Guide for Deploying your TensorFlow Model in Cortex M based Microcontroller

This manual tells a step-by-step procedure on how to use the codes given in this GitHub repository to automatically generate the inference code and all the related weights and biases in q7 format.

Two examples for quantization, one for Optical Character Recognition and another for prediction of sin(x) also have been given in the repository.

Step 1: Access the GitHub repository

https://github.com/kskumaree/Tool-for-deployment-of-CNN-in-ARM-Microcontroller

Step 2: Open the General Template Folder



You will find two codes, all_apis.py and code_generate_template.py there. Both of these, should be kept under the same path while executing. Note that all_apis.py file shouldn't be modified.

Step 3: Open the code_generate_templaye.py file

```
The areas to be modified are model name, datalist variable and preprocessing data.

For Neural networks with convolution, maxpooling and fully connected layers with

ReLu as activation, the code will be generated correctly.

"""

#specify the tensorflow model (.h5) here

model_name='specify model name'

model=tf.keras.models.load_model(model_name)

"""

Give the name of data file as shown below, atleast 5-10 sample data from different class should yield good result. Give more data if the code generated isn't giving desired results

"""

#give the names of files from dataset to be read as follows

datalist=['102.png','146.png','149.png','150.png','157.png']
```

Here, specify the TensorFlow model name.

Step 4: Fill the input list

In the datalist variable, the input should be mentioned. Here, for example if we are reading images as the input, then image file name should be mentioned.

Another example for the time series model input is shown below.

```
To perform quantization, sample inputs are mentioned

datalist=(np.linspace(-6.28,6.28,10))#generate values from -2*pi to 2*pi
inp=[]
val=0
for idx in range(len(model.layers)):
```

Note that it is essential to provide sample input ranging from maximum to minimum values in case of time series model.

In other cases, at least 5-10% images/data from the training/validation set from different classes is to be given. More the input, better the result. The data can be from either training or validation set and it is important to give data from different classes. This part is crucial for quantizing the model. The theory behind quantization is explained after the instruction section.

Step 5: Perform Pre-Processing

```
for data in datalist:

The below code is for reading the data and preprocessing it accordingly before giving it to model. The code is given for reading and preprocessing a grayscale image.

For example, if the application is speech recognition, then modify the below part to read a speech file and taking spectogram or any other technique.

Finally, load the input into the variable inp with dimensions as [channels, height, width] format and as a numpy array

itr+=1 #don't modify this variable

#perform modifications according to the dataset from here onwards

#read the image, if any other form of data is to be used, modify accordingly img = Image.open(data)

p = asarray(img)

#the code is for reading a grayscale image, if RGB or other colourspace

#is used, modify the reshape function accordingly

[x,y]=p.shape

p=p.reshape(1,x,y)

#make sure that the final preprocessed data is in inp variable with dimensions

#as [channel,height,width]

inp=p/255
```

As mentioned in above figure for OCR model, access the file from system, perform the preprocessing before feeding into the neural network. The pre-processing steps should be the same from that did during training. Steps are shown for the time series model below.

```
#perform modifications according to the dataset from here onwards
#read the image, if any other form of data is to be used, modify accordingly
p=data.reshape(1,1)
[x,y]=p.shape
p=p.reshape(1,x,y)
inp=p # finally the input is given to inp variable
#Don't modify anything from this part onwards....
itr+=1 #don't modify this variable
for idx in reage(lan(model layers));
```

Finally, save the input value to the variable "inp". It should be a numpy array with dimensions as [channels, height, width] format.

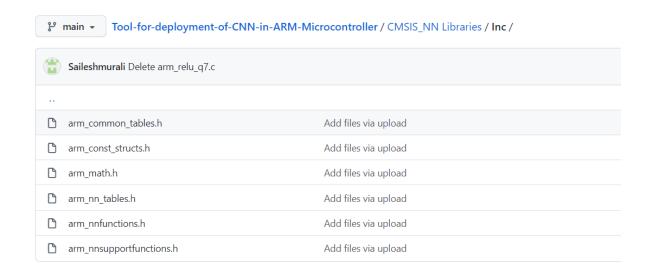
Step 6: File Generation

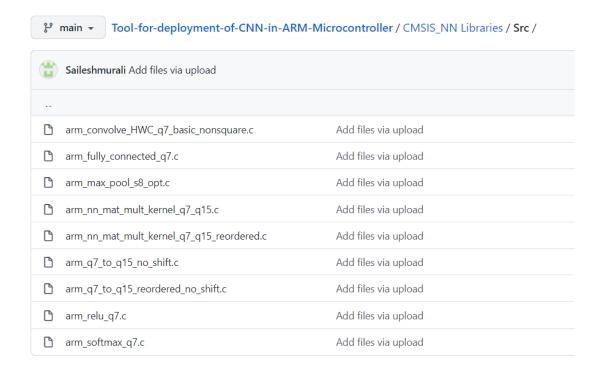
After following till step 5, run the program and the files will be generated in the directory of the python script itself. Copy and paste the .h files generated and put it in the Inc folder as shown below.

ame	Date modified	Туре	Size
arm_common_tables	17-04-2021 13:31	Header file	30 KB
arm_const_structs	17-04-2021 13:31	Header file	4 KB
arm_math	17-04-2021 13:31	Header file	308 KB
arm_nn_tables	17-04-2021 13:31	Header file	2 KB
arm_nnfunctions	17-04-2021 13:31	Header file	114 KB
arm_nnsupportfunctions	17-04-2021 13:31	Header file	36 KB
conv1	09-12-2021 14:17	Header file	2 KB
conv2	09-12-2021 14:17	Header file	52 KB
FC1	09-12-2021 14:17	Header file	151 KB
main	03-12-2021 00:17	Header file	2 KB
max_pooling1	09-12-2021 14:17	Header file	1 KB
max_pooling2	09-12-2021 14:17	Header file	1 KB
stm32f4xx_hal_conf	03-12-2021 00:17	Header file	20 KB
stm32f4xx_it	03-12-2021 00:17	Header file	2 KB

Inference.c fill will be generated which contains the inference function. Paste it in the main.c file of your program and call the function to make the inference.

Also add the required .h and .c files which are needed to run the inference code. They are available in the repository under "CMSIS_NN Libraries" folder.





Add all the files given in the repository to the IDE. Header files should be added in Inc folder and .c files in Src folder.

All the steps mentioned are general and should be common for all IDEs. After doing all the mentioned things, you'll be ready to use the neural network in the Cortex M microcontroller.

Step 7: Using the inference code generated

The input to the inference engine in C should be in q7 format. In this step, we'll guide you on how to convert your input data which can be in floating point or other formats into q7. In the

header files generated, there will be a variable sa0 declared in the first layer's corresponding file. For the sine model, since the first layer is Fully connected, it will be in FC1.h file and for OCR model, it will be in conv1.h model.

The variable can be seen in above screenshot.

To quantize the input, you just have to multiply the entire input array by the sa0 variable and round off the result. The screenshot below is for quantizing the sine model's input. If the size of input is more than 1, the entire array has to be multiplied and rounded off as shown below. Here, since the input size is 1, only one index is quantized. Quantizing the input is necessary to get correct result.

```
void inference_find(void)
{
    data[0]=round(6.28*sa0);
    arm_fully_connected_q7(data,wf_arm_relu_q7(buffer2,IP1_OUT_DINarm_fully_connected_q7(buffer2)
```

Step 8: Understanding Variables

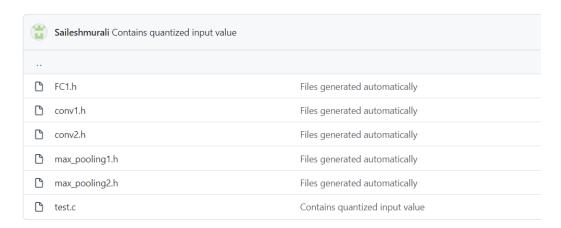
The variables used, their data types and what their size should be will be mentioned in the inference.c file generated in comments. Follow it accordingly.

The input variable is data and steps on how to quantize the input is mentioned in previous step. The output will be in SOFT_OUT variable if the last layer has softmax activation. Else, it will be in FC_OUT variable.

Conclusion

As mentioned before, for reference quantized model for sin(x) prediction and OCR prediction along with test images are given along with the python code to perform the automatic code

generation and quantization. Also, a main.c with working and tested code are given both models and the header files containing quantized bias and weights are given in "generated files directory"



This is the files for OCR model. Add header files in Inc file of IDE. The test.c file contains quantized input.

Feel free to test it and see the output.

OCR Model:

The Optical Character Recognition Model is trained to recognize 20 by 20 grayscale images for 0-9 digit and A-Z alphabets, giving a total of 36 classes. A sample image is given below.



The input provided in the sample C code is obtained by following way.

data = (image/255) * sa0. This is the way to perform quantization for input. You can also run the input_generate_OCR.py file available in the github and give image file as input to generate quantized input (13th line to be modified).

This program will generate a test.c file which has the variable "data" with quantized input values, which should be then fed into the CMSIS API as input to the 1st convolution layer.

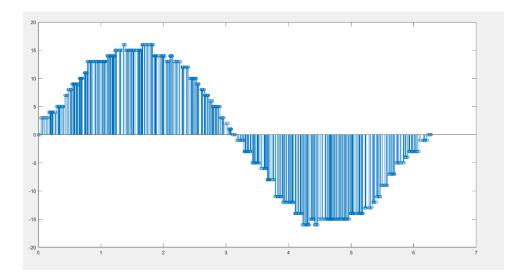
In the reference C code given, the class will be saved in the variable "predict" after the inference is completed.

```
arm_iuity_connected_q/(builers,wi_i,iPi_in_birs,iPi_birs,iPi_birs,iPi_oui_kSnIFI,bi_i,rc_oui,buileri,
    arm_softmax_q7(FC_OUT,IP1_OUT_DIM,SOFT_OUT);
char class[]={'0','1','2','3','4','5','6','7','8','9','A','B','C','D','H','K','N','R','U','Y','E','P','S','X','F',
int max_fout=SOFT_OUT[0];
loc=0;
    for(int i=0; i<IP1_OUT_DIM;i++){
        if(SOFT_OUT[i]>max_fout)
        {
            max_fout=SOFT_OUT[i];
            loc=i;
        }
    }
predict=class[loc];
}
```

Sine Model:

This is a time series model that takes one input X. The model then predicts the output as $\sin(X)$. The input ranges from -2*pi to +2*pi. From the link https://github.com/kskumaree/Tool-for-deployment-of-CNN-in-ARM-Microcontroller/tree/main/Sine%20Model run the sine_model_quantize.py file to generate the related C files and then run them to get the output. To give input, select any floating-point number in the range, and multiply it by sa0 variable.

For one cycle, the output produced by the quantized model in C is plotted below. This verifies the validity of the framework.



We hope that this proposed framework helps you to deploy neural networks in microcontroller easily.