Image Colourizer

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Abstract

I am creating a program that uses a machine learning model to take a black and white image and predict the rgb values of each pixel in the image, and output the coloured image.



Image courtesy of hotpot.ai

Methods

Dataset: For this project, I will be using this dataset on Kaggle, which is a set of black and white (and corresponding colour) 200x200 images. I may test on some of my own images as well.

Preprocessing

1. Gaussian Filter

My first step will be running all the input/black and white images through a gaussian filter, in order to smooth out some noise that can make accurate predictions more difficult.

2. Convert Ground Truth Images

Next I will convert the ground-truth (colour) training images into a tensor with dimensions $n \times 200 \times 200 \times 3$, where each entry has the red, green, and blue values of each pixel.

3. CNN

Then, I'll create a convolutional neural network with some fully connected layers at the end. The output will be a tensor with the same dimensions as the ground-truth training images, for easy performance testing. In creating this project I will choose the hyperparameters with the results of the model on a validation set of images. Then, using the selected hyperparameters, I'll test my model's performance on a hold-out test set.

Output

4. Render Image
I will convert the output/predicted tensor into a full colour image to be displayed.

Technologies To Be Used

- Python
- Tensorflow
- Keras
- OpenCV

Anticipated Results

I anticipate that the model will work better on landscape images rather than people, since the colours follow more predictable patterns (ie. grass is green) than people (ie. dyed hair). If I find that the model's performance is severely worsened by the inclusion of images including people, I will remove them and create a landscape-only colourizer.