CNNs are a class of Deep Neural Networks that can recognize and classify particular features from images and are widely used for analyzing visual images. Their applications range from image and video recognition, image classification, medical image analysis, computer vision and natural language processing.

The term ‘Convolution” in CNN denotes the mathematical function of convolution which is a special kind of linear operation wherein two functions are multiplied to produce a third function which expresses how the shape of one function is modified by the other. In simple terms, two images which can be represented as matrices are multiplied to give an output that is used to extract features from the image.

**Basic Architecture**

There are two main parts to a CNN architecture

* A convolution tool that separates and identifies the various features of the image for analysis in a process called as Feature Extraction
* A fully connected layer that utilizes the output from the convolution process and predicts the class of the image based on the features extracted in previous stages.

Diagram

Description automatically generated

**Convolution Layers**

There are three types of layers that make up the CNN which are the convolutional layers, pooling layers, and fully-connected (FC) layers. When these layers are stacked, a CNN architecture will be formed. In addition to these three layers, there are two more important parameters which are the dropout layer and the activation function which are defined below.

**1. Convolutional Layer**

This layer is the first layer that is used to extract the various features from the input images. In this layer, the mathematical operation of convolution is performed between the input image and a filter of a particular size MxM. By sliding the filter over the input image, the dot product is taken between the filter and the parts of the input image with respect to the size of the filter (MxM).

The output is termed as the Feature map which gives us information about the image such as the corners and edges. Later, this feature map is fed to other layers to learn several other features of the input image.

The convolutional layer is the first layer of a convolutional network. While convolutional layers can be followed by additional convolutional layers or pooling layers, the fully-connected layer is the final layer. With each layer, the CNN increases in its complexity, identifying greater portions of the image. Earlier layers focus on simple features, such as colors and edges. As the image data progresses through the layers of the CNN, it starts to recognize larger elements or shapes of the object until it finally identifies the intended object.

### Convolutional Layer

The convolutional layer is the core building block of a CNN, and it is where the majority of computation occurs.

It requires a few components, which are input data, a filter, and a feature map.

**Let’s assume that the input will be a color image, which is made up of a matrix of pixels in 3D. This means that the input will have three dimensions—a height, width, and depth—which correspond to RGB in an image. We also have a feature detector, also known as a kernel or a filter, which will move across the receptive fields of the image, checking if the feature is present. This process is known as a convolution.**

**The feature detector is a two-dimensional (2-D) array of weights, which represents part of the image. While they can vary in size, the filter size is typically a 3x3 matrix; this also determines the size of the receptive field. The filter is then applied to an area of the image, and a dot product is calculated between the input pixels and the filter. This dot product is then fed into an output array. Afterwards, the filter shifts by a stride, repeating the process until the kernel has swept across the entire image. The final output from the series of dot products from the input and the filter is known as a feature map, activation map, or a convolved feature.**

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated with low confidence

As you can see in the image above, each output value in the feature map does not have to connect to each pixel value in the input image. It only needs to connect to the receptive field, where the filter is being applied. Since the output array does not need to map directly to each input value, convolutional (and pooling) layers are commonly referred to as “partially connected” layers. However, this characteristic can also be described as local connectivity.

Note that the weights in the feature detector remain fixed as it moves across the image, which is also known as parameter sharing. Some parameters, like the weight values, adjust during training through the process of backpropagation and gradient descent. However, there are three hyperparameters which affect the volume size of the output that need to be set before the training of the neural network begins. These include:

1. The **number of filters** affects the depth of the output. For example, three distinct filters would yield three different feature maps, creating a depth of three.

2. **Stride** is the distance, or number of pixels, that the kernel moves over the input matrix. While stride values of two or greater is rare, a larger stride yields a smaller output.

3. **Zero-padding**is usually used when the filters do not fit the input image. This sets all elements that fall outside of the input matrix to zero, producing a larger or equally sized output. There are three types of padding:

* **Valid padding:** This is also known as no padding. In this case, the last convolution is dropped if dimensions do not align.
* **Same padding:** This padding ensures that the output layer has the same size as the input layer
* **Full padding:**This type of padding increases the size of the output by adding zeros to the border of the input.

After each convolution operation, a CNN applies a Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU) transformation to the feature map, introducing nonlinearity to the model.

**2. Pooling Layer**

In most cases, a Convolutional Layer is followed by a Pooling Layer. The primary aim of this layer is to decrease the size of the convolved feature map to reduce the computational costs. This is performed by decreasing the connections between layers and independently operates on each feature map. Depending upon method used, there are several types of Pooling operations.

In Max Pooling, the largest element is taken from feature map. Average Pooling calculates the average of the elements in a predefined sized Image section. The total sum of the elements in the predefined section is computed in Sum Pooling. The Pooling Layer usually serves as a bridge between the Convolutional Layer and the FC Layer.

**3. Fully Connected Layer**

The Fully Connected (FC) layer consists of the weights and biases along with the neurons and is used to connect the neurons between two different layers. These layers are usually placed before the output layer and form the last few layers of a CNN Architecture.

In this, the input image from the previous layers are flattened and fed to the FC layer. The flattened vector then undergoes few more FC layers where the mathematical functions operations usually take place. In this stage, the classification process begins to take place.

**4. Dropout**

Usually, when all the features are connected to the FC layer, it can cause overfitting in the training dataset. Overfitting occurs when a particular model works so well on the training data causing a negative impact in the model’s performance when used on a new data.

To overcome this problem, a dropout layer is utilised wherein a few neurons are dropped from the neural network during training process resulting in reduced size of the model. On passing a dropout of 0.3, 30% of the nodes are dropped out randomly from the neural network.

**5. Activation Functions**

Finally, one of the most important parameters of the CNN model is the activation function. They are used to learn and approximate any kind of continuous and complex relationship between variables of the network. In simple words, it decides which information of the model should fire in the forward direction and which ones should not at the end of the network.

It adds non-linearity to the network. There are several commonly used activation functions such as the ReLU, Softmax, tanH and the Sigmoid functions. Each of these functions have a specific usage. For a binary classification CNN model, sigmoid and softmax functions are preferred an for a multi-class classification, generally softmax us used.

**LeNet-5 CNN Architecture**

In 1998, the LeNet-5 architecture was introduced in a research paper titled “Gradient-Based Learning Applied to Document Recognition” by Yann LeCun, Leon Bottou, Yoshua Bengio, and Patrick Haffner. It is one of the earliest and most basic CNN architecture.

It consists of 7 layers. The first layer consists of an input image with dimensions of 32×32. It is convolved with 6 filters of size 5×5 resulting in dimension of 28x28x6. The second layer is a Pooling operation which filter size 2×2 and stride of 2. Hence the resulting image dimension will be 14x14x6.

Similarly, the third layer also involves in a convolution operation with 16 filters of size 5×5 followed by a fourth pooling layer with similar filter size of 2×2 and stride of 2. Thus, the resulting image dimension will be reduced to 5x5x16.

Once the image dimension is reduced, the fifth layer is a fully connected convolutional layer with 120 filters each of size 5×5. In this layer, each of the 120 units in this layer will be connected to the 400 (5x5x16) units from the previous layers. The sixth layer is also a fully connected layer with 84 units.

The final seventh layer will be a softmax output layer with ‘n’ possible classes depending upon the number of classes in the dataset.

Diagram

Description automatically generated

[Source](https://medium.com/datadriveninvestor/five-powerful-cnn-architectures-b939c9ddd57b)

The above diagram is a representation of the 7 layers of the LeNet-5 CNN Architecture.