

Convolutional Neural Networks for Image Classification

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October 26, 2017

1 Introduction

Image classification is a difficult problem in computing as it involves the use of no-direct comparisons. It is an important problem to solve as it has many uses, such as identifying lung abnormalities for diagnosis [1]. Neural networks are well suited to this task due to their ability to have "shades of grey" when classifying images, and recent advances have allowed image classifying neural networks to achieve error rates as low as 0.3% in constrained experiments [2].

2 Challenges of Image Classification

As previously stated, image recognition is a classically hard problem in computing because there is no way to have a predetermined expected solution to compare an input image to. A bitwise comparison is obviously out of the question, so instead we must use a system that can give us a value of certainty about what category an image is.

3 Uses of Image Classification

Image recognition has many practical uses. Large-scale image classification has only recently seen success with the implementation of convolution neural networks, with large companies like Facebook and Alphabet using CNNs to add tags to uploaded images.

4 Method

4.1 Medical Image Classification with Convolutional Neural Network

The first paper "Medical Image Classification with Convolutional Neural Network" uses only a single convolutional layer as there are no large artefacts which might help with image identification, and the images are more texture-like (all the images used are of lungs from the ILD database) [1]. This also has the effect of avoiding overfitting [1]. This then feeds in to a pooling layer to further reduce overfitting, which in turn feeds in to 3 fully connected layers.

4.2 ImageNet Classification with Deep Convolutional Neural Networks

The second paper "ImageNet Classification with Deep Convolutional Neural Networks" tries to classify much more general images and so uses five convolutional layers to allow it to identify large structures in the image being analysed [2]. Some of these feed in to max pooling layers to reduce overfitting, and the final 3 layers are fully connected. Several techniques are used to aid learning to time spent training and reduce overfitting, including applying a rectified linear unit function to the output of every learning layer, local response normalisation and overlapping pooling. The sample size of images used for training is also artificially increased by a factor of 2048, and each hidden neuron has a chance to "drop out" in order to force it's neighbours to learn more robust features, again to mitigate the problem of overfitting.

5 Benefits

Convolutional neural networks are particularly well suited to solving this problem as the convolutional layers allow selection of specific artefacts e.g. a cat's ear. There is also no need to develop an algorithm to classify an image yourself, as the network is trained by using images that have already been classified.

5.1 Medical Image Classification with Convolutional Neural Network

This paper applies CNNs in a very specific domain which allows the authors to customise it to their needs, in particular they used only a single convolutional layer to select for texture over larger image artefacts. Because of this they were able to achieve results far superior to the next best image classifier [1].

5.2 ImageNet Classification with Deep Convolutional Neural Networks

Because of the innovations made in this paper (namely the use of a large dataset as well as several GPUs), the CNN they trained was able to win the ILSVRC-2012 competition with an error rate of 15.3%, compared to 26.2% for the next entry [2]. The advances described in the method section allowed the authors to effectively mitigate overfitting as well as generate a large, useful dataset to give much more accurate classification.

6 Limitations

6.1 Medical Image Classification with Convolutional Neural Network

This CNN was to be used for a very specific domain (medical imaging), and as such it is limited to that domain. This limitation is of little concern however, as the CNN proposed is easy to train on new, similar data sets.

6.2 ImageNet Classification with Deep Convolutional Neural Networks

A limitation of the approach used is the amount of time taken to train the CNN, as well as the added complexity of dealing with data that is much more likely to come with overfitting.

7 Conclusion

Image classification is an important problem in AI research, with many practical applications. Significant progress has been made recently with convolutional neural networks, as shown in the two compared papers. There is still much room for improvement with new techniques in training and modelling.

References

- [1] Qing Li, Weidong Cai, Xiaogang Wang, Yun Zhou, David Dagan Feng, and Mei Chen. Medical image classification with convolutional neural network. Technical report, University of Sydney, Australia, 2014.
- [2] Alex Krizhevsky, Ilya Sutskever, and Geoffrey E. Hinton. Imagenet classification with deep convolutional neural networks. Technical report, University of Toronto, 2017.