Read Digits from Natural Images using Convolutional Neural Network

Ramesh Kumar Roberto Cai Wu November 3, 2017

Motivation

- This is a optical character recognition (OCR) problem
- Digit recognition is used in various applications such as postal mail sorting, bank check processing, form data entry, etc
- Digit recognition is an important component of modern-day map making [1]

Problem Description

- The task is to read digits from natural images
- We use the Street View House Numbers dataset [2], which consists of real-word images taken from house numbers
- We use convolutional neural networks(CNN) for fast processing, accuracy and speed

Challenges

- Wide variability of visual appearance of text: fonts, colors, and orientations [1]
- Different environmental factors: lightning, shadows, and occlusions [1]
- Image acquisition factors: motion, blurring, and resolution [1]

Methodology

- Load and Interpret DataSet(done)
- Pre-processing(started)
- Convolutional Neural Network(started reading)
- Post-processing(yet to start)

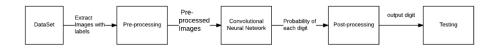


Figure: Block Diagram of System

The Street View House Number Dataset [2]

- 10 classes, 1 for each digit
- Digit 1 has label 1,9 has label 9, and 0 has label 10
- 73257 digits for training, 26032 digits for testing
- Image are from variable-resolution and color

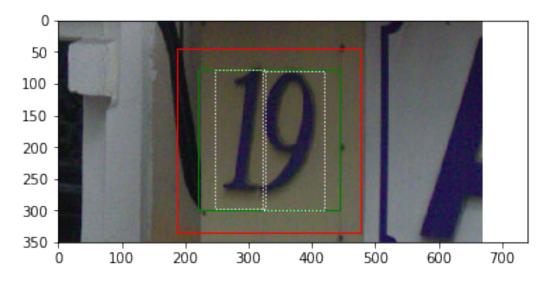
DataSet



 $\textbf{Figure:} \ \, \mathsf{Example images from SVHN \ dataset \ [2]}$

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Pre-processing



 $\textbf{Figure:} \ \ \text{Reading labeled data and generating bounding box}$

Pre-processing







 $\textbf{(b)} \ \mathsf{Gray} \ \mathsf{scale}$



(c) Gaussian blur

Convolutional Neural Network(CNN)

- State-of-the-art shows CNN performs better as compare to other approaches[3]
- Extracts features from the images and classify them
- Three type of layers
 - Convolutional: Extract low-level and high-level features
 - Pooling: Reduce amount of parameters and computations
 - Fully Connected: Neurons are fully connected

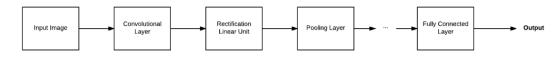


Figure: Basic Architecture of CNN

Post-processing

• Combine digits and show complete output

Testing & Evaluation

- Consider maximum digits in image are 5
- Test the images of digits from live camera under different conditions
- Use validation set from dataset to compute accuracy of model

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In ICPR, pages 3288-3291. IEEE Computer Society, 2012.

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