CNN based efficient image classification system for smartphone device

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Abstract

In our work, we look to classify images that make their way into our smartphone devices through various social-media text-messaging platforms. We aim at classifying images into three broad categories: document-based images, quote-based images, and photographs. People, especially students, share many document-based images that include snapshots of essential emails, handwritten notes, articles, etc. Quote-based images, consisting of birthday wishes, motivational messages, festival greetings, etc., are among the highly shared images on social media platforms. A significant share of images constitutes photographs of people, including group photographs, selfies, portraits, etc. We train various convolutional neural network (CNN) based models on our self-made dataset and compare their results to find our task’s optimum model.

Key Words: Deep Learning, Convolutional Neural Network, Transfer Learning.

1 Introduction

In the current time, a plethora of images get shared across various social media platforms that help us discover other people, new ideas, concepts, and information. Many images make way into our smartphone devices as a result of active participation on such platforms. We have recognized the images to fall broadly under three main categories, namely, document-based images, which consists of snapshots of essential emails, handwritten notes, articles, etc., quote-based images, which includes images of birthday wishes, motivational messages, festival greetings, etc., and photographs, which constitutes of photographs of people, including group photographs, selfies, portraits, etc. We focus on implementing a deep learning-based classification system to automatically group an image into one of the three categories mentioned above.

Deep learning is a machine learning technique that teaches a model to learn by examples. The models are trained on a large set of data (like images, text, sound, etc.) using neural network architectures, which allows them to perform classification tasks based on what they learned from the training. Such models achieve high performance even with a small training set when designed with appropriate settings.

In deep learning, researchers have extensively used CNN for many pattern recognition problems, especially image recognition. It is a specialized type of neural network with convolutional layers that learn highly specific features from input images. In 2012, (Krizhevsky, Sutskever, & Hinton, 2012) won the ImageNet Large
Scale Visual Recognition Challenge (ILSVRC) by training a CNN with five convolution layers and three fully-connected (FC) layers and ReLU activation function. After the success of AlexNet, (Zeiler & Fergus, 2013) proposed the ZFNet that made several changes in the hyperparameters of the network and performed even better. Following that, (Szegedy et al., 2015) presented the GoogLeNet that won the ILSVRC in 2014. The network consisted of a deep 22 layer CNN but a reduced number of parameters than the AlexNet. In the same year, (Simonyan & Zisserman, 2015) put forward the VGGNet, which stood second after GoogLeNet and gained a lot of popularity. The VGG16 network had sixteen layers and five blocks, and the VGG19 network had 19 layers with extra convolution layers in the last three blocks. (He, Zhang, Ren, & Sun, 2016)’s ResNet won the ILSVRC in 2015 by introducing skip connections in a very deep network of 152 layers.

While working with our relatively smaller dataset, we took the assistance of transfer learning which prevented our model from learning everything from scratch and allowed the optimization process to be fast. To provide the best possible model for our classification task, we created five models and compared their results on our self-modeled dataset. The model that used VGG16 as a feature extractor recorded the highest accuracy rate of 95%.

2 Literature Review

During the early 1900s, the convolutional networks introduced by (LeCun et al., 1989) exhibited high performance at the tasks of hand-written digit classification and face detection. The network’s use during this period was one of the first times when neural networks had undertaken real-world applications. The development of GPUs ensured CNN became the go-to solution for image classification tasks in the upcoming years. Work by (Ciregan, Meier, & Schmidhuber, 2012) showcased that they could be applied to tackle much more challenging visual classification tasks. The network gave state-of-the-art results on NORB and CIFAR-10 datasets. Most notably, it was the convolutional neural network (CNN) trained by (Krizhevsky et al., 2012) which acted as one of the most significant breakthroughs in deep learning.

In 2010, their deep CNN architecture performed amazingly well at the ImageNet Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge (ILSVRC) that required the architecture to classify 1.2 million high-resolution images into 1000 different categories. Their network architecture included five convolutional layers along with two globally connected layers with a final 1000-way softmax. This network with 60 million parameters and 500,000 neurons achieved top-1 and top-5 error rates of 39.7% and 18.9%, respectively, on the test data. This model’s variant was used again in the ILSVRC-2012 competition and achieved a mind-blowing top-5 test error rate of 15.3%, with the second-best model achieving a 26.2% error rate.

But one thing that was not noticed in work by (Krizhevsky et al., 2012) was a clear understanding of why the classifier did such a good job. (Zeiler & Fergus, 2013) addressed these issues by using a visualization technique to get insights regarding the intermediate feature layers’ functions and the classifier’s operation. They also proposed the ZFNet that made several changes in the hyperparameters of (Krizhevsky et al., 2012)’s network and performed even better.

Since then, many architectures using CNN have given outstanding results on image classification tasks. In 2014, GoogLeNet by (Szegedy et al., 2015) won the ILSVRC. It was a 22 layer CNN that recorded a top 5 error rate of 6.7%. GoogLeNet used 12 times fewer parameters than the AlexNet and gave an almost human-like performance. This network architecture did not use fully-connected layers. Instead, they used an average pool to go from a 7x7x1024 volume to a 1x1x1024 volume which helped reduce their number of parameters.

In the same year, (Simonyan & Zisserman, 2015)’s VGGNet secured second place after GoogLeNet at the ILSVRC-2014’s image classification track. This simple network architecture had a 16 (for VGG16) or a 19 (for VGG19) layer CNN that strictly used 3x3 filters with stride and pad of 1, along with 2x2 max-pooling layers with stride 2. This network also worked amazingly well for localization tasks and won the first prize at ILSVRC-2014 in image localization. In the subsequent year, the ResNet architecture developed by (He et al., 2016) broke the assumption that very deep networks are extremely difficult to train. This network introduced
the use of a residual learning framework to train networks much deeper than before easily. This network of 152 layers won the ILSVRC-2015 with an incredible error rate of 3.6%.

While these models worked well on the large training datasets, it was still unclear if they would train well on small training datasets. Datasets like CIFAR-10 rarely took advantage of the depth of the models because of overfitting. (Liu & Deng, 2015) proposed a modified VGG-16 network, in which by adding stronger regularizer and Batch Normalization, they achieved an error rate of 8.45% on CIFAR-10 without severe overfitting. This publication was essential for it to bring forward the idea that if a model is strong enough to fit a large dataset, it can fit a small dataset too.

Due to these advancements and refinements, CNN became a favorite for solving complex image classification problems and opened up a whole new dimension of use. For example, (Levine, Pastor, Krizhevsky, Ibarz, & Quillen, 2018) used CNN to create hand-eye coordination for robotic grasping. A large CNN trained on monocular images to predict the probability of whether a task space motion of a robotic gripper will lead to a successful grasp. The network learned the spatial relationship between the gripper and the objects, thus learning hand-eye coordination and performing successful grips in real life.

Similarly, (Kölsch, Afzal, Ebbecke, & Liwicki, 2017) presented a way for real-time training and testing for document image classification. They used a deep network for feature extraction followed by Extreme Learning Machines (ELM) for classification. The modification assisted in reducing the time consumed in the training process.

In the following years, many modifications and extra functionalities were used with the CNN to perform image classification for specific tasks. (Tianyu, Zhenjiang, & Jianhu, 2018) mentioned that even though CNN had achieved high image classification performance, handcrafted features were still essential as they helped describe images from specific aspects and help CNN in classification tasks. They explored feature fusion methods and proposed methods to combine CNN with the handcrafted features and achieved significant improvement in the results.

(Song et al., 2018) brought forward the problem that CNN had performed wonderfully on single-label image classification, but CNN for multi-label images was still an issue. They proposed a deep multi-modal CNN for multi-instance multi-label image classification, called MMCNN-MIML. By putting together CNN and multi-instance multi-label (MIML) learning, the model represented each image as a bunch of instances for image classification and has the merits of both CNN and MIML.

Due to the gaining popularity of CNN, researchers came up with ways to implement the network with ease. Usually, in state-of-the-art CNNs, their architecture was manually built. Thus, it was difficult for people with limited knowledge to create their architecture to suit their image classification problem. (Sun, Xue, Zhang, Yen, & Lv, 2020) proposed a way to generate CNN architecture using genetic algorithms automatically. This proposal allowed users to get a good CNN architecture for their image classification problem even if they did not have strong domain knowledge of CNN.

Many researchers have implemented CNN-based models to tackle different real-world scenarios. (Zhao, Hao, He, Tang, & Wei, 2020) implemented a visual long-short-term memory (LSTM)-based integrated CNN model for fabric defect image classification. (Gour, Jain, & Sunil Kumar, 2020) designed a residual learning-based 152 layered CNN named ResHist for breast cancer histopathological image classification.

After analyzing the past work done in the field of image classification, CNN has emerged as the top priority for it has given successful results over the years. We thus choose to use CNN for our image classification problem.
| Author(s)                  | Title                                                                 | Focus Area                      | Main Idea/Result                                                                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (LeCun et al., 1989)      | Backpropagation applied to handwritten zip code recognition          | Convolutional Network           | Applied convolutional networks to the task of recognizing handwritten characters |
| (Ciregan et al., 2012)    | Multi-column deep neural networks for image classification             | Image classification, CNN        | Improved the implementation of CNN and recorded better performance on MNIST, NORB and CIFAR-10 |
| (Krizhevsky et al., 2012) | ImageNet Classification with Deep Convolutional Neural Networks        | Image classification, CNN        | Created a deep CNN architecture that won the ILSVRC-2012 by recording a top-5 error rate of 15.3% |
| (Zeiler & Fergus, 2013)   | Visualizing and Understanding Convolutional Networks                  | Multi-layered Deconvolutional Network (deconvnet) | Created a visualization technique to better understand the classifier’s working and to improve the network |
| (Szegedy et al., 2015)    | Going Deeper With Convolutions                                       | Image classification, object detection, CNN | Created a 22 layer network while keeping the computational budget constant and won the ILSVRC 2014 with a top 5 error rate of 6.7% |
| (Simonyan & Zisserman, 2015) | Very Deep Convolutional Networks for Large-Scale Image Recognition | Image classification, object localization, CNN | Created a 16-19 layer CNN that strictly used 3x3 filters with stride and pad of 1, along with 2x2 max-pooling layers with stride 2 |
| (He et al., 2016)         | Deep Residual Learning for Image Recognition                          | Image classification, residual block, object detection, object localization, CNN | Created a 152 layer CNN using residual blocks that won ILSVRC 2015 with an error rate of 3.6% |
| Authors                  | Methodology                                                                 | Task                                                                 | Results                                                                 |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (Liu & Deng, 2015)      | Very deep convolutional neural network based image classification using small training sample size | Image classification, CNN | Proposed a modified VGG-16 that achieved an 8.45% error rate on CIFAR-10 without severe overfitting |
| (Levine et al., 2018)   | Learning hand-eye coordination for robotic grasping with deep learning and large-scale data collection | CNN | Used CNN to teach a robotic gripper hand eye coordination for successful gripping in real life |
| (Kölsch et al., 2017)   | Real-time document image classification using deep CNN and extreme learning machines | CNN, ELM | Created a document image classification using Deep CNN and ELM |
| (Tianyu et al., 2018)   | Combining cnn with hand-crafted features for image classification | CNN, Hand Crafted Features | Created a framework to fuse handcrafted features with CNN to get better result |
| (Song et al., 2018)     | A deep multimodal CNN for multi-instance multi-label image classification | MMCNN-MIML | Put together CNN and multi-instance multi-label (MIML) learning for multi-label image-based classification |
| (Sun et al., 2020)      | Automatically designing CNN architectures using the genetic algorithm for image classification | CNN, genetic algoritms | Proposed a way to automatically build an architecture of CNN for a particular image classification problem |
| (Zhao et al., 2020)     | A visual long-short-term memory based integrated CNN model for fabric defect image classification | VLSTM integrated CNN | Inspired by the human visual perception and visual memory mechanism, the paper proposed a VLSTM integrated CNN model for fabric defect image classification |
Residual learning-based CNN

| Designed residual learning-based CNN |
|-------------------------------------|
| 152 layered CNN named ResHist for breast cancer histopathological image classification |

Table 1: Summary of related works

3 Materials and methods

The work has been achieved by a four-phase approach. We have created five different models using various network architectures and deep learning concepts that follow the same flow of approach. The optimum model for the task is determined by drawing a comparison between the performance of each model.

3.1 The four phase approach

The four phases used to achieve the work consist of data collection, preprocessing, training, and evaluation. [Figure 1] represents the proposed flow of the system.

![Figure 1: The proposed system workflow](image)

3.1.1 Data collection

We created our own dedicated dataset from scratch by using the internet as our primary source. The dataset consists of 969 document-based images, 939 quote-based images, and 960 photographs. Almost all possible variations within a category are acknowledged. Document-based images include handwritten text, manuscripts,
typed text, and number sheets. Similarly, photographs are a collection of selfies, group photographs, portraits. Quote-based images constitute of motivational quotes, birthday wishes, and festival wishes.

3.1.2 Data preprocessing

The high-resolution images were downscaled to 224*224 size. The normalization of images was done based on the stats of RGB channels from the ImageNet dataset. The data was then split into a training and testing set that held 2294 and 574 images, respectively.

3.1.3 Training

Post data collection and preprocessing, various models were designed for our specific classification requirement. It included defining an architecture, setting an optimizer and loss function, choosing hyperparameters. After the models were built, they were trained on the training set to make them attain the ability to learn and perform classification tasks.

3.1.4 Evaluation

Once the models were trained, their performance was recorded by evaluating the models on the testing set images. The accuracy metric was used to determine the performance of the model. The metric indicated how good the model trained by measuring the correct predictions made to the total number of predictions.

3.2 Models

3.2.1 Baseline

The baseline model follows a simple CNN architecture that is defined in [Figure 2]. The activation function used is the ReLU function, and the softmax activation function is used at the end of the network architecture to make the final predictions. Stochastic gradient descent (SGD) is used as the optimizer with a 1e-4 learning rate and 0.9 momentum along with categorical crossentropy as the loss function. The model is run for a total of 20 epochs.

![Figure 2: Network architecture of baseline model](image)

3.2.2 Baseline + Batch Normalization + Dropout

This model follows the same architecture as the baseline model and integrates several other concepts and algorithms to improve on the previous model’s performance.
(Ioffe & Szegedy, 2015)’s batch normalization is applied after every ReLU activation layer in the network before flattening to fully-connected layers. It normalizes the hidden layers’ activation values so that the values’ distribution remains the same during the training. During training time, Batch Normalization calculates the batch mean [eq. 1] and batch variance [eq. 2] of the layers’ input.

\[
\mu_B = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} x_i^2 
\]

\[
\sigma_B^2 = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} (x_i - \mu_B)^2
\]

Post this, normalization is done by subtracting the value and the mean and dividing it by the standard deviation. \(\epsilon\) is added in the denominator to add numerical stability just in case \(\sigma_B^2\) turns out to be 0 in some estimates [eq. 3].

\[
x_i = \frac{x_i - \mu_B}{\sqrt{\sigma_B^2 + \epsilon}}
\]

Finally, scaling and shifting is performed to achieve the output from the layer [eq. 4].

\[
y_i = \gamma x_i + \beta
\]

The \(\gamma\) and \(\beta\) in [eq. 4] are learned during training along with the parameters of the network.

Proposed by (Srivastava, Hinton, Krizhevsky, Sutskever, & Salakhutdinov, 2014), dropout removes a few activations at random from within a mini-batch that is going through, and then from the next, keeps the previous ones and removes the others. This process prevents the activation from learning some particular part of the input, which causes overfitting. [Figure 3] shows the fully-connected layer and draws a contrast with dropout, where a few activations are randomly removed. Our model uses dropout with a rate of 0.25 after every convolution, activation, and pooling layer block and with a rate of 0.50 between the fully-connected layers.

![Standard Neural Network and After Applying Dropout](image)

**Figure 3:** The difference between a standard neural network and a neural network after applying dropout

This model also uses data augmentation to improve regularization. While accepting a batch of images for training, the images in that batch are applied with a series of random transformations like rotation, resizing, shearing and flipping. The model then uses these transformed images to train instead of the original batch of images. [Figure 4] shows the application of data augmentation to an image.

Apart from this, the model uses the cyclical learning rate (CLR) by (Smith, 2017) while training. Instead of having a fixed learning rate and monotonically decrease it, the CLR defines a lower and an upper bound on the learning rate. The learning rate oscillates between the two bounds while training. This helps to break any
saddle points or the problem of local minima while training. We take the assistance of (Smith, 2017)’s approach to find an optimal learning rate and set 1e-6 as the lower bound and 1e-3 as the upper bound for CLR. CLR uses a step size of 8, and the model runs for 30 epochs with SGD the optimizer and categorical crossentropy as the loss function.

### 3.2.3 Fine tuning (ResNet50)

The upcoming models use transfer learning to improve the performance of the models. It is the process of taking a network that is pre-trained on a dataset and using it to classify images on a different dataset. This model implements transfer learning via fine-tuning on the ResNet50 architecture that is trained on ImageNet. In the process of fine-tuning, the fully-connected nodes of the ResNet50, which make the predictions, are removed. Instead, they are replaced by new fully-connected nodes with random initialization.

The earlier layers of the network are then frozen, and only the new fully-connected layers are trained. This ensures that the previous robust features learned by the network are not lost, and the fully-connected layers are trained to suit our specific classification task.

Once the network reaches a steady outcome, the entire network is then trained with a small learning rate. This process allows the network to retain the already learned rich, discriminative filters and make necessary changes to the newly connected fully-connected layers to learn patterns from the previous layers.

Our model includes a new set of 3 fully-connected layers followed by a dropout setting of rate 0.5. The network, apart from the new set of layers, is frozen. Only the fully-connected layers are trained for 20 epochs using SGD optimizer with a 1e-4 learning rate and 0.9 momentum along with categorical crossentropy as the loss function. Data augmentation is performed too during the training. After this initial training, the network is unfrozen, and the entire network is trained on again for 20 epochs with a 1e-5 learning rate.

### 3.2.4 Fine tuning (VGG16)

This model follows the same fine-tuning process mentioned in the above model but with the VGG16 model pre-trained on ImageNet. As can be seen from the figure [Figure 5], the old fully-connected layers are removed from the VGG16 network and replaced by a new set of fully-connected layers. This new set of 3 fully-connected layers is followed by a dropout setting of 0.5. The network, apart from the new set of layers, is frozen. Only the fully-connected layers are trained for 20 epochs using SGD optimizer with a 1e-4 learning rate and 0.9 momentum along with categorical crossentropy as the loss function. Data augmentation is performed too during the training. After this initial training, the network is unfrozen, and the entire network is trained on again for 20 epochs with a 1e-5 learning rate.
3.2.5 Feature Extraction (VGG16)

This model implements transfer learning via feature extraction using the VGG16 network architecture pre-trained on the ImageNet. In this process, the pre-trained network is used as an arbitrary feature extractor. The VGG16 network is chopped off at a pre-specified layer. An image is allowed to propagate through this network, and the activations at the last layer are extracted. This is repeated for all the images in the dataset, and a feature vector is obtained for every image. The features are then trained on a standard machine learning model. As the feature extractor is a CNN, a non-linear model, they learn the non-linear features from the images. Moreover, because the feature vectors are very large with high dimensionality, training them on top of a linear model saves much time.

In our model, we chop off the VGG16 network after the last maxpooling layer (before the fully-connected layers), as shown in Figure 6. The dimension of this last max-pooling layer is 7*7*512. Whenever an image is propagated through the network, the output is flattened to obtain a feature vector of 25,088-dim. We then use these feature vectors and train them using a logistic regression model.

4 Results and discussion

There are five models which are trained on 2294 images and tested on 574 images. The baseline model follows a fundamental CNN architecture with no regularization methods. As is evident from the Figure 9, it does not record good enough performance and achieves an accuracy of 77.53%.

The second model, Baseline + Batch Normalization + Dropout, is an improvement over the baseline model. It integrates batch normalization, dropout, and data augmentation. Moreover, cyclical learning rate is used instead of a monotonically decreasing fixed learning rate. Moreover, an optimum learning rate is selected by using a learning rate finder method.

To find the optimum learning rate, we select a very large upper bound (1e+1) and a very small lower bound (1e-10) on our learning rate. Then, we start training the network by starting from the lower bound and exponentially increasing the learning rate after every batch update. The training is continued until the upper bound on learning rate is reached. The loss after every batch update is recorded.
From figure [Figure 7], it is seen that when the learning rate is very low (less than 1e-6), the network is unable to learn. Similarly, when the learning rate goes past 1e-3, the loss explodes because the learning rate becomes too high for the model. Therefore, we choose 1e-6 for our lower bound and 1e-3 for the upper bound for our cyclical learning rate [Figure 8].
The next model implements transfer learning via fine-tuning on the ResNet architecture. A new set of 3 fully connected layers are added. During the initial training, the earlier network is frozen, and only the new layers are trained. Out of a total of 26,342,787 parameters, only 2,755,075 parameters are trained. After this initial training, the entire network is trained again. 26,275,779 parameters from a total of 26,342,787 are trained. The model achieves an accuracy of 93.04%. The performance of the model is shown in [Figure 11]. The same transfer learning process via fine-tuning is implemented in the next model but with the VGG network architecture. The performance of the model is demonstrated in [Figure 12]. The model achieves an accuracy of 93.57%.

It is evident from the above two models' performance that transfer learning has drastically improved the result compared to the earlier models. However, a sense of overfitting is acknowledged owing to the small size of the dataset when using fine-tuning.

Our last model uses transfer learning via feature extraction on the VGG network architecture. The CNN is used as a feature extractor, and the features are trained on a logistic regression model. This model outperforms all the other previous models by recording an accuracy of 95%. Feature extraction serves as the optimum model for our small-size dataset. The CNN captures the rich discriminative features from the images, and the machine
learning classifier helps us learn the underlying patterns of the features extracted from the CNN. The outputs from a few test images are shown in [Figure 11], and all the models’ performance is compiled in [Table 2].

Figure 11: Loss/Accuracy vs Epoch plot (Fine tuning (ResNet50))

Figure 12: Loss/Accuracy vs Epoch plot (Fine tuning (VGG16))

Figure 13: Result: CNN based efficient image classification system for smartphone device
Table 2: Performance of all the models

| Model                                      | Accuracy |
|--------------------------------------------|----------|
| Baseline                                   | 77.53%   |
| Baseline + Batch Normalization + Dropout    | 86.41%   |
| Fine tuning (ResNet50)                     | 93.04%   |
| Fine tuning (VGG16)                        | 93.57%   |
| Feature extraction (VGG16)                 | 95%      |

5 Conclusion

Our research compared various models that used different deep learning techniques and architectures. Feature extraction using the VGG16 network showed the best performance of all the models. We utilized the best deep learning practices to successfully accomplish our goal to classify images present in smartphone devices. This classifier opens up the opportunity to better manage and understand the plethora of images that make way into our smartphone devices. Moreover, it paves the way to efficiently analyze the images that are shared across social media platforms. Our approach also provides easy flexibility to accommodate other broad categories of images that might emerge in the future or if a particular category is required to conquer a specific problem.

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