

# Lecture 14: CNNs I – Architectures

Yujiao Shi SIST, ShanghaiTech Spring, 2025





- Why Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)?
  - Motivation and overview
- What is the CNN?
  - □ Convolution layers & model complexity
  - Closer look at activation functions
  - □ Pooling layers & model complexity
  - Math properties
- Examples of CNNs

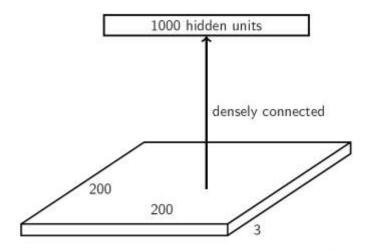
Acknowledgement: Roger Grosse @UofT & Feifei Li's cs231n notes



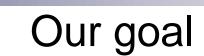
## **Motivation**



- Visual recognition
  - □ Suppose we aim to train a network that takes a 200x200 RGB image as input



- □ What is the problem with have full connections in the first layer?
  - Too many parameters! 200x200x3x1000 = 120 million
  - What happens if the object in the image shifts a little?



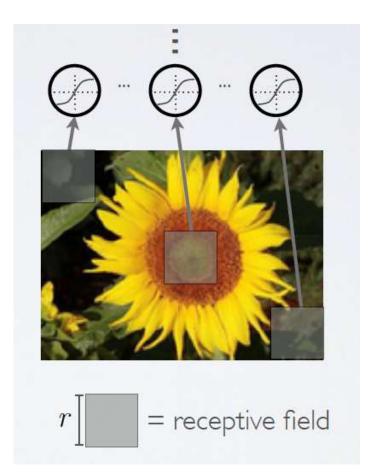


- Visual Recognition: Design a neural network that
  - ☐ Much deal with very high-dimensional inputs
  - ☐ Can exploit the 2D topology of pixels in images
  - ☐ Can build in invariance/equivariance to certain variations we can expect
    - Translation, small deformations, illumination, etc.
- Convolution networks leverage these ideas
  - □ Local connectivity
  - Parameter sharing
  - □ Pooling/subsampling hidden units





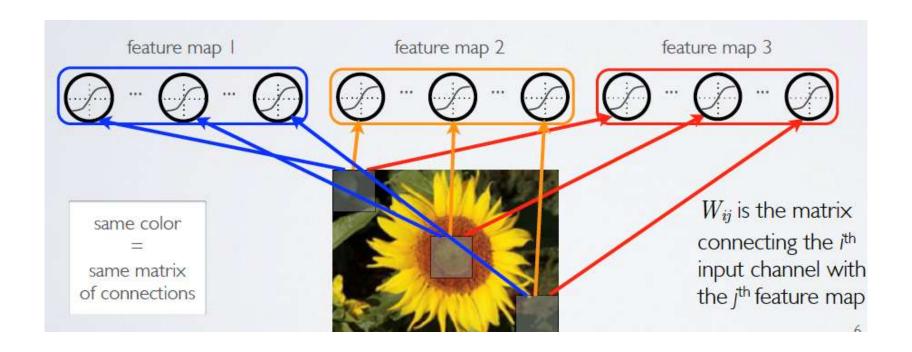
- First idea: Use a local connectivity of hidden units
  - □ Each hidden unit is connected only to a subregion (patch) of the input image
  - ☐ Usually it is connected to all channels
  - □ Each neuron has a local receptive field







- Second idea: share weights across certain units
  - □ Units organized into the same "feature map" share weight parameters
  - ☐ Hidden units within a feature map cover different positions in the image

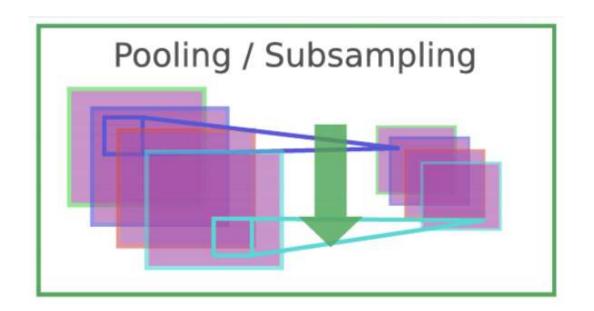




## Overview of CNNs



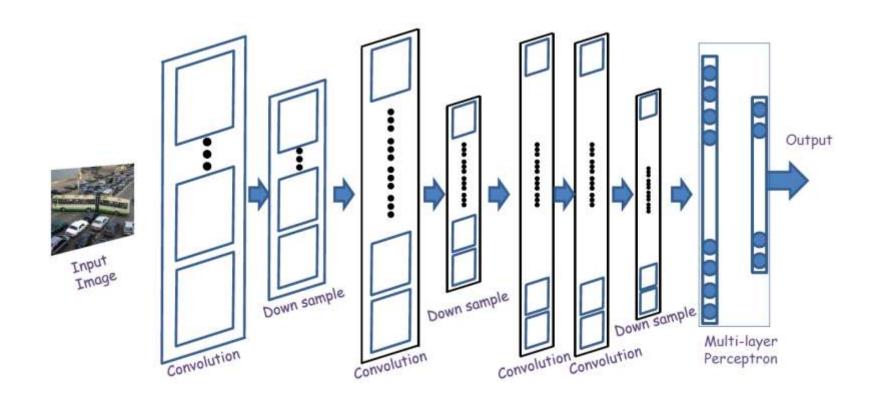
- Third idea: pool hidden units in the same neighborhood
  - ☐ Averaging or Discarding location information in a small region
  - □ Robust toward small deformations in object shapes by ignoring details.







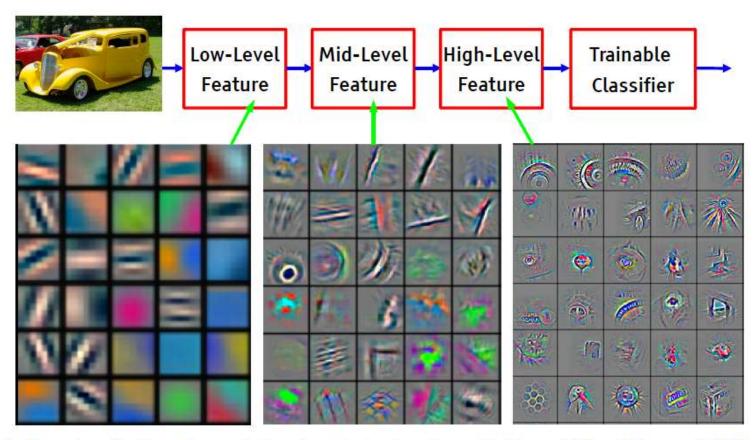
- Fourth idea: Interleaving feature extraction and pooling operations
  - □ Extracting abstract, compositional features for representing semantic object classes



## Overview of CNNs



Artificial visual pathway: from images to semantic concepts (Representation learning)



Feature visualization of convolutional net trained on ImageNet from [Zeiler & Fergus 2013]



## **Outline**



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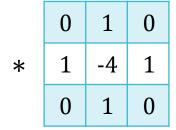
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- Images can be represented as matrices, where each element corresponds to a pixel
- A filter is just a small matrix that is convolved with same-sized sections of the image matrix

0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	2	2	1	0
0	2	4	4	2	0
0	1	3	3	1	0
0	1	2	3	1	0
0	0	1	1	0	0





- Images can be represented as matrices, where each element corresponds to a pixel
- A filter is just a small matrix that is convolved with same-sized sections of the image matrix

0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	2	2	1	0
0	2	4	4	2	0
0	1	3	3	1	0
0	1	2	3	1	0
0	0	1	1	0	0

$$(0*0) + (0*1) + (0*0) + (0*1) + (1*-4) + (2*1) + (0*0) + (2*1) + (4*0) = 0$$



- Images can be represented as matrices, where each element corresponds to a pixel
- A filter is just a small matrix that is convolved with same-sized sections of the image matrix

0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	2	2	1	0
0	2	4	4	2	0
0	1	3	3	1	0
0	1	2	3	1	0
0	0	1	1	0	0

	_	_	_		0	-1	
	0	1	0				
*	1	-4	1	=			
	0	1	0				
'							

$$(0*0) + (0*1) + (0*0) + (1*1) + (2*-4) + (2*1) + (2*0) + (4*1) + (4*0) = -1$$



- Images can be represented as matrices, where each element corresponds to a pixel
- A filter is just a small matrix that is convolved with same-sized sections
  of the image matrix

0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	2	2	1	0
0	2	4	4	2	0
0	1	3	3	1	0
0	1	2	3	1	0
0	0	1	1	0	0

	Λ	1	Λ		0	-1	-1	0
	0	1	0		-2	-5	-5	-2
*	1	-4	1	=	2	-2	-1	3
	0	1	0		1			0
					-1	U	-5	U

Convolutional Filters

上海科技大学 ration Kernel ω Image result g(x,y)

Operation	Kernel ω	Image result g(x,y)
Identity	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	
	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$	
Edge detection	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -4 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	
	$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 8 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$	





### Poll Question 1:

What effect do you think the following filter will have on an image?

- A. Sharpen the image
- B. Blur the image
- C. Shift the image left
- D. Rotate the image clockwise
- E. Nothing (TOXIC)

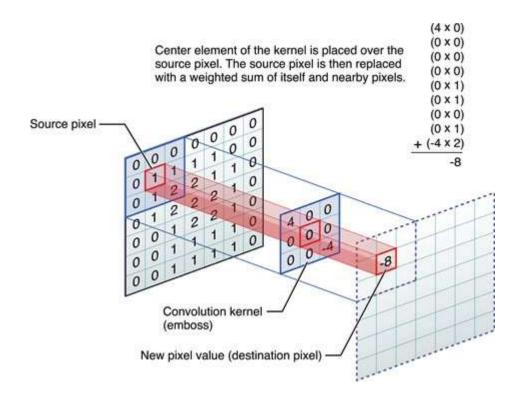
$$\frac{1}{9} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



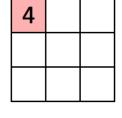


Operation	Kernel ω	Image result g(x,y)
Identity	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	
Sharpen	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 5 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	
Box blur (normalized)	$\frac{1}{9} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$	





1,	1,0	1,	0	0
<b>0</b> <sub>×0</sub>	<b>1</b> <sub>×1</sub>	1,0	1	0
<b>0</b> <sub>×1</sub>	0,×0	1,	1	1
0	0	1	1	0
0	1	1	0	0



Image

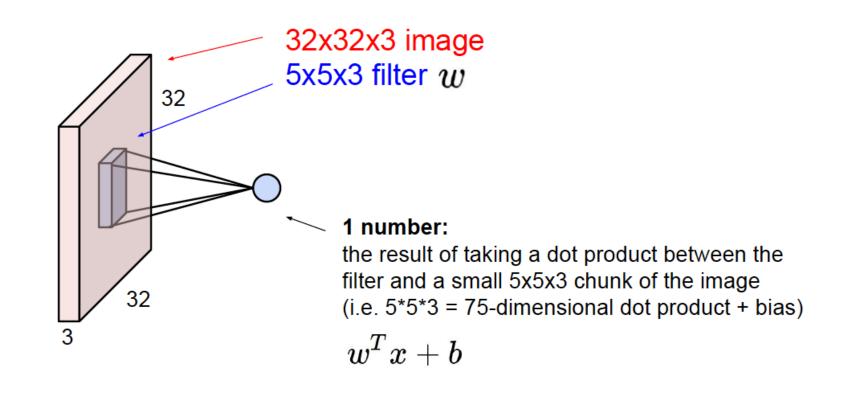
Convolved Feature

Picture Courtesy: developer.apple.com





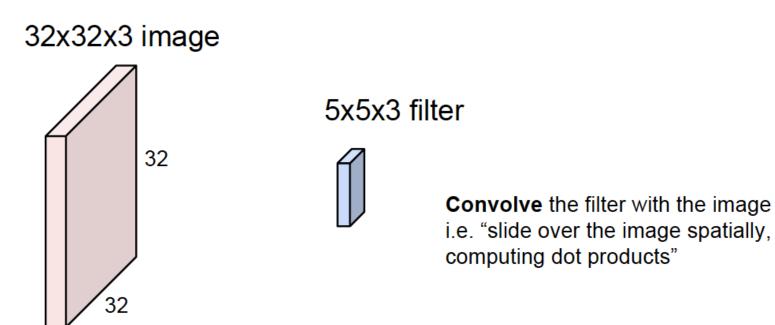
#### Formal definition







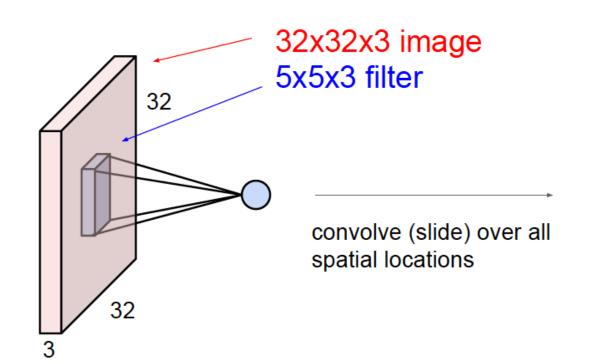
Define a neuron corresponding to a 5x5 filter



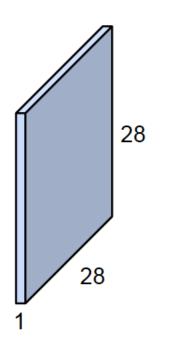




- Convolution operation
  - □ Parameter sharing
  - ☐ Spatial information



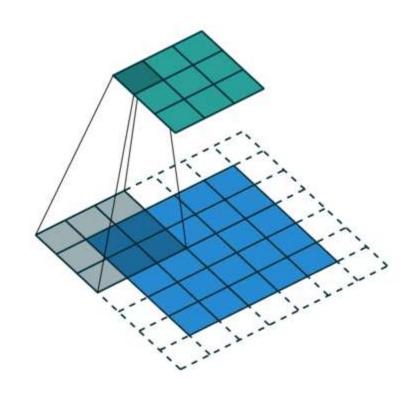
#### activation map







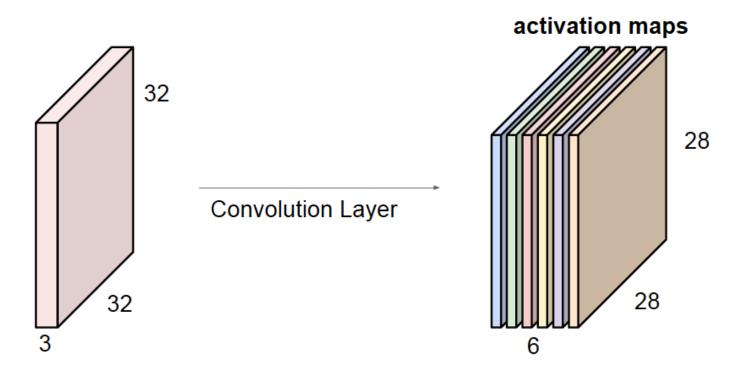
- Convolution operation
  - □ Parameter sharing
  - ☐ Spatial information





### Multiple kernels/filters

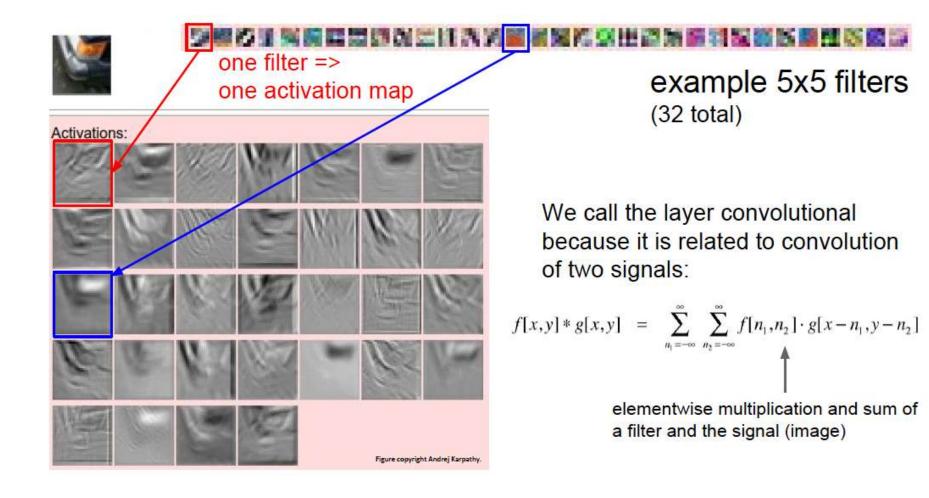
For example, if we had 6 5x5 filters, we'll get 6 separate activation maps:



We stack these up to get a "new image" of size 28x28x6!



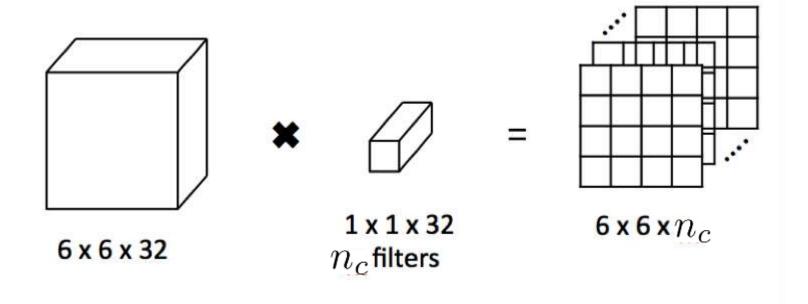
Visualizing the filters and their outputs







- 1x1 convolutions
  - ☐ Used in Network-in-network, GoogleNet
  - □ Reduce or increase dimensionality
  - □ Can be considered as 'feature pooling"

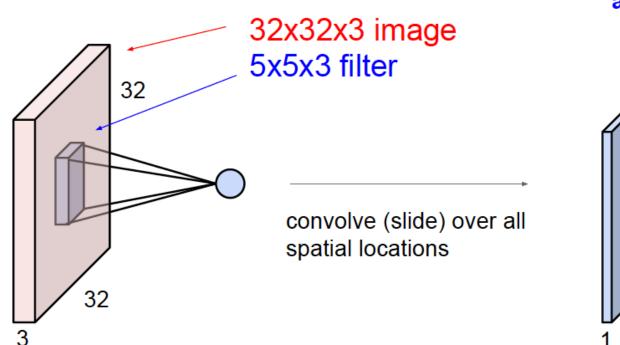


# C

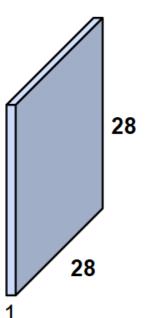
# Complexity of Convolution Layers 上海科技大学

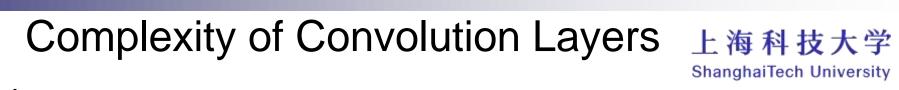


Sizes of activation maps and number of parameters



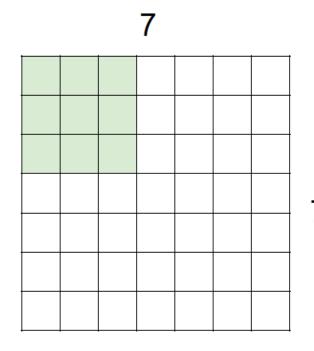








Size of activation maps

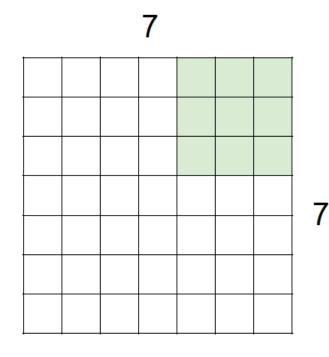


7x7 input (spatially) assume 3x3 filter





Size of activation maps



7x7 input (spatially) assume 3x3 filter

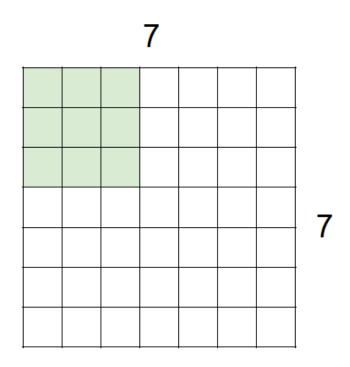
=> 5x5 output



# Complexity of Convolution Layers 上海科技大学



Case: Stride > 1

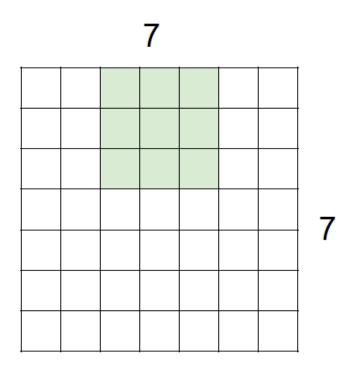


7x7 input (spatially) assume 3x3 filter applied with stride 2





Case: Stride > 1

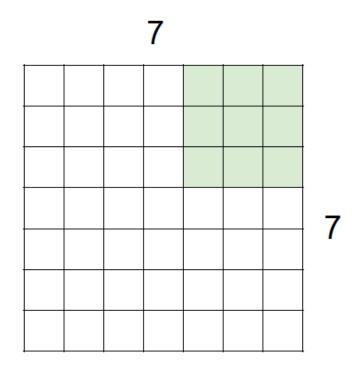


7x7 input (spatially) assume 3x3 filter applied with stride 2





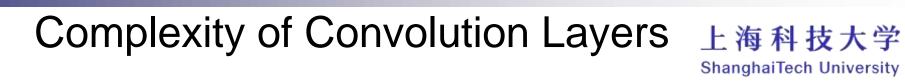
Case: Stride > 1



7x7 input (spatially) assume 3x3 filter applied with stride 2 => 3x3 output!

Output size:

(N-F)/stride + 1





Zero padding to handle non-integer cases or control the output sizes

0	0	0	0	0	0		
0							
0							
0							
0							

```
e.g. input 7x7
3x3 filter, applied with stride 1
pad with 1 pixel border => what is the output?
```

7x7 output!





Zero padding to handle non-integer cases or control the output sizes

0	0	0	0	0	0		
0							
0							
0							
0							

e.g. input 7x7
3x3 filter, applied with stride 1
pad with 1 pixel border => what is the output?

#### 7x7 output!

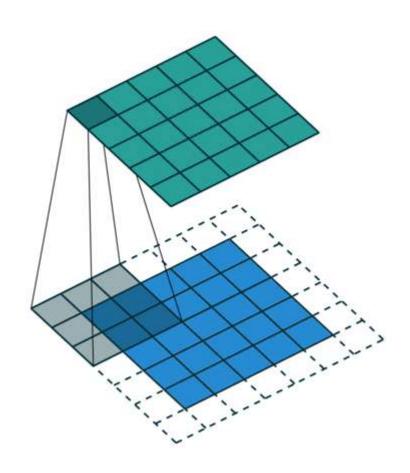
in general, common to see CONV layers with stride 1, filters of size FxF, and zero-padding with (F-1)/2. (will preserve size spatially)

```
e.g. F = 3 => zero pad with 1
F = 5 => zero pad with 2
F = 7 => zero pad with 3
```

# Complexity of Convolution Layers 上海科技大学 Shanghai Tech University



Zero padding to handle non-integer cases or control the output sizes



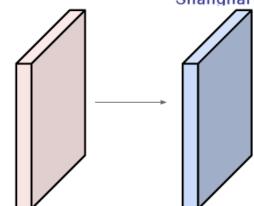




## Examples time:

Input volume: 32x32x3

10 5x5 filters with stride 1, pad 2



Output volume size:

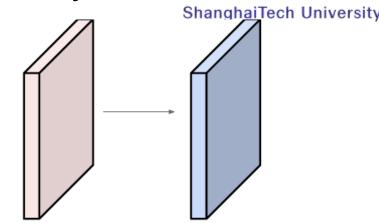
$$(32+2*2-5)/1+1 = 32$$
 spatially, so  $32x32x10$ 

# Complexity of Convolution Layers 上海科技大学

Examples time:

Input volume: 32x32x3

10 5x5 filters with stride 1, pad 2



Number of parameters in this layer? each filter has 5\*5\*3 + 1 = 76 params (+1 for bias) => 76\*10 = **760** 

# Complexity of Convolution Layers 上海科技大学 ShanghaiTech University



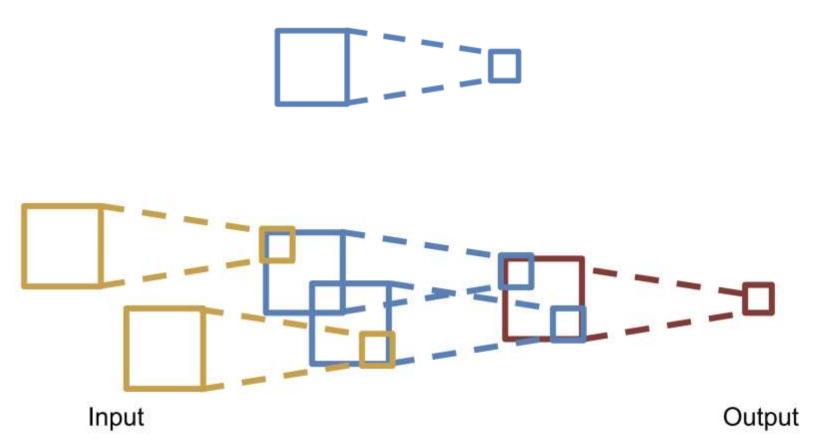
#### Summary

- Accepts a volume of size  $W_1 \times H_1 \times D_1$
- Requires four hyperparameters:
  - Number of filters K.
  - their spatial extent F,
  - the stride S.
  - the amount of zero padding P.
- Produces a volume of size  $W_2 \times H_2 \times D_2$  where:
  - $W_2 = (W_1 F + 2P)/S + 1$
  - $\circ H_2 = (H_1 F + 2P)/S + 1$  (i.e. width and height are computed equally by symmetry)
  - $\circ D_2 = K$
- With parameter sharing, it introduces  $F \cdot F \cdot D_1$  weights per filter, for a total of  $(F \cdot F \cdot D_1) \cdot K$  weights and K biases.
- In the output volume, the d-th depth slice (of size  $W_2 imes H_2$ ) is the result of performing a valid convolution of the d-th filter over the input volume with a stride of S, and then offset by d-th bias.





For convolution with kernel size K, each element in the output depends on a K x K receptive field in the input



## Outline



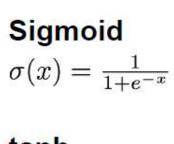
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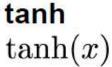
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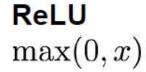
## **Review: Activation Function**

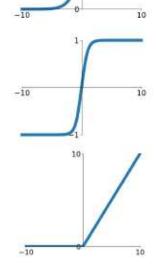


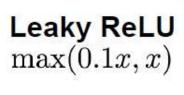
Zoo of Activation functions

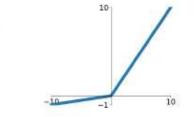






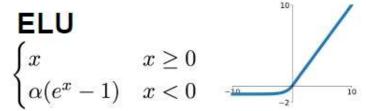






# Maxout

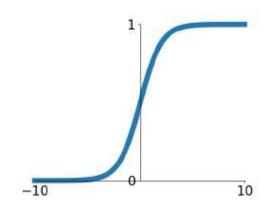
$$\max(w_1^T x + b_1, w_2^T x + b_2)$$



# Sigmoid function







**Sigmoid** 

$$\sigma(x)=1/(1+e^{-x})$$

- Squashes numbers to range [0,1]
- Historically popular since they have nice interpretation as a saturating "firing rate" of a neuron

#### 3 problems:

- Saturated neurons "kill" the gradients
- Sigmoid outputs are not zero-centered
- 3. exp() is a bit compute expensive

# Sigmoid function



Consider what happens when the input to a neuron is

always positive...

$$f\left(\sum_i w_i x_i + b\right)$$

allowed gradient update directions

hypothetical optimal w

vector

zig zag path

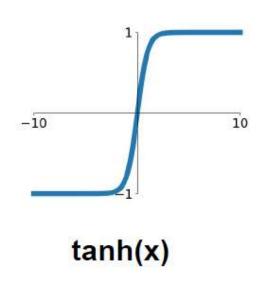
allowed gradient update directions

What can we say about the gradients on w? Always all positive or all negative :(

(this is also why you want zero-mean data!)

## Tanh function





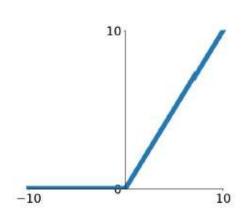
- Squashes numbers to range [-1,1]
- zero centered (nice)
- still kills gradients when saturated :(

[LeCun et al., 1991]

Recurrent neural networks: LSTM, GRU

### **Rectified Linear Unit**





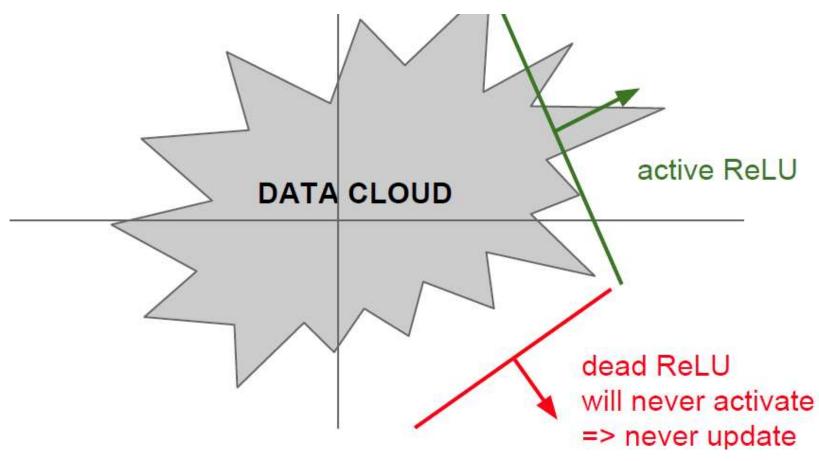
ReLU (Rectified Linear Unit)

- Computes f(x) = max(0,x)
- Does not saturate (in +region)
- Very computationally efficient
- Converges much faster than sigmoid/tanh in practice (e.g. 6x)
- Actually more biologically plausible than sigmoid
- Not zero-centered output
- An annoyance:

hint: what is the gradient when x < 0?

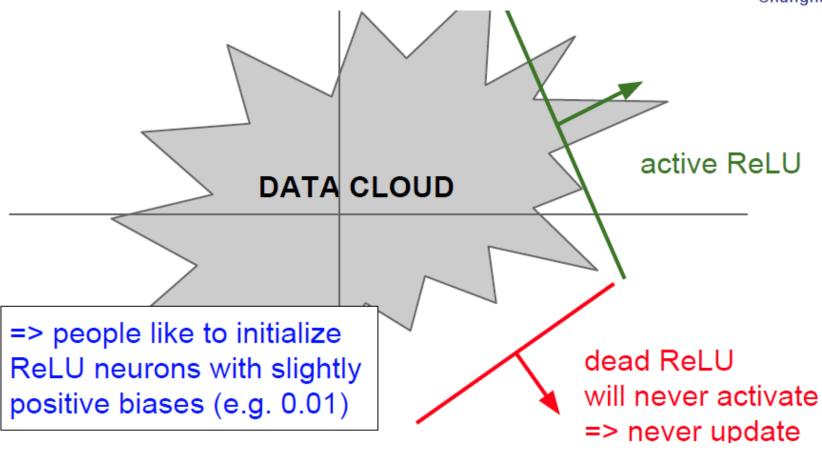
## **Rectified Linear Unit**





## **Rectified Linear Unit**



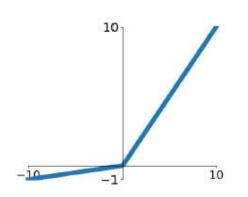


# Leaky ReLU



#### **Activation Functions**

[Mass et al., 2013] [He et al., 2015]



- Does not saturate
- Computationally efficient
- Converges much faster than sigmoid/tanh in practice! (e.g. 6x)
- will not "die".

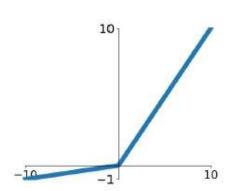
#### Leaky ReLU

$$f(x) = \max(0.01x, x)$$

# Leaky ReLU



#### **Activation Functions**



#### Leaky ReLU

$$f(x) = \max(0.01x, x)$$

[Mass et al., 2013] [He et al., 2015]

- Does not saturate
- Computationally efficient
- Converges much faster than sigmoid/tanh in practice! (e.g. 6x)
- will not "die".

#### Parametric Rectifier (PReLU)

$$f(x) = \max(\alpha x, x)$$

backprop into \alpha (parameter)

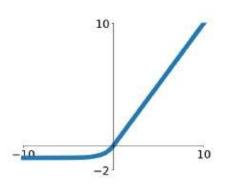
# Exponential Linear Units (ELU)



#### **Activation Functions**

[Clevert et al., 2015]

#### **Exponential Linear Units (ELU)**



$$f(x) \, = \, \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x > 0 \\ \alpha \, (\exp(x) - 1) & \text{if } x \leq 0 \end{cases} \quad \text{- Computation requires exp()}$$

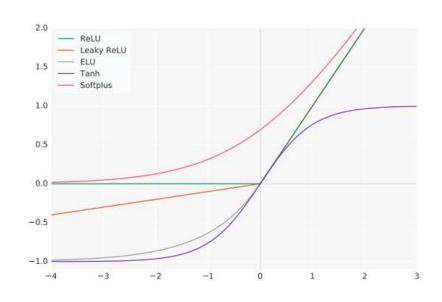
- All benefits of ReLU
- Closer to zero mean outputs
- Negative saturation regime compared with Leaky ReLU adds some robustness to noise



# Summary: Activation function



- For internal layers in CNNs
  - Use ReLU. Be careful with your learning rates
  - Try out Leaky ReLU / Maxout / ELU
  - Try out tanh but don't expect much
  - Don't use sigmoid
- For output layers
  - □ Task dependent
  - □ Related to your loss function



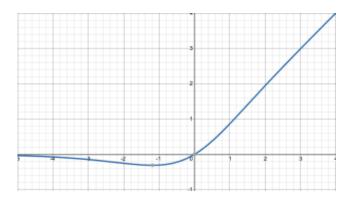
# Summary: Activation function



Recent progresses

■ Mish

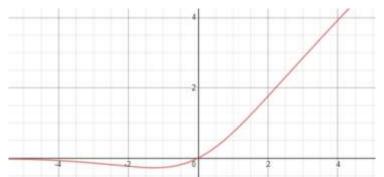
$$f(x) = x \cdot \tanh(\varsigma(x)), \varsigma(x) = \ln(1 + e^x),$$



☐ Swish

$$f(x) = x * (1 + \exp(-x))^{-1}$$

https://arxiv.org/abs/1908.08681





### **Outline**



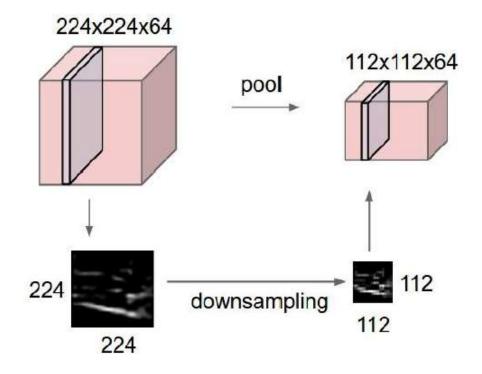
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- Reducing the spatial size of the feature maps
  - □ Smaller representations
  - □ On each activation map independently
  - Low resolution means fewer details

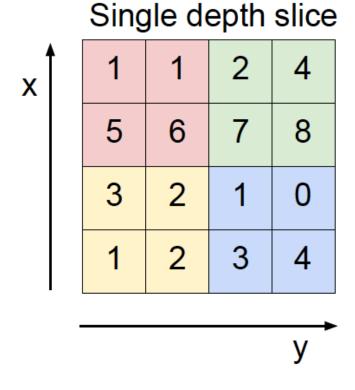




# **Pooling Layers**



- Example: max pooling
- Spatial invariance; no learnable parameters!



max pool with 2x2 filters and stride 2

6	8
3	4



• Only apply the convolution to some subset of the image e.g., every other column and row = a *stride* of 2

Downsampling:
Stride

0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	2	2	1	0
0	2	4	4	2	0
0	1	3	3	1	0
0	1	2	3	1	0
0	0	1	1	0	0

				2	
	0	1		-2	
*	U	_			
<b>~</b>	1	2	_		
	T	-2			
,					



• Only apply the convolution to some subset of the image e.g., every other column and row = a *stride* of 2

Downsampling:
Stride

0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	2	2	1	0
0	2	4	4	2	0
0	1	3	3	1	0
0	1	2	3	1	0
0	0	1	1	0	0



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0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	2	2	1	0
0	2	4	4	2	0
0	1	3	3	1	0
0	1	2	3	1	0
0	0	1	1	0	0

				2	-2	1
	0	1		-2	-2	1
*	U	1	_			
<b>T</b>	1	-2				
	1					



• Only apply the convolution to some subset of the image e.g., every other column and row = a *stride* of 2

# Downsampling: Stride

0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	2	2	1	0
0	2	4	4	2	0
0	1	3	3	1	0
0	1	2	3	1	0
0	0	1	1	0	0



Only apply the convolution to some subset of the image
 e.g., every other column and row = a stride of 2

0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	2	2	1	0
0	2	4	4	2	0
0	1	3	3	1	0
0	1	2	3	1	0
0	0	1	1	0	0

Downsampling:

Stride

- Reduces the dimensionality of the input to subsequent layers and thus, the number of weights to be learned
- Many relevant macro-features will tend to span large portions of the image, so taking strides with the convolution tends not to miss out on too much

# Complexity of Pooling Layers



#### Summary

- Accepts a volume of size  $W_1 imes H_1 imes D_1$
- · Requires three hyperparameters:
  - their spatial extent F,
  - the stride S,
- Produces a volume of size  $W_2 imes H_2 imes D_2$  where:

$$W_2 = (W_1 - F)/S + 1$$

$$H_2 = (H_1 - F)/S + 1$$

$$Ooldsymbol{0} O D_2 = D_1$$

- Introduces zero parameters since it computes a fixed function of the input
- Note that it is not common to use zero-padding for Pooling layers

## Outline



- Why Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)?
  - Motivation and overview
- What is the CNN?
  - □ Convolution layers & model complexity
  - ☐ Closer look at activation functions
  - ☐ Pooling layers & model complexity
  - Math properties
- Examples of CNNs

Acknowledgement: Roger Grosse @UofT & Feifei Li's cs231n notes





- What representations a CNN can capture in general?
- lacktriangle Consider a representation  $\phi$  as an abstract function

$$\phi: \mathbf{x} \to \phi(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

- We want to look at how the representation changes upon transformations of input image.
  - Transformations represent the potential variations in the natural images
  - □ Translation, scale change, rotation, local deformation etc.





- Two key properties of representations
  - □ Equivariance

A representation  $\phi$  is equivariant with a transformation g if the transformation can be transferred to the representation output.

$$\exists$$
 a map  $M_g : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}^d$  such that:  
 $\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X} : \phi(g\mathbf{x}) \approx M_g \phi(\mathbf{x})$ 

□ Example: convolution w.r.t. translation





- Two key properties of representations
  - □ Invariance

A representation  $\phi$  is invariant with a transformation g if the transformation has no effect on the representation output.

$$\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X} : \phi(g\mathbf{x}) \approx \phi(\mathbf{x})$$

Example: convolution+pooling+FC w.r.t. translation







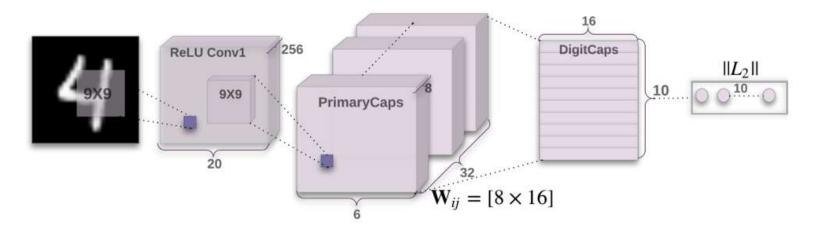
- Recent results on convolution layers
  - □ Convolutions are equivariant to translation
  - □ Convolutions are not equivariant to other isometries of the sampling lattice, e.g., rotation



- □ What if a CNN learns rotated copies of the same filter?
  - The stack of feature maps is equivariant to rotation.



- Recent results on convolution layers
  - □ Ordinary CNNs can be generalized to Group Equivariant
     Networks (Cohen and Welling ICML'16, Kondor and Trivedi ICML'18)
    - Redefining the convolution and pooling operations
    - Equivariant to more general transformation from some group G
  - □ Replacing pooling by other network designs
    - Capsule network (Sabour et al, 2017) https://arxiv.org/abs/1710.09829



## Outline



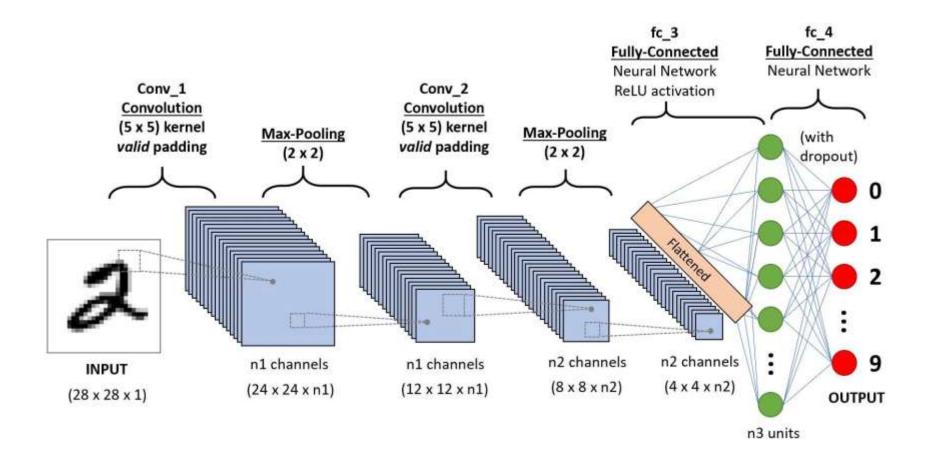
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## LeNet-5



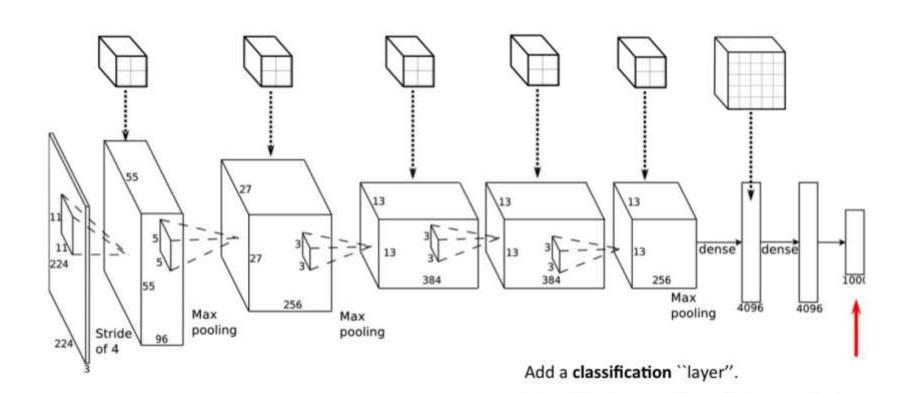
Handwritten digit recognition



## **AlexNet**



Deeper network structure



dimension of this vector tells you the probability of the corresponding object class.

For an input image, the value in a particular