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Master's Thesis

Multi-View Temporal Fusion in Semantic Segmentation

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Month 20XX

I, the undersigned below, declare that this work has not previously been submitted to this or any other university and that it is, unless otherwise stated, entirely my own work.

Date

Manoj Kolpe Lingappa

Abstract

Your abstract

Acknowledgements

Thanks to

Contents

List of Figures	xv
List of Tables	xvii
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Motivation	1
1.1.1 Temporal fusion	2
1.1.2 Semantic segmentation	3
1.2 Challenges and Difficulties	3
1.2.1 Dataset	3
1.2.2 Fusion architecture	4
1.2.3 Computation cost	4
1.2.4 Real time inference for various application areas	4
1.3 Use cases	5
1.3.1 Autonomous driving and Robotics	5
1.3.2 Weed mapping using Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)	5
1.3.3 Real-Time Hand Gesture Recognition	5
1.4 Problem Statement and Contribution	6
1.4.1 Research question	6
1.4.2 Contribution	6
1.5 Report outline	6
2 State of the Art	7
2.1 Deep Learning	7
2.2 Temporal Fusion	8
2.3 Semantic Segmentation	9
2.3.1 Classical Semantic Segmentation	9
2.3.2 Deep Learning based Semantic Segmentation	10
2.4 Temporal Fusion in Semantic Segmentation	12
2.5 Limitations of previous work	12
3 Methodology	13
3.1 Dataset	13
3.1.1 ScanNet	13
3.1.2 Virtual KITTI 2	13
3.1.3 VIODE	13

3.2	Data Collection and Preprocessing	13
3.3	Experimental Design	13
3.3.1	U-Net Vanilla model	13
3.3.2	U-Net with Temporal Fusion	13
3.3.3	W-Net Vanilla model	13
3.3.4	W-Net with Temporal Fusion	13
3.4	Training and Evaluation Pipeline	13
3.5	Training Procedure	13
3.6	Hardware Configuration	13
4	Evaluation and Experimental Result	15
4.1	Evaluation Metric	16
4.1.1	Pixel Accuracy	16
4.1.2	Precision	16
4.1.3	Recall	16
4.1.4	ROC and AUC	16
4.1.5	IOU	16
4.2	RQ1: What are the works on state-of-the-art temporal fusion?	16
4.2.1	Experiment1.1: U-Net and W-Net model with single sequence data	16
4.2.2	Experiment1.2: U-Net and W-Net model with two sequence data	16
4.2.3	Experiment1.3: U-Net and W-Net model with three sequence data	16
4.2.4	Experiment1.4: U-Net and W-Net model with four sequence data	16
4.2.5	Experiment1.5: U-Net and W-Net model with all sequence data	16
4.3	RQ2: How are the results from RQ1 compared with each other to perform temporal fusion?	16
4.3.1	Experiment1.1: U-Net and W-Net model with single sequence data	16
4.3.2	Experiment1.2: U-Net and W-Net model with two sequence data	16
4.3.3	Experiment1.3: U-Net and W-Net model with three sequence data	16
4.3.4	Experiment1.4: U-Net and W-Net model with four sequence data	16
4.3.5	Experiment1.5: U-Net and W-Net model with all sequence data	16
4.4	RQ3: How to cross-transfer the temporal fusion technique to semantic segmentation?	16
4.4.1	Experiment1.1: U-Net vanilla model	16
4.4.2	Experiment1.2: U-Net temporally fused gp model	16
4.4.3	Experiment1.3: U-Net temporally fused lstm model	16
5	Android Deployment	17
5.1	Framework	17
5.2	Pipeline	17
5.3	Deployment and Results	17

6	Conclusions	19
6.1	Contributions	19
6.2	Lessons learned	19
6.3	Future work	19
	Appendix A Design Details	21
	Appendix B Parameters	23
	References	25

List of Figures

1.1	Data fusion categories based on timestamp	1
2.1	Deep learning in the artificial intelligence domain. Courtesy of [1]	7
2.2	Semantic and Instance segmentation example. Courtesy of [2]	10
2.3	Simple encoder-decoder architecture. Courtesy of [3]	11
2.4	Simple encoder-decoder architecture. Courtesy of [4]	11

List of Tables

Introduction

1.1 Motivation

Any task to make a prediction by combining data from different sources uses data fusion. Data fusion combines the information from multiple sources to achieve improved performance and inferences. According to Hall and Llinas [1] data fusion can be defined as “data fusion techniques combine data from multiple sensors and related information from associated databases to achieve improved accuracy and more specific inferences than could be achieved by the use of a single sensor alone.” The living organisms fuse information from various sources and past data to make an informed decision [5]. Data fusion aims to reduce the prediction error probability and improve the model’s reliability. Data from multiple sources can be fused at different levels, such as raw data, features, or decision levels. The data sources can be from various fields or different data types. Data fusion is described in different contexts and in other application areas. The most common areas include decision fusion and multisensor data fusion. [6]

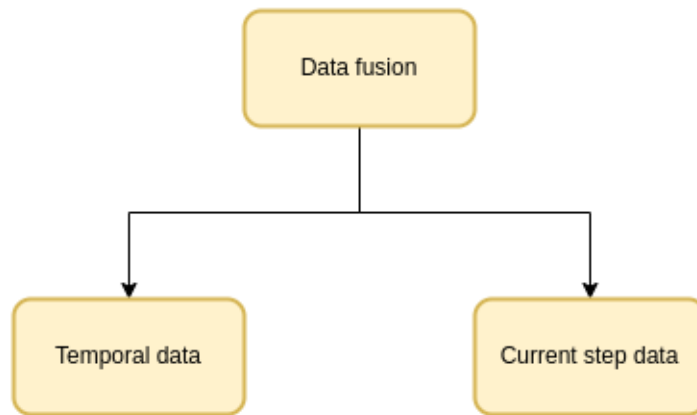


Figure 1.1: Data fusion categories based on timestamp

Data fusion is divided into temporal and current data based on the timestamp factor. Temporal data are the data collected from the former steps. In the current data fusion approach, the data are extracted

from the current step and are fused for improved prediction. Information fusion is applied in different fields such as time series prediction [7], video-based depth estimation [8], and segmentation [9].

Understanding surrounding regions and decision making of a human is based on the signals obtained from different sensors. However, with the knowledge of the past helps to better recognize the nearby activity or to make a educated choice. Thereby fusing the information from different sources and the former data adds to achieve a improved outcome. Temporal fusion is a process of fusing the information to the current step to make the prediction better at each timestamp. Common temporal data types include weather data, frames in a video sequence, and different sensor data. Semantic segmentation take advantage of the temporal fusion to make a better decision.

1.1.1 Temporal fusion

In a general setting the previous data is not utilized to make a current prediction, resulting in information loss. The rich features from the past can be utilized in the current step, thereby making a robust and efficient model prediction. Temporal fusion is one of the dimensions of data fusion, and different data sources collected over a period of time are fused for improvement in the prediction [10]. Classical multi-data fusion finds application in automatic target tracking, autonomous vehicle detection, surveillance systems, robotics, wearable devices, and manufacturing monitoring. In all of the mentioned areas, the data is collected over a period of time and contains important features. These temporal features are combined together to make an efficient prediction.

The temporal fusion can model the behavioral aspect of the collected data rather than just the current timestep data. The temporal fusion extracts the relationship between contextual and temporal proximity [11]. The temporal arrangements of events are captured, thereby incorporating the cause and effect phenomenon [11]. Temporal fusion can be commonly observed in human activity detection [12], context-aware mobile phones [19], and online batch process monitoring [13].

A 3D object detection approach on two popular datasets, KITTI[4] and nuScenes[5] take single-time step LIDAR data for prediction, resulting in the loss of valuable forecast and features computed during the previous step [3]. Using the rich features present in the successive frames to accommodate the past data at a time is extensively studied in neural network-based action recognition [14] [15] [16] [17] and video object detection [18] [19] [20] methods. The fusion of features from the previous step to the current step to improve the 3D object detection is studied in the Temp-Frustum Net architecture [3]. A Temporal Fusion Module (TFM) is proposed to combine the object-specific features. The temporal fusion method improved the average result by 6% [21]. Depth map using dynamic MRFs fuse Time-of-Flight (TOF) and passive stereo to get an enhanced depth map. The depth map estimation is extended to the temporal domain resulting in accurate depth maps [22]. Multi-camera video surveillance fuses the spatiotemporal frames from different sources to reliably find the motion trajectories [23]. A moving object is detected and segmented with the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) data by stacking the consecutive frames containing objects of interest resulting in constant object position and moving background, thereby improving the segmentation efficiency [24].

1.1.2 Semantic segmentation

Segmentation of images is an essential task of the visual understanding systems. It involves dividing the image into multiple segments. Image segmentation can be framed as classifying the individual pixels into a particular class or semantic labels. Segmentation can be classified as semantic segmentation, instance segmentation, and panoptic segmentation. Segmentation of images finds a broad range of application areas [25], such as medical for boundary extraction and tissue volume estimation, autonomous systems for detecting a boundary for path planning, and surveillance to track objects. Semantic segmentation is not only about the data but the problem segmentation addresses. For example, in a pedestrian detection system, pixels belonging to a person are categorized into a single class; however, for action recognition, the different parts of the body are classified into other classes. Instance segmentation [26] solves the problem of counting unique objects present in an image and is a common task in image retrieval tasks. Many traditional techniques have been developed to solve the segmentation problem [27]. For specialized tasks, different algorithms are developed [28]. Work by Shervin surveyed the various state-of-the-art segmentation algorithms [29]. However, many algorithms are developed, but few works are proposed for multi-view semantic segmentation. From the previous work, it is evident that temporal fusion improves the model's performance. This work aims to study the impact of temporal fusion of information in the latent space and cross-transfer the technology to the semantic segmentation task.

1.2 Challenges and Difficulties

Semantic segmentation benefited from the advancement of deep learning methods. Building a temporal fusion for semantic segmentation model is a challenging task due to the presence of high number of variables involved and different choices of fusion architectures. Common challenges involved are the

- Datasets
- Fusion architecture
- Computation cost
- Application areas

1.2.1 Dataset

In many application areas the deep learning model can be trained from scratch given that we have large datasets. However, for new domain there are not enough datasets available to train the model, in such cases transfer learning can be applied. In the transfer learning approach a model is trained on some data and the part of trained model weights are used for building a new application areas architecture. Many deep learning based models are trained on the ImageNet datasets and take the pretrained encoder weights which capture the features needed to do the segmentation thereby reducing the dependency on the requirement of large datasets. Image augmentation is the another approach to increase the number of data points. Data augmentation helps to create more data by applying transformation to the existing

small datasets so that variety of the input data is generated from the existing small datasets. Some of the common transformation on the input images are translation, reflection, rotation, warping, scaling, color space shifting, projecting onto the principle component. It helps to faster convergence and reduce the over-fitting probability, and improving the generalization capability of the model. For some task data augmentation showed improvement in the performance of the model. For temporal fusion there is a need of 2D datasets along with the pose of the camera. Pose information can be fused at the latent space to improve the prediction efficiency of the model. There is a need for different kinds of datasets such as the still images, navigation datasets, Unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) datasets to validate the model in different environment, helps to evaluate the model performance.

1.2.2 Fusion architecture

With the advancement of the deep learning more and more segmentation models are developed with improved efficiency and with variety of fusion architecture. Fusing of features are commonly used in the segmentation task. Adaption of fusion features in the increased depth deep learning model showed significant improvement in the prediction. U-net [30] model effectively use the already learned features by fusing the information from the encoder to the decoder. To tackle the decrease of initial image resolution at the output a RefineNet [31] network was proposed. Deeper layers captures the high-level semantic features is refined by fusing the fine-grained features from the earlier convolutions. Dense connection is employed in the many of the recent neural network architecture [32], [33], [34]. Choosing the appropriate fusion architecture depends on the factor of problem at hand available resources to solve the problem.

1.2.3 Computation cost

Many state of the art segmentation network requires high computation cost during training as well during the inference time. So the recent research is focused on decreasing the computation cost and also keeping the accuracy of the model high. To deploy the model in the low computational mobile devices simpler models needs to be developed that fits in the computation cost of the device. This can be done by compressing the model or using the knowledge distillation techniques to build the low computational model [29].

1.2.4 Real time inference for various application areas

Most of the recent top performing semantic segmentation models are based on the fully convolutional network [35]. For real time application or at the frame rate of the camera needs to have reasonable accuracy and prediction speed. Real time prediction is extremely critical in the autonomous driving and medical fields. However, most the fully convolutional network is not upto the mark with respect to the maximum requirements defined by application areas. Models with the dilated convolution improved the performance of the model however the benchmark can be still improved. ICNet takes multiple input sizes to capture objects of varying sizes to tackle the real time deployment [36].

1.3 Use cases

Semantic segmentation finds application in many areas of the computer vision. Some of them are listed below,

1.3.1 Autonomous driving and Robotics

Important components of the autonomous driving systems are the object recognition, object localization and segmentation. Semantic segmentation classify each pixels of the image into a particular class thereby identifying different classes such as street, traffic sign, trees, cars, sky, pedestrians or sidewalks. It is critical to classify each pixel with high accuracy due to the safety concerns. The rich information captured in last step can be used in the current step calculation to make a better prediction at the current computational step. With the development of the robotics system to perform a complex task the interaction with the environment also increased. So, there is a need to develop a robust system to understand the knowledge about the workspace.

1.3.2 Weed mapping using Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)

Mapping of the fields are essential for weed control and spraying applications. The presence of the weed can be mapped by unmanned aerial vehicle remote sensing technology. The targeted spraying onto the weed area helps to curb the weed growth by inspecting the weed map obtained from the UAV. The entire process involves real-time image processing hardware that integrates the map visualization, flight control, image collection [37]. To build a weed map semantic segmentation can be employed with reasonable performance and real time capability.

1.3.3 Real-Time Hand Gesture Recognition

Hand Gesture Recognition (HGR) is an essential component in human-computer interactions. With the advancement of vision-based HGR systems, HGR is widely used in the automotive sector, consumer electronics, home automation, etc. Important feature of the HGR is the real time performance. HGR should perform without any lag to control the location of the cursor. HGR is based on the semantic segmentation method to locate the position of the hand, therefore an efficient real time segmentation network needs to be developed [38].

1.4 Problem Statement and Contribution

Research question answered and contribution in the thesis work is listed below

1.4.1 Research question

RQ1 What are the works on state-of-the-art temporal fusion?

RQ2 How are the results from RQ1 compared with each other to perform temporal fusion?

RQ2.1 What are the results in comparison with different error metrics?

RQ3 How to cross-transfer the depth estimation temporal fusion technique to semantic segmentation?

RQ3.1 How do different loss criteria impact semantic segmentation performance?

RQ3.2 What is the semantic segmentation performance for different Gaussian kernels?

1.4.2 Contribution

- Literature review on the temporal fusion in the context of depth estimation and semantic segmentation
- Analysis of the state-of-the-art temporal fusion architectures
- Create a baseline of temporal fusion with sequence images
- Compare performances of state-of-the-art temporal fusion techniques with different error metrics
- Cross transfer the temporal fusion architecture to the segmentation task
- Performance of multi-view temporal fusion with different Gaussian kernels

1.5 Report outline

Theoretical background of deep learning, semantic segmentation, temporal fusion and their limitations is discussed in the Chapter 2. Datasets, preprocessing steps, experimental designs, training procedures and hardware configuration used to training and inferences are listed down in the Chapter 3. Evaluation of the temporal fusion architecture with different experimental settings, metrics and research questions are discussed in the Chapter 4. Deployment of the model in the android is described in the android deployment Chapter 5. Finally contribution of the thesis work, lesson learned and future work is explained in the conclusion chapter 6.

2

State of the Art

Introduction to the modern deep learning and their impact onto the various vision tasks are described in the Deep Learning section. Information fusion in the temporal domain to fuse information is explained in Temporal Fusion. State of the art segmentation of the input images, in particular semantic segmentation task is illustrated in the Semantic Segmentation section. State of the art segmentation in the classical era and in modern deep learning play crucial role in the temporally fused semantic segmentation. However, there is very little work of fusing the camera pose onto the segmentation task in temporal fashion. More details are discussed in the Semantic Segmentation. Finally chapter 2 is ended with the discussion on the limitations of the previous work with respect to the temporal fusion.

2.1 Deep Learning

Deep learning is a sub field of machine learning that aims to learn the features present in the data by utilizing the hierarchical architectures. The area deep learning falls in the artificial intelligence is depicted in the picture 2.1

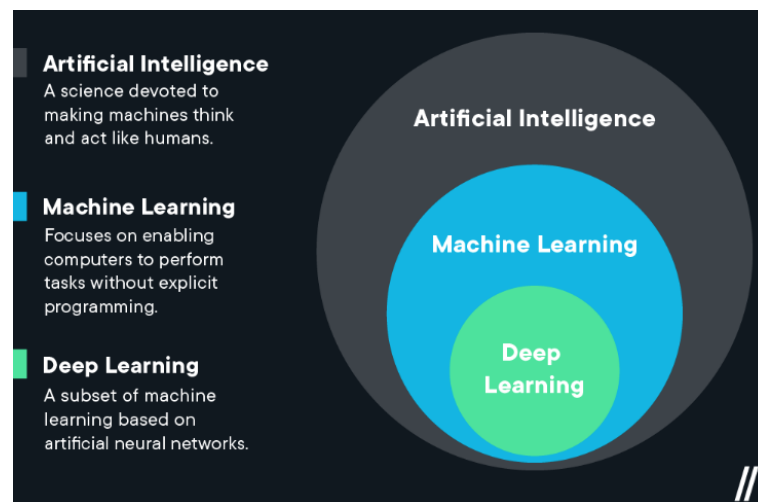


Figure 2.1: Deep learning in the artificial intelligence domain. Courtesy of [1]

Classical machine learning system uses the raw input and domain expert carefully represent the data as a feature vector from which the data is fed to the models to learn the patterns and classify into appropriate classes [39]. Deep learning is a representation learning that takes raw data and find the patterns in the data with different levels of representation in the multiple layers [39]. Deep learning can learn any complex representation of the data. For example, a image is represented as pixels and are fed to the neural network, at each layer of the network different feature are learned. In the first layer, higher level features such as edges at a specific orientation and location is determined. In the second layer motifs are learned and so on. The important aspect of the deep learning is that the features are not designed by the field expert rather than learned from the data with a specific set of learning procedures [39].

Many current state of the art learning models uses the deep learning approach to learn the complex function from data. Currently deep learning method can be found in image recognition [40], speech technologies [41], discovery of drug molecule [42], understanding the particle accelerator data [43], DNA sequencing [44], and natural language processing [45].

Computer vision is the field of computer science that deals with replicating the functionalities of the human visual system. Traditionally computer vision solved the vision problem by finding the hand crafted features. However, the performance of the classical approach is outperformed by the advancement of the deep learning based methods. Hand crafted feature descriptors such as Speeded Up Robust Features (SURF), Hough Transforms are used as feature vectors for the classical machine learning methods for learning [46]. Deep learning methods automatically learns the patterns from the data. Computer vision solves wide variety of problems in the perception domain. Latest approaches helps to solve the detection [47], [48], classification [49], image synthesis and segmentation tasks [50].

Temporal data are the time varying information and can be commonly observed in financial portfolio management, accounting, medical records, inventory management, data from airline, hotel, train industries contains time component with it [51]. Video data are constructed from combining time variant frames and is a common example of a temporal data. Temporal fusion deals with combining of the past information into the current step computation with a aim of improved performance.

In general approach segmentation is done frame by frame or by skipping in between frames and computing the segmentation on the n th frame. Temporal fusion can be applied in these settings to perform improved segmentation task by combining the past rich information in the current step.

2.2 Temporal Fusion

Temporal fusion can be defined as the process of fusing the temporal data onto the current step with a aim of improving the performance of the model. Temporal data can be observed in many fields such as social media, healthcare, accounting, agriculture, transportation, physics, crime data, traffic dynamics and climate science [52]. Temporal data can be encountered with different data types, Common data types are video, audio, tabular data, and sensors data. Forecasting is a common application of temporal fusion. Multi horizon forecasting is a important problem in the domain of time series. Multi horizon forecast allow the user to optimize the process across the entire path. A novel Temporal fusion Transformer (TFT) [53] is a attention based DNN architecture for forecasting by fusing the important past features into

the current step. Temporal fusion play a major role in the improved video action recognition. Temporal fusion helps in two ways, firstly by understanding the temporal data the accuracy of the recognition for the dynamic action is improved, secondly removing the redundant temporal data saves the computation overhead. A temporal fusion network known as the AdaFuse, fuses the current and past features with a goal of improved accuracy and efficiency [54]. A temporal non parametric fusion aims to fuse the temporal pose data to the computation of the depth map thereby improving accuracy and efficiency [55]. An online multi view depth prediction approach where the depth estimated in the previous step is fused onto the current step in a sensible manner. The network is named as DeepVideoMVS and it is based on the encoder decoder architecture. A ConvLSTM is placed at the latent space to fuse the information from the previous step. The proposed approach outperformed all the existing state of the art multi view stereo method evaluated on the standard metrics [56]. A Multiple Fusion Adaptation (MFA) method improves the segmentation accuracy on a unlabeled datasets. Three fusion approach was proposed under MFA, cross model fusion, temporal fusion and novel online-offline pseudo labels. The MFA produced improved semantic segmentation result of 58.2% and 62.5% on GTA5-to-Cityscapes and SYNTHIA-to-Cityscapes respectively [57].

2.3 Semantic Segmentation

Humans can perceive the surrounding environment and make sense of it with high accuracy. Due to the advancement of computer vision these capabilities are transferred to the machines, performing even better than humans. Today, we have computer vision models that can detect objects, find shapes, track the object movement and perform action based on the data. Computer vision is most commonly used in the autonomous driving cars, aerial mapping, surveillance applications, virtual reality and augmented reality and so on. One of the common problem in computer vision is labeling the each pixels of the image to a particular categories. Also known as the segmentation. Mathematically image segmentation can be defined as

If I is set of all image pixels of a image, then segmentation generate unique regions $S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4, \dots, S_n$ such that combining all these regions will return I .

Image segmentation can be classified into three categories Semantic segmentation, Instance segmentation and Panoptic segmentation. Semantic segmentation finds the shape, size and form of the objects in addition to their location. Instance segmentation finds one more parameter of number of unique object present in the image. Panoptic segmentation is the combination of the semantic and instance segmentation. The difference between all the types of semantic segmentation can be observed in the Fig 2.2.

2.3.1 Classical Semantic Segmentation

Most commonly used traditional segmentation techniques are threshold based technique [58], histogram-based bundling, region-growing [59], k-means clustering, watersheds, active contours, graph cuts, conditional and Markov random fields [60], sparsity based methods [61]. However, in the recent years deep learning (DL) yielded a new generation of image segmentation models with state of the art performance.

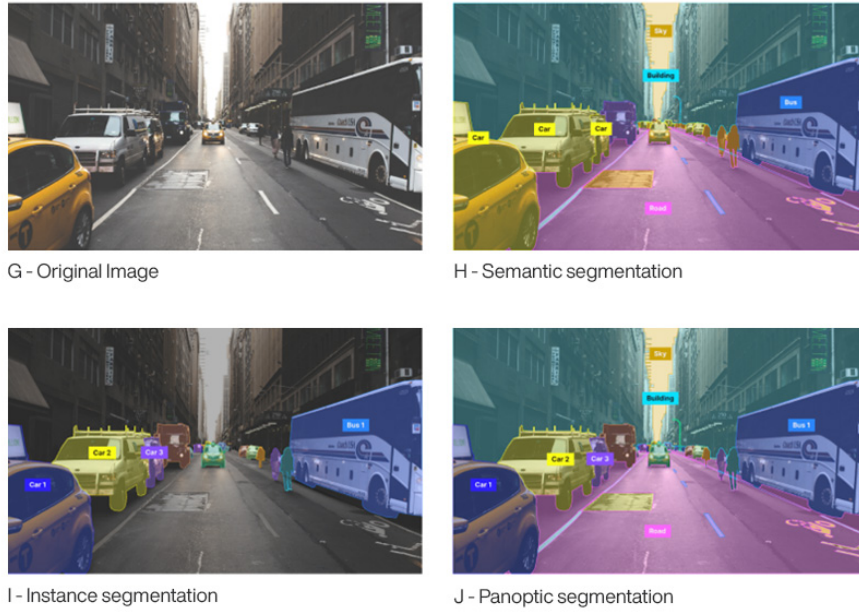


Figure 2.2: Semantic and Instance segmentation example. Courtesy of [2]

2.3.2 Deep Learning based Semantic Segmentation

Deep learning based segmentation network can be classified into following categories [3]

- Fully convolutional networks
- Convolutional models with graphical models
- Encoder-decoder based models
- Multi-scale and pyramid network based models
- R-CNN based models (for instance segmentation)
- Dilated convolutional models and DeepLab family
- Recurrent neural network based models
- Attention-based models
- Generative models and adversarial training
- Convolutional models with active contour models

Deep learning based computer vision model most commonly use the convolutional neural network [62], recurrent neural network (RNNs), and Long short term memory (LSTM), encoder-decoder [63] and generative adversarial networks (GANs) based networks [3]. The master thesis work is concentrated on the encoder-decoder based deep learning models. Encoder-Decoder based network are a two stage network that learns to map from input point to the output point. In the encoder stage the input data is compressed into a latent space representation $z = f(x)$ and decoder decompress the latent space representation to the output $a = g(z)$ [64]. Latent representation of the input data in compressed form. It can be commonly observed in image-to-image translation problem as well as in sequence-to-sequence models in NLP. A reconstruction loss $L(y, \hat{y})$ is defined at the output that measure the differences between the ground truth output y and corresponding reconstruction \hat{y} . Autoencoders are the special version of the encoder-decoder models that have similar input and output.

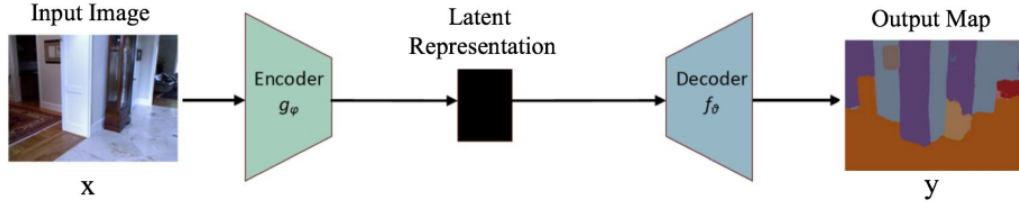


Figure 2.3: Simple encoder-decoder architecture. Courtesy of [3]

Most of the segmentation network are encoder-decoder based architecture. A novel semantic segmentation network was proposed by Noh et al [4]. The network is based on the deconvolution. The encoder network is based on the VGG 16-layer network and the decoder network takes the latent space encoding and outputs the pixel wise class probabilities. The segmentation mask and pixel-wise class labels are predicted by the deconvolutional and unpooling layers. The network generated a accuracy of 72.5 % on the PASCAL VOC 2012 dataset.

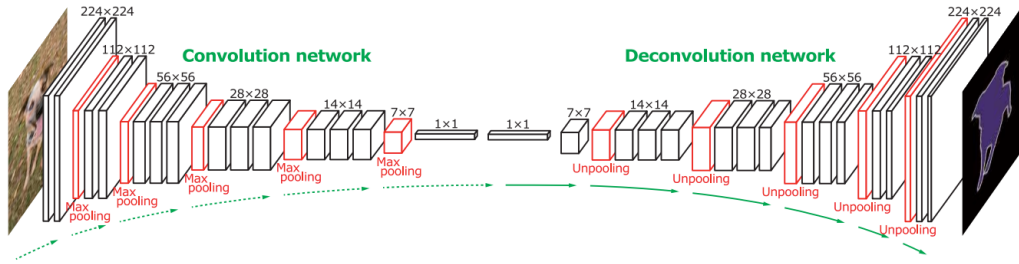


Figure 2.4: Simple encoder-decoder architecture. Courtesy of [4]

Badrinarayanan et al proposed a convolutional encoder-decoder architecture for image segmentation called as SegNet.

2.4 Temporal Fusion in Semantic Segmentation

Use as many sections as you need in your related work to group content into logical groups

Don't forget to correctly cite your sources [?].

2.5 Limitations of previous work

3

Methodology

Semantic segmentation can be evaluated using the

How you are planning to test/compare/evaluate your research. Criteria used.

3.1 Dataset

3.1.1 ScanNet

3.1.2 Virtual KITTI 2

3.1.3 VIODE

3.2 Data Collection and Preprocessing

3.3 Experimental Design

3.3.1 U-Net Vanilla model

3.3.2 U-Net with Temporal Fusion

3.3.3 W-Net Vanilla model

3.3.4 W-Net with Temporal Fusion

3.4 Training and Evaluation Pipeline

3.5 Training Procedure

3.6 Hardware Configuration

4

Evaluation and Experimental Result

Implementation and measurements.

4.1 Evaluation Metric

4.1.1 Pixel Accuracy

4.1.2 Precision

4.1.3 Recall

4.1.4 ROC and AUC

4.1.5 IOU

4.2 RQ1: What are the works on state-of-the-art temporal fusion?

4.2.1 Experiment1.1: U-Net and W-Net model with single sequence data

4.2.2 Experiment1.2: U-Net and W-Net model with two sequence data

4.2.3 Experiment1.3: U-Net and W-Net model with three sequence data

4.2.4 Experiment1.4: U-Net and W-Net model with four sequence data

4.2.5 Experiment1.5: U-Net and W-Net model with all sequence data

4.3 RQ2: How are the results from RQ1 compared with each other to perform temporal fusion?

4.3.1 Experiment1.1: U-Net and W-Net model with single sequence data

4.3.2 Experiment1.2: U-Net and W-Net model with two sequence data

4.3.3 Experiment1.3: U-Net and W-Net model with three sequence data

4.3.4 Experiment1.4: U-Net and W-Net model with four sequence data

4.3.5 Experiment1.5: U-Net and W-Net¹⁶ model with all sequence data

4.4 RQ3: How to cross-transfer the temporal fusion technique to semantic segmentation?

4.4.1 Experiment1.1: U-Net vanilla model

4.4.2 Experiment1.2: U-Net temporally fused gp model

5

Android Deployment

5.1 Framework

Describe results and analyse them

5.2 Pipeline

5.3 Deployment and Results

6

Conclusions

6.1 Contributions

6.2 Lessons learned

6.3 Future work



Design Details

Your first appendix

B

Parameters

Your second chapter appendix

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