**Self-Driving Car Engineer Nanodegree Program**

**Traffic Sign Recognition Project**

François Masson  
November 2nd, 2018

**Pipeline Software**

The project consists in being able to recognize traffic signs by using deep learning techniques. In order to fulfill this task, this guideline is applied :

* Loading the data set
* Data Set Summary & Exploration
* Design, train and test a model architecture
* Predictions on new images
* Softmax probabilities of the new images
* Features Map Analysis

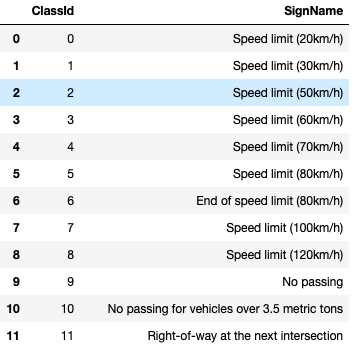
**Loading the dataset**

Data for the project were already provided in a pickle format. They can be download on this site : <http://benchmark.ini.rub.de/?section=gtsrb&subsection=dataset>

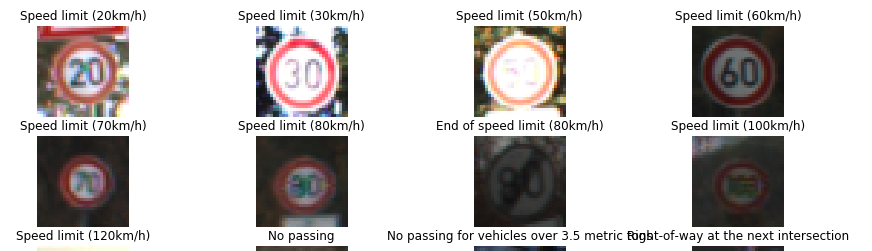
**Data Set Summary & Exploration**

* The size of training set is 34799
* The size of the validation set is 4410
* The size of test set is 12630
* The shape of a traffic sign image is (32,32)
* The number of unique classes/labels in the data set is 43

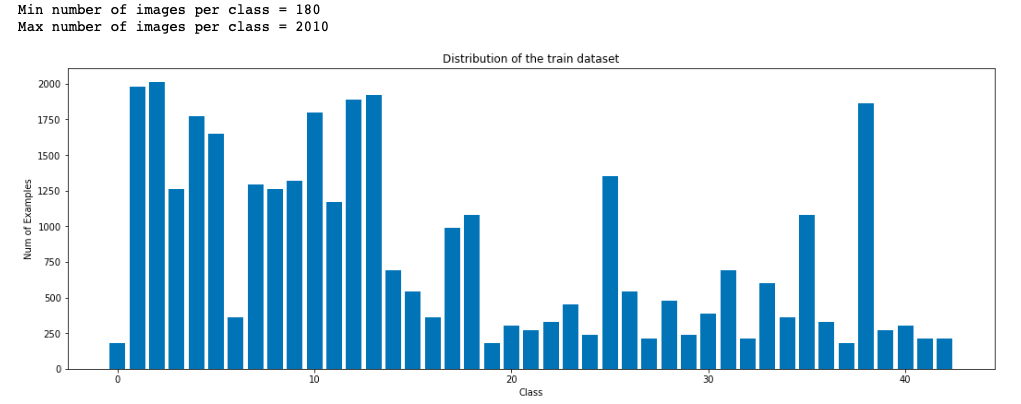
The labels were provided in a csv format:



As a first observation, we can see that there are 43 classes related to the dataset. A Matplotlib vizualisation of the labeled data looks like that :



An histogram of the number of examples shows that there is a certain disparity between each class. Moreover, the number of examples in certain classes is very low. A data augmentation will therefore be mandatory.

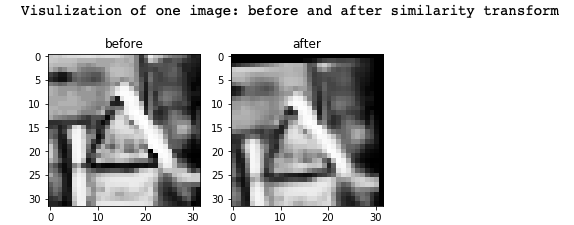


**Design, train and test a model architecture**

In a first step, the data were pre-processing by using three different techniques:

* Grayscale transformation
* Data augmentation
* Data normalization

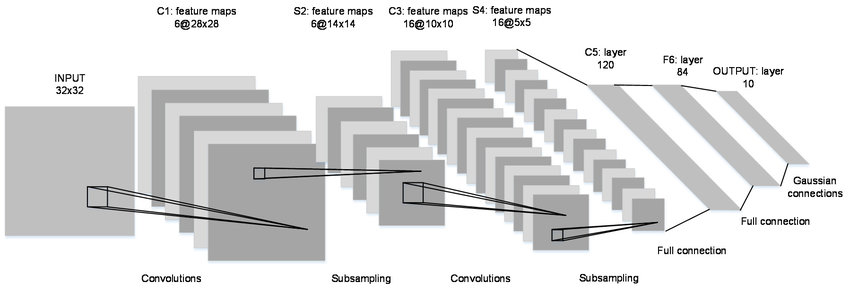
The grayscale transformation reduced the number of parameters to be trained. The data augmentation used some random translation around x and y such as a certain rotation of the images. The normalization makes training less sensitive to the scale of features.



As a comparison, the number of data significantly increased:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Before data augmentation | After data augmentation |
| Training set size | 34799 | 167035 |
| Validation set size | 4410 | 46169 |
| Test size | 12630 | 12630 |

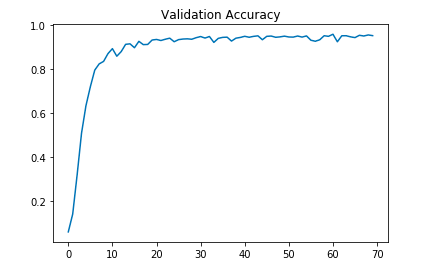
The model used to train the Convolutionnal Neural Network is similar to the original Lenet architecture:



The only modification used in this project results in the presence of some dropouts parameters during the training process. Definitely, increasing the number of dataset gave better accuracy results but lead to a higher processing time.

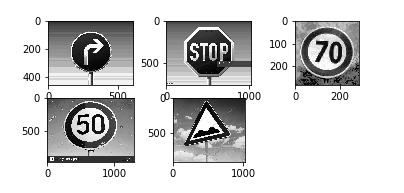
The accuracy obtained are:

* Validation accuracy: 0.952
* Test accuracy: 0.924



**Predictions on new images**

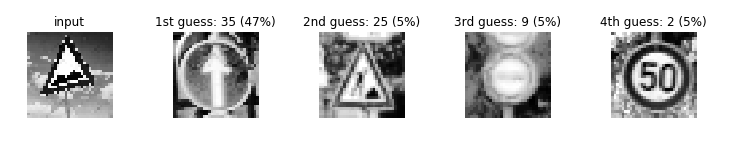
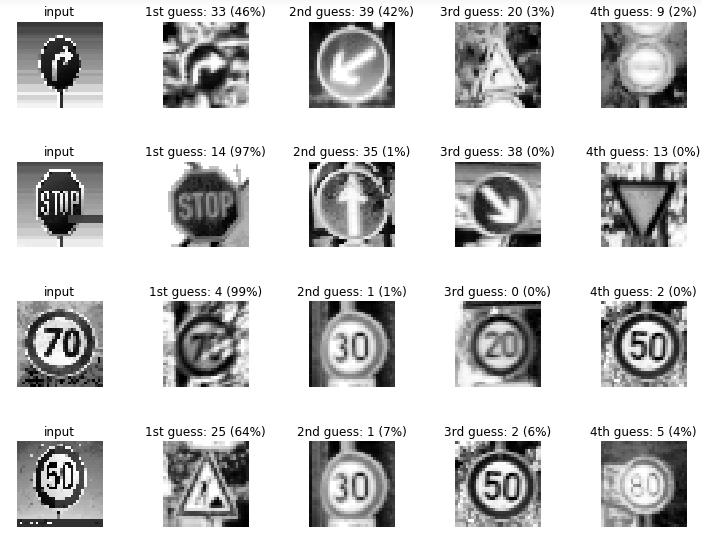
Here are five German traffic signs that I found on the web:



The last image might be difficult to classify because the pattern is not very complex and the quality of the image can provide misdirection for the algorithm resolution.

The results obtained was this dataset is only 0.6 which mean that only 3 on the 5 images were correctly classified.

**Softmax Probabilities on new images**



As expected, the bumby road was one of the missclassified image. Strangly, the 50 km limitation was not well correlated.

**Features Map Analysis**

It is interesting to see for example that the network characterized by himself the shape of sign:

