

Solution Architecture

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tariqali@cuisahiwal.edu.pk Abstract: Natural disasters
not only disturb the human ecological system but also

destroy the properties and critical infrastructures of human societies and even lead to permanent change in the ecosystem. Disaster can be caused by naturally occurring events such as earthquakes, cyclones, floods, and wildfires. Many deep learning techniques have been applied by various researchers to detect and classify natural disasters to overcome losses in ecosystems, but detection of natural disasters still faces issues due to the complex and imbalanced structures of images. To tackle this problem, we propose a multilayered deep convolutional neural network. The proposed model works in two blocks: Block-I convolutional neural network (B-I CNN), for detection and occurrence of disasters, and Block-II convolutional neural network (B-II CNN), for classification of natural disaster intensity types with different filters and parameters. The model is tested on 4428 natural images and performance is calculated and expressed as different statistical values: sensitivity (SE), 97.54%; specificity (SP), 98.22%; accuracy rate (AR), 99.92%; precision (PRE), 97.79%; and F1-score (F1), 97.97%. The overall accuracy for the whole model is 99.92%, which is competitive and comparable with state-of-the-art algorithms. Keywords: deep learning; natural disasters intensity and classification; convolutional neural network

1. Introduction Natural

disasters are inevitable, and the occurrence of disasters drastically affects the economy, ecosystem and human life. Buildings collapse, ailments spread and sometimes natural disasters such as tsunamis, earthquakes, and forest fires can devastate nations. When earthquakes occur, millions of buildings collapse due to seismological effects [1]. Many machine learning approaches have been used for wildfire predictions since the 1990s. A recent study used a machine learning approach in Italy. This study used the random forest technique for susceptibility mapping of wildfire [2]. Floods are the most devastating natural disaster, damaging properties, human lives and infrastructures. To map flood susceptibility, an assembled machine learning technique based on random forest (RF), random subspace (RS) and support vector machine (SVM) was used [3]. As the population Sensors 2021, 21, 2648.

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<https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sensors> Sensors 2021, 21, 2648 2 of 14 is growing rapidly, people need to acquire land to live on, and as a result the ecosystem is disturbed horrifically, which causes global warming and increases the number of natural disasters. Populations in underdeveloped countries cannot afford damages disasters cause to infrastructures. The aftermath of

disasters leaves the humans in miserable situations, and sometimes the devastating effects cannot be detected; additionally, rescue operations cannot take place in most of the places and victims are unable to be identified due to geographical factors of the different areas. Disasters such as forest fires spread rapidly in dense areas, so firefighting is difficult to carry out; in this case, development of the strategy to predict such circumstances is crucial so that such disasters can be prevented beforehand. As the technologies are continuously improving, aviation systems have begun adopting smart technologies to develop unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) equipped with cameras, which can reach distant areas to identify aftereffects of natural disasters on human life, infrastructure, and transmission lines by capturing images and videos. Data acquired from these UAVs helps to identify the facial expressions of victims, the intensity of their situation and their needs in a post disaster scenario. It helps to take actions and carry out necessary operations to tackle devastating scenarios. Raw images obtained from camera-equipped UAVs are processed and neural network-based feature extraction techniques are applied to analyze the intensity. A deep learning method for the reconstruction of two-dimensional cardiac magnetic resonance images was

proposed to enhance the image data acquisition process. Cascade deep convolutional neural networks use a 10-fold method to reconstruct the feature map for the MR images. In this way, feature extraction sequence becomes very fast and it takes less than 5 to 10 s to extract the feature matrix [4]. Neural networks provide multilevel network architectures, where Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are the most frequently implemented architecture as the direct input of multidimensional vector images, speech recognition, and image processing can be carried out with low complexity. CNNs efficiently perform feature extraction by denoising the images and removing interference and achieve highly accurate results [5]. The proposed multilayered deep convolutional neural network method works in two blocks of convolutional neural networks. The first block, known as Block-I Convolutional Neural Network (B-I CNN), detects the occurrence of a natural disaster and the second one, known as Block-II Convolutional Neural Network (B-II CNN), defines the intensity of the natural disaster. Additionally, the first block consists of three mini convolutional blocks with four layers each and includes an image input and fully connected layers. On the other hand, the second block also consists of three mini convolutional blocks with two layers each,

including an image input layer and fully connected layer. The remaining paper is divided into four sections: Section 2, describes the related work. Section 3 presents the methodology which elaborates on the proposed technique. The results and discussion are presented in Section 4 to explore the overall research outcomes and describe the used dataset. Finally, the proposed work is concluded in Section 5.

2. Related Work

Studies analyzing the intensity of natural disasters have gained significant attention in the current decade. A. Ashiquzzaman et al. [6] utilized a video source for fire detection; processing video sources is a feasible task due to convolutional neural networks (CNNs), which require high performance computational resources including graphics hardware, and thus a smart and cost-effective fire detection network is proposed based on architecture of convolutional neural networks. In convolutional neural networks, a model to detect wildfire smoke named wildfire smoke dilated dense net was proposed by Li et al. [7], consisting of a candidate smoke region segmentation strategy using an advanced network architecture. Mangalathu et al. [8] performed an evaluation of building clusters affected by earthquakes by exploring the deep learning method, which uses long short-term memory. Sensors 2021, 21, 2648 3 of

14 Natural disasters are unpredictable events, Hartawan et al. [9] enhanced multilayer perceptron algorithm by including convolutional neural network implemented on raspberry pi to find out the victims of natural disasters using streaming cameras and to aid the evacuation team to rescue the disaster victims. Amit et al. [10] proposed applying automatic natural disaster detection to a convolutional neural network using the features of disaster from resized satellite images of landslide and flood detections. Aerial images are able to show more specific and wider surface area of the ground, which helps acquire a vast amount of information about the occurrence of disaster. Social media networks such as Twitter where people share their views and information have been used as data sources to carry out disaster analysis. S. Yang et al. [11] used the information related to earthquake shared by users on Twitter as a dataset and input it to the real time event detection system based on convolutional neural networks. Implementation of a CNN module made it possible to successfully achieve the detection of an earthquake and its announcement by the government beforehand using information-based tweets. As the tweets provide a significant amount of information, Madichetty et al. [12] implemented a convolutional neural network to perform feature

extraction on informative as well as noninformative tweets, categorizing dataset containing tweets by an artificial neural network. Social media is considered as a main source of big data, with data shared in the form of images, videos and text; after the occurrence of a disaster, social platforms are overflowed with different sorts of information which helps response teams to rescue the victims. The majority of the data contain ambiguous contents which makes it difficult for the rescue teams to make the right decisions. Nunavath et al. [13] reviewed previous research based on convolutional neural networks using social media as a dataset and efficiently analyzed the effectiveness of big data from social media during disaster management. Using the two-layer architecture of a convolutional neural network (CNN), an efficient feature extraction method was applied to the extended Cohn-Kanade dataset to compare three object recognition techniques: linear support vector classification, linear discriminant analysis and softmax. More than 90% performance rates, with low standard deviations, were achieved by Boonsuk et al. [14]. The use of manpower is difficult in case of natural disaster occurrence in hilly areas, and continuous electric power supply is highly affected in these areas due to maintenance issues of transmission lines. Therefore, in this case autopilot

aerial equipment is used to gather images, and hidden content from aerial images needs to be identified in case of natural disasters such as landslides and heavy snowfall. Zhou et al. [15] removed the noise from raw aerial images and extracted disaster characteristics using the interframe difference technique; they implemented a convolutional neural network to analyze the type of disaster. In some regions, disasters such as earthquakes are inclined to occur due to geographical factors. To locate the victim in a short time is crucial; Sulistijono et al. [16] acquired aerial images, and locating the victims was made possible by using a dedicated ground station server and proposed victim detection framework based on convolution neural networks. A simulation of real calamities was developed to test the framework. Floods are a calamitous and remarkable disaster. Floods impact greatly on human lives, economically and financially affecting nations. With the help of a neural network, it is possible to predict floods and save the masses from the disaster. By implementing a convolutional neural network and Modified Particle Swarm Optimization (MPSO), Padmawar et al. [17] developed a deep learning approach to foresee the flood circumstances and identify the individuals beforehand. Chen et al. [18] proposed unmanned aerial vehicle image-based

forest fire detection images of forest fires, stabilized the histogram and applied filters to smoothen the images before testing via convolutional neural network. Smoke detection was carried out using the local binary pattern (LBP) and support vector machine (SVM). Comparison of processed and raw images was made to test the effectiveness of the proposed strategy. Sensors 2021, 21, 2648 4 of 14 Forest fires drastically affect human lives and economic situations, and locating the victims in a short time is complex task. Convolutional neural networks make it possible to help firefighters to locate the location of victims by detecting density of smoke from images acquired from the unmanned aerial vehicle. CNN-based simple feature extraction with a AlexNet single deconvolution (SFEwAN-SD)-based proposed approach helps develop a real time fire monitoring system (Gonzalez et al. [19]). Samudre et al. [20] successfully improved response time, reduced power consumption, and optimized performance by using pipelining among network layers of a CNN, executed on a field-programmable gate array. As the spatial resolution of satellite images was too low, these images could not be used for wildfire detection; Lee et al. [21] modified deep convolutional networks for high spatial resolution images, VGG-13 and Google Net, utilizing UAVs, a

disaster forecasting system, web-based visualization system, alert system, and disaster response scenario database and achieved highly accurate results for early wildfire detection. It is a hectic job for a disaster management organization to assess the damage caused by natural disasters. Using images obtained from social media during and after the occurrence of four major natural disasters, Nguyen et al. [22] proposed a method by adapting CNN features based on event-specific and cross-events. Direkoglu et al. [23] proposed a method to produce motion information images computing optical flow vectors and employed a CNN; the proposed method efficiently differentiated normal and abnormal behaviors of people during a natural disaster. UMN and PETS2009 datasets were used to performed experiments. Yuan et al. [24] proposed a wave-shaped neural network (W-Net) to label the density of smoke in images, which is difficult task, so virtual dataset was created. Convolutional encoder decoder architectures were assembled to maximize the input for information extraction from smoke density images and W-Net was proposed. The accuracy of the proposed system is improved by feeding previous encoding outputs to the decoding layers and combining them. Several data mining application were implemented using contents of social

media; user generated content helps in disastrous events to gain vast amount of information. The CNN model is used to extract flood images from raw images and color filters are used to refine the desired detection. In the work of Layek et al. [25], the proposed system's efficiency and accuracy were tested on several datasets and it outperformed other methods to give the highest results. The proposed multilayered convolutional neural network in this research is used to detect and classify the natural disasters, as explained in the methodology section. Moreover, a comparison of the some of the state-of-the-art methods.



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