Generative models for human activity recognition

Ilya Zharikov, Roman Isachenko, Artem Bochkarev

Introduction

This project is dedicated to multiclass classification of complex-structured objects (for which we don't have explicit features). The problem arises in many applications such as image recognition, signal processing or time series classification. We will focus on multiclass multivariate time series classification. In this setup time series are regarded as complex-structured objects without explicit feature description. This is reasonable because we can't operate with original features as time series might be of different size and not aligned [1].

We investigate classification of accelerometer time series [2]. The data is times series of acceleration from three axis, which is sensed by mobile phone or other portable device with accelerometer. The task is to predict the activity a person is performing. List of activities might include walking, running, sitting or walking up/down the stairs.

In general the problem of classifying complex objects can be splitted in two distinctive procedures. First, we need to extract informative features, and then we use those features as input to some classifier to obtain final model. For simplicity, we assume that these two procedures can be built and analyzed separately. In our project we focused mainly on comparing different methods of feature generation [3, 4]. Extracted features can be later used for building classifiers and feature selection algorithms.

The first approach for feature generation is calculating expertly defined functions of time series [5]. These functions include mean, standard deviation, mean

average deviation and distribution for each component. We consider this approach a baseline, as it is the simplest method we use.

We compare baseline with more sophisticated parametric feature generation methods. One of them is autoregressive model [6]. For each time series we build parametric model and the use those parameters as features for classification. We also consider the model of singular spectrum of times series [7]. We use eigenvalues of trajectory matrix as features for building classificator.

In the first part of these report we give definitions and make problem statement. In the second part we describe all of the proposed approaches in more detail. Last, we make the experiment on real accelerometer datasets [8, 9], compare all methods and give conclusions and recommendations for practical use.

References

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