Techniques in Image Denoising

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In the recent year's data driven models are performing state-of-the-art results in all vision, audio based tasks. Convolutional neural networks (CNN) have proved human level performance in object detection, classification, localization. These experiments were conducted to test the performance of CNN's in image Denoising.

6.1 Data

All the netowrks were trained using open source standard computer vision dataset with about 480 gray scaled images of multiple shapes. Few data samples are shown in figure 1. Data was split into training, validation and testing with 400, 68, 12 images respectively. About 100,000 patches were extracted from training data, and the network was trained using these patches with random noise (normal distribution) level ranging from [20/255-60/255] (variance of white noise).

Figure 1: Sample training data

6.2 Deterministic approach: Convolutional Neural Network

All data driven models behave as deterministic quantty once trained. The only randomness present is during training process, picking random samples from entire dataset during each step of stochastic gradient descent.

In this experiment, 9 layered deep convolutional network, Network architecture is described in figure 2, where each block involves CNN layer, Non-linearity layer which in this case is ReLU layer, and Batch normalization layer. Batch normalization behaves as feature regularization layer, which prevents model from overfitting and helps model to learn rich features from the data. Network was initialized using Xavier initializer, and was trained with sthocastig gradient descent using Adam optimizer. Initial learning rate of 0.001 and decay of 0.1 was used. Pixel wise **Mean Squared Error** was used as Cost function for training the model.

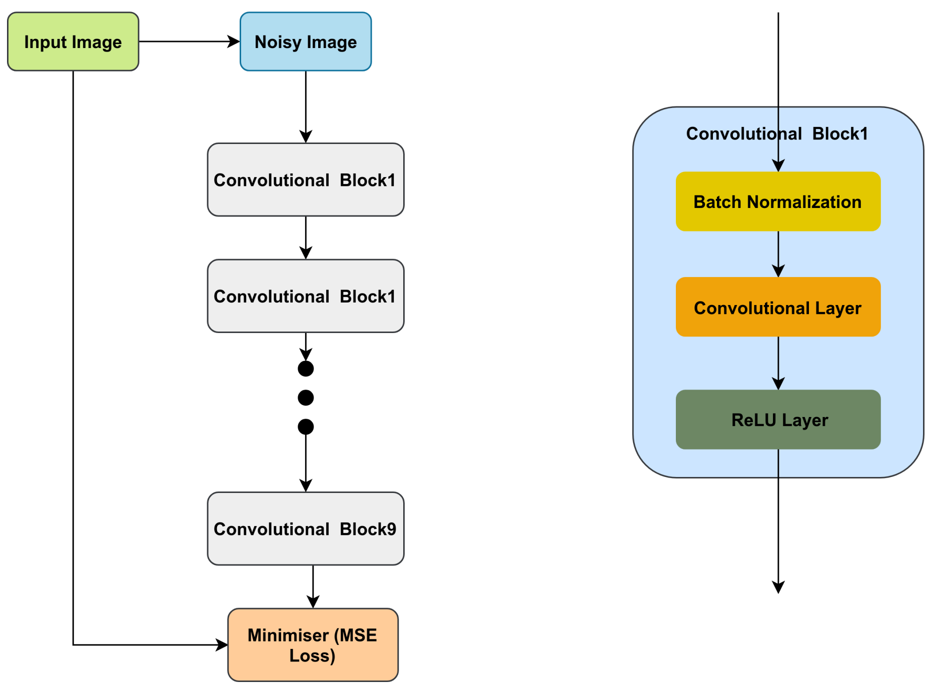
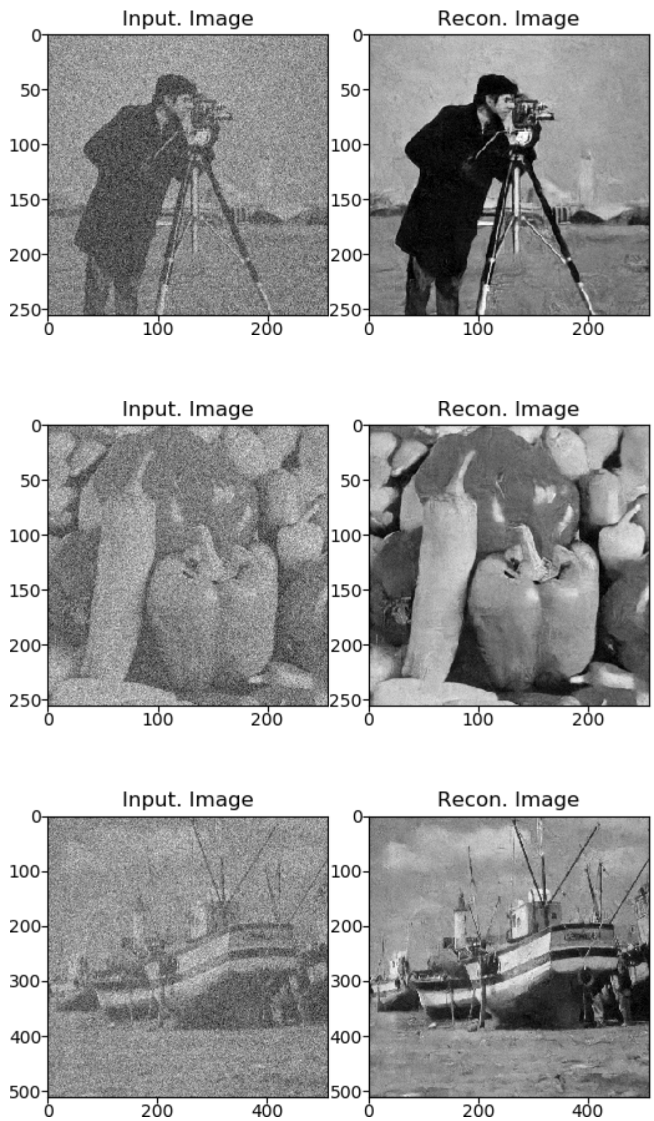
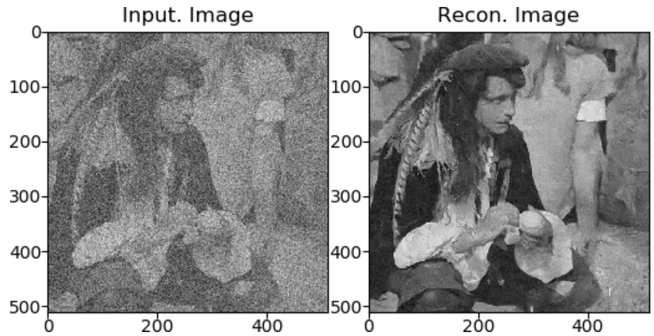
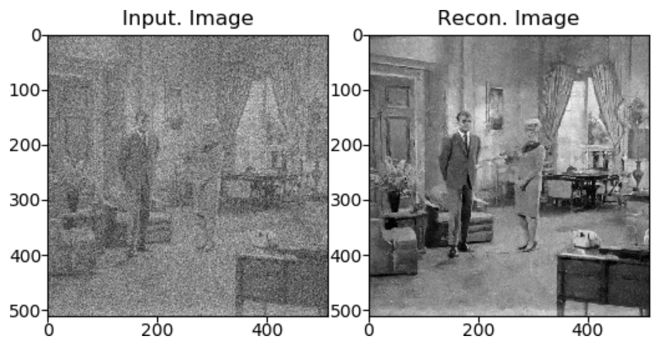


Figure 2: Convolutional neural netowrk architecture used

Results obtained



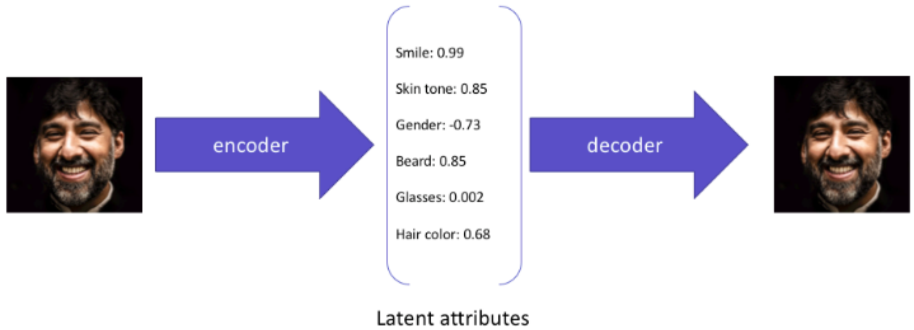




6.3 Variational approach: Convolutional Variational Autoencoders

A variational autoencoder (VAE) provides a probabilistic manner for describing an observation in latent space. In VAE input convert from input space to lower dimensional latent space (encoder part of VAE), Encoder provides us control over input data by reducing higher dimensional data to very few tractable latent space variables. Encoders can formulated to describe a probability distribution for each latent variables. For example, An ideal autoencoder will learn descriptive attributes of faces such as skin color, whether or not the person is wearing glasses, etc. in an attempt to describe an observation in some compressed representation. which is described in figure **??** [1]. These latent variables are processed and fed to decoder, which involves upsampling pathway (in this case bi-linear upsampling was used) to convert from low dimensional space to original image space. Reconstructed image from decoder and input image are used in cost calculation, cost funciton in case of VAE is linear combination of MSE and KL-Divergence.

[1] Image taken from: https://www.jeremyjordan.me/variational-autoencoders/



In our case encoder helps in identifying noise properties in an input data, which is further processed and image is reconstructed back using decoder architecture which involves multiple CNN layers along with bilateral upsampling layers which helps to reconstrcting noise free image, with same as input dimension. Network architecture used in this expiriment is described in figure 3. Network was initialized using Xavier initializer, and was trained with sthocastig gradient descent using Adam optimizer. Initial learning rate of 0.001 and decay of 0.1 was used. Pixel wise **Mean Squared Error + KL Divergence** was used as Cost function for training the model.

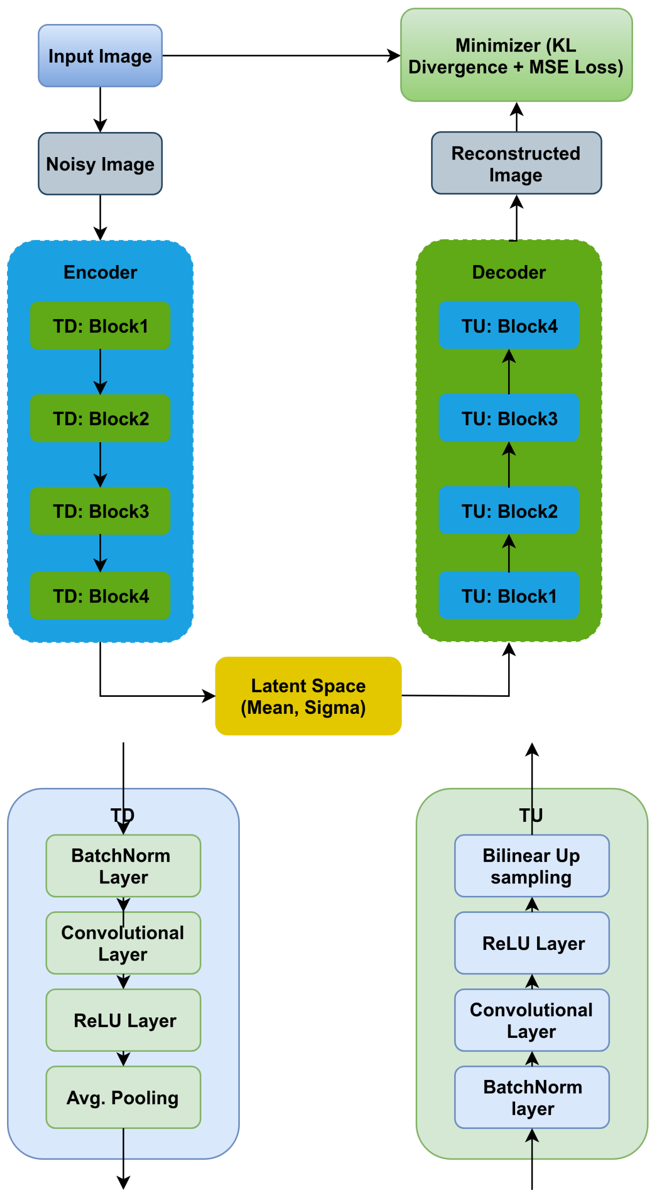
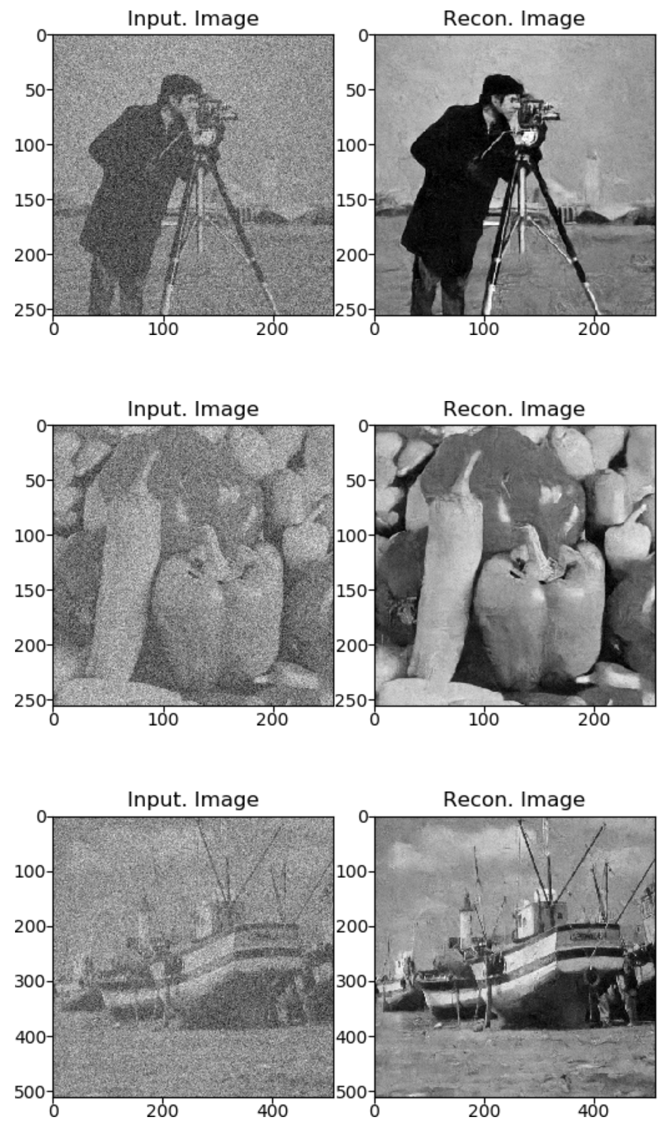
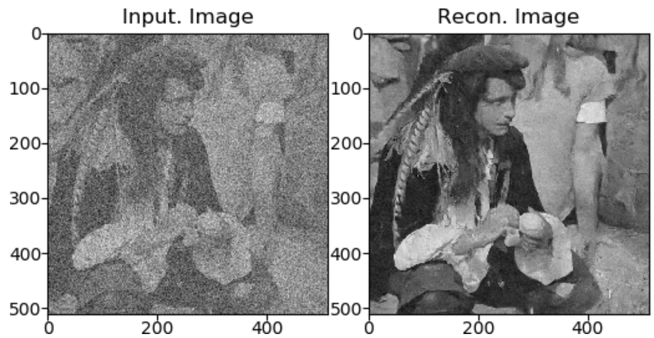
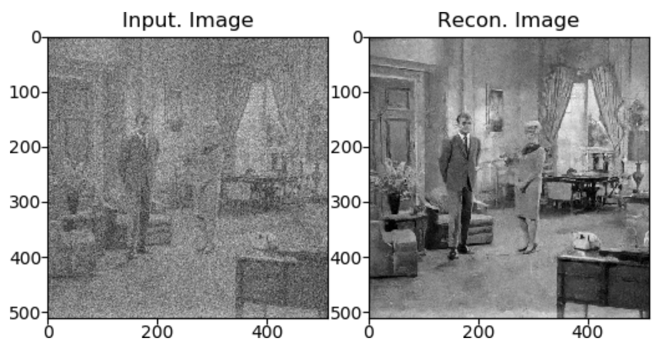


Figure 3: Convolutional Variational Autoencoder netowrk architecture used

Results obtained







7 Comparison between white box and black box models

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10 Conclusions

References