## Supplementary Material: Hierarchical Semantic Indexing for Large Scale Image Retrieval

Jia Deng <sup>1,3</sup>	Alexander C. Berg <sup>2</sup>	Li Fei-Fei <sup>3</sup>
Princeton University <sup>1</sup>	Stony Brook University <sup>2</sup>	Stanford University <sup>3</sup>

## 1. Proofs

*Remark* 1.1. We first provide proofs and constructions for probability vectors for non-overlapping categories (Lemma 1.4–1.12), *i.e.*  $x \in \mathbb{R}^{K}, \sum_{i} x_{i} = 1, 0 \leq x_{i} \leq 1$  for i = 1, ..., K. We use  $\Delta^{K-1}$  to denote the set of all such vectors. In Lemma 1.15, we show extension to the general case where  $x \in \mathbb{R}^{K}, 0 \leq x_{i} \leq 1$  for i = 1, ..., K (but does not necessarily sum to one). We use  $\Delta^{K-1}$  to denote the set of all such vectors.

**Definition 1.2.** A matrix  $S \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times K}$  is *hashable*, if there exists a  $\lambda_S > 0$  and, for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , a distribution on a family  $\mathcal{H}(S, \epsilon)$  of hash functions  $h(\cdot; S, \epsilon)$  such that for any  $x, y \in \Delta^{K-1}$ ,

$$0 \le \Pr\left(h_1(x; S, \epsilon) = h_2(y; S, \epsilon)\right) - \lambda_S \cdot x^T S y \le \epsilon$$

where  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  are drawn independently from  $\mathcal{H}(S, \epsilon)$ .

*Remark* 1.3. Here we relax the equality in the LSH condition  $Pr(h_1(x) = h_2(y)) = Sim(x, y)$  to equality up to  $\epsilon$ . This has virtually no practical impact because in all of our constructions  $\epsilon$  can be easily made negligibly small, without incurring any additional computational cost. Also note that scaling S does not affect the ranking induced by the similarity  $x^T Sy$ .

**Lemma 1.4.** If S is symmetric, element-wise non-negative and diagonally dominant, that is,  $\forall i = 1, ..., K, \ s_{ii} \ge \sum_{j \ne i} s_{ij}$ , then S is hashable.

*Proof.* Define a  $K \times (K+1)$  matrix  $\Theta = (\theta_{ij})$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_{ij} &= \sqrt{\hat{s}_{ij}}, \ \forall i = 1, \dots, K, \ \forall j = 1, \dots, K, \ i \neq j \\ \theta_{ii} &= \sqrt{\hat{s}_{ii} - \sum_{j \neq i} \hat{s}_{ij}}, \ \forall i = 1, \dots, K. \\ \theta_{i,K+1} &= 1 - \sum_{j=1}^{K} \theta_{ij}, \ \forall i = 1, \dots, K. \end{aligned}$$

where  $\hat{S} = \lambda_S \cdot S$  with  $\lambda_S$  chosen to ensure  $\theta_{i,K+1} \ge 0$ . Note that each row of  $\Theta$  sums to one. Also note that  $\theta_{ij} = \theta_{ji}, \forall i, j \le K$  due to the symmetry of S.

Consider hash functions h(x) that map a probability vector to a set of positive integers, that is,  $h : \Delta^{K-1} \to 2^{\mathbb{N}}$  where  $2^{\mathbb{N}}$  is all subsets of natural numbers. Note that h(x) = h(y) is defined as *set equality*, that is, the ordering of elements does not matter.

To construct  $\mathcal{H}(S, \epsilon)$ , let  $N \ge 1/\epsilon$ . Then  $h(x; S, \epsilon)$  is computed as follows:

1. Sample 
$$\alpha \in \{1, \ldots, K\} \sim multi(x)$$

2. Sample  $\beta \in \{1, \ldots, K+1\} \sim multi(\theta_{\alpha})$  where  $\theta_{\alpha}$  is the  $\alpha^{th}$  row of  $\Theta$ .

3. If 
$$\beta \leq K$$
, return  $\{\alpha, \beta\}$ 

4. Randomly pick  $\gamma$  from  $\{K + 1, \dots, K + N\}$ , return  $\{\gamma\}$ .

In implementation, h is parametrized by three uniformly drawn values  $p, q \in [0, 1]$  and  $r \in \{1 \dots N\}$ , used respectively in the sampling process for  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$ .

Let x, y be probability vectors,  $x, y \in \Delta^{K-1}$ . Let  $\alpha_x, \beta_x, \gamma_x$  be the values sampled when computing h(x), and similarly for  $\alpha_y, \beta_y, \gamma_y$ . To compute  $\Pr(h(x) = h(y))$ , consider two cases below. **Case 1:** Suppose  $\alpha_x = i \in \{1, \dots, K\}, \alpha_y = j \in \{1, \dots, K\}, i \neq j$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(h(x) = h(y) \mid \alpha_x = i \land \alpha_y = j) &= & \Pr(\beta_x = j \land \beta_y = i \mid \alpha_x = i \land \alpha_y = j) + \\ & \Pr(\gamma_x = \gamma_y \land \beta_x = K + 1 \land \beta_y = K + 1 \mid \alpha_x = i \land \alpha_y = j) \\ &= & \Pr(\beta_x = j \mid \alpha_x = i) \times \Pr(\beta_y = i \mid \alpha_y = j) + \\ & \Pr(\gamma_x = \gamma_y \mid \beta_x = K + 1, \beta_y = K + 1) \times \\ & \Pr(\beta_x = K + 1 \mid \alpha_x = i) \times \Pr(\beta_y = K + 1 \mid \alpha_y = j) \\ &= & \theta_{ij}\theta_{ji} + \frac{1}{N} \ \theta_{i,K+1}\theta_{j,K+1} \\ &= & \hat{s}_{ij} + \frac{1}{N} \ \theta_{i,K+1}\theta_{j,K+1} \end{aligned}$$

**Case 2:** Suppose  $\alpha_x = \alpha_y = i \in \{1, \dots, K\}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(h(x) = h(y) \mid \alpha_x = \alpha_y = i) &= & \Pr(\beta_x = \beta_y \le K \mid \alpha_x = \alpha_y = i) + \\ & \Pr(\gamma_x = \gamma_y \land \beta_x = K + 1 \land \beta_y = K + 1 \mid \alpha_x = \alpha_y = i) \\ &= & \sum_{j=1}^K \Pr(\beta_x = \beta_y = j \mid \alpha_x = \alpha_y = i) + \\ & \Pr(\gamma_x = \gamma_y \mid \beta_x = K + 1, \beta_y = K + 1) \times \\ & \Pr(\beta_x = K + 1 \mid \alpha_x = i) \times \Pr(\beta_y = K + 1 \mid \alpha_y = j) \\ &= & \sum_{j=1}^K \theta_{ij}^2 + \frac{1}{N} \; \theta_{i,K+1}^2 \\ &= & \hat{s}_{ii} + \frac{1}{N} \; \theta_{i,K+1}^2 \end{aligned}$$

Summing up the above conditional probabilities, we get

$$Pr(h(x) = h(y)) = \sum_{i \neq j} x_i y_j Pr(h(x) = h(y) | \alpha_x = i \land \alpha_y = j) +$$
$$\sum_i x_i y_i Pr(h(x) = h(y) | \alpha_x = \alpha_y = i)$$
$$= \sum_{i,j} x_i \hat{s}_{ij} y_j + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i \neq j} x_i y_j \theta_{i,K+1} \theta_{j,K+1} + \frac{1}{N} \sum_i x_i y_i \theta_{i,K+1}^2$$
$$= \lambda_S x^T S y + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i,j} x_i y_j \theta_{i,K+1} \theta_{j,K+1}$$

To conclude the proof, observe that

$$0 \le \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i,j} x_i y_j \theta_{i,K+1} \theta_{j,K+1} \le \frac{1}{N} \left( \sum_i x_i \theta_{i,K+1} \right) \left( \sum_j x_j \theta_{j,K+1} \right) \le \epsilon$$

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*Remark* 1.5. For the special case where S is the identity matrix, h(x; S) reduces to h(x; I), which returns an  $\alpha \in \{1, ..., K\}$  sampled from multi(x).

Lemma 1.6. If S is a matrix of all ones, then S is hashable.

*Proof.* Note that  $x^T S y = 1$  in this case since  $x, y \in \Delta^{K-1}$ . Simply let  $\mathcal{H}$  consist of one constant function.

**Definition 1.7.** A matrix  $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$  is a zero padded extension of  $S \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  if there exists an one-to-one function f that maps the indices  $\tau = \{1 \dots n\}$  to  $\{1 \dots m\}$  such that  $Q_{i,j} = S_{f^{-1}(i),f^{-1}(j)}$  for any  $i, j \in f(\tau)$  and  $Q_{i,j} = 0$  otherwise.

Remark 1.8. In other words, Q is obtained by symmetrically inserting rows and columns of zeros into S.

**Lemma 1.9.** If Q is a zero padded extension of S and S is hashable, then Q is hashable.

*Proof.* Let  $\epsilon > 0$ , and let  $x, y \in \Delta^{K-1}$ . Define  $x_{f(\tau)} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that its  $i^{th}$  element is  $x_{f^{-1}(i)}$ . We the define  $g(x; Q, \epsilon)$  as follows:

- 1. Sample  $\alpha \in \{1, \ldots, m\} \sim multi(x)$
- 2. If  $\alpha \in f(\tau)$ , return  $\left(0, h(\frac{x_{f(\tau)}}{||x_{f(\tau)}||_1}; S, \frac{\epsilon}{2})\right)$ , where  $h \in \mathcal{H}(S, \frac{\epsilon}{2})$  as in Definition 1.2 Else return  $\beta \in \{1, \dots, N\}$  uniformly drawn, where  $N = \lceil 2/\epsilon \rceil$ .

We now show Q is hashable.

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr\left(g(x;Q,\epsilon) &= g(y;Q,\epsilon)\right) &= & \Pr\left(\alpha_x \in f(\tau) \land \alpha_y \in f(\tau) \land h\left(\frac{x_{f(\tau)}}{||x_{f(\tau)}||_1};S,\frac{\epsilon}{2}\right) = h\left(\frac{y_{f(\tau)}}{||y_{f(\tau)}||_1};S,\frac{\epsilon}{2}\right)\right) \\ &+ & \Pr\left(\beta_x = \beta_y\right) \\ &= & ||x_{f(\tau)}||_1 \cdot ||y_{f(\tau)}||_1 \cdot \left(\lambda_S \frac{x_{f(\tau)}^T}{||x_{f(\tau)}||_1} S \frac{y_{f(\tau)}}{||y_{f(\tau)}||_1} + \delta\right) \\ &+ & \frac{1}{N} (1 - ||x_{f(\tau)}||_1) (1 - ||y_{f(\tau)}||_1) \\ &= & \lambda_S \cdot x^T Qy + ||x_{f(\tau)}||_1 \cdot ||y_{f(\tau)}||_1 \cdot \delta + \frac{1}{N} (1 - ||x_{f(\tau)}||_1) (1 - ||y_{f(\tau)}||_1) \end{aligned}$$

where  $0 \le \delta \le \epsilon/2$  by the choice of h. Note that

$$||x_{f(\tau)}||_1 \cdot ||y_{f(\tau)}||_1 \cdot \delta + \frac{1}{N}(1 - ||x_{f(\tau)}||_1)(1 - ||y_{f(\tau)}||_1) \le \epsilon/2 + \epsilon/2 = \epsilon$$

**Lemma 1.10.** If S is hashable, then aS is hashable for any a > 0.

*Proof.* This follows directly from Definition 1.2 (by using  $\lambda_{aS} = \frac{1}{a}\lambda_S$ ).

**Lemma 1.11.** If  $Q = \sum_{l=1}^{L} S_l$  and  $S_l$  is hashable for  $l = 1, \ldots, L$ , then Q is hashable.

*Proof.* Suppose the hash function for  $S_l$  is  $h_l$  and the scalar is  $\lambda_{S_l}$ , for l = 1, ..., L. Let  $z = \sum_{l=1}^{L} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda_{S_l}}}$  and  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^L$  where  $\theta_l = \frac{1}{z} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda_{S_l}}}$ . We construct hash function  $g(x; Q, \epsilon)$  as follows:

- 1. Sample  $\alpha \in \{1, \ldots, L\} \sim multi(\theta)$ .
- 2. return  $(\alpha, h_{\alpha}(x; S_l, \epsilon/L))$ .

Then

$$\Pr\left(g(x;Q,\epsilon) = g(y;Q,\epsilon)\right) = \sum_{l=1}^{L} \Pr\left(\alpha_x = \alpha_y = l \wedge h_l(x;S_l,\epsilon/L) = h_l(y;S_l,\epsilon/L)\right)$$
$$= \sum_{l=1}^{L} \theta_l^2 (\lambda_{S_l} x^T S_l y + \delta_l)$$
$$= \frac{1}{z^2} x^T Q y + \sum_{l=1}^{L} \theta_l^2 \delta_l$$

where  $0 \le \delta_l \le \epsilon/L$ . Note that  $0 \le \sum_l^L \theta_l^2 \delta_l \le \epsilon$  and thus Q is hashable.

**Lemma 1.12.** Let T = G(V, E) be a rooted tree and define  $\pi_{m,n}$  to be the lowest common ancestor between node m and n for any  $m, n \in V$ . Let  $V_r \subseteq V$  be subtree rooted at r (i.e., the set of all nodes descending from node  $r \in V$  including r itself). Let  $\Omega_r \subseteq V_r$  be all the leaf nodes of r and let  $K_r = |\Omega_r|$ . Let  $f_r : \Omega_r \to \{1, \ldots, K_r\}$  be a one-to-one correspondence of the leaf nodes of r to a set of integers. Let  $\xi(\cdot) : V \to \mathbb{R}$  be any function defined on V. Let  $S^{(r,\xi)} \in \mathbb{R}^{K_r \times K_r}$  be a similarity matrix induced by r and  $\xi$ , where  $S_{ij}^{(r,\xi)} = \xi(\pi_{f_r^{-1}(i), f_r^{-1}(j)}), \forall i = 1, ..., K_r, j = 1, ..., K_r$ . For any  $r \in V$ , if  $\xi(\cdot)$  is non-negative and downward non-decreasing in the subtree of r, that is,  $\xi(q) \ge 0$  for any  $q \in V_r$ 

and  $\xi(q) \geq \xi(p)$  for any  $p, q \in V_r$  such that q is a child of p, then  $S^{(r,\xi)}$  is hashable.

*Proof.* Let  $r \in V$ . Suppose  $\xi(\cdot)$  is non-negative and downward non-decreasing in the subtree of r. We prove the claim by induction on the tree.

If r is a leaf node, then  $S^{(r,\xi)}$  is a scalar and thus hashable.

Now we consider the case when r is an internal node. Let  $\sigma(r)$  be the set of direct children of r. Our inductive hypothesis is that given any  $c \in \sigma(r)$ , the similarity matrix  $S^{(c,\xi')}$  induced by c and any  $\xi' : V_c \to \mathbb{R}$ , which is non-negative and downward non-decreasing, is hashable.

For a given  $c \in \sigma(r)$ , let  $f_r(\Omega_c)$  be the set of indices of the leaf nodes of c in  $S^{(r,\xi)}$ . The tree structure implies

$$\bigcup_{c \in \sigma(r)} f_r(\Omega_c) = \{1, \dots, K_r\}$$
(1)

and

$$f_r(\Omega_c) \bigcap f_r(\Omega_d) = \emptyset$$
, for any  $c, d \in \sigma(r)$  and  $c \neq d$ . (2)

That is, the columns and rows of  $S^{(r,\xi)}$  can be partitioned by the direct children of r.

Also, if c and d are different direct children of r, then the lowest common ancestor between the descendant nodes of c and those of d must be r. Thus

$$S_{f_r(\Omega_c), f_r(\Omega_d)}^{(r,\xi)} = \xi(\pi_{\Omega_c, \Omega_d}) = \xi(r) \cdot \mathbf{1}, \text{ for any } c, d \in \sigma(r) \text{ and } c \neq d.$$
(3)

where **1** is a matrix of all ones.

For a given  $c \in \sigma(r)$ , define  $Q^{(c)} \in \mathbb{R}^{K_r \times K_r}$  such that

$$Q_{ij}^{(c)} = \begin{cases} S_{ij}^{(r,\xi)} - \xi(r) & \text{if } i, j \in f_r(\Omega_c) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

It follows from (1), (2) and (3) that

$$S^{(r,\xi)} = \xi(r) \cdot \mathbf{1} + \sum_{c \in \sigma(r)} Q^{(c)}$$

$$\tag{4}$$

Define  $\xi'(\cdot) = \xi(\cdot) - \xi(r)$ . Since the lowest common ancestor of the leaf nodes of r cannot be higher than r and  $\xi$  is downward non-decreasing, we conclude that  $\xi'(d) \ge 0$  for any  $d \in V_r$  and  $\xi'(d)$  is downward non-decreasing.

By the inductive hypothesis, given any  $c \in \sigma(r)$ , the similarity matrix  $S^{(c,\xi')}$  induced by c and  $\xi'$  is hashable.

Now we show that  $Q^{(c)}$  is a zero padded extension of  $S^{(c,\xi')}$ .

Let  $K_c = |\Omega_c|$  and  $f_c$  be the function that maps the nodes in  $\Omega_c$  to indices of  $S^{(c,\xi')}$ . Recall that  $f_r$  maps nodes in  $\Omega_r$  (including  $\Omega_c$ ) to indices in  $S^{(r,\xi)}$ .

Let  $f: \{1, \ldots, K_c\} \to \{1, \ldots, K_r\}$ , where  $f = f_r \cdot f_c^{-1}$ . Let  $\tau = \{1, \ldots, K_c\}$ . It follows that  $f(\tau) = f_r(\Omega_c)$ . For any  $i, j \in f(\tau)$ , that is,  $\forall i, j \in f_r(\Omega_c)$ ,

$$\begin{split} Q_{ij}^{(c)} &= S_{ij}^{(r,\xi)} - \xi(r) \\ &= \xi(\pi_{f_r^{-1}(i),f_r^{-1}(j)}) - \xi(r) \text{(By definition of } f_r) \\ &= \xi'(\pi_{f_r^{-1}(i),f_r^{-1}(j)}) \text{(By definition of } \xi') \\ &= S_{f_c\cdot f_r^{-1}(i),f_c\cdot f_r^{-1}(j)}^{(c,\xi')} \text{(By definition of } f_c) \\ &= S_{f^{-1}(i),f^{-1}(j)}^{(c,\xi')} \end{split}$$

By Definition 1.7,  $Q^{(c)}$  is a zero padded extension of  $S^{(c,\xi')}$  and is therefore hashable by Lemma 1.9. It follows from Lemma 1.6, Lemma 1.10, Lemma 1.11 and from (4) that  $S^{(r,\xi)}$  is hashable.

*Remark* 1.13. Note that a similarity matrix derived from a hierarchy, as in Lemma 1.12, is not necessarily diagonally dominant. For example, if a leaf node has many siblings, the sum of its similarities with its siblings can easily be more than its self similarity.

**Definition 1.14.** A matrix  $S \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times K}$  is *generally hashable*, if there exists a  $\lambda_S > 0$  and, for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , a distribution on a family  $\mathcal{H}(S,\epsilon)$  of hash functions  $h(\cdot; S, \epsilon)$  such that for any  $x, y \in \tilde{\Delta}^{K-1}$ ,

$$0 \le \Pr\left(h_1(x; S, \epsilon) = h_2(y; S, \epsilon)\right) - \lambda_S \cdot x^T S y \le \epsilon$$

where  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  are drawn independently from  $\mathcal{H}(S, \epsilon)$ .

**Lemma 1.15. Hashing for the general case**. Any hashable matrix  $S \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times K}$  is generally hashable.

*Proof.* For any  $x, y \in \tilde{\Delta}^{K-1}$ , let  $\hat{x} = (x/K, 1 - \sum_i x_i/K) \in \mathbb{R}^{K+1}$  and  $\hat{y} = (y/K, 1 - \sum_i y_i/K) \in \mathbb{R}^{K+1}$ . Observe that  $\hat{x}$  and  $\hat{y} \in \Delta^K$ . Let

$$\hat{S} \in \mathbb{R}^{(K+1) \times (K+1)}, \hat{S} = \begin{pmatrix} S & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

 $\hat{S}$  is a zero padded extension of S and is therefore hashable by Lemma 1.9. That is, there exists a  $\lambda_{\hat{S}}$  and for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , a distribution on a family of functions  $\hat{\mathcal{H}}$  such that

$$0 \leq \Pr_{\hat{h}_1, \hat{h}_2 \in \hat{\mathcal{H}}}(\hat{h}_1(\hat{x}) = \hat{h}_2(\hat{y})) - \hat{x}^T \hat{S} \hat{y} \leq \epsilon.$$

Observe that  $\hat{x}^T \hat{S} \hat{y} = x^T S y$ . Therefore

$$0 \leq \Pr_{\hat{h}_1, \hat{h}_2 \in \hat{\mathcal{H}}}(\hat{h}_1(\hat{x}) = \hat{h}_2(\hat{y})) - x^T S y \leq \epsilon.$$

Let  $h(z) = \hat{h}(\hat{z})$ , for any  $z \in \tilde{\Delta}^{K-1}$ . Observe that  $\Pr(h_1(x) = h_2(y)) = \Pr(\hat{h}_1(\hat{x}) = \hat{h}_2(\hat{y}))$ . Therefore,

$$0 \le \Pr(h_1(x) = h_2(y)) - x^T S y \le \epsilon.$$

By Definition 1.14, S is generally hashable.