

# Densely Connected Convolutional Networks - Summary

## 1. Abstract-

- The network has  $L(L+1)/2$  direct connections.
- Input of a layer is a feature map of all preceding layers.
- Alleviate the vanishing-gradient problem.
- Encourage feature reuse and substantially reduce the number of parameters.

## 2. Introduction -

- As CNN becomes increasingly deep, the gradient can “wash out” when it reaches the end.
- ResNet, Highway Net, and Fractal Net handle this by “creating short paths from early layers to later layers”
- Dense Net connects all layers directly with each other.
- It combines features by concatenating them. Hence, the  $l$ th layer has  $l$  inputs, consisting of the feature maps of all preceding convolutional blocks. Its feature maps are passed on to all subsequent  $L$  layers. This introduces  $L(L+1)/2$  connections in an  $L$ -layer network.
- Densenet Function -  $x = H([x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_l])$ ,  $[x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_l]$  refers to the concatenation of the feature maps produced in layers.
- $H$  is a composite function of BN  $\rightarrow$  ReLU  $\rightarrow$   $3 \times 3$  Conv 2d.
- The feature maps of previous layers allow it to build on already-learned features rather than learning redundant ones.
- DenseNet doesn't require large feature maps, as information flows more effectively through the network, minimizing parameter usage.
- Growth Rate - If each function  $H$  produces  $k$  feature maps, it follows that the  $l$ th layer has  $k_0 + k \cdot (l-1)$  input feature maps, with  $k = 12$  only,  $k$  is known as growth rate.
- Each layer has direct access to the loss function and original input.
- Bottle Neck Layers - Introduces  $1 \times 1$  conv before every  $3 \times 3$  conv, which reduces the number of features.  
BN-ReLU-Conv(1 1)-BN-ReLU-Conv(3 3), known as DenseNet B.
- Compression Factor  
If a dense block contains  $m$  feature maps, we let the following transition layer

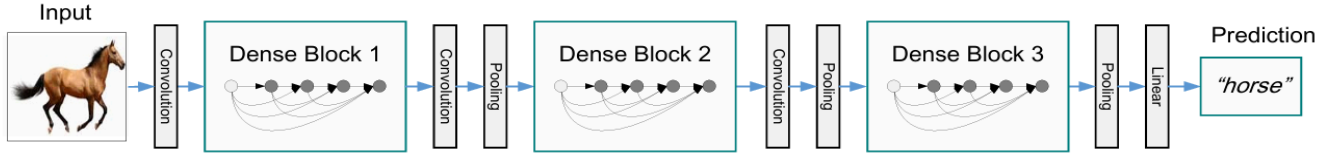
generate  $m$  output feature maps, where  $0 < \text{Theta} \leq 1$  is referred to as the compression factor.

We refer the DenseNet with  $\text{Theta} < 1$  as DenseNet-C, and we set  $\text{Theta} = 0.5$  in our experiment.

- Dense Net BC uses both Bottle Neck layers and Compression Factor.

### 3. Implementation Details

- It has 3 dense blocks with equal number of layers
- Before entering the dense block a convolution of 16 output channels is implemented.
- Transition Layer -  $1 \times 1$  conv  $\rightarrow$   $2 \times 2$  average pool 2d
- At the end, the Global Avg pool is followed by the soft max.



Layers	Output Size	DenseNet-121	DenseNet-169	DenseNet-201	DenseNet-264
Convolution	$112 \times 112$	$7 \times 7$ conv, stride 2			
Pooling	$56 \times 56$	$3 \times 3$ max pool, stride 2			
Dense Block (1)	$56 \times 56$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 1 \text{ conv} \\ 3 \times 3 \text{ conv} \end{bmatrix} \times 6$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 1 \text{ conv} \\ 3 \times 3 \text{ conv} \end{bmatrix} \times 6$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 1 \text{ conv} \\ 3 \times 3 \text{ conv} \end{bmatrix} \times 6$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 1 \text{ conv} \\ 3 \times 3 \text{ conv} \end{bmatrix} \times 6$
Transition Layer (1)	$56 \times 56$	$1 \times 1$ conv			
	$28 \times 28$	$2 \times 2$ average pool, stride 2			
Dense Block (2)	$28 \times 28$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 1 \text{ conv} \\ 3 \times 3 \text{ conv} \end{bmatrix} \times 12$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 1 \text{ conv} \\ 3 \times 3 \text{ conv} \end{bmatrix} \times 12$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 1 \text{ conv} \\ 3 \times 3 \text{ conv} \end{bmatrix} \times 12$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 1 \text{ conv} \\ 3 \times 3 \text{ conv} \end{bmatrix} \times 12$
Transition Layer (2)	$28 \times 28$	$1 \times 1$ conv			
	$14 \times 14$	$2 \times 2$ average pool, stride 2			
Dense Block (3)	$14 \times 14$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 1 \text{ conv} \\ 3 \times 3 \text{ conv} \end{bmatrix} \times 24$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 1 \text{ conv} \\ 3 \times 3 \text{ conv} \end{bmatrix} \times 32$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 1 \text{ conv} \\ 3 \times 3 \text{ conv} \end{bmatrix} \times 48$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 1 \text{ conv} \\ 3 \times 3 \text{ conv} \end{bmatrix} \times 64$
Transition Layer (3)	$14 \times 14$	$1 \times 1$ conv			
	$7 \times 7$	$2 \times 2$ average pool, stride 2			
Dense Block (4)	$7 \times 7$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 1 \text{ conv} \\ 3 \times 3 \text{ conv} \end{bmatrix} \times 16$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 1 \text{ conv} \\ 3 \times 3 \text{ conv} \end{bmatrix} \times 32$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 1 \text{ conv} \\ 3 \times 3 \text{ conv} \end{bmatrix} \times 32$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 1 \text{ conv} \\ 3 \times 3 \text{ conv} \end{bmatrix} \times 48$
Classification Layer	$1 \times 1$	$7 \times 7$ global average pool			
		1000D fully-connected, softmax			