Recognize Face Masks With Deep Learning

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1 Introduction

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has significantly affected the daily life activities of people globally. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the World Health Organization has recommended people to wear face masks in public places. Manual inspection of people for wearing face masks in public places is a challenging task. This introduces an urgent need to develop a system capable of detecting the people not wearing the face masks in a simple and autonomous way. For this reason we develop a system that can recognize if a person is wearing a face mask using Deep learning and OpenCV libraries.

2 Dataset

The dataset used for this project (available at : here) contains mainly a total of 3832 images which are divided into :

- 1914 images with masks
- 1918 images without masks

In addition to that, images with masks and without masks represent different persons.

3 Fine Tuning

When dealing with Images and especially when solving classification problems, most of the time Convolutional Neural Network is a good choice to start with or even the only one that can reach a reasonable amount of performances. However building from scratch a new CNN model is something that takes very hard effort both in terms of time and also in terms of computational requirements.

Therefore, a solution to the problem explained above, is to use what it is called "Transfer Learning", that means, instead developing a new model, and the train it, we take an already trained model that works well on some training set for a certain task and then, we adapt it to solve our problem.

Even though with Transfer Learning, the issue of creating a new model is no more present, there is still the difficulty of re-training the entire Neural Network on a new dataset to tune the network chosen in order to solve the problem. So, what nowadays is common to do is to:

- Select a pre-trained model in the literature that already was trained using a big dataset, and that seems to solve a problem similar to the one that need to be addressed.
- Remove the last part of it and replace it with new fully connected layers.
- Do not allow the not fully connected layers to be trainable.
- Train the Network with the new dataset.

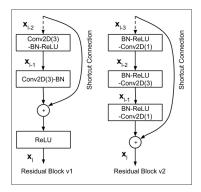
Such process is what it is also known as Fine Tuning and it is the technique that was used in this project.

4 The Model Used For this project : ResNet50V2

In this project it was used as starting point the ResNet50V2 CNN network (available on Tensorflow library). The choice of the use of such network is due to mainly two reasons :

• The ResNet50 (V1) Network contrary to what is said in [3] was performing poorly in the dataset used for our training if fine tuned

• The ResNet50 (V1) Netwoork was able to learn something on the dataset used only if it was trained from scratch (no fine tuning) on the entire dataset but, due to low hardware performances available the training on the entire dataset was carried out only for one epoch before running out of both RAM and GPU RAM memories.



So, for the reason explained above it was chosen the ResNet50V2 and it was fine tuned by removing its fully connected layers and replaced them with other two. To be precise it has been introduced:

- A layer with 1024 neurons with Relu activation function.
- A layer with 2 neurons with Sigmoid activation function.

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
resnet50v2 (Functional)	(None, 7, 7, 2048)	23564800
flatten (Flatten)	(None, 100352)	0
hidden_layer (Dense)	(None, 1024)	102761472
dropout (Dropout)	(None, 1024)	0
output (Dense)	(None, 2)	2050

Total params: 126,328,322 Trainable params: 102,763,522

Non-trainable params: 23,564,800

In addition to that, to avoid overfitting issues some regularization techniques were applied. The most important ones are:

- Early Stopping on the validation loss
- Data Augmentation on the batch items
- Validation on hyperparameters of the network

5 Program

The program we have implemented had 2 important parts: The first one is to recognize the face of a person, and to do that, we use python with opency libraries.

The second part of our project regards the model we used in order to estimate if a person is wearing a mask or not. We used the RES-Net 50 V2 convolution neural network to create and train our model. Since the model created is very heavy we had to fine-tune it in order to implement it in our program.

The RES-Net 50 V2 model that we fine tuned works really well with the dataset that we have used. We split data in 60 - 20 - 20 train-validation-test and the accuracy of the test set is 0.98.

6 Conclusion

This paper has presented a framework for accurate face mask detection and masked facial recognition. This model for face mask detection and masked facial recognition has a good accuracy under diverse conditions i.e., variations in face angles, lightning conditions, gender, skin tone, age, types of masks, occlusions (glasses), etc. The proposed method can be utilized for a variety of purposes and can be integrated with other tools (like instruments for measuring body temperature) in order to maximize the safety of people.