Chapter 1

Introduction

Nowadays, the enormous increase of computing power help us deal with a lot of difficult situations appeared in our daily life. A lot of areas of science have managed to tackle with problems, which were consided non trivial 20 years ago. One of these area is Computer Vision and an import problem is human action recognition and localization.

1.1 Problem statement

The area of human action recognition and locatization has 2 main goals:

1. Automatically detect and classify any human activity, which appears in a video.

2. Automatically locate in the video, where the previous action is performed.

1.1.1 Human Action Recognition

Considering human action recognition, a video may be consisted of only by 1 person doing something, however, this is a ideal situation. In most cases, videos contain multiple people, who perform multiple actions or may not act at all in some segments. So, our goal is not only to classify an action, but to dertemine the temporal boundaries of each action.

1.1.2 Human Action Localization

Alongside with Human Action Recognition, another problem is to present spatial boundaries of each action. Usually, this means presenting a 2D bounding box for each video frame, which contains the actor. Of course, this bounding box moves alongside with the actor.

1.2 Applications

The field of Human Action Recognition and Localization has a lot of applications which include content based video analysis,automated video segmentation, security and surveillance systems, human-computer interaction.

The huge availability of data (especially of videos) create the necessity to find ways to take advantage of them. About 2.5 billion images are uploaded in Facebook every month, more than 34K hours of video in YouTube and about 5K images every minutes. On top of that, there are about 30 million surveillance cameras in US, which means about 700K video hours per day. All those data need to be seperated in categories according to their content in order to search them more easily. This process takes places by hand, by the user who attaches keywords or tags, however, most users avoid to do so. This situation creates the need to create algorithms for automated indexing based on the content of the video.

Another application is video summury. This area take place usually in movies or sports events. In movies, video analysis algorithms can create a small video containing all the important moments of the movie. This can be achieve by choosing video segments which an important action take place such as killing the villain of the movie. In sports events, video summury applications include creating highlight video automatically.

On top of that, human action recognition can replace human operators in surveillance systems. Until now, security systems include a system of multiple cameras handled by a human operator, who judges if a person is acting normally or not. Automatic action classification systems can act like human, and immediately judge if there is any human behavioral anomaly.

Last but not least, another field of application is related with human-computer interaction. Robotic applications help elderly people deal with their daily needs. Also, gaming applications using Kinect create new kinds of gaming experience without the need of a physical game controller.

1.3 Challenges and Datasets

The wide variety of applications creates a lot of challenges which involve with action recognition systems. The most important include large variations in appearence of the actors, camera view-point changes, occlusions non-rigid camera motions etc. On top of that, a big problem is that there are too many action classes which means that manual collection of training sample is prohibitive. Also, some times, action vocabulary is not well defined. As figure 1.1 shows, "Open" action can include a lot of kinds of actions, so we must carefully choose which granularity of the action we will consider.

In order to deal with those challenges, several standard action datasets have been created in order to delevop robust human action recognition systems and detection algorithms. The first datasets like KTH[] include 1 actor performing using a static camera over homogeneous backgrounds. Even

Figure 1.1: Examples of "Open" action

though, those datasets help us design the first action recognition algorithms, they were not able to deal with the above challenges. This lead us to design datasets containing more ambigious videos such as Joint-annotated Human Motion Database(JHMDB)[] and UCF-101[].

1.3.1 JHMDB Dataset

The JHMDB dataset is a fully annotated dataset for human actions and human poses. It is consisted of 21 action categories and 928 clips extracted from Human Motion Database (HMDB51) []. Each clip is annotated for each frame using a 2D pose. In order to train our model for action localization, we modify 2D poses into 2D boxes containing the whole pose. We seperate them into 660 videos for training set and 268 for validation set. Each video is trimmed to include only 1 action, starting from the beginning of video and ending in the end of the video.

1.3.2 UCF-101 Dataset

The UCF-101 dataset contains 13320 videos from 101 action categories. We, also, extract 3194 videos from 24 classes, from which we have annotations with 2D bounding boxes. We seperate them in 2284 videos for training set and 910 for validation test. Each video is untrimmed including more that 1 simultaneous actions.

1.4 Contributions

1.5 Thesis structure

The rest of Thesis is organized as follows. Chapter 2 provides an general introduction to Machine Learning techniques currently used. Chapter 3 presents an overview of literature on human action recognition and localization. Chapter 4 introduces the first basic element of our system, Tube Proposal Network

(TPN) and shows all the approachs designed for this system. Chapter 5 proposes an algorithm for linking the proposed TOIs from every video segment. In Chapter 6, we can see the results for classification and detection of our system, using 2 classic clasifiers. Chapter 7 is used for conclusions, summury of our contribution alongside with possible future work.