

Machine Learning Engineer Nanodegree

Capstone Project

Benjamin Rouillé d'Orfeuil

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I. Definition

Project Overview

[Yelp](#) is a social networking site that publishes crowd-sourced reviews about local businesses. About two years ago, Yelp challenged Machine Learning practitioners to build a model that automatically tags restaurants with multiple labels using a dataset of user-submitted photographs. The goal of this project is to develop such a model.

The competition was hosted by [Kaggle](#), a platform where data scientists use their skills to produce the best models for predicting and describing datasets uploaded by companies and users. The various datasets and inputs are accessible via the Yelp Restaurant Photo Classification competition webpage¹. Yelp provides a training dataset (234,842 photographs) and a test dataset (237,152 photographs) for this competition. Each photograph belongs to a business and the task is to predict the business attributes purely from the business photographs. There are 9 different attributes in this problem:

- good for lunch;
- good for dinner;
- takes reservations;
- outdoor seating;
- restaurant is expensive;
- has alcohol;
- has table service;
- ambience is classy;
- good for kids;

and a total of 2,000 (10,000) businesses in the training (test) dataset. Note that the datasets are quite large. Both the training and test archive files have a size of about 7 GB.

Problem Statement

Neural networks have proven to be incredibly efficient at classifying images and often outperform other machine learning algorithms at this task. It comes then as no surprise that deep learning models are used extensively in this project. One now faces two options: i) build and train a deep neural network from scratch or ii) use transfer learning technique². The properties of the dataset such as its size and nature usually dictate the type of approach to adopt.

¹See <https://www.kaggle.com/c/yelp-restaurant-photo-classification>

²Transfer learning is a machine learning technique where a model trained on one task is re-purposed on a second related task.

The dataset used in this project consists in more than 200,000 user-submitted photographs. In other words, it is both large and challenging. For this reason, it would be unrealistic to train a deep neural network model from scratch given the competences as well as the enormous computing and time resources that this task would require. Thereby, transfer learning is used in this project.

II. Analysis

III. Methodology

IV. Results

V. Conclusion