THE COOPER UNION ALBERT NERKEN SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

A Deep Partitioned Autoencoder for De-Noising Live Audio

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This thesis was prepared under the direction of the Candidate's Thesis Advisor and has received approval. It was submitted to the Dean of the School of Engineering and the full Faculty, and was approved as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Engineering.

> Dean, School of Engineering Date

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Abstract

Contents

1	Inti	roduction				
2	Background					
	2.1	Machi	ne Learn	ing Overview		
	2.2	Neural	l Networl	KS		
		2.2.1	Neural	networks as computational graphs		
		2.2.2		onnected neural networks		
		2.2.3	Convoit	ntional neural networks		
		2.2.4	Convolu	ntions with holes		
		2.2.5	Tranpos	sed convolutions		
		2.2.6	Additio	nal techniques		
			2.2.6.1	Dropout		
			2.2.6.2	Batch normalization		
			2.2.6.3	Rectified linear units		
			2.2.6.4	Exponential linear units		
			2.2.6.5	Residual networks		
			2.2.6.6	Minibatch training		
			2.2.6.7			
			2.2.0.7	Intelligent parameter initialization		
			2.2.6.8	ADAM optimizer		
			2.2.6.9	Style loss		
	2.3	Genera	ative Mo	dels		
	2.0					
		2.3.1	Generat	ive models at large		
		2.3.2	Generat	ive adversarial networks		
		2.3.3	Deep co	onvolutional generative adversarial newtorks .		
			-	Ŭ		
		2.3.4		nal techniques for traning generative adversarians		
3	Sys	tem De	escriptio	on		
	3.1		-	e matching		
	3.2			noment matching		
	0.2	rvernet	r based M	ioment matching		

270 271	3.3	Convolutions with holes	3
272	3.4	Style Loss term	2
273	0.1	Duyle Hoss term	,
274			
275			
276			
277			
278			
279			
280			
281			
282			
283			
284			
285			
286			
287			
288			
289			
290			
291			
292			
293			
294			
295			
296			
297			
298			
299			
300			
301			
302			
303			
304			
305			
306			
307			
308			
309			
310			
311			
312			
313			
314			
315			
316			
317			
318			
319			
320			
321			
322			
323			

List of Figures

Table of Nomenclature

1 Introduction

Advances in smartphone technology have led to smaller devices with more powerful audio hardware, allowing for common consumers to make higher quality recordings. However, recorded speech and music are subject to noisy conditions, often hampering intelligibility and listenability. The goal of denoising audio recordings is to improve intelligibility and perceived quality. A variety of applications of audio denoising exist, including listening to a recording of a band or an artist's live performance in a noisy crowd, or listening to a recorded conversation or speech under noisy conditions.

A common technique for denoising involves the use of deep neural networks (DNN). [PARIS] Advances in parallel graphics processing units (GPU) and in machine learning algorithms have allowed for training deeper networks faster, utilizing more hidden layers with more neurons.

Prior work in denoising audio has involved access to noise-free training data. Since common consumers do not often have access to clean audio, we seek to denoise without the use of clean audio.

In this thesis, we compare several neural network architectures and problem scenarios, ranging from data input types, level of noise, depth of network, training objectives, and more. In Chapter 2, we present background information on machine learning and neural networks as well as prior work in audio denoising. In Chapter 3, we detail all considered network architectures. In Chapter 4, we compare results from different data inputs, levels of noise, network architectures, and training objectives and discuss methods of evaluation. Finally, we make conclusions and recommendations for future work in Chapter

5.

2 Background

- 2.1 Machine Learning Overview
- 2.1.1 Classification and Regression
- 2.1.2 Supervised and Unsupervised Learning
- 2.1.3 Overfitting and Curse of Dimensionality
- 2.1.4 Loss functions and Regularization
- 2.1.5 Gradient Stuff?
- 2.2 Neural Networks
- 2.2.1 Dense Layer
- 2.2.2 Convolutional Layer
- 2.2.3 Nonlinearity Choice
- 3 System Description