

Machine Learning Models for Segment Object Detection:

TensorFlow Detection Model Zoo

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Introduction

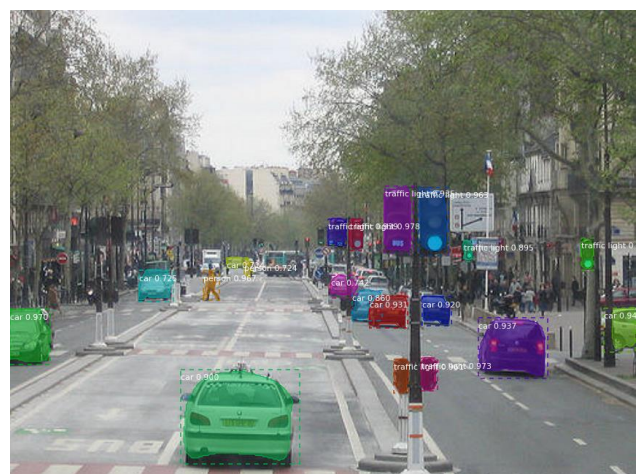
Nowadays machine learning is more and more useful in the field of object detection. However, knowing this truth, there are still many people don't know how to take advantage of the machine learning mathematical knowledge to train their model and predict on the new objects when given several datasets. So, as an opensource library, TensorFlow provides several machine learning models for users to use. These models are API indeed and could work out well as long as users install and utilize them correctly through the guide. They are user friendly and the only thing the users need to do is to make sure that the category they are interested in is already in the datasets provided by the model zoo.

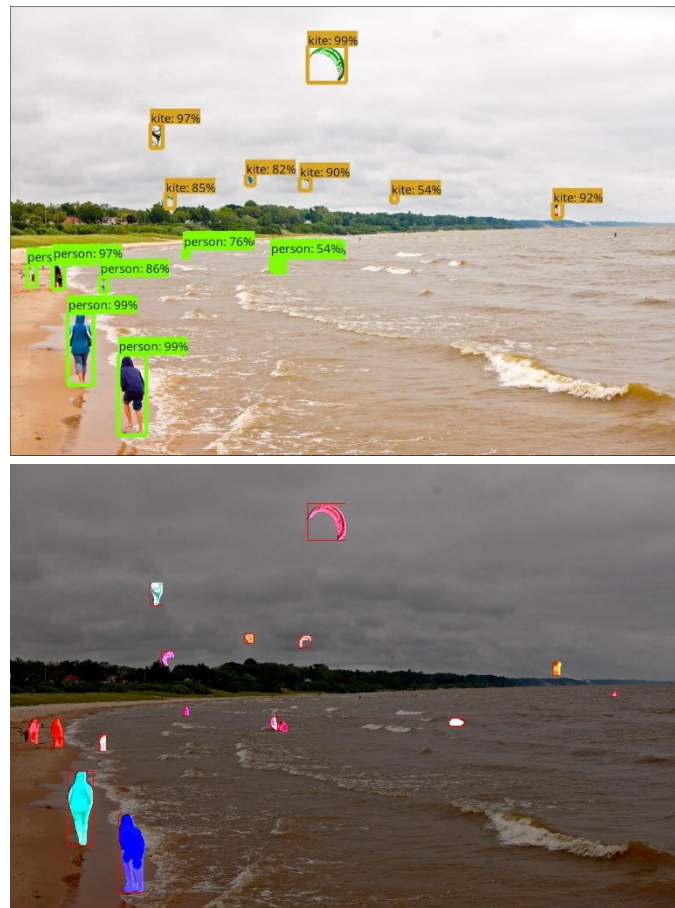
Also, machine learning problems can be various segment. Object segmentation is one extension of the object detection in machine learning problem conditions. In some specific conditions, the simple bounding box is not enough to outline the profile of the object. As an extra mission, we need to segment the object with its specific featured profile once its rough region is detected. Some of the models in the TensorFlow Detection Model Zoo can implement the segmentation and output the profile masks.

Analysis

“We provide a collection of detection models pre-trained on the COCO dataset, the Kitti dataset, the Open Images dataset, the AVA v2.1 dataset and the iNaturalist Species Detection Dataset.”^[1] According to the description provided by Github TensorFlow developer, the main datasets provided by the model zoo cover the COCO dataset which is provided by Microsoft and covers 91 object categories in daily life, KITTI dataset which includes the driving condition object detection, OpenImage dataset which is provided by Google, AVA v2.1 dataset which contains multiple human action images, and iNaturalist Species dataset which includes almost all the species images in nature.

So, for the category we are interested in which is covered by the above dataset, we could simply download these pre-trained models from the TensorFlow model zoo github and run them locally or just run on the jupyter notebook. The API could give out

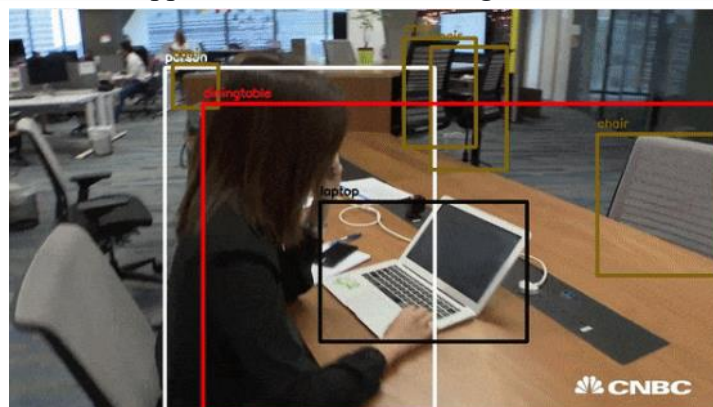




[4]

3. Example: YOLO TensorFlow ++

“TensorFlow implementation of 'YOLO: Real-Time Object Detection', with training and an actual support for real-time running on mobile devices.” [5]





Pros & Cons

Pros:

1. As an opensource API model, the model provided by the TensorFlow Detection Model Zoo are easy to use and run, especially easy on jupyter notebook.
2. Since the datasets that the models pre-trained on are provided by companies like Microsoft and Google who are good at collect big data, thus the datasets can be really big enough for the training. The training and prediction accuracy can be reliable.
3. The datasets cover most of object fields in our daily life and it cannot be difficult to find your interest category in their API.
4. Even instance segmentation could be implemented using mask-rcnn in some specific conditions. Not only the rough bounding box but also the featured segmentation could be shown to the users.

Cons:

1. The hardware condition needs to be considered since the performance of the hardware could directly influence the speed of training and prediction of the model
2. To train an instance segmentation model, a groundtruth mask must be supplied for every groundtruth bounding box. Then this supervised machine learning labelling period can be complex for the users if they want to implement the instance segmentation.

Recommendation

For people who want to use the TensorFlow Object Detection Model Zoo, I have three suggestions:

1. First, make sure that the category or the object types you are interested in is covered in the TensorFlow Detection Model Zoo and then continue your training and prediction following the opensource guideline.
2. Second, be sure to have a python environment to run in and check whether your hardware condition is good enough to hold the training and detection problem of the usage of model. If your hardware condition is not met, you could apply for a cloud computing platform usage or just execute your API on some opensource platforms.

3. Last, according to the description of the TensorFlow Model Zoo, only the mask-rcnn models could output the masks instead of bounding box, which means that at present only mask-rcnn models could do the instance segmentation in this model zoo. So, make sure that you choose the correct model before you install and execute the model. The goal of whether doing the instance segmentation needs to be clarified first before using the system.
4. According to Pirkko Mustamo, there can be something you need to check with your model, “1) Pre-trained model will not work on the data without fine-tuning. 2) Fine-tuned model will work reasonably well on the given data...4) Using more variable training data will improve results on new images.” [6] Thus, maybe sometimes adding some new training images can be necessary.

Conclusion

Generally speaking, TensorFlow Object Detection Model Zoo is quite a good model library for machine learning users. Users could take advantage of the API provided by the zoo and just easily install them following the guide. While users may need to add some new images to the training data to increase the accuracy, the general accuracy of the original pre-trained model is actually enough high. Also, users should make sure their hardware condition and detecting goal meet the features of the model. As a conclusion, using the model from TensorFlow Zoo can really be a nice experience.

Reference

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<https://modelzoo.co/model/mask-r-cnn-keras>
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