Are Deep Learning Models Pre-trained on RGB Data Good Enough for RGB-Thermal Image Retrieval? (Supplementary Material)

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We present additional results in support of the claims made in the main paper.

1. Dataset Comparison

The comparison between the RGB-T datasets is shown in Fig. 1, which includes an RGB-T pair from each evaluated dataset. The title of each image indicates the name of the dataset from its respective RGB and thermal (Thr) galleries. Additionally, Fig. 2 displays some samples from the VIS-NIR [4] dataset. It is worth noting that the near-infrared images have clear detailing of the elements, similar to the RGB images, except for the color information. The luminance variations can be easily observed in the near-infrared images, which is not the case for the thermal images. In thermal images, we can only see the temperature aspects of an object without additional detailing. Thus, these figures visually demonstrate the complexity of the RGB-thermal datasets compared to VIS-NIR datasets present in the literature.

2. Recall Rates on VIS-NIR Dataset

To further support that VIS (RGB)-NIR image retrieval is much easier than RGB-T image retrieval problem, we evaluate the ImageNet pre-trained models on VIS-NIR [4] dataset on each of the nine categories present in it. From Tab. 1 we see that most of the models perform well on all the categories during inference. The numbers in the table indicate that VIS-NIR is a less complex dataset compared to RGB-T datasets for the image retrieval task.

3. Additional Results

3.1. Distance plots

Fig. 3 show the distance plots for all the pre-trained models for query 141 in the VOT dataset. All the models shown in red retrieve a wrong match, while SqueezeNet continues to retrieve a correct match.

3.2. Qualitative Plots

Fig. 4 shows top@1 retrieval for all the models used for evaluation. A green bounding box indicates a correct retrieval while red indicates incorrect retrieval by a model.

Fig. 5 shows a few other visual cases of query vs top@1 best retrieved image for the best performing models as discussed in the main paper. Fig. 4 shows the top@1 best thermal retrievals by all the models for a given RGB query image. Fig. 6 shows the comparison of the top three best-retrieved images among the best-performing models for a given same query image. The captions of each image indicate the corresponding retrieved index by the respective model. We see that SqueezeNet is consistent in retrieving the images from similar locations along with exact match in its top@1 while other models fail to retrieve the correct match even in its three best retrievals.

3.3. Feature Visualisation Using PCA and UMAP

Fig. 7 show the feature visualization using PCA on the LLVIP dataset and UMAP [15] on the VOT dataset for the best-performing models. The colour coding is chosen to help identify the corresponding location clusters in RGB and thermal PCA and UMAP plots. The LLVIP dataset does not show well-defined PCA clusters for all the models because of major foreground changes in the images.

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Figure 1. Sample RGB-Thermal pairs from all the RGB-T datasets considered for evaluation.



Figure 2. Sample visible-near-infrared (VIS-NIR) pair from VIS-NIR dataset.

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Datasets/Models	Country	Field	Forest	Indoor	Mountain	Oldbuilding	Street	Urban	Water
AlexNet [13]	96.15%	92.16%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	98.04%
VGG16 [17]	96.15%	90.2%	100%	100%	98.18%	100%	100%	100%	98.04%
SqueezeNet [9]	98.08%	98.04%	100%	100%	98.18%	100%	100%	100%	100%
ResNet-18 [8]	96.15%	84.31%	90.57%	100%	94.55%	100%	100%	100%	98.04%
ResNet-34 [8]	94.23%	84.31%	86.79%	100%	98.18%	100%	100%	100%	100%
ResNet-50 [8]	98.08%	92.16%	98.11%	100%	98.18%	100%	100%	100%	100%
ResNet-101 [8]	100%	92.16%	92.45%	100%	98.18%	100%	100%	100%	100%
ResNet-152 [8]	100%	92.16%	90.57%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	98.04%

Table 1. Fairly high recall rates were observed on both visible and near-infrared images for all categories in the VIS-NIR dataset when evaluated on ImageNet pre-trained models.



Figure 3. Distance plots of all the pre-trained models for a query from the VOT dataset. The green colour represents correct retrieval, while the red colour represents a wrong retrieval.

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Figure 4. Few other visual examples of best-retrieved images by all the models for a given RGB query image.



Figure 5. A few more visual examples of best-retrieved images in continuation to the results in the main paper.



Figure 6. Top three thermal images retrieved by the best-performing pre-trained models listed in the main paper. The retrieved images correspond to a single RGB query. The first, second, and third best-retrievals are in rows 1, 2, and 3 respectively. The results indicate that SqueezeNet performs the best in retrieving the exact match with the query image. Additionally, SqueezeNet consistently retrieves the same location images as its second and third-best-retrievals. On the other hand, other models fail to retrieve the exact match even amongst their top three retrievals.



Figure 7. PCA and UMAP visualisations for the RGB and thermal images from the LLVIP and VOT datasets respectively.