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► To cite this version:

Yasmine Hachani, Patrick Bouthemy, Sylvie Ruffini, Ludivine Laffont, Elisa Fromont, et al.. Early prediction of the transferability of bovine embryos from videomicroscopy. IABM 2024 - Colloque Français d'Intelligence Artificielle en Imagerie Biomédicale, Mar 2024, Grenoble, France. pp.1-1, 2024. hal-04880124

HAL Id: hal-04880124 https://hal.science/hal-04880124v1

Submitted on 10 Jan 2025 $\,$

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EARLY PREDICTION OF THE TRANSFERABILITY OF BOVINE EMBRYOS FROM VIDEOMICROSCOPY



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OVERVIEW

We aim to predict early and automatically the transferability of embryos for biological issues and cattle breeding challenges, taking as input 2D time-lapse videos up to the fourth embryonic development day. We propose:

• a formulation as a supervised classification with two classes Transferable (T) and Non Transferable (NT),

• a **3D-CNN** with **three pathways**, multi-scale in time and able to handle appearance and motion in different ways,

• the use of the **focal loss** for training.

Our model SFR compares favorably to other methods and demonstrates its accuracy and efficiency for our challenging biological task.

DATA AND METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES



This problem is challenging for multiple reasons:

- Complex morphological and temporal processes
- Noisy, poorly contrasted videos with transparency effects and intertwined appearance and motion
- High intra-class variability and low inter-class distance
- Small set of 900 annotated videos
- Light annotation with only the class label per video

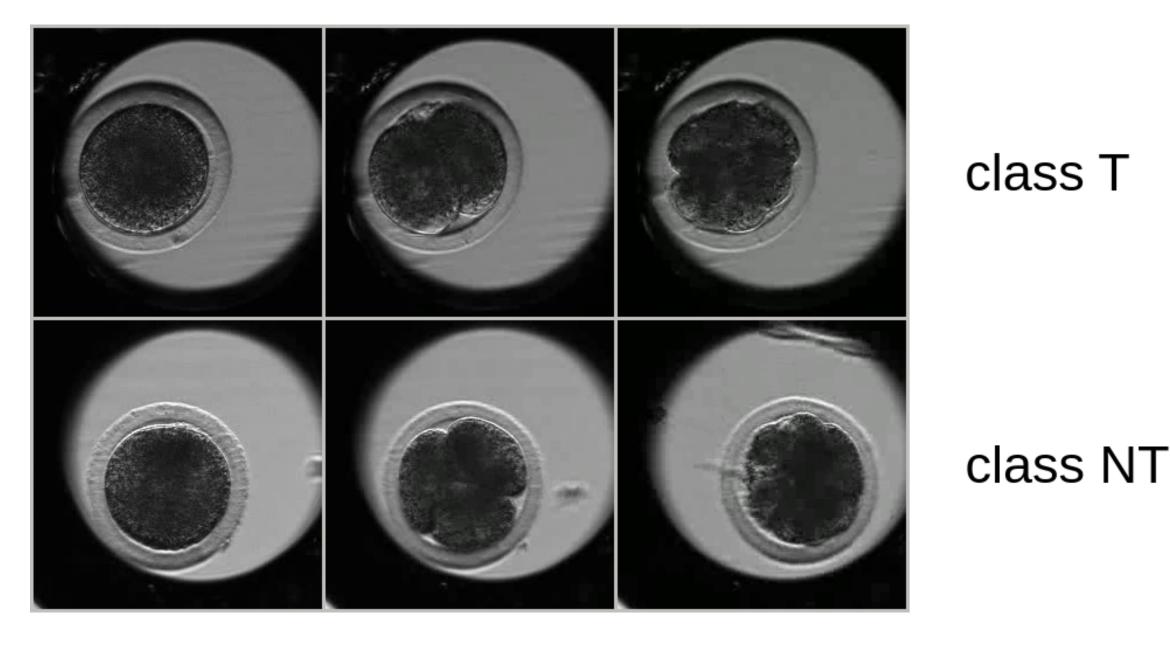


Fig. 1: Two sample videos of IVF bovine embryos, with three images taken at distant time instants. The bovine embryo (dark grey), surrounded by the zona pellucida, is located in a micro-well (light grey) within the Petri dish (black).

We use the focal loss [2] instead of the cross entropy loss • to address imbalance between the two classes,

• to focus the training of the model on hard examples, • to improve performance (validated by the ablation study). The focal loss writes:

$$\mathcal{L}_f(v,y) = -\sum_{c=1}^2 \eta_c (1-\hat{p}(y_c|v))^\gamma p(y_c|v) \log \hat{p}(y_c|v),$$

with v the input video, y_c label of one of the two classes, $\hat{p}(y_c|v)$ the predicted probability of having class c given video v, $p(y_c|v)$ the true one (equal to 1 here due to supervised learning), η_c the weight for class c, and γ the focusing parameter.

IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS

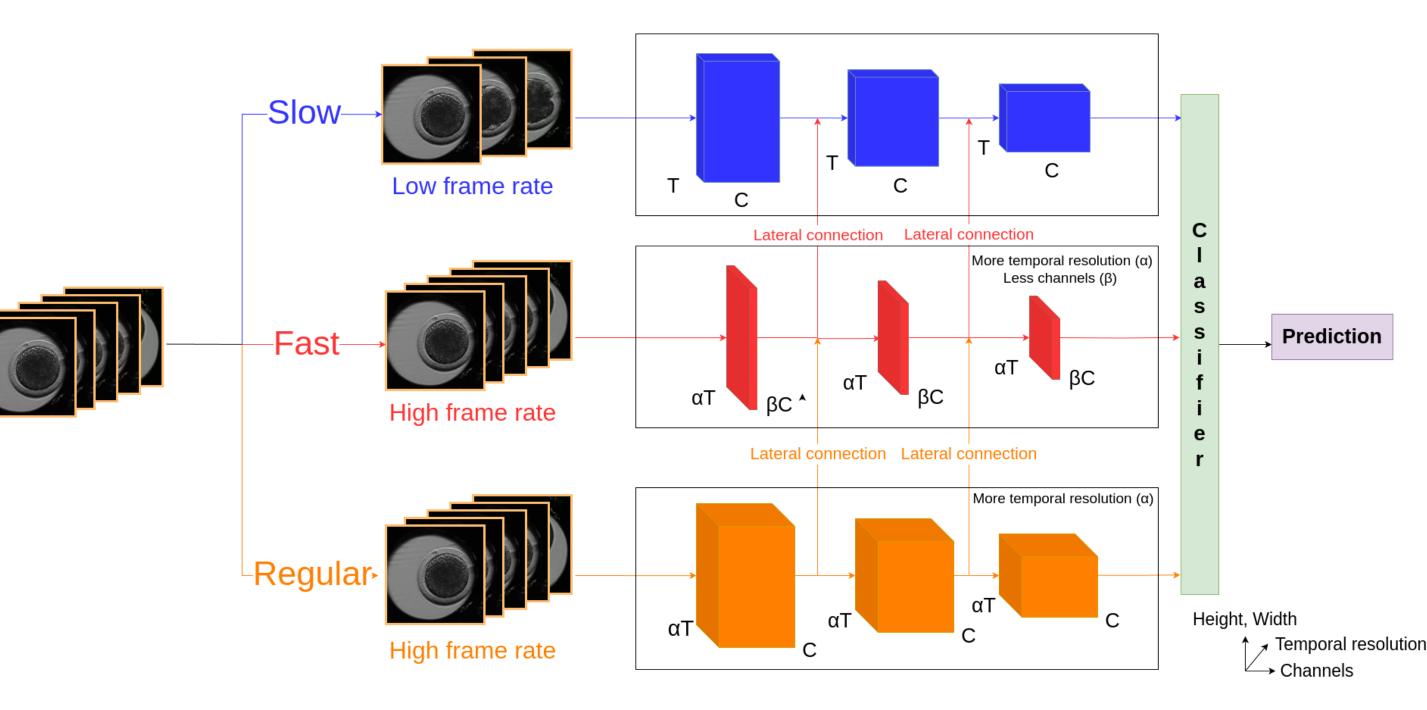
- Use AdamW optimizer with a learning rate of 10^{-4} and a cyclic learning rate scheduler,
- Set loss parameters to $\gamma = 2$, $\eta_1 = 1.25$, and $\eta_2 = 0.833$,
- Apply stochastic weight averaging technique [3].

OUR NETWORK CALLED SFR

Inspired by SlowFast [1], we have designed a 3D-CNN with three pathways handling appearance and motion in complementary ways:

- Slow pathway mainly dedicated to capture spatial features,
- Fast pathway mainly devoted to temporal features,
- Regular pathway combining appearance and motion.

All options were experimentally validated in an ablation study.



EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Model	Acc	P_T	R_T	P_{NT}	R_{NT} .
2D-Resnet18+GRU	67.6±4.1	54.6±5.6	48.4±19.9	74.2±5.9	78.3±8.6
3D-Resnet18(FL)	$74.6{\pm}4.0$	64.1±6.5	67.4±12.4	82.0±4.6	78.6±7.8
SlowFast(FL)	73.1±2.6	63.9±4.0	55.2±9.3	77.3±3.2	82.8±3.4
Ours - SFR(FL)	75.6±1.5	66.8±3.3	62.5±3.4	80.1 ± 1.1	82.8±2.9

Table 1: Accuracy, Precision and Recall, for the two classes T and NT, obtained with respectively 2D-Resnet18+GRU, 3D-Resnet18, SlowFast [1], and our SFR model, all the models with the focal loss $(\gamma = 2).$

- Our SFR method provides the overall best performance,
- Biologists prioritize stability and our model is the most stable one,
- •Key metrics are P_T and R_{NT} regarding the application needs, and our method provides the best scores for them.

Fig. 2: Our model called SFR involves three pathways, *Slow*, *Fast*, and *Regular*, all implemented with 3D ResNet18 of different configurations. Input video is given at a α times lower temporal rate for the *Slow* pathway. The *Fast* pathway has only a fraction β of the channels. The three outputs are combined before providing the prediction. Directed lateral connections are included between the pathways.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The research to produce the original data was funded by CRB-Anim and APIS-GENE.

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