RELCON: RELATIVE CONTRASTIVE LEARNING FOR A MOTION FOUNDATION MODEL FOR WEARABLE DATA

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ABSTRACT

We present RelCon, a novel self-supervised *Rel*ative *Con*trastive learning approach that uses a learnable distance measure in combination with a relative contrastive loss for training an motion foundation model from wearable IMU sensors. The learnable distance measure captures motif similarity and domain-specific semantic information such as rotation invariance. The learned distance provides a measurement of semantic similarity between a pair of accelerometer time-series segments, which is used to measure the distance between an anchor and various other sampled candidate segments. The self-supervised model is trained on 1 billion segments from 87,376 participants, and achieves strong performance across multiple downstream tasks, including human activity recognition and gait metric regression. To our knowledge, we are the first to show the generalizability of a self-supervised learning model with motion data from wearables across distinct evaluation tasks. Code here: https://github.com/maxxu05/relcon.

1 INTRODUCTION

Advances in self-supervised learning (SSL) combined with the availability of large-scale datasets have resulted in a proliferation of foundation models (FMs) in computer vision (Oquab et al., 2023), language (OpenAI et al., 2023), and speech understanding (Yang et al., 2024). FMs provide powerful, general-purpose representations for a particular domain of data, and support generalization to a broad set of downstream tasks without finetuning. In contrast to these advances, health times-series have not yet benefited from the foundation model approach, with a few exceptions (Abbaspourazad et al., 2024; Das et al., 2023). This is particularly unfortunate for problems in mobile health (mHealth) signal analysis, which encompasses data modalities such as IMU, PPG, and ECG (Rehg et al., 2017), as the collection of mHealth data from participants can be time-consuming and expensive. However, recent advances in self-supervised learning for mHealth signals (Abbaspourazad et al., 2024; Yuan et al., 2024; Xu et al., 2024) have shown promising performance, raising the question of whether it is now feasible to train foundation models for mHealth signals.

In this paper, we demonstrate, for the first time, the feasibility of adopting a foundation model approach for the analysis of accelerometry data across tasks. Accelerometry is an important mHealth sensor that is used in human activity recognition (HAR) (Haresamudram et al., 2022), physical health status assessment (Xu et al., 2022), energy expenditure estimation (Stutz et al., 2024), and gait assessment (Apple, 2021), among many other tasks. We use a novel method for self-supervised learning combined with pre-training on a large-scale, longitudinal accelerometry dataset, the Apple Heart and Movement Study (MacRae, 2021). We show that this approach yields an effective representation for accelerometry data which is useful for multiple downstream tasks, including HAR and the estimation of gait metrics such as stride velocity and double support time.

The key to our approach is a novel method for self-supervised contrastive learning, RelCon. Our approach exploits the observation that many time-series of interest are typically composed of motifs, short distinctive temporal shapes that may approximately repeat themselves over time. For example, the repeating upward swing of the arm, captured by a wrist-worn accelerometer while walking.

*Work done while at Apple

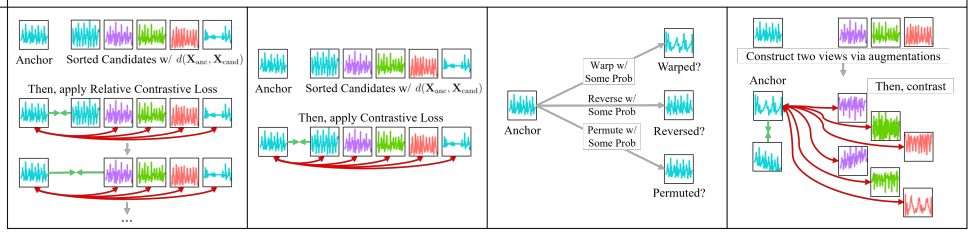
	RelCon (ours)	**REBAR** (Xu et al., 2024)	**AugPred** (Yuan et al., 2024a)	**SimCLR** (Tang et al., 2020)
Models **Within**-User Interactions	✓	✓		
Models **Between**-User Interactions	✓	✓		✓
Resistant to **False Positives**	✓		✓	✓
Resistant To **False Negatives**	✓			
Diagrams				

Figure 1: **Comparisons between various SOTA SSL approaches for Accelerometry data.** Each sequence color represents a different user's time-series. SimCLR resists false positives by creating positive pairs through augmentations, preserving semantics, and models between-user interactions by drawing negatives from different users. RelCon's loss function captures relative positions of the within- and between-user candidates with its learnable distance function, offering better resistance to false positives and negatives compared to binary comparison methods like REBAR.

We can then learn a motif-based distance measure and use this measure to identify positive and negative pairs sampled from within- and between-person (Xu et al., 2024). This then enables us to utilize contrastive learning to learn a embedding space that captures the natural time evolution in physiological states (i.e. fatigue over time) within-person (Glass & Kaplan, 1993), and unique differences in specific physiologies between-persons (Kuncan et al., 2022; Pfeifer & Lohweg, 2018).

In this work, we introduce a novel relative contrastive loss function captures the degree of "positiveness" between the anchor sample and each candidate, preserving the relative relationships between instances. This approach helps capture diverse degrees of semantic similarity, reflecting the natural relationships found in real-world data where motions are often similar but never identical. For example, given an anchor signal of "walking," another "walking" signal should be closest, followed by "running," then "cycling," and "yoga" as the most distant. Additionally, we introduce accelerometry-specific augmentations so that our distance measure can learn to compare motifs, invariant to the sensor's position and orientation. Our results show that RelCon can capture subtle semantic differences between similar classes (i.e. indoor vs. outdoor cycling), as well as capture temporally-precise information necessary for gait regression tasks. These results suggest that RelCon is highly effective for motif-based time-series data, such as quasi-periodic biosignals like accelerometry.

The public code repository with the RelCon training set-up, architecture, and evaluation can be found here: `https://github.com/maxxu05/relcon`. Our key contributions are:

1. We introduce RelCon, a novel contrastive learning methodology that models relative differences between instances via a learnable motif-based distance measure, capturing the varying degrees of semantic similarity found in real-world motion data.
2. We utilize RelCon to pre-train a foundation model on 1b accelerometry segments across 87k participants from the Apple Heart and Movement Study. This large-scale, longitudinal dataset, sourced from real-world wearable data, enables modeling of human motion dynamics across diverse contexts, supporting robust applications in health and activity monitoring.
3. Our RelCon-trained motion foundation model achieves state-of-the-art performance against 11 models across 6 unique downstream datasets with 4 different tasks, ranging from classification of 16 in-the-wild activity classes to regression of temporally-precise gait metrics. We are the first to show the generalizability of a motion foundation model across distinct, diverse evaluations.

2 Related Work

Motion time-series FM: We believe we are the first to train a foundation model for accelerometry data. We define foundation models to be representations that are pre-trained on broad-scale data and are capable of solving multiple diverse downstream tasks without fine-tuning (Bommasani et al.,

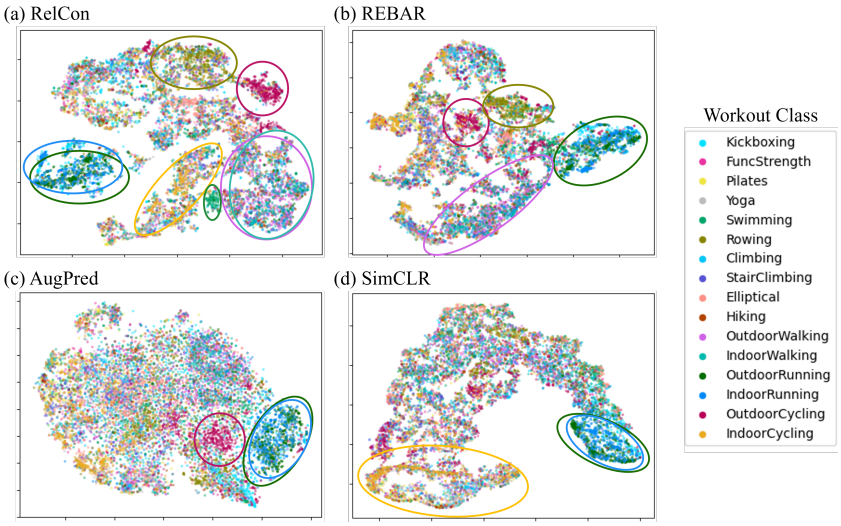


Figure 2: **t-SNE of representation spaces with perplexity=100.** Our RelCon approach has the clearest clusterings based on semantic classes, even forming a specific swimming cluster that is not seen in the other methods. RelCon can also better clearly separate between In/Outdoor Cycling.

2021) (e.g., each task uses frozen weights with supervised training of a light-weight prediction head). The closest related work is Yuan et al. (2024), which uses 700k person-days of data from UK Biobank to train an accelerometry representation. However, this work does not exhibit multi-task downstream performance, since they are all HAR variants, making it is less clear how well their representation captures broader motion information. In contrast, we test our FM on multiple diverse tasks including gait analysis. Another work, Narayanswamy et al. (2024), also focuses on activity but uses minute-level hand-crafted features instead of the raw 100 Hz signals that are necessary for temporally-precise motion tasks, such as fall detection (Tsinganos & Skodras, 2017) or gait assessment (Alobaidi et al., 2022). Other notable FMs focus on general time-series forecasting (Das et al., 2023; Ansari et al., 2024) or do not model accelerometry motion data (Goswami et al., 2024; Abbaspourazad et al., 2024; Saha et al., 2025; Song et al., 2024; Thapa et al., 2024).

Motion time-series SSL: Our RelCon architecture introduces a novel contrastive learning approach for time-series data. While inspired by REBAR (Xu et al., 2024)'s motif-based positive pair generation, REBAR's motif-matching mechanism is not specific to accelerometry, lacking invariance to well-understood accelerometry-semantic-preserving transformations. It also employs a "hard" contrastive loss, leading to sensitivity to false positives and negatives by rigidly designating one positive and all others as negatives. RelCon overcomes these limitations by learning a motif-based distance with accelerometry-specific augmentations and introducing a relative loss function to mitigate false labeling effects. Most prior motion SSL approaches focus exclusively on HAR (Logacjov, 2024; Haresamudram et al., 2024; Straczkiewicz et al., 2021). State-of-the-art methods (Haresamudram et al., 2022) focusing on either naively utilizing augmentations in a simple SimCLR-fashion (Tang et al., 2020) or utilizing them as prediction targets (Saeed et al., 2019). Haresamudram et al. (2022) benchmarked a number of SSL approaches on accelerometer data, testing generalizability across datasets and sensor positions. Models for other motion-based topics – including walking speed (Shrestha & Won, 2018; Soltani et al., 2021), gait (Slemenšek et al., 2023; Brand et al., 2024), and health monitoring (Takallou et al., 2024) have focused on physics-based models, supervised learning, or are also single-task SSL focused. For alternative biosignals, such as PPG (Pillai et al., 2024), ECG (Kiyasseh et al., 2021; Jeong et al., 2023; Diamant et al., 2022), and EEG (Pradeepkumar et al., 2025), there have been recent works that develop domain-specific SSL approaches.

Soft Label Learning Approaches: A feature of our RelCon approach is the use of soft labels to obtain more fine-grained characterizations of similarity. Most prior self-supervised contrastive methods for time-series have adopted the hard label approach (Yue et al., 2022; Tonekaboni et al., 2021; Zhang et al., 2022), including the previous REBAR method (Xu et al., 2024). One exception is Lee et al. (2023), which proposed a soft contrastive approach for classification and anomaly detection. However, unlike RelCon, they utilizes non-learnable distance measures, such as dynamic time warping (Müller, 2007), that cannot be trained to capture domain-specific semantic features.

3 METHODOLOGY

The RelCon methodology has two key components. The first includes several innovations to learn a better distance measure to capture accel semantic information in Section 3.1. The second component is a novel relative contrastive loss that encodes relative order relationships, presented in Section 3.2.

3.1 LEARNABLE DISTANCE MEASURE

Following prior work (Xu et al., 2024), we train a neural network to learn a distance measure to identify whether two sequences have similar temporal motifs (Schäfer & Leser, 2022) and are semantically similar. After training, the architecture is frozen and used as a static function to determine the relative similarities of candidate samples in the RelCon approach. The distance measure architecture is defined in Eq. 1 below:

$$d(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}}, \mathbf{X}_{\text{cand}}) \coloneqq \|\hat{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{anc}|\text{cand}} - \mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}}\|_2^2 \tag{1}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{anc}|\text{cand}} = = \big((\text{CrossAttn}(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}}|\mathbf{X}_{\text{cand}})\mathbf{W}_o + \mathbf{b}_o) + \mu_{\text{cand}}\big)\sigma_{\text{cand}} \tag{2}$$

$$\text{CrossAttn}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{anc}}|\mathbf{X}_{\text{cand}}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x}_{\text{cand}} \in \mathbf{X}_{\text{cand}}} \underset{\mathbf{x}_{\text{cand}} \in \mathbf{X}_{\text{cand}}}{\text{sparsemax}}\Big(\text{sim}\big(f_q(\mathbf{x}_{\text{anc}}), f_k(\mathbf{x}_{\text{cand}})\big)\Big) f_v(\mathbf{x}_{\text{cand}}) \tag{3}$$

$$f_{\{q/k/v\}}(\mathbf{X}_{\{\text{anc}/\text{cand}\}}) = \text{DilatedConvNet}_{\{q/k/v\}}\left(\frac{\mathbf{X}_{\{\text{anc}/\text{cand}\}} - \mu_{\text{cand}}}{\sigma_{\text{cand}}}\right) \tag{4}$$

where $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times D}$ and $\mathbf{x}, \mu, \sigma \in \mathbb{R}^D$ with T as the time length and D=3 for our 3-axis accelerometry signals. The distance between an anchor sequence and a candidate sequence, $d(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}}, \mathbf{X}_{\text{cand}})$, is defined as the reconstruction accuracy to generate the anchor from the candidate. The distance measure is strictly dependent on the motif similarities between the anchor and candidate that are captured in the dilated convolutions in $f_{\{q/k\}}$ (Xu et al., 2024). See code for further exact details.

Prior work with this distance measure only captured a simple exact-motif-matching mechanism because the original masked reconstruction training task can be solved by exact-matching the non-masked regions. To enhance the distance measure, we introduce 3 key innovations:

1. Use Accel-specific augmentations (Tang et al., 2020) during training to learn a motif-matching mechanism that is invariant to Accel-semantic-preserving transformations.

During training, we define $\mathbf{X}_{\text{cand}} \coloneqq Aug(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}})$, making the candidate an augmented version of the original sequence, using augmentations from Accel SimCLR (Tang et al., 2020). This prevents an exact-match solution and helps the model learn to reconstruct the original anchor from semantically similar but altered candidates, such as recognizing running signals despite variations like an upside-down wearable or noise from a loose-fitting device.

2. Replace the softmax in the cross-attention with a sparsemax formulation (Martins & Astudillo, 2016) in Eq. 3 to encourage precise motif comparison.

Sparsemax returns the euclidean projection of the unnormalized logits onto the probability simplex, encouraging sparsity (Martins & Astudillo, 2016). This prevents diffuse attention distributions that compare minor, irrelevant motifs within the anchor and candidate. Sparsemax ensures the model reconstructs with distinct features, enabling our measure to capture class-specific information.

3. Use reversible instance normalization (Kim et al., 2021) to normalize an anchor based upon the candidate, preserving relative anchor-candidate magnitude information.

The anchor sequence and final reconstruction output are normalized (in Eq. 4) and unnormalized (in Eq. 2) using candidate sequence statistics. When an anchor and candidate have drastically different magnitudes, it is more likely they represent different fundamental motions and should have worse reconstruction error. Reversible normalization helps preserve this effect.

3.2 RELATIVE CONTRASTIVE LOSS: ALL PAIRS ARE POSITIVE ... BUT SOME PAIRS ARE MORE POSITIVE THAN OTHERS

Normalized temperature cross entropy loss (NT-Xent) is standard in contrastive learning (Eq. 5). It learns a class discriminative embedding space by pulling the anchor and positive instances closer together in the embedding space and pushing all negatives away from the anchor, as in:

$$\ell(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}}, \mathbf{X}_{\text{pos}}, \mathcal{S}_{\text{neg}}) = -\log \frac{\exp(\text{sim}(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}}, \mathbf{X}_{\text{pos}})/\tau)}{\sum_{\mathbf{X}_{\text{neg}} \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{neg}}} \exp(\text{sim}(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}}, \mathbf{X}_{\text{neg}})/\tau) + \exp(\text{sim}(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}}, \mathbf{X}_{\text{pos}})/\tau)} \tag{5}$$

where $\text{sim}(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}}, \mathbf{X}_{\text{pos}}) = \langle E(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}}), E(\mathbf{X}_{\text{pos}})\rangle$ and $E(\cdot)$ is some encoder function. Traditionally, NT-Xent uses strict, "hard" labels that define absolute positive and negative sets. However, we would like to use the learned distance measure to capture relative ordering among the candidates in the loss. That is, *if $d(\boldsymbol{X}_{anc}, \boldsymbol{X}_i) > d(\boldsymbol{X}_{anc}, \boldsymbol{X}_j)$, the loss learns to preserve that relative ordering in the $E(\cdot)$'s embedding space*. To achieve this, we redefine $\mathcal{S}_{\text{neg}} \coloneqq f_{\text{neg}}(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}}, \mathbf{X}_{\text{i}}, \mathcal{S}_{\text{cand}})$ as a function in Eq. 6, allowing the set of negatives to dynamically change based on the current positive pair. This enables the construction of our Relative Contrastive Loss function in Eq. 7:

$$f_{\text{neg}}(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}}, \mathbf{X}_{\text{pos}}, \mathcal{S}) = \{\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{S} : d(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}}, \mathbf{X}) > d(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}}, \mathbf{X}_{\text{pos}})\} \tag{6}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{RelCon}} = \sum_{\mathbf{X}_{\text{i}} \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{cand}}} \ell(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}},\ \mathbf{X}_{pos} \coloneqq \mathbf{X}_{\text{i}},\ \mathcal{S}_{\text{neg}} \coloneqq f_{\text{neg}}(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}}, \mathbf{X}_{\text{i}}, \mathcal{S}_{\text{cand}})) \tag{7}$$

This loss iteratively calculates NT-Xent over each candidate, $\mathbf{X}_{\text{i}} \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{cand}}$, iteratively setting each candidate as the positive, $\mathbf{X}_{pos} \coloneqq \mathbf{X}_{\text{i}}$. The negative set for the given positive is then defined as all candidates with a greater distance measure than the given positive $\{\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{S} : d(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}}, \mathbf{X}) > d(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}}, \mathbf{X}_{\text{pos}})\}$. In this way, the RelCon loss function captures hierarchical structure of similarities in the embedding space based on their relative relationships with the anchor.

In order to capture diverse relationships via RelCon, our pool of candidates originates from two sources: *(1) sampling within the user*, across time and *(2) sampling between users*, within the batch. In *(1)*, we choose c random subsequences from the same user as the anchor sequence. This helps capture within-person temporal dynamics in the encoder, such as how a user's motion signals may indicate fatigue over time. In *(2)*, sampling between-users allows the model to learn physiological similarities and differences across other users. Our RelCon procedure is visualized in Fig. 1.

4 Experimental Design

4.1 Foundation Model Pretraining

We trained models on Inertial Movement Unit (IMU) sensors from the Apple Heart & Movement Study (AHMS) (MacRae, 2021). AHMS is an ongoing research study designed to explore the links between physical activity and cardiovascular health, which is sponsored by Apple and conducted in partnership with American Heart Association and Brigham and Women's Hospital. To be eligible for the study, participants must — among other eligibility criteria – be at least 18 years of age (at least 19 in Alabama and Nebraska; at least 21 in Puerto Rico), reside in the United States, have access to an Apple Watch, and provide informed consent electronically in the Apple Research app.

The training data included a subset of study data with 87,376 participants recorded over one day, with a 10/3/3 train/val/test split. Following prior convention (Reyes-Ortiz et al., 2015), we use 2.56 seconds of the raw 100 Hz 3-axis x,y,z accelerometry signal of the IMU sensor in the wearable device as input to our embedding model. The model was pre-trained with 8 x A100 GPUs for 24 hours. It iterated over a total of 1 billion unique samples, i.e. $\sim$30k unique participant-days. We used a 1D ResNet-34 encoder backbone with a final global average pooling to generate a 256-dimensional embedding vector with 3.9M parameters.

4.2 Downstream Evaluation

We group our downstream evaluations into two sections: Task Diversity and Benchmarking. In total, we compare against 6 different downstream datasets across 4 different types of downstream tasks. We compare our RelCon foundation model against 11 models total: 3 pre-trained from scratch in the Task Diversity Evaluation and 8 from the prior literature in the Benchmarking Evaluation.

In **Task Diversity Evaluation**, we evaluate how well our foundation model's learned embedding generalizes across diverse downstream tasks, in order to understand how SSL via RelCon enables broad applicability. To this end, these downstream tasks include *gait metric regression* for predicting stride velocity and double support time and *human activity recognition* for classifying in-the-wild activities on the subsequence-level and on the workout-level. These tasks are on two separate datasets. Then, we compare our RelCon-trained foundation model against 3 different models, each pre-trained from scratch with different SOTA SSL methodology under the same, controlled conditions.

In **Benchmarking Evaluation**, we compare our foundation model against existing prior accelerometry works on standardized, publicly-available human activity recognition benchmarks. Specifically, we compare *against another large-scale pre-trained accel foundation model (Yuan et al., 2024)* and *against an accel SSL benchmarking study (Haresamudram et al., 2022)* with seven distinct SSL methods. These datasets help evaluate model generalizability under data distribution shifts, including differing sensor positions and inference window lengths.

4.2.1 Task Diversity Evaluation Set-up

Baselines: Following the same exact training conditions as our RelCon foundation model (i.e. AHMS dataset, total training iterations, encoder backbone), we pre-trained 3 other state-of-the-art accelerometry SSL methods from scratch, which can seen below. Further details in Appendix A.1.

- *Accel SimCLR (Tang et al., 2020)* contrasts positive pairs formed by accel-specific augmentations (i.e. 3D rotation) and demonstrates state-of-the-art performance (Haresamudram et al., 2022).
- *Augmentation Prediction (Saeed et al., 2019)* predicts whether or not a specific augmentation was applied. This is a classic accelerometry approach that demonstrates competitive performance (Haresamudram et al., 2022) with good scaling ability (Yuan et al., 2024).
- *Accel REBAR (Xu et al., 2024)* uses a "hard" contrastive loss with learned motif-similarity to identify positive pairs, relying on fixed positive and negative sets without capturing relative positions. For a fairer comparison, we adapt REBAR with the accel-specific enhancements from Section 3.1.

Gait Metric Regression: All participants completed proctored overground walking tasks with two mobile devices with IMU sensors at each side of the body in different locations (i.e. at the hip, in a front/back pocket, or in a waist bag) (Apple, 2021). We used the Cohort A participants, which included 359 participants with an average age of 74.7, who provided informed consent. Participants conducted 3 walking tasks: 1) one lap at self-selected speed, 2) four laps at an instructed slow speed, and 3) as many laps as possible within six minutes. Each task was conducted along a straight 12-meter course, with an 8-meter pressure mat placed centrally. Various gait statistics were calculated, such as *double support time* and *stride velocity*, which our models were evaluated on.

Each 2.56s subsequence was matched to the lap aggregated target (e.g. total number of steps or average walking speed). The participants were assigned into 50% train and 50% test randomly based on participant ID, where every lap for a given participant falls into the same split. The training split was used to train linear regression probes on embeddings from the self-supervised models. Metrics were selected following a prior report (Apple, 2021): mean squared error (MSE), std dev of squared error (SDSE), mean absolute error (MAE), std dev of absolute error (SDAE), and Pearson Correlation Coefficient. Mean and std devs were calculated by aggregating predictions across all inputs of a given user and are related to bias and variance. Correlation is used to assess how each user's average gait metric corresponds to ground truth values. Ranges per metric are obtained by retraining the probe five times and calculating the mean and standard deviation.

Field Human Activity Recognition: We evaluated activity classification using self-reported activity labels gathered from in-the-wild, unproctored, field data in AHMS. We used a subset of data with $\sim$2k total users across 16 workouts (full list in Fig. 2). These workouts captured a range of diverse activities (e.g. kickboxing and rowing) that are non-trivial to separate (i.e. outdoor cycling vs. indoor cycling). For evaluation, workouts were class balanced with each including $\sim$22 hours of data, for a total of 310 workout hours. We used a 4/1/5 train/val/test split based on participant ID. We ensured this data did not overlap with the pre-training dataset, preventing any data leakage.

Embeddings are generated for each 2.56s-long subsequence. We evaluate classification on both the *subsequence-level* as well as the *workout-level*. At the workout-level, we predict an activity across each of 2.56s subsequences within the workout, and select the most frequently predicted activity. Including two temporal scales allow us to evaluate how information learned by the embedding interacts with time aggregation. We report F1, Kappa, Accuracy, and macro AUC metrics following previous work (Haresamudram et al., 2022; Yuan et al., 2024; Xu et al., 2024). Ranges per metric are obtained by retraining the probe five times and calculating the mean and standard deviation.

4.2.2 Benchmarking Evaluation Set-up

Comparison to a Large-Scale Pre-trained Model: Yuan et al. (2024) proposes an large-scale model with pre-trained on the UK BioBank (Bycroft et al., 2018) dataset. They are able to train

Gait Metric Regression (Wrist→Waist)											
	Stride Velocity					Double Support Time					
Model	↓ MSE	↓ SDSE	↓ MAE	↓ SDAE	↑ Corr	↓ MSE	↓ SDSE	↓ MAE	↓ SDAE	↑ Corr
SimCLR	.0121 ± .0002	.0234 ± .0019	.0827 ± .0020	.0726 ± .0007	**.8454 ± .0133**	.0016 ± .0001	.0025 ± .0001	.0317 ± .0009	.0254 ± .0006	.7074 ± .0136
Aug Pred	.0144 ± .0002	.0241 ± .0003	.0940 ± .0007	.0749 ± .0005	.7950 ± .0035	.0015 ± .0000	.0025 ± .0001	.0296 ± .0002	.0251 ± .0003	.7214 ± .0029
REBAR	.0147 ± .0010	.0285 ± .0035	**.0818 ± .0042**	.0818 ± .0042	.7853 ± .0178	.0016 ± .0001	.0026 ± .0001	.0316 ± .0011	.0254 ± .0008	.6817 ± .0286
RelCon (ours)	**.0115 ± .0005**	**.0190 ± .0013**	.0833 ± .0019	**.0678 ± .0016**	.8431 ± .0039	**.0014 ± .0000**	**.0024 ± .0001**	**.0275 ± .0004**	**.0249 ± .0004**	**.7559 ± .0120**

Table 1: **Gait Metric Regression**. Mean and Standard Deviations of Squared Error and Absolute Error were calculated by aggregating predictions across given user and are related to bias and variance respectively. Strong consistent performance of RelCon shows that our model is able to do well on capturing user-specific and temporally-precise information necessary for gait metric regression.

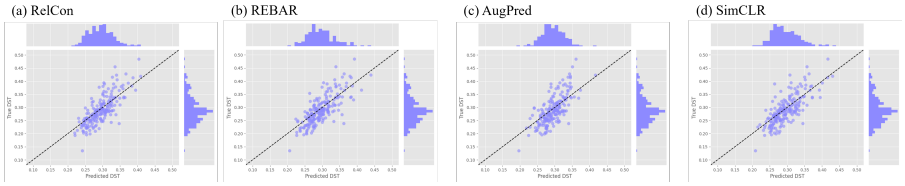


Figure 3: **Correlation between predicted and true DST**. RelCon has the highest correlation.

over ∼100k unique participants for a total of ∼700k unique participant-days. Their model is based upon an augmentation prediction approach with a ResNet-18 backbone, and they use it to train and embed 10s subsequences of a 3-axis accelerometry signal collected at the wrist. Following their evaluation methodology, we directly compare our RelCon foundation model against their model along three different dimensions: fine-tuning the entire model, using an MLP probe, and training from scratch. We exactly mimic their cross-validation splits on the Opportunity (Roggen et al., 2010) and PAMAP2 (Reiss, 2012) activity classification datasets and use these splits to generate the metric ranges. We also match their 10s length used for inference.

Comparison to an Accel SSL Benchmarking Study: Haresamudram et al. (2022) seeks to assess the state of the accelerometry SSL field, in the context of human activity recognition. To this end, they benchmark a diverse range of self-supervised methods, including our aforementioned methods, SimCLR (Tang et al., 2020) and Augmentation Prediction (Saeed et al., 2019), as well as, SimSiam (Chen & He, 2021), BYOL (Grill et al., 2020), MAE (Haresamudram et al., 2020), CPC (Haresamudram et al., 2021), and an Autoencoder (Haresamudram et al., 2019). Each of their approaches uses a unique backbone architecture that corresponds to the original work. They pre-train their SSL methods on the 3-axis wrist-mounted accelerometry signals from Capture-24 dataset (Chan Chang et al., 2021), which is composed of 151 unique participants for a total of ∼4k participant-hours. Similar to our RelCon method, each of their models are pre-trained on wrist data. However, during evaluation, each activity classification dataset corresponds to accelerometry signals collected at different body positions. We compare our RelCon FM with a downstream dataset at each benchmarked position: HHAR (Blunck et al., 2015) for Wrist, Motionsense for Waist (Malekzadeh et al., 2018), and PAMAP2 (Reiss, 2012) for Leg. In this way, each methods will be evaluated on potentially different sensor position as its pre-training data. We adopt the same exact cross-validation splits in the original work and use them to generate our ranges. We match their 2s length used for inference.

5 Results and Discussion

5.1 Task Diversity Evaluation Results

Gait Metric Regression: Table 1 shows the gait metric regression performance of each SSL method. RelCon had the strongest consistent performance across *both* gait metrics, double support time and stride velocity. While Accel-SimCLR was not specifically designed for gait analysis (Tang et al., 2020), it achieved competitive performance for stride velocity with the highest correlation. This suggests that Accel-SimCLR effectively captures overall movement patterns, but may lack the nuanced understanding required for DST, which has more complex gait dynamics compared to velocity. DST measures the brief phase when both feet are on the ground, requiring high temporal resolution to capture subtle transitions between stance and swing, influenced by neuromuscular coordination (Couto et al., 2023). In contrast, stride velocity is determined by cadence, making it simpler to model via frequency (Kirtley et al., 1985). REBAR, despite using the same learnable distance as RelCon, performed worse across most metrics due to differences in the loss functions. The hard contrastive

	AHMS Activity Classification (Wrist→Wrist)							
	Subsequence Level				Workout Level			
Model	↑ F1	↑ Kappa	↑ Acc	↑ AUC	↑ F1	↑ Kappa	↑ Acc	↑ AUC
SimCLR	36.35 ± .42	**39.32 ± .29**	37.32 ± .29	.8372 ± .0004	50.06 ± .44	49.66 ± .33	53.09 ± .30	.8855 ± .0033
Aug Pred	34.48 ± .08	30.69 ± .12	35.02 ± .11	.8175 ± .0003	54.63 ± .79	52.44 ± .65	55.71 ± .60	.9049 ± .0010
REBAR	36.39 ± .28	32.75 ± .23	36.96 ± .21	.8334 ± .0011	50.29 ± .78	48.53 ± .91	51.94 ± .87	.8775 ± .0035
RelCon (ours)	**38.56 ± .23**	35.10 ± .20	**39.15 ± .19**	**.8417 ± .0009**	**55.28 ± .86**	**53.87 ± .71**	**56.94 ± .68**	**.9078 ± .0016**

Table 2: **Field Human Activity Recognition across 16 Classes**. RelCon achieves consistently strong performance when evaluated both at the subsequence-level and workout-level. SimCLR does well at the subsequence-level, but performs much worse at the workout-level. The opposite is true for AugPred. This show that there exist nuances captured by our models at the both levels.

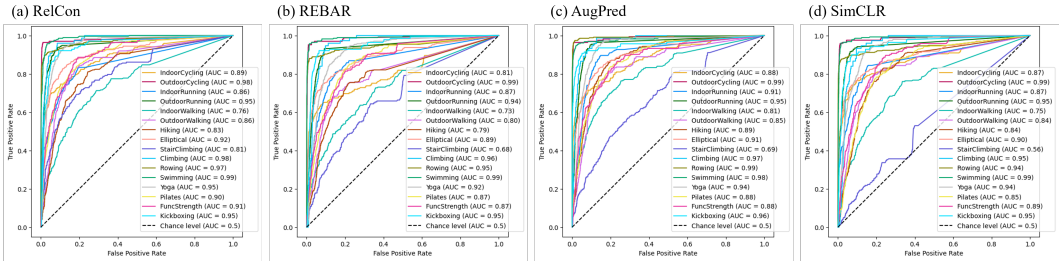


Figure 4: **ROC curves of AHMS Workout-Level Classification Task**. Among other performance improvements, RelCon is able to clearly better classify stair climbing compared to other approaches.

loss used in REBAR relies on an absolute set of positives/negatives, limiting its capacity to capture fine-grained relational differences. In contrast, RelCon's relative loss enabled better modeling of subtle differences of transient subject-specific gait dynamics, particularly necessary for modeling the complex neuromuscular functions that control DST.

Field Human Activity Recognition: Table 2 presents the activity classification performance across subseq and workout levels on real-world field data across 16 classes. Fig. 4 shows per-class performance and Fig. 5 shows detailed class predictions breakdown via a confusion matrix. These results demonstrate RelCon's state-of-the-art performance, and the t-SNE in Fig. 2 shows that RelCon achieves the best cluster separability in its embedding space. RelCon is better at classifying stair climbing compared to the other methods, which will often confuse stair climbing with climbing or elliptical (Fig. 4 and 5). These three classes have slower, deliberate hand swinging motions, but we hypothesize that RelCon's resistance to false positives/negatives enabled the model to capture subtle differences. Also, RelCon more accurately distinguishes outdoor from indoor running, likely due to its ability to detect the subtle more-uniform motion patterns characteristic of indoor running.

SimCLR showed strong performance at the subseq-level but struggled at the workout-level, particularly with stair climbing (Fig. 4), which was often confused with climbing (Fig. 5). Conversely, AugPred performed better at the workout-level than the subseq-level. These differences highlight how varying temporal resolutions capture different aspects of activity dynamics, influencing model performance across time scales. Overall, RelCon's strong performance across temporal resolutions and diverse activity categories underscores its robustness and generalizability in activity recognition.

5.2 Benchmarking Evaluation Results

Results from Comparison to a Large-Scale Pre-trained Model: Table 3 shows that RelCon achieved a stronger performance across all datasets and evaluation methods. We used a ResNet-34 based architecture with a final embedding dimension of 256 and 3.96M parameters, while Yuan et al. (2024) used a ResNet-18 based architecture with an embedding dimension of 1024 and 10M parameters. The smaller and deeper architecture is more effective in this case, as seen in the "From Scratch" results. Although our learned embedding vector had a lower dimensionality, the RelCon FM has a stronger performance with the MLP probe (69 vs. 57 and 85 vs. 73 for Opportunity and PAMAP2). Representations learned by RelCon are able to efficiently capture the most important properties of the sequences. The fine-tuning evaluation shows that the initialization provided by our RelCon pre-training is able to boost performance even further with 94 → 98 and 98 → 99 improvements for Opportunity and PAMAP2 F1 metrics.

			Opportunity (Wrist→Wrist)		PAMAP2 (Wrist→Wrist)	
	Eval Method	Pre-train Data	↑ F1	↑ Kappa	↑ F1	↑ Kappa
RelCon FM	MLP Probe	AHMS	**69.1 ± 8.3**	**62.1 ± 6.2**	**85.38 ± 3.6**	**84.73 ± 3.6**
Yuan et al. (2024)'s FM	MLP Probe	UKBioBank	57.0 ± 7.8	43.5 ± 9.2	72.5 ± 5.4	71.7 ± 5.7
RelCon FM	Fine-tuned	AHMS	**98.4 ± 0.9**	**97.9 ± 0.8**	**98.81 ± 1.3**	**98.6 ± 1.6**
Yuan et al. (2024)'s FM	Fine-tuned	UKBioBank	59.5 ± 8.5	47.1 ± 10.4	78.9 ± 5.4	76.9 ± 5.9
RelCon FM	From Scratch	n/a	94.0 ± 1.3	92.8 ± 1.8	97.5 ± 1.1	97.0 ± 1.3
Yuan et al. (2024)'s FM	From Scratch	n/a	38.3 ± 12.4	23.8 ± 15.4	60.5 ± 8.6	59.6 ± 8.6

Table 3: **RelCon FM compared to Prior Large-Scale Pre-trained Model**. Although the RelCon FM embeds time-series into 256 dim vectors, smaller than Yuan et al. (2024)'s 1024 dim vector, it achieves stronger MLP probe performance. Additionally, fine-tuning our ResNet-34-based RelCon improves upon the from scratch performance, demonstrating the utility of our approach.

			HHAR (Wrist→Wrist)	Motionsense (Wrist→Waist)	PAMAP2 (Wrist→Leg)
			↑ F1	↑ F1	↑ F1
Self-supervised w/ Frozen Embedding + Linear Probe		**RelCon FM**	**57.63 ± 3.24**	80.35 ± 0.71	**53.98 ± 0.76**
	Haresamudram et al. (2022)	Aug Pred	50.95 ± 2.70	74.96 ± 1.37	46.90 ± 1.14
		SimCLR	55.93 ± 1.75	**83.93 ± 1.78**	50.75 ± 2.97
		SimSiam	45.36 ± 4.98	71.91 ± 12.3	47.85 ± 2.48
		BYOL	40.66 ± 4.08	66.44 ± 2.76	43.89 ± 3.35
		MAE	43.48 ± 2.84	61.14 ± 3.45	42.32 ± 1.63
		CPC	56.24 ± 0.98	72.89 ± 2.06	45.84 ± 1.39
		Autoencoder	53.57 ± 1.14	55.12 ± 3.46	50.79 ± 1.09
Fully Supervised		DeepConvLSTM	54.39 ± 2.28	84.56 ± 0.85	51.22 ± 1.91
		Conv classifier	55.43 ± 1.21	**89.25 ± 0.50**	**59.76 ± 1.53**
		LSTM classifier	37.42 ± 5.04	86.74 ± 0.29	48.61 ± 1.82

Table 4: **RelCon FM compared to a SSL Benchmarking Study**. Results show the strength of the RelCon foundation model, which has the strongest consistent performance. RelCon also outperforms the fully-supervised models when the pre-training and target domains both are wrist sensors.

Results from Comparison to an Accel SSL Benchmarking Study: Table 4 compares the RelCon FM against a suite of SSL methods benchmarked in Haresamudram et al. (2022). Our RelCon FM show strong generalizability, even when there is a sensor position mismatch between training and evaluation, as seen in PAMAP2. When the target dataset's sensor position matches the pre-training domain, as seen in HHAR, RelCon acheives exceptionally strong performance, even beating the fully-supervised methods. Although SimCLR outperforms RelCon in Motionsense, there is a considerable gap between SimCLR/Relcon and the rest of the methods.

5.3 Ablation Study Results

The Importance of Motion Augmentations: Invariances can capture conceptually important information for motion data, and augmentations have been used extensively in prior approaches to exploit this (Yurtman & Barshan, 2017; Florentino-Liaño et al., 2012; Zhong & Deng, 2014). For example, learning a 3D rotation invariance makes embeddings robust to how users wear their devices. RelCon uses these augmentations while learning the distance function, so that the distance function can identify instances that represent similar characteristics but differ from semantic-preserving transformations. Removing these augmentations from the distance function learning significantly degrades performance (>12% drop in 3/4 tasks, as shown in *w/o Augmentations* in Table 5), because the distance function fails to compare and identify semantically-similar instances.

Within-Person Dynamics in Time-series: Variations in time-series signals stem from both within-user and between-user dynamics. Learning embeddings by comparing subsequences within the same user helps capture important temporal dynamics, as shown in the *w/o Sampling Within-Subject* ablation in Table 5. In this ablation, we no longer draw candidates from the within-user, across time. Instead the candidates are drawn from other batch members and an augmented versions of them, similar to SimCLR. This leads to a 4% drop in subsequence-level classification (AHMS-Subseq) and a 7% drop in workout-level classification. These results highlight the importance of modeling within-user dynamics over time, especially for longer-scale workout-level tasks. This is reflected

	Stride Velocity	Double Support Time	Subseq-level Activity	Workout-level Activity
	↑ Corr	↑ Corr	↑ F1	↑ F1
RelCon	0.8431	0.7559	38.56	55.28
w/o Augmentations	-5.42%	-13.88%	-12.5%	-17.93%
w/o RevIN	-11.66%	-6.01%	-3.81%	-4.11%
w/o SparseMax	-0.87%	-3.7%	-5.06%	-7.11%
w/o Sampling Within-Subject	-1.4%	-1.4%	-4.49%	-7.25%
w/ Softer Metric Loss (Kim et al., 2019)	-3.64%	-6.11%	-1.45%	1.39%
w/ Harder Binary Contrastive Loss (Xu et al., 2024)	-6.86%	-9.82%	-5.63%	-9.03%

Table 5: **Ablations of key RelCon components**. Removing augmentations in our distance learning results in large decrease in performance, highlighting the importance of learning a motif-based distance that is robust to accel-specific invariances. RevIN strongly affects the regression tasks. Within-subject interactions and SparseMax are important for classification. Finally, our relative loss strikes a good balance between hardness of the pos/neg psuedo-labels in the loss function.

in SimCLR's performance in Table 2. SimCLR does not capture within-user interactions and also performs better at subsequence-level than workout-level tasks.

Relative Contrastive Loss is a Good Balance of "Softness": RelCon's relative contrastive loss is a softer version of REBAR's hard binary contrastive loss. Both use a learnable distance to identify positives and negatives, but REBAR selects only one positive candidate, labeling the rest as negative, increasing the risk of false positives and negatives (Xu et al., 2024). False positives occur when a candidate is incorrectly identified as positive despite belonging to a different class, while false negatives arise when multiple valid positive candidates exist but only one is selected. The softer relative contrastive loss captures the relative "positiveness" of candidates, reducing the impact of false pseudo-labels. As shown in *w/ Harder Binary Contrastive Loss* in Table 5, RelCon's relative contrastive loss improves performance >5% compared to the REBAR binary contrastive loss.

Alternatively, the relative loss function could be softened further with a metric loss function that directly learns that the distances in the embedding space be proportional to distances from the learned motif-based distance function. The distance function is now treated as an exact ground truth. In *w/ Softer Metric Loss* in Table 5, we replace the loss with the log-ratio metric loss , $\ell(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}}) = \sum_{\mathbf{X}_{\text{pos}},\mathbf{X}_{\text{neg}}} \left(\log(\frac{\|E(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}})-E(\mathbf{X}_{\text{pos}})\|_2}{\|E(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}})-E(\mathbf{X}_{\text{neg}})\|_2}) - \log(\frac{d(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}},\mathbf{X}_{\text{pos}})}{d(\mathbf{X}_{\text{anc}},\mathbf{X}_{\text{neg}})}) \right)^2$, from Kim et al. (2019). This results in a performance drop across all tasks, particularly in gait metric regression. It highlights that a softer metric loss too exactly matches the distance function, obscuring the subtle features needed to differentiate gait. We aim for a balanced approach that allows the distance function to flexibly capture semantic groups, without strictly constraining the embedding space.

Refining our Learned Distance: Table 5 shows that if we remove the reversible instance normalization, *RevIN*, component or replace the *SparseMax* with the traditional softmax operator within our distance function, then performance suffers. Removal of RevIN causes a 12% drop in the velocity correlation, which shows the importance of capturing relative magnitude for predicting velocity.

6 Conclusions

RelCon FM embeddings have strong performance across diverse tasks including motion velocity, double support time, and workout classification and across datasets, as compared to benchmarked approaches and models. This consistently strong performance of the frozen embeddings with simple probes shows that RelCon embeddings capture fundamental properties of motion relevant across tasks. To capture these motion properties, we introduced a number of novel modifications to our learned motif-based distance learning, including introducing augmentations to learn sensor invariances and using sparsemax to increase precision. We contribute a methodology for using the learned distance measure with a relative contrastive loss, in order to learn fine-grained interactions between and within subjects. Our RelCon foundation model showed the strongest, consistent performance in across all evaluated tasks and datasets. These results suggest that RelCon is highly effective for motif-based time-series data, such as accelerometry, and perhaps other quasi-periodic biosignals.

7 REPRODUCIBILITY

The code for our RelCon foundation model can be found at https://github.com/maxxu05/relcon. This includes the RelCon training methodology, architecture, as well as the reproducible evaluation code from our "Benchmarking Evaluation" task, which utilizes public datasets. This can be used by the broader research community by providing code to easily re-train the RelCon approach in addition to providing a unified benchmarking task to guide model development.

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A Appendix

A.1 Model Implementation Details

SimCLR: We follow the approach described by Haresamudram et al. (2023), following the implementation located here: `https://github.com/ubicompsoartutorial/soar_tutorial/tree/main/simclr`. Then we use a batch-size of 64, temperature of 1, and train for 1e5 steps.

Aug Pred: We follow the approach described by Yuan et al. (2024), following the implementation located here: `https://github.com/OxWearables/ssl-wearables?tab=readme-ov-file`. Then we use a batch-size of 64 and train for 1e5 steps.

RelCon: We use the augmentations utilized by the aforementioned SimCLR model, batch-size of 64, temperature of 1, candidate set size of 20, and train for 1e5 steps.

REBAR: We follow the approach described by Xu et al. (2024), following the implementation located here: `https://github.com/maxxu05/rebar`. Then we use the prior SimCLR augmentations, a batch-size of 64, temperature of 1, candidate set size of 20, and train for 1e5 steps.

A.2 Extra AHMS Classification Results

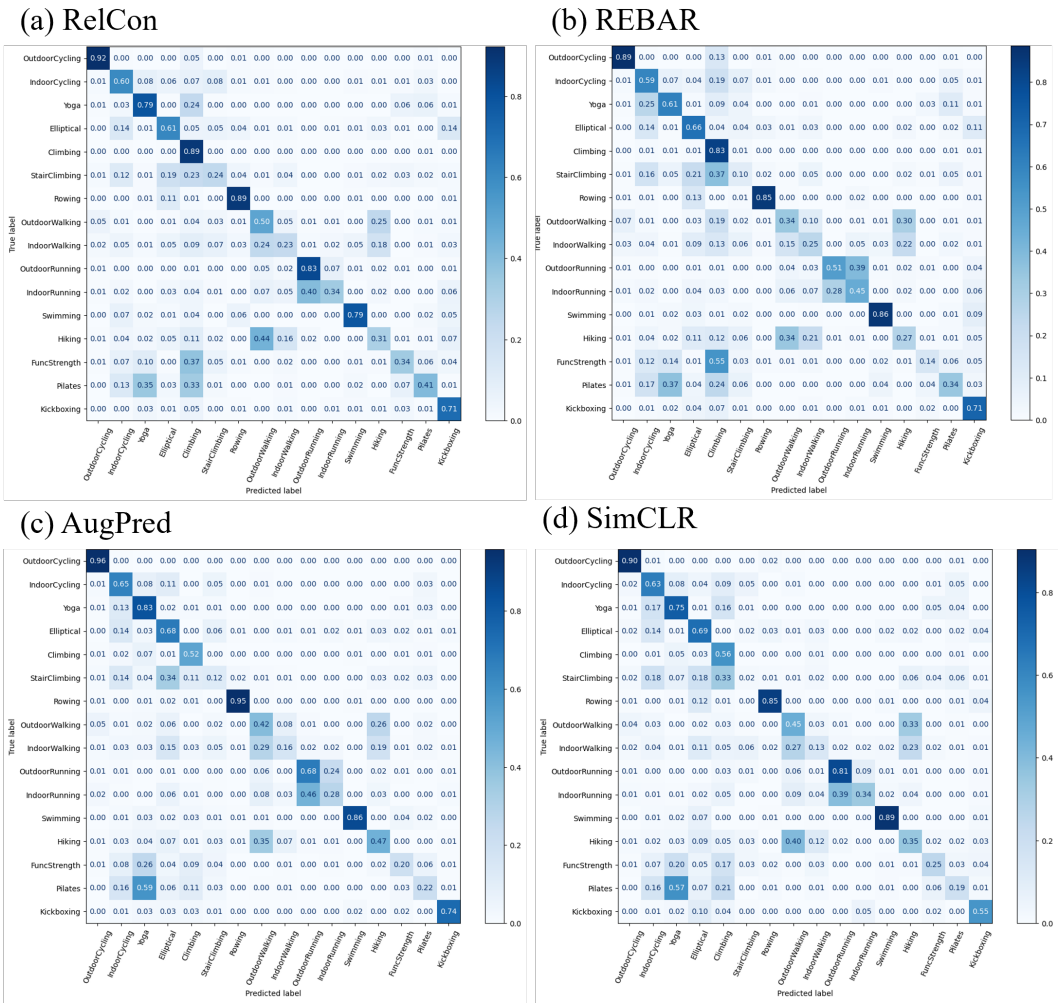

Figure 5: **Confusion Matrices for AHMS Classification at the Workout Level.** We can see RelCon has the best performance. Unlike REBAR and AugPred, RelCon can better predict Outdoor running from Indoor Running. RelCon is also able to better predict Stair Climbing unlike the others.

A.3 Details and Preprocessing on the AHMS Pre-training Dataset

Please refer to original paper on AHMS for further details on the dataset (Shapiro et al., 2023). Specifically, Figure 8 in that work includes visualizations that show general subject demographic distributions including age, body mass index, and self-reported race and ethnicity.

Preprocessing: We use the raw 100hz accelerometry data as is, without specific preprocessing techniques, such as filtering or downsampling. We choose to not filter the data as prior work has discouraged filtering in a daily monitoring setting (Campbell et al., 2020), and may prevent our deep learning model from modeling subtle nuances within the signal. Additionally, we would like to develop our methods to be robust to noise via augmentations, such as additive gaussian noise augmentations. We purposely do not attempt to filter out periods of low accelerometry activity. This is because small, minor changes in the accelerometer signal have been shown to still be informative, being able to predict heart rate (Moebus et al., 2024).

A.4 Justification for Using Single-Sensor-Accelerometer-Only Data

Motion information can be analyzed with multiple sensor streams, whether it be through multiple accelerometer sensors strapped in different locations (Jain et al., 2022) or via extra IMU-based sensors, such as the gyroscopic sensor (García-de Villa et al., 2023). Many prior state-of-the-art human activity recognition, supervised machine learning models will exploit the full sensor suite that includes multi-modality and multi-location sensors (Essa & Abdelmaksoud, 2023; Suh et al., 2023). We recognize the value of a foundation model that can incorporate a multi-modality and/or multi-location stream of data, as it would enable for greater insights on human motion and physiology, and we are interested in investigating this in future work.

However, for our foundation model, we strive for broad generalizability in order to ensure that our learning approach and model is applicable across various settings. This includes low resource settings that only have accelerometer sensors available, as gyroscopic sensors are quite power hungry (Group, 2017). Accelerometer sensors are thus the most common sensor for monitoring human motion (Huang et al., 2023). Additionally, we would like our model to also be applicable for real-world field settings, in which multi-location sensors are uncommon for daily usage due to their bulkiness and discomfort. As such, our foundation model is able to be benchmarked against a broad range of datasets (i.e. our AHMS classification, our Gait Metric Data, HHAR, Motionsense, PAMAP2, Opportunity), which each utilize different sensor hardwares, but all include at least one 3-axis accelerometer sensor.

A.5 Elaborating on Table 1

Negatives in a SimCLR-based well-studied problem, with many recent works proposing novel methodologies to address this (Huynh et al., 2022; Jin et al., 2023; Chien & Chen, 2024). Additionally, the accelerometry SimCLR we are benchmarking (Tang et al., 2020) makes no distinction to model within-user interactions, by treating every subsequence as independent, and hence does not model within-user interactions. Both SimCLR and augmentation prediction creates instances from the original sequence via augmentations, and so they will be resistant to False Positives.

Similar to REBAR, RelCon explicitly models within and between-user interactions by explicitly comparing an anchor against candidates from within-user across time and across other users. However, unlike REBAR, we model the relative positions of our candidates, rather than a binary comparison that treats all negative instances as the same. Then, RelCon is more likely to be resistant to False positives and False negatives due to the enhanced comparison that captures the nuanced differences between candidates.

A.6 Computational Complexity of RelCon

During training, RelCon needs to compare the relative distances of each candidate from the anchor with our distance function. The distance function utilizes a highly parallelizable transformer function with complexity of $O(T^2 \times d)$(Vaswani et al., 2017) and a convolution to embed the inputs with a complexity of $O(k \times T \times d^2)$ (Vaswani et al., 2017). T=256 the subsequence length, d=64 the embedding dimension, and k=15 the kernel size. Therefore, because we calculate this

distance function for every candidate, given a size of c, our total complexity during training is $O(c \times T^2 \times d + c \times k \times T \times d^2)$. In our future research, we will work on decreasing the computational cost during training.

A.7 Evaluation Dataset Descriptions

A.7.1 Comparison to a Large-Scale Pre-trained Accel Model (Yuan et al., 2024)

Yuan et al. (2024) has released their code publicly here, which contains exact data split and generations: `https://github.com/OxWearables/ssl-wearables`

Opportunity: 4-fold leave-one-subject-out cross validation with the sitting, standing, walking, and lying labels.

PAMAP2: 9-fold leave-one-subject-out cross validation with the lying, sitting, standing, walking, ascending stairs, descending stairs, vacuum cleaning, and ironing classes. This is the wrist-specific accelerometry data.

A.7.2 Comparison to an Accel SSL Benchmarking Study (Haresamudram et al., 2022)

Although Haresamudram et al. (2022) has not released their code publicly, we contacted the authors directly to ensure that we matched their exact splits and classes evaluated. Table 4 in our paper is then constructed by drawing from Table 3 and 4 in the original paper. Specifically, HHAR is drawn from Table 4, PAMAP2 from Table 3/4, and MotionSense from Table 3 (Haresamudram et al., 2022). Note that in Haresamudram et al. (2022), Augmentation Prediction is referred to as "Multi-Task Self Supervision".

HHAR: 5-fold leave-subject-out cross validation with the bike, sit, stairs down, stairs up, stand, and walk classes.

Motionsense: 5-fold leave-subject-out cross with the downstairs, upstairs, sitting, standing, walking, and jogging labels.

PAMAP2: 5-fold leave-subject-out cross validation with the lying, sitting, standing, walking, running, cycling, nordic walking, ascending stairs, descending stairs, vacuum cleaning, ironing, and rope jumping classes. This is the ankle-specific accelerometry data.

A.8 Generalizing to Time Lengths Beyond 2.56 seconds

2.56s is a common accelerometry subsequence size for motion tasks (Reyes-Ortiz et al., 2015; Chen & Xue, 2015; Wang et al., 2007; McQuire et al., 2021; Mandong & Munir, 2018). Additionally, we have shown that our approach can easily be used for time-series with other, differing lengths. In our comparisons against Yuan et al. (2024), we utilize a subsequence length of 10 seconds in order to match their evaluations, and we still show strong performance. In our comparisons against Haresamudram et al. (2022), we utilize a subsequence length of 2 seconds in order to match their evaluations. This highlights that our model is robust to varying input lengths and is generalizable across input data configurations, as would be desirable from a foundation model. This flexibility is enabled by the final temporal-global-average-pooling layer that we have at the end of our architecture. Additionally, in our AHMS workout-level classification task, we show how our method can be used with variable-length time-series that can last up to 10 minutes long by aggregating predictions across windows.

A.9 Comparisons of RelCon vs. Softer or Harder Loss Functions

Our relative contrastive loss in Eq. 7 is particularly interesting because the relative contrastive loss is able to have a nice balance of softness. If we increase the softness in our loss function by utilizing a metric learning loss function (Kim et al., 2019), then this will hurt performance on the gait metric regression tasks. However, if we increase the hardness to a binary contrastive loss (i.e. REBAR),

	Velocity	DST	AHMS-Subseq	AHMS-Workout
	↑ Corr	↑ Corr	↑ F1	↑ F1
RelCon	0.8431	0.7559	38.56	55.28
w/ Softer Metric Loss (Kim et al., 2019)	-3.64%	-6.11%	-1.45%	1.39%
w/ Harder Binary Contrastive Loss (Xu et al., 2024)	-6.86%	-9.82%	-5.63%	-9.03%

Table 6: Comparisons of RelCon vs. Softer or Harder Loss Functions

then this hurts performance across both types of tasks. Please see the table below, and we have added discussion to Section A.9.

A.10 Comparisons of RelCon vs. Yuan et al. (2024) with Same Encoder Backbone

We have re-trained our RelCon FM with the ResNet-18 backbone with a final encoding dimensionality of 1024, matching Yuan et al. (2024), and we show the results in the Table 7 below. Out of the 3/4 evaluations, RelCon continues to have stronger performance.

				Opportunity (Wrist → Wrist)		PAMAP2 (Wrist → Wrist)	
	Architecture	Eval Method	Pre-train Data	↑ F1	↑ Kappa	↑ F1	↑ Kappa
RelCon FM	ResNet-18	Fine-tuned	AHMS	**98.1 ± 0.1**	97.6 ± 1.2	**97.9 ± 0.5**	**97.5 ± 0.8**
Yuan et al. (2024)'s FM	ResNet-18	Fine-tuned	UKBioBank	59.5 ± 8.5	47.1 ± 10.	78.9 ± 5.4	76.9 ± 5.9
RelCon FM	ResNet-18	MLP Probe	AHMS	**65.4 ± 12.**	**55.7 ± 12.**	62.5 ± 13.	53.4 ± 6.6
Yuan et al. (2024)'s FM	ResNet-18	MLP Probe	UKBioBank	57.0 ± 7.8	43.5 ± 9.2	**72.5 ± 5.4**	**71.7 ± 5.7**

Table 7: Comparisons of RelCon vs. Yuan et al. (2024) with Same Encoder Backbone