Societal Impact of Visual Question Answering

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Application scene

Our project is aimed to develop a model for blind people to acquire some visual information in their daily life. Its main application scene is that when blind people encounter some problems in their daily life, they can use this model to know some visual information. For example, they can know whether there is raining outside by this app and the can know the shelf life of the food by taking a picture.

Another application scene is that it can help online seller to offer AI customer service. With the given poster and commodity picture, AI customer service can answer the question asked by client. It is also useful in some second-hand goods trading platforms, as its commodities vary in types.

Economic Impact

This research would influence some industries that help the blind. They may think the app can replace guide dog in some extent. In fact, this app cannot fully replace the help of others. In most situations it can only help them to recognize visual scene, but it is unable to offer accurate and comprehensive solutions. So as a result, this app would not disrupt the existing industry helping the blind.

Social Impact

The advantage of this app is that it greatly enhances the convenience of the disabled. It offers the blind a way to solve problems by themselves so that they would not have to ask for others’ help anytime.

It also has some risks. While using this app, users have to take a lot of pictures, which may violate someone’s right to privacy. Also, during the uploading process, the server would collect a lot of pictures and information, which is a potential privacy problem.