostracods dataset. Primarily, we corrected misspellings of genus and species names, such as changing Xestol-



Figure 1: Illustrated collection process of the noisy ostracods dataset. Left column: simplified flow chart. Right column: illustrated examples.

beris to *Xestoleberis*. However, semantic typos, such as misnaming *Cytherois* as *Cyprideis*, could not be detected at this stage because both genera are valid in ostracod taxonomy literature; such errors can only be identified through precise specimen checks.

We employ an iterative approach for annotation: we start by manually annotating around 180 grids and then train the initial detector using YOLO [7]. Using this new YOLO model, we annotate an additional 180 grids, correcting any errors in the bounding boxes. We then train the next model using all 360 annotated grids. This process is repeated until we have a training set of 6000 grids. The model trained on these 6000 grids is then used to annotate subsequent images, which are manually checked to eliminate errors. At this stage, we crop out the specimens to create an ostracod taxonomy dataset. However, the amount of error in the dataset proved to be non-negligible, necessitating multiple revisions. We retained the initial version of the dataset, making it available as *Noisy Ostracods 2022*.

Slide	Magnification	Expected resolution	Actual resolution
HK14TLH1C_151_152	40X	18548*7764	18548*7764
HK14TLH1C_151_152	50X	23185*9705	11711*4929
HK14TLH1C_136_137	40X	18541*7721	18541*7721
HK14TLH1C_136_137	50X	23176*9651	11599*4841
HK14TLH1C_136_137	80X	37082*15422	18628*7759
surface_SS6	50X	21525*9402	21525*9402

Table 1: Resolution data for slides at different magnifications. The images with red actual resolutions are being compressed.

2.2 Building the Noisy Dataset

When building the *Noisy Ostracods* dataset, we initially aimed to completely eliminate the errors present in the *Noisy Ostracods 2022* version. We identified several issues in the *Noisy Ostracods 2022* dataset:

- **Including non-ostracods**: Due to failures in the YOLO detector, some slides included non-ostracods. An example of this error, found in the *Xestoleberis* genus, is illustrated in Figure 1.
- **Missing ostracods**: Some ostracods were not detected, also due to failures in the YOLO detector.
- **Bad images**: Some slides photographed at an early stage were too bright, as shown in the left image of Figure 2. This issue was caused by incorrect camera settings.
- **Dual records in grids**: Ideally, each grid should contain only one species of ostracods. However, some grids had more than one species recorded due to practical reasons, such as the mixture of hard-to-distinguish species in the same grid. In creating the 2022 version, we skipped all such records.

Based on the errors identified in the 2022 version, we applied the following fixes:

- 1. Checked the annotation file: Re-annotated ostracods with incorrect bounding boxes and removed non-ostracods. Also annotated ostracods missed by the YOLO detector.
- 2. Checked the image files: Retook images that were too bright.
- 3. Consulted experts: Asked the experts who provided the original identifications to manually annotate the respective species on the images.

After applying these fixes, the majority of errors caused by the YOLO detector and camera settings were resolved. The number of YOLO detector failure found in current cleaning process on the *Noisy Ostracods* dataset is less than 20. However, unlike the thorough cleaning described in the main article, this round of inspection was conducted by non-experts. This led to some remaining errors, such as fragmentation errors and semantic typos, as detailed in the main article. Nevertheless, we believe that the errors in the current version of the *Noisy Ostracods* dataset have been minimized from a procedural perspective. The remaining noise primarily consists of hard-to-fix errors, such as expert misidentifications. Consequently, this version can serve as a valuable resource for researchers studying real-world noise and its effects on the performance of machine learning models, particularly in the context of trustworthy machine learning.

3 Dataset composition

3.1 Images

The *Noisy Ostracods* dataset comprises 71,466 images, while the *Noisy Ostracods 2022* dataset contains 68,458 images. The difference in image count is primarily due to the addition of specimens from grids with mixed records. The image files are organized by their *annotated* species. If a



Figure 2: Illustration of camera parameter failure error. Left: a grid image that is too bright. Right: the re-took image.

specimen's species is unconfirmed in the original identification, it is moved to the genus class *genus unidentified*. A concrete example of the file structure of the dataset is shown in the file tree below. Root Folder

In the file tree, the *Sinocythere unidentified* included the specimens of *Sinocythere* with unconfirmed species. All versions of the dataset adhere to this structure. To preserve the best quality of the images, all RGB images are stored in uncompressed .tif format. In addition to ostracod images, we included 9,117 negative samples by randomly cropping backgrounds that do not belong to ostracod bounding boxes and by adding random photos from the Endless Forams dataset [8] as a negative class. We also have 876 images without labels, as the original records for these grids marked their genus and species with a ? (question mark). Some of these can be identified to existing genera and species. In total, the *Noisy Ostracods* dataset contains 81,459 labeled images.

3.2 Labels

The labels are stored in .csv files to enable flexibility. Each record in the label file includes two entries: the image path and the label number. For example, a row in the label file might look like alocopocythere goujoni/HKUV12_465_467_38_ind6.tif,2. This line indicates that the file HKUV12_465_467_38_ind6.tif located in the alocopocythere goujoni folder has an image label of 2. Each label file is accompanied by a corresponding guidance file that maps the image label number to its genus/species name in string format. These guidance files are .txt files that list the genus/species names, with the line number corresponding to the label number in the label files.

This structure provides the flexibility to update the genus/species of the images by simply changing the image label number in the corresponding label file whenever an error is detected. If a typographical or semantic error is found, we can correct it by updating the corresponding guidance and label files. Such a structure ensures that any necessary adjustments can be made efficiently, maintaining the accuracy and integrity of the dataset.

The provided label files and label guidance files are:

- Noisy label files: ostracods_genus_final_val.csv, ostracods_species_final_train.csv, and ostracods_species_final_test.csv. These files contain the training, validation, and test splits for the Noisy Ostracods dataset at the genus and species levels.
- Clean label files: ostracods_genus_clean_test.csv and ostracods_genus_clean_val.csv. These files contain the cleaned test and validation splits at the genus level.
- Guidance files: ostracods_genus_final_guide.txt and ostracods_species_final_guide.txt. The guidance files include 139 rows for species and 79 rows for genus. The same guidance is used for both noisy and clean data.

The clean label files are slightly smaller than their noisy counterparts because some noisy files have been deleted. At the current stage, we are beginning the comprehensive cleaning of the dataset at the genus level and have inspected some problematic species. The known issues are listed in Table 2.

As shown in the table, the inconsistent usage of *Confer* (cf.) and *Affinis* (aff.) across different projects has introduced many pseudo-classes. Additionally, a typo of *Spinileberis quadriaculeata* was introduced during the re-annotation of grids containing multiple species. Resolving issues with some challenging species, such as *Pistocythereis subovata* and *Pistocythereis bradyi*, may result in multi-class labels, as it is nearly impossible to distinguish these species from a single image.

Genus	Species	Count	Known problems
aglaiocypris	-	426	_
alataconcha	alataconcha cf. pterogona	8	-
alataconcha	-	1	-
alocopocythere	alocopocythere goujoni	285	-
alocopocythere	alocopocythere kendengensis	67	-
alocopocythere	alocopocythere profusa	108	-
alocopocythere	-	5	-
argilloecia	argilloecia lunata	23	-
argilloecia	-	29	-
atjehella	atjehella cf. semiplicata	68	Possibile duplicate with <i>atje-</i> <i>hella semiplicata</i>
atjehella	atjehella kingmai	4	-
atjehella	atjehella semiplicata	2	Possibile duplicate with <i>atje-</i> <i>hella cf. semiplicata</i>
aurila	aurila aff. corniculata	11	Possibile duplicate with <i>au-</i> <i>rila cf. corniculata</i>
aurila	aurila cf. corniculata	4	Possibile duplicate with <i>au-</i> <i>rila aff. corniculata</i>
aurila	aurila cf. disparata	245	Possibile merge with <i>aurila disparata</i>
aurila	aurila cf. hataii	83	-
aurila	aurila cf. uranouchiensis	5	-
aurila	aurila disparata	30	Possibile merge with <i>aurila cf. disparata</i>
aurila	-	314	-
bicornucythere	bicornucythere bisanensis	3177	-
bicornucythere	-	1633	-
bythoceratina	bythoceratina callidictya	1	Possibile merge with <i>bytho-</i> <i>ceratina cf. callidictya</i>
bythoceratina	bythoceratina cassidoidea	13	-
bythoceratina	bythoceratina cf. angulata	1	-
bythoceratina	bythoceratina cf. callidictya	21	Possibile merge with <i>bytho-</i> <i>ceratina callidictya</i>

Table 2: Full list of genus and species in the Noisy Ostracods dataset. Known problems are listed.

Genus	Species	Count	Known problems
bythoceratina	bythoceratina cf. orientalis	11	-
bythoceratina	bythoceratina cf. robusta	2	Possibile merge with bythe ceratina robusta
bythoceratina	bythoceratina orientalis	4	-
bythoceratina	bythoceratina robusta	9	Possibile merge with bythe ceratina cf. robusta
bythoceratina	bythoceratina sheyangensis	32	-
bythoceratina	-	266	-
bythocypris	-	7	-
bythocythere	-	20	-
callistocythere	callistocythere aff. reticulata	9	Possibile duplicate with <i>ca listocythere cf. reticulata</i>
callistocythere	callistocythere aff. undulatifacialis	263	Possibile merge with <i>calli</i> , tocythere undulatifacialis
callistocythere	callistocythere asiatica	16	-
callistocythere	callistocythere cf. multirugosa	19	-
callistocythere	callistocythere cf. nipponica	7	-
callistocythere	callistocythere cf. reticulata	2	Possibile duplicate with <i>callistocythere aff. reticulata</i>
callistocythere	callistocythere undata	5	-
callistocythere	callistocythere undulatifacialis	10	Possibile merge with <i>calliste cythere aff. undulatifacialis</i>
callistocythere	-	45	-
cathacythere	cathacythere reticulata	6	-
caudites	-	39	-
cletocythereis	-	3	-
copytus	copytus posterosulcus	708	-
coquimba	coquimba cf. ishizakii	12	-
coquimba	-	10	-
cornucoquimba	cornucoquimba cf. gibboidea	491	-
cornucoquimba	cornucoquimba leizhouensis	77	-
cornucoquimba	cornucoquimba pustulata	5 69	-
cornucoquimba cyprideis	-	12	- According to the photo should be <i>cytherois</i>
cythere	cythere omotenipponica	67	-
cythere	-	48	-
cytherelloidea	cytherelloidea cingulata	2	_
cytherelloidea	-	2	-
cytherelloidea	cytherelloidea yingliensis	3	-
cytherois	cytherois leizhouensis	199	-
cytherois	-	553	-
cytheropteron	cytheropteron cf. ignobilis	122	-
cytheropteron	cytheropteron higashikawai	1	-
cytheropteron	cytheropteron miurense	349	-
cytheropteron	-	114	-
cytherura	-	5	-
darwinula	-	2	-
eucythere	-	4	-
hanaiborchella	hanaiborchella cf. miurensis	77	-
hanaiborchella	-	7	- A 11
haplocythereidea	haplocythereidea agilis	5	According to the photos should be <i>neocyprideis</i>
haplocythereidea	haplocythereidea cf. agilis	2	According to the photo should be <i>neocyprideis</i>

Genus	Species	Count	Known problems
hemicytheridea	hemicytheridea cancellata	12	According to the photos majority are <i>bicornucythere</i> <i>bisanensis</i>
hemicytheridea hemicytheridea	hemicytheridea reticulata -	387 41	-
hemicytherura	hemicytherura cf. cuneata	121	Possibile merge with <i>hemi</i> cytherura cuneata
hemicytherura	hemicytherura cf. kajiyamai	10	Possibile merge with hemi
hemicytherura	hemicytherura cuneata	57	cytherura kajiyamai Possibile merge with hemi cytherura cf. cuneata
hemicytherura	hemicytherura kajiyamai	14	Possibile merge with <i>hemi</i> <i>cytherura cf. kajiyamai</i>
hemicytherura		131	Ο γιπετάτα ζ. καμγάπαι
			-
hemikrithe	hemikrithe orientalis	158	-
hemikrithe	hemikrithe reticulata	2	Typo of <i>hemicytheridea retic</i> ulata
hemikrithe	-	15	-
hermanites	hermanites bicostata	2	-
javanella	javanella kendengensis	8	-
javanella	-	1	-
keijella	keijella apta	1	Possibile merge with <i>keijella cf. apta</i>
keijella	keijella cf. apta	10	Possibile merge with <i>keijella</i> apta
keijella	keijella demissa	108	Typo of <i>keijia demissa</i>
keijella	keijella kloempritensis	2915	-
keijella	κειjειία κισεμρητιεμsis	12	-
keijia	keijia demissa	9	-
kotoracythere	kotoracythere doratus	2	-
krithe	krithe japonica	28	-
krithe	-	1	-
leptocythere	leptocythere pulchra	6	-
leptocythere	-	3	-
loxoconcha	loxoconcha aff. hattorii	2	Possibile merge with <i>loxo</i> concha hattorii
loxoconcha	loxoconcha aff. uranouchiensis	2	Possibile duplicate with <i>lox</i> oconcha cf. uranouchiensis
loxoconcha	loxoconcha aff. viva	7	Possibile duplicate with <i>lox</i> oconcha cf. viva
loxoconcha	loxoconcha cf. kattoi	82	Possibile merge with <i>loxo</i> concha kattoi
loxoconcha	loxoconcha cf. kosugi	5	-
loxoconcha	loxoconcha cf. uranouchiensis	6	Possibile duplicate with <i>lox</i> oconcha aff. uranouchiensis
loxoconcha	loxoconcha cf. viva	1	Possibile duplicate with <i>lox</i> oconcha aff. viva
loxoconcha	loxoconcha epeterseni	149	-
loxoconcha	loxoconcha hattorii	149	Possibile merge with <i>loxo</i>
			concha cf. hattorii
loxoconcha	loxoconcha japonica	221	-
loxoconcha	loxoconcha kattoi	145	Possibile merge with <i>loxo</i> concha cf. kattoi
loxoconcha	loxoconcha malayensis	1177	-
loxoconcha	loxoconcha ocellata	1	-
loxoconcha	loxoconcha pulchra	16	-
loxoconcha	1	622	

Genus	Species	Count	Known problems
loxoconcha	loxoconcha zhejiangensis	231	-
macrocypris	-	1	-
microcythere	-	8	-
morkhovenia	morkhovenia inconspicua	8	-
munseyella	munseyella japonica	341	-
munseyella	munseyella oblonga	3	-
munseyella	-	304	-
neocyprideis	-	13	-
neocytheretta	neocytheretta elongata	2	Typo of <i>neosinocythere elon</i> gata
neocytheretta	neocytheretta faceta	160	-
neocytheretta	neocytheretta snellii	32	-
neocytheretta	-	408	-
neocytheromorpha	neocytheromorpha regalis	26	-
neocytheromorpha	-	34	-
neomonoceratina	neomonoceratina delicata	9650	-
neomonoceratina	neomonoceratina elongata	1	Typo of <i>neosinocythere elon</i> <i>gata</i> . However, according to photo, should be <i>spinile</i> <i>beris</i> .
neonesidea	neonesidea elegans	210	-
neonesidea	neonesidea oligodentata	129	_
neonesidea	-	156	_
neopellucistoma	neopellucistoma inflatum	130	_
neopellucistoma	-	7	-
neosinocythere	neosinocythere elongata	1666	
neosinocythere	-	799	
nipponocythere	nipponocythere bicarinata	256	-
nipponocythere	nipponocythere delicata	632	-
nipponocythere		215	
orionina	orionina yongleensis	1	Species may be wrong
pacambocythere	-	1	-
palmenella	-	8	_
paracathaycythere	paracathaycythere cf. costaereticulata	1	_
paracypris	-	71	_
paracytheridea	paracytheridea tschoppi	3	_
paracytherois	paracytherois cf. acuminata	45	_
paracytherois	paracytherois cf. tosaensis	2	_
paracytherois	-	51	_
paradoxostomatid	_	1257	_
parakrithe	parakrithe cf. elongata	1257	Could be parakrithella
parakrithe	parakrithe japonica	1	-
parakrithella	parakrithella cf. pseudadonta	26	Possibile merge with parakrithella pseudadonta
parakrithella	parakrithella pseudadonta	2	Possibile merge with parakrithella cf. pseu dadonta
parakrithella	-	8	=
phlyctocythere	phlyctocythere japonica	328	-
phlyctocythere	-	142	-
pistocythereis	pistocythereis aff. miaoliensis	12	-
pistocythereis	pistocythereis bradyformis	1015	-
pistocythereis	pistocythereis bradyi	1758	Possibile merge with <i>pisto</i> cythereis cf. bradyi
pistocythereis	pistocythereis cf. bradyi	41	Possibile merge with <i>pisto</i> <i>cythereis bradyi</i>

Genus	Species	Count	Known problems
pistocythereis	pistocythereis cf. subovata	11	Possibile merge with <i>pisto</i> cythereis subovata
pistocythereis	pistocythereis euplectella	74	-
pistocythereis	pistocythereis subovata	56	Possibile merge with <i>pisto</i> <i>cythereis cf. subovata</i> , very hard to be distinguished from <i>pistocythereis bradyi</i> visu ally.
pistocythereis	-	1884	-
pontocythere	pontocythere cf. subjaponica	44	-
pontocythere	-	96	-
propontocypris	propontocypris clara	1	-
propontocypris	-	5021	-
pseudocythere	pseudocythere cf. caudata	1	-
pseudocythere	-	5	-
robustauria	robustauria cf. ishizakii	34	-
robustauria	robustauria salebrosa	2	-
robustauria	-	5	-
semicytherura	semicytherura cf. miurensis	12	-
semicytherura	semicytherura cf. undata	1	-
semicytherura	semicytherura cf. wakamurasaki	3	-
semicytherura	semicytherura indonesiana	6	-
semicytherura	-	120	-
sinocythere	sinocythere dongtaiensis	3	-
sinocythere	sinocythere sinensis	87	-
sinocythere	-	183	-
sinocytheridea	sinocytheridea impressa	22429	-
sinoleberis	sinoleberis cf. tosaensis	3	-
spinileberis	spinileberis quadriaculeata	1484	-
spinileberis	spinileberis quadriculeata	1	Typo of spinileberis quadri aculeata
spinileberis	spinileberis rhomboidalis	342	-
spinileberis	-	111	-
stigmatocythere	stigmatocythere aff. roesmani	8	Possibile duplicate with <i>stig</i> matocythere cf. roesmani
stigmatocythere	stigmatocythere bona	78	-
stigmatocythere	stigmatocythere cf. roesmani	17	Possibile duplicate with <i>stig</i> matocythere aff. roesmani
stigmatocythere	stigmatocythere costa	58	-
stigmatocythere	stigmatocythere kingmai	64	-
stigmatocythere	stigmatocythere roesmani	767	Possibile merge with <i>stigma</i> tocythere cf. roesmani and stigmatocythere aff. roes mani
stigmatocythere	-	270	-
tanella	tanella gracillis	81	-
tanella	-	29	-
trachyleberididae	-	25	-
trachyleberis	-	2	-
triebelina	triebelina aff. sertata	8	-
xestoleberis	xestoleberis hanaii	222	-
xestoleberis	xestoleberis suetsumuhana	2	-
xestoleberis	-	860	-
xiphichilus	-	87	-
	Grand Total	71466	

3.3 Version Difference

The images in the *Noisy Ostracods* dataset and its 2022 version do not have a one-to-one correspondence. This means that images with the same name may not be the same across versions. The reason is straightforward: we performed per-image re-labeling when building the *Noisy Ostracods* dataset based on the 2022 version to identify and correct possible false labels and missing labels.

We provide the original train, test, and validation splits from 2022. However, this version has the following issues:

- **Random Split**: The splits for genus and species are not consistent. This means that the test and validation images at the genus and species levels do not match. Some images in the test set for genus identification may appear in the training set for species identification.
- **Minor Class Elimination**: All minor classes with fewer than 10 images were removed rather than being moved to the training set, unlike in the current version.

Please consider these differences when comparing methods using the 2022 version of the dataset.

4 Data Availability and Maintenance

We are making the Noisy Ostracods datasets and the Noisy Ostracods 2022 datasets available online.

Noisy Ostracods images: Noisy Ostracods images: Click to download

Noisy Ostracods 2022 images: Click to download

Croissant[9] metadata: Click to download

Code: https://github.com/H-Jamieu/Noisy_ostracods

We are actively following the taxonomy changes in ostracods and will revise the taxonomy accordingly. New samples from our studies will be annotated and published after verification. Any future updates on the dataset will be included in the code repository. We are currently cleaning the entire dataset and discussing potential changes in some ambiguous species. The link to download the fully cleaned dataset will be released on the code repository. One copy of the dataset will be hosted in the Data Repository of The University of Hong Kong to ensure long term preservation.

5 Dataset Licence and Author Responsibility

The authors hereby declare that they bear all responsibility in case of violation of rights, including but not limited to intellectual property rights, data privacy rights, and any other applicable laws. They confirm that the data provided in this work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) license[10].

6 Additional Contents

6.1 Error Correction

During the manual cleaning of the dataset, we initially reported the discovery of two new genera, including *Psudocythere* and another unnamed genus. Upon further inspection, we realized that *Psudocythere* was already present in our dataset. This oversight occurred due to an error in our initial data review process. We deeply apologize for this mistake and any confusion it may have caused.

Furthermore, we are not certain if the specimen is indeed *Psudocythere* since the key identification parts of the specimen are broken. We are still checking the relevant taxonomic materials to address this issue at the time of writing. Meanwhile, the other specimen is confirmed to be a new genus.

As a result, the images are still being deleted and will not affect the reported results. The two images in question are surface_VS13_6_ind4.tif and rawSample_B1a_29_ind2.tif, for users of the dataset. The corresponding paragraph has been revised in our latest version of the main article.

6.2 Additional Hyper-parameters

In the main article, we forgot to mention the size of the images for training. We used 224*224 for all the training. For Co-teaching[11], Co-teaching+[12], loss-clip, mixup-cutmix[13, 14], CL[15] and CE training, we used FP16 scaling to accelerate training. As for Divide-mix[16], we follow the official implementation not scaling the training to FP16. For embedding calculated using CLIP-ViT-L-14@336[17], we scaled the images to 336*336 to perserve the consistency. All other embeddings are calculated using the image size the models trained on for SimiFeat[18].

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