



Superpixel Correlation for Explainable Image Classification

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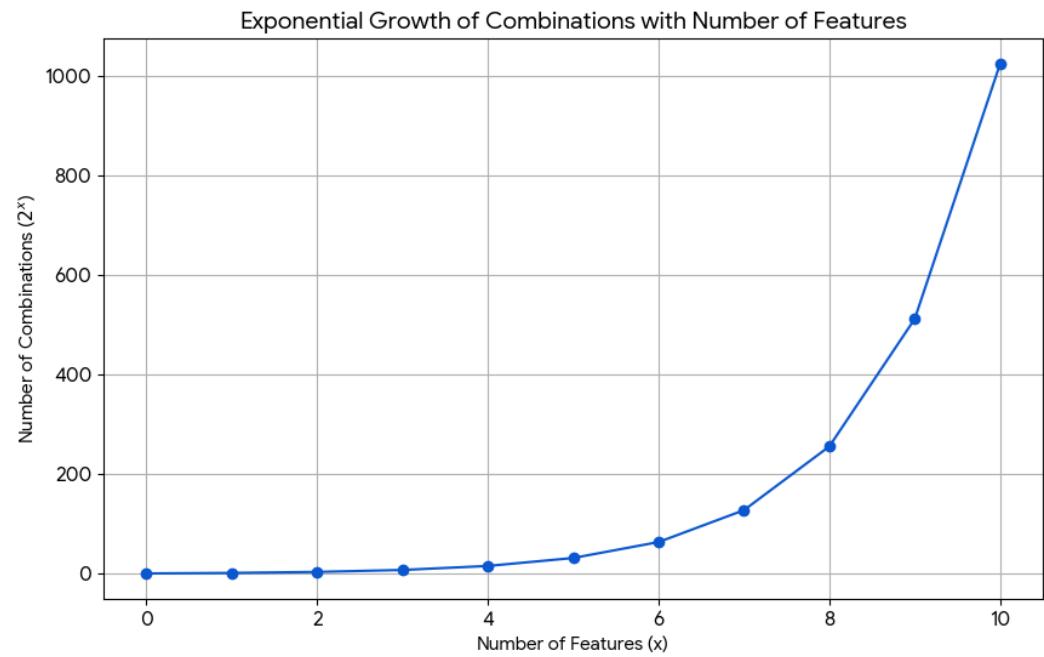
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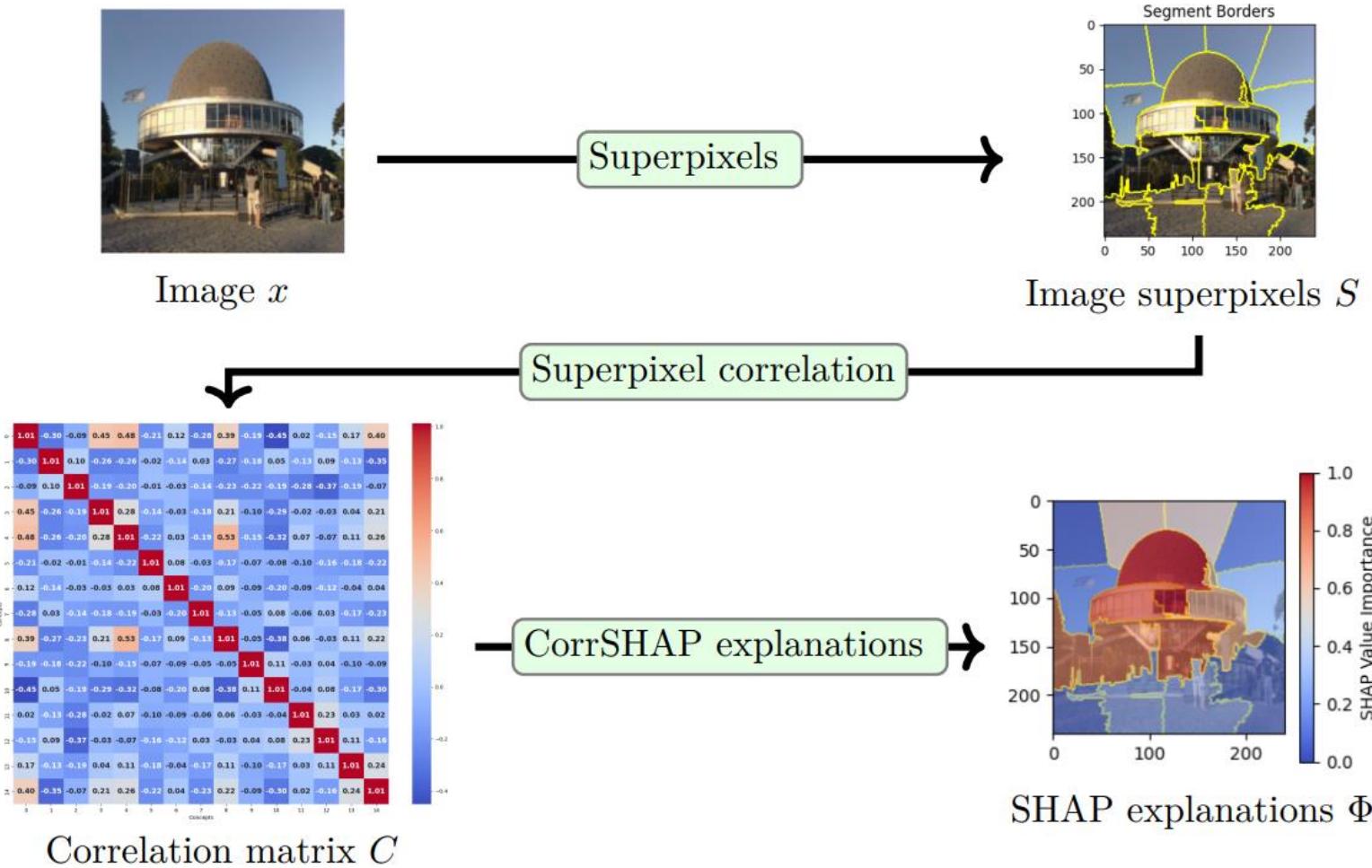
09-11 July, 2025

Introduction

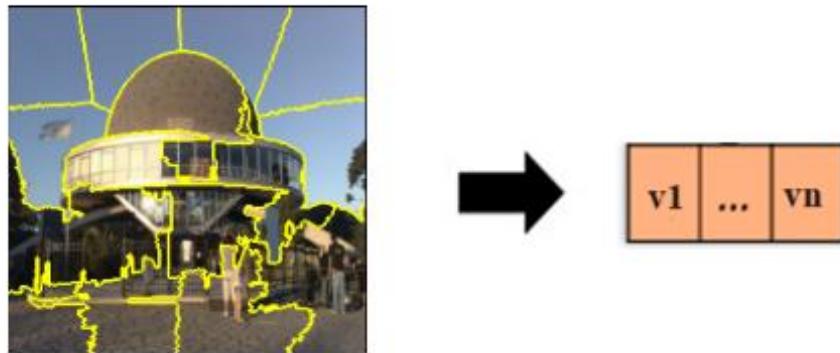
- Motivation:
 - SHAP:
 - Pixel-level explanations
 - Exponential computational complexity
 - Image superpixels are correlated
 - Our contribution:
 - Novel SHAP approximation method
- CorrSHAP:
- High-level superpixel explanations
 - Fast execution using novel superpixel correlation approach



Correlation SHAP (CorrSHAP)

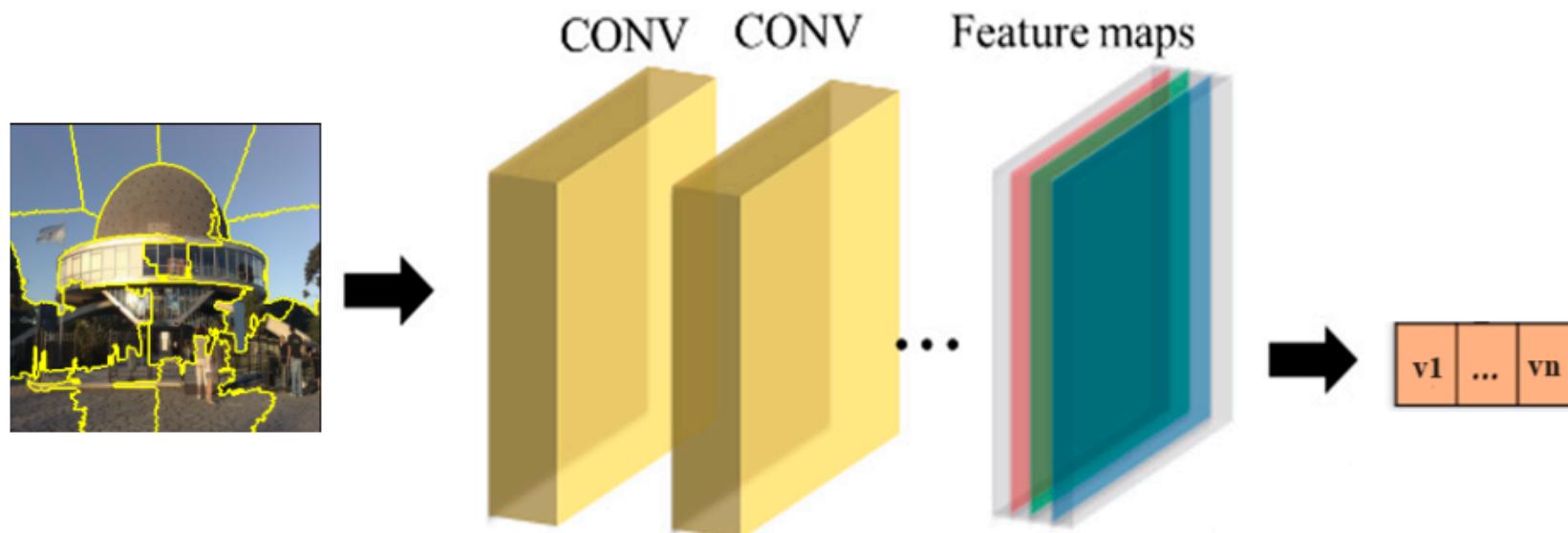


Raw Pixel Vectorization



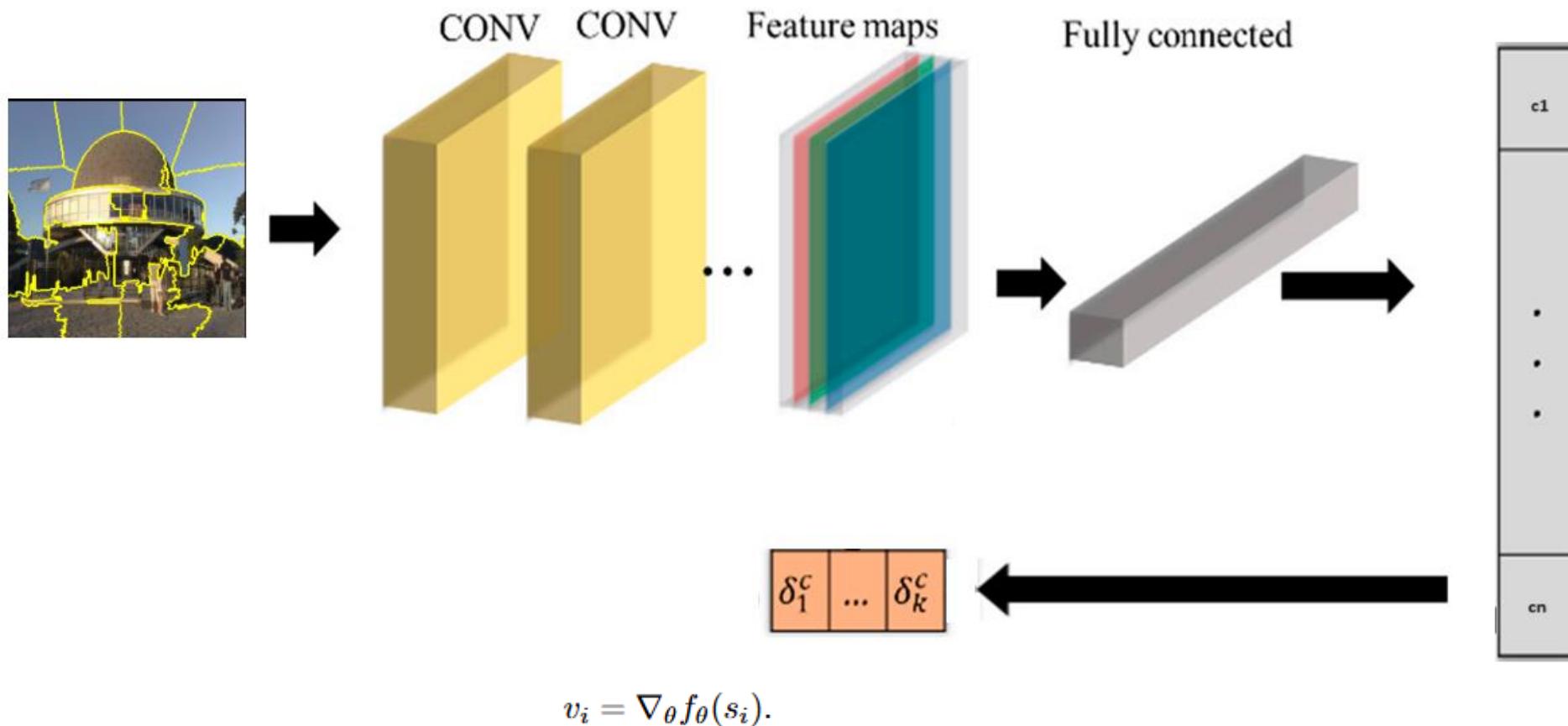
$$v_i = \text{flatten}(s_i) = \text{flatten}(x \odot m_i)$$
$$v_i \in \mathbb{R}^d, x \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times W \times K}, m_i \in \{0, 1\}^{H \times W \times K}, d = H \cdot W \cdot K.$$

Feature Map Vectorization



$$v_i = \text{flatten}(g(s_i))$$
$$f(x) = h(g(x)), g : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}, h : \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}.$$

Gradient Vectorization



CorrSHAP

Algorithm 1 Correlation SHAP (CorrSHAP)

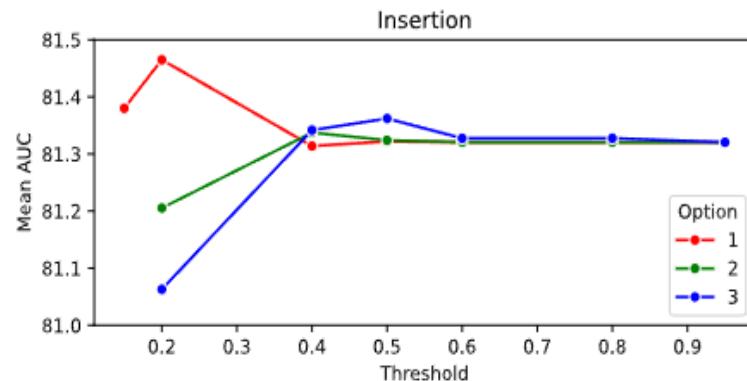
Input: Model f , Image x , ImageSegmentation q , Option ω

Output: SHAP superpixel attribution values $\hat{\phi}$

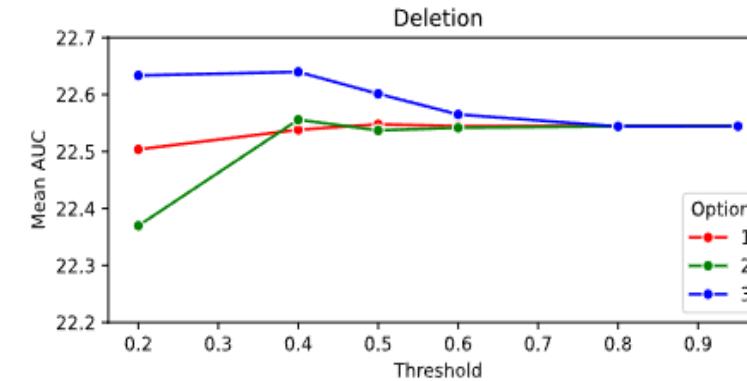
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1:  $g \leftarrow \text{FeatureExtractor}(f)$   $\{f(x) = h(g(x))\}$ 
2:  $\mathcal{N} \leftarrow q(x)$   $\{\text{Image segmentation}\}$ 
3: if  $\omega = 1$  then
4:    $V \leftarrow \text{flatten}(\mathcal{N})$   $\{\text{Raw pixel vectorization}\}$ 
5: else if  $\omega = 2$  then
6:    $V \leftarrow \text{flatten}(g(\mathcal{N}))$   $\{\text{Feature map vectorization}\}$ 
7: else if  $\omega = 3$  then
8:    $V \leftarrow \nabla_{\theta} f_{\theta}(\mathcal{N})$   $\{\text{Gradient vectorization}\}$ 
9: end if
10:  $V' \leftarrow \text{Centralize}(V)$   $\{\text{Vectors centralization}\}$ 
11:
12:  $C = \{\cos(\mathbf{v}_i', \mathbf{v}_j') \mid \mathbf{v}_i', \mathbf{v}_j' \in V'\}$   $\{\text{Superpixel correlation matrix calculation}\}$ 
13:  $\hat{\phi} \leftarrow \text{SHAP}(\mathcal{N}, C)$   $\{\text{Calculate SHAP values}\}$ 
14: return  $\hat{\phi}$ 
```

Ablation study

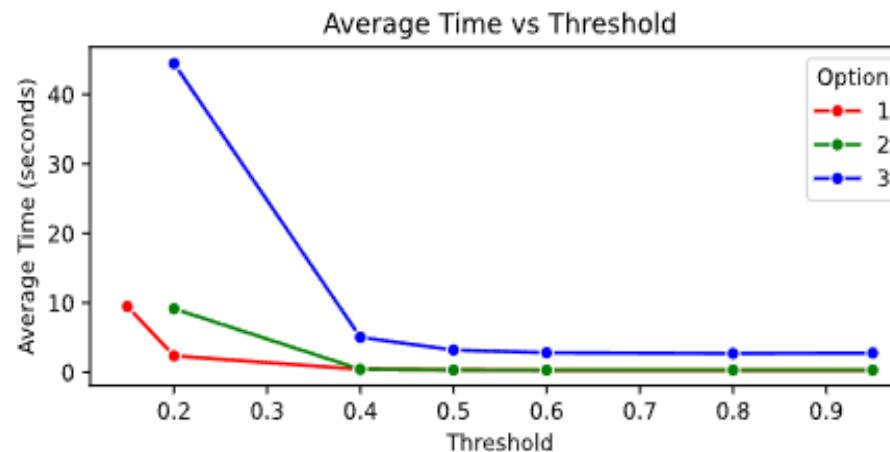
Option 1 – raw pixel vectorization
Option 2 – feature map vectorization
Option 3 – gradient vectorization



(a) Mean AUC insertion performance depending on threshold.



(b) Mean AUC deletion performance depending on threshold.



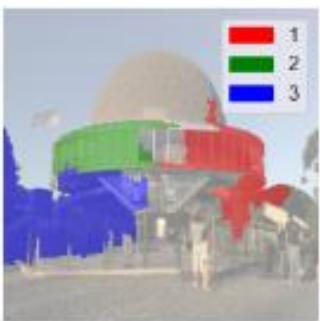
(c) Execution time depending on threshold.

Qualitative Results

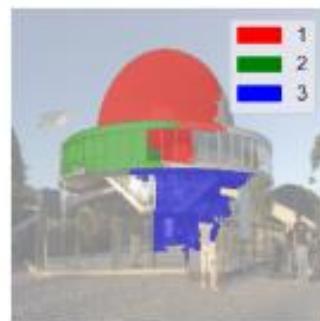
Original image



MCSHAP



CorrSHAP

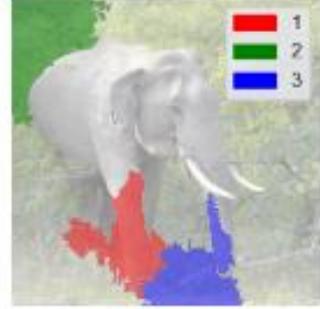


Model prediction: apiary

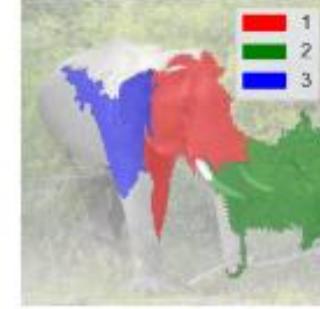
Original image



MCSHAP



CorrSHAP

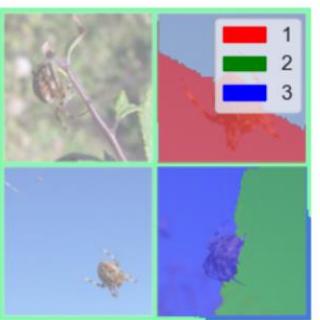


Model prediction: elephant

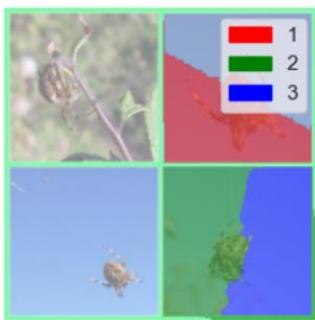
Original image



MCSHAP



CorrSHAP

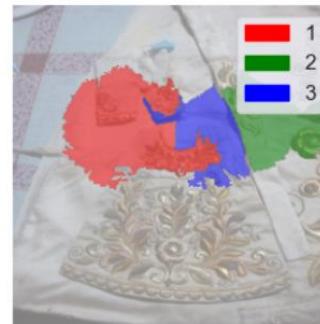


Model prediction: spider

Original image



MCSHAP



CorrSHAP



Model prediction: vestment

Quantitative Results

- Speedup of 55x
- Higher faithfulness
- Vectorization approach 1 achieved the best performance overall

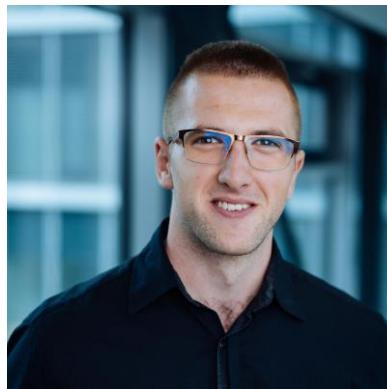
Area Under the Curve (AUC) Insertion ↑						
Model	Superpixels	CorrSHAP 1	CorrSHAP 2	CorrSHAP 3	MCSHAP	
MobileNet-v2	Quickshift	80.4	80.37	80.29	80.89	
	SLIC	78.12	78.13	78.15	77.79	
ResNet-18	Quickshift	60.21	60.23	60.21	61.60	
	SLIC	54.66	54.65	54.65	55.41	
ResNet-50	Quickshift	82.63	82.61	82.63	82.27	
	SLIC	81.20	81.20	81.20	80.66	
ViT-b16	Quickshift	80.83	80.83	80.74	81.84	
	SLIC	76.36	76.33	76.41	76.82	
Area Under the Curve (AUC) Deletion ↓						
MobileNet-v2	Quickshift	20.14	20.14	20.16	20.93	
	SLIC	19.48	19.48	19.48	21.40	
ResNet-18	Quickshift	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.03	
	SLIC	9.06	9.06	9.06	9.01	
ResNet-50	Quickshift	22.79	22.79	22.79	24.16	
	SLIC	22.36	22.36	22.39	23.79	
ViT-b16	Quickshift	17.20	17.17	17.13	16.86	
	SLIC	20.53	20.53	20.53	20.48	
Execution Time (seconds) ↓						
MobileNet-v2	Quickshift	0.42	0.54	1.15	16.13	
	SLIC	0.74	0.89	1.86	14.98	
ResNet-18	Quickshift	0.43	0.50	1.09	7.85	
	SLIC	0.66	0.51	1.91	13.82	
ResNet-50	Quickshift	0.46	0.58	2.76	25.16	
	SLIC	0.78	0.93	5.93	36.49	
ViT-b16	Quickshift	0.40	0.52	5.41	7.26	
	SLIC	0.73	1.01	10.53	18.00	

Conclusion

- Novel SHAP approximation method CorrSHAP:
 - High-level, user understandable explanations – utilising superpixels
 - Fast SHAP calculation – utilising novel superpixel correlation approach
- Future work:
 - Alternative correlation measures
 - Integrating the superpixel correlation idea in other XAI methods

Thank you!

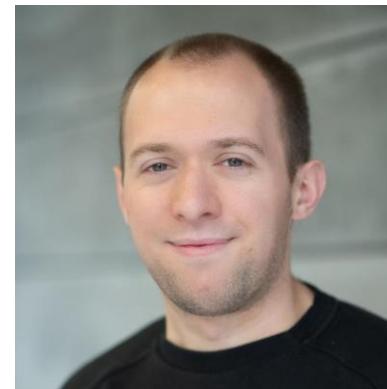
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