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Ivan Kadar

Editor

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- 11 Signal and Data Processing for Small Targets
Philip D. West, Georgia Tech Research Institute (United States)
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Introduction to the Invited Panel Discussion

Deep Learning in AI and Information Fusion

In the early days of artificial intelligence (AI) starting, say in the 1970s and 1980s, the predominant reasoning methods were logical and symbolic, using, e.g., Lisp/Prolog languages. Later in the 1980s, AI tools were used such as Knowledge Environment Engineering (KEE) and Automated Reasoning Tool (ART) expert systems, and early heuristic reasoning methods. Also, the concept and mathematical representation of “context” logic was defined. The concept and apps of both “knowledge based” and “context” are currently used in several apps in information fusion (IF) along with several methods to apply and learn contextual information.

In the early 1980's, AI was viewed as the solution to information fusion problems. In fact, many contributors to the first distributed sensor networks program were AI researchers. However, inadequate computing and AI approaches such as expert systems and heuristic uncertainty reasoning could not address the challenges of information fusion. Thus, important advances in information fusion, and in particular, multi-target tracking, were made with little contribution from AI.

During the long AI winter, researchers addressed the deficiencies of early AI, developing rigorous representation and reasoning techniques for uncertainty, and machine learning approaches. Recently, data science was established as a popular area to exploit the large volumes of data (a.k.a. Big Data) collected by physical sensors and online activities using machine learning and other analytic tools.

Artificial intelligence and data science pose both challenges and opportunities to IF. They are challenges because they appear to address the same problems as information fusion, but with more powerful techniques, thus siphoning away both research funding and research talent. However, these challenges can also be opportunities because AI and data science provide new research directions for information fusion. Examples include: IF with big data, hard and soft data fusion, learning about context, graph techniques for tracking and fusion, dynamic network analysis, apps to cyber and imagery processing.

The objective of this panel was to bring to the attention of the fusion community the importance of the application of deep learning in AI and IF, highlighting issues, illustrating approaches and addressing challenges. A number of invited experts discussed challenges in processing and research, and addressed these challenges with IF. The panelists illustrated parts of the above-mentioned areas over different applications and association with IF. The panel highlighted impending issues and challenges using conceptual and real-world related examples associated with the applications of above.

Chee-Yee Chong
Ivan Kadar

Invited Panel Discussion

Deep Learning in AI and Information Fusion

Organizers

Chee-Yee Chong, Independent Consultant
Ivan Kadar, Interlink Systems Sciences, Inc.
Erik Blasch, Air Force Research Lab

Moderators

Ivan Kadar, Interlink Systems Sciences, Inc.
Chee-Yee Chong, Independent Consultant

April 16, 2018

SPIE Conference 10646

“Signal Processing, Sensor Fusion and Target Recognition XXVII”

Orlando, FL 16-19 April 2018

Invited Panel Discussion

Panel Participants:

Dr. Erik Blasch, Air Force Research Lab., U.S.A.
Dr. Chee-Yee Chong, Independent Consultant, U.S.A.
Professor George Cybenko, Dartmouth College, NH, U.S.A
(unable to attend)
Professor Lynne Grewe, California State Univ, East Bay, U.S.A
Dr. Ivan Kadar, Interlink Systems Sciences, Inc., U.S.A.
Dr. Uttam K. Majumber, Air Force Research Lab., U.S.A

Invited Panel Discussion

Presentation Topics

“Challenges of Using Deep Learning for Trusted Sensor Fusion”

Dr. Chee-Yee Chong, Independent Consultant

“Deep Learning and Computer Vision: Guidelines and Special Issues”

Professor Lynne Grewe and Garrett Stevenson, California State Univ, East Bay, CA

“ Deep Learning for Object Recognition from High Volume Radio Frequency Data”

Dr. Uttam K. Majumber, Air Force Research Lab.

“Retrospectives on the Application of AI & Deep Learning in Information Fusion” (addendum to presentations)

Dr. Ivan Kadar, Interlink Systems Sciences, Inc.

Challenges of Using Deep Learning for Trusted Information Fusion

Chee-Yee Chong
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Presented at Panel on Deep Learning in AI and Information Fusion
SPIE Signal Processing, Sensor/Information Fusion, and Target Recognition XXVII
Orlando, Florida
April 16, 2018

1

Outline

- History of AI for information fusion
 - Deep learning benefits and issues
 - Framework for trusted information fusion
-

2

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Is Everywhere

- AI has recent spectacular successes defeating humans
 - Deep Blue beat world champion in chess (1997)
 - Watson won US Jeopardy quiz show (2011)
 - AlphaGo beat world's top player (Ke Jie) in go (2017)
- AI is in everyday applications
 - Smart phones – speech recognition, machine translation
 - Homes – smart thermostat, robotic vacuum
 - Cars – driver assistance
- In particular, AI/deep learning is used in sensor, data and information fusion, e.g.,
 - BBC news, 4/13/2018: Chinese police have used facial recognition technology to locate and arrest a man who was among a crowd of 60,000 concert goers.

3

AI Poses Challenges to Information Fusion

- AI is viewed as the solution for all fusion problems
 - Low-level processing and object recognition
 - Video surveillance
 - Activity detection and behavioral analysis
 - Network and patterns of life analysis
- AI/deep learning is more visible due to
 - Beating humans in many applications
 - Widely available hardware, software, and training data for development
 - Successful use in many systems
- Results
 - Sponsors turn to AI to solve information fusion problems
 - AI attracts more students, researchers, and funding
 - Virtuous cycle (funding -> research -> success -> more funding)

4

Information Fusion is a Natural Application for AI

- Humans solve information fusion problems all the time
 - Low level perception – environment, objects
 - High level understanding – situation, prediction

5

AI Approaches for Information Fusion Are Evolving

- Expert systems (mimic human experts)
 - Medical diagnosis
 - Signal understanding
 - Probabilistic reasoning (with models)
 - Object recognition
 - Situation understanding
 - Neural networks / deep learning
 - Feature extraction
 - Speech understanding
 - Object recognition
 - Video tracking
- Groupings on the right:
- First wave of AI - Handcrafted knowledge (points to Expert systems and Probabilistic reasoning)
 - Second wave of AI - Statistical learning from data (points to Neural networks / deep learning)
 - Third wave of AI - Contextual Adaptation (points to Neural networks / deep learning)

J. Launchbury, "A DARPA perspective on artificial intelligence," 2017
<http://www.darpa.mil/attachments/AIFull.pdf>

6

Expert Systems for Fusion – MYCIN (~1975)

- Medical diagnosis
 - Inputs: test results
 - Outputs: infectious disease
- Rule-based system
 - Knowledge base of few hundred IF_THEN rules: IF symptom A THEN disease B
 - Inference engine by backward chaining
 - Certainty factors to represent uncertainty
 - Heuristic combination of evidence
- Performs better than many doctors
- Stimulated research on uncertainty reasoning

B. G. Buchanan and E. H. Shortliffe, *Rule-Based Expert Systems: The MYCIN Experiments of the Stanford Heuristic Programming Project*, Addison Wesley, 1984

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Expert Systems for Fusion – HASP/SIAP (1970's)

- Signal understanding system
 - Inputs: acoustic signals from hydrophones
 - Outputs: detection, location and type of vessel
- Rule-based system
 - Hierarchy of rules for signal to symbol transformation
 - Inference by knowledge sources responsible for different levels of processing

H. P. Nii, E. A. Feigenbaum, J. J. Anton, "Signal-to-symbol transformation: HASP/SIAP case study," *AI Magazine*, 1982

8

Issues with Expert Systems for Information Fusion

- Knowledge acquisition
 - Finding experts that can articulate their reasoning; experts with good intuition are not suitable
 - Extracting knowledge from experts
- Knowledge representation
 - Consistency and completeness of rules
 - Representation of uncertainty
- Inference engine
 - Control of inference
 - Reasoning with uncertainty
 - Processing speed

9

AI in 1980's

- 1981 – Japan started “Fifth Generation Computer” project to build intelligent computers
- United States responded with “Strategic Computing Initiative” with AI as main objective, including Autonomous Land Vehicle (ALV)
- ALV followed road in 1985 demo but vision system was very sensitive to
 - Light and shadow – detect road edge at noon, but not with shadow at dusk
 - Environmental change (like mud left along road by another vehicle)
- Booming AI industry (software, hardware) became a bust with AI winter in late 1980's

J. E. Franklin, C. L. Carmody, K. Kellter, T. S. Levitt, B. L. Buteau, "Expert system technology for the military: selected samples," *IEEE Proceedings*, Oct. 1988.

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Neural Networks (1980's)

- Motivated by physiology and function of neurons in brain
- Long history
 - McCulloch, Pitts – 1940's
 - Widrow – 1960's
 - Hopfield, Rumelhart, Hinton – 1980's
- Weights learned from training data
- Excellent for low level recognition task
- Implementation issues
 - Black box approach cannot explain results
 - Performance sensitive to training data

11

Uncertainty Reasoning in AI

- Information fusion has deal with uncertainty in evidence (input) and knowledge or data
 - Drawback of neural network approach
 - Recognized very early by expert system developers
- Uncertainty reasoning approaches
 - Rule-based methods
 - Probabilistic reasoning
 - Evidence theory
 - Dempster Shafer
 - Dezert-Smarandache Theory (DSmT)
 - Fuzzy sets
- Probabilistic reasoning became very popular in 1980's

J. Pearl, *Probabilistic Reasoning in Intelligent Systems: Networks of Plausible Inference*. Morgan Kaufmann, 1988.

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Probabilistic Reasoning/Graphical Models

- Probability model expressed graphically as networks
 - Nodes are random variables
 - Weights on edges represent conditional probabilities
- Inference computes conditional probabilities given evidence
 - Node elimination
 - Junction tree
 - MCMC
- Very natural for researchers with background in estimation theory
- Considered AI because of separation into knowledge and automatic inference

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Military Unit Detection from Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) Imagery

Joint probability of all IES/BTI random variables =
 $p(T, U, H, G, F, V, d, f, r, N, S, C, l, n, t, v) = \text{product of the terms:}$

	Probability semantics	Processing component
$p(T U, F, V)$	/force type	Inference
$p(V)$	/vehicle classification	Vehicle classification
$p(H T, G)$	/terrain hospitability	Terrain hospitability
$p(G)$	/digital terrain data	Terrain database constructor
$p(F U)$	/formation	Formation matching
$p(U d, f, r, N)$	/unit existence, location	Inference
$p(d S)$	/formation depth	Formation matching
$p(f S)$	/formation frontage	Formation matching
$p(r S)$	/sub-unit spacing	Formation matching
$p(N S)$	/number sub-units	Formation matching
$p(S C)$	/sub-units' existence, location	Inference
$p(C l, t, n)$	/cluster existence	Detection clustering
$p(l v)$	/mean likelihood	Detection clustering
$p(t v, n)$	/detection spacing	Detection clustering
$p(n v)$	/number detections	Detection clustering
$p(v)$	/vehicle existence	Vehicle detection

T. S. Levitt, C. L. Winter, C. J. Turner, R. A. Chestek, G. J. Ettinger, and S. M. Sayre, "Bayesian inference-based fusion of radar imagery, military forces and tactical terrain models in the image exploitation system/balanced technology initiative," *Int. J. Human Computer Studies*, 1995

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Model-Based Object Recognition

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Moving and Stationary Target Acquisition and Recognition (MSTAR)

16

AI for Information Fusion from 1990's to 2010

- Probabilistic graphical models become main AI approach for fusion
 - Rigorous treatment of uncertainty
 - Model-based approach is explainable
 - Many Inference techniques
 - Models can be learned from data
 - Can be extended to handle evidence theory, e.g., valuation networks
- Mathematic framework is similar to that of tracking
 - Predict features from model
 - Match extracted features with prediction (association problem)
 - Update
- Meanwhile, neural networks are used for many low level functions where modeling is difficult and training is easy
- Then computers become more powerful and massive amounts of data are available

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Shift from Knowledge-Based AI to Learning-Based AI

- Explicit problem knowledge
- Manual knowledge acquisition and representation
- Transparent fusion processing
- Problem knowledge captured by data
- Training data acquisition without knowledge representation
- Black box fusion processing

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Deep Learning

- Deep neural network uses multiple hidden layers between input and output layers to model complex nonlinear relationships
- Input layers can be images or audio signals instead of features

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What Makes Deep Learning Possible

- Deep learning is possible due to advances in computing power and available data

Deep Learning is Drawing Attention Away From Traditional Information Fusion

- Almost anyone can apply deep learning for his/her problems
 - Open source software, e.g., TensorFlow, Theano
 - Public domain data, e.g., ImageNet, Open Images Dataset
 - Inexpensive powerful hardware, e.g., Nvidia, Intel, Google
- Deep learning has been successfully used in
 - Video surveillance
 - Object and threat detection
 - Driverless vehicles
 - Cyber security (where modeling is very difficult and data is plentiful)

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Challenges of Using Deep Learning for Trusted Information Fusion

- Performance is only as good as data
 - Large amounts of data are needed
 - Training data for rare events are sparse

- Results are hard to explain
 - Black box provides no visibility
 - Research on explainable AI is still ongoing
- Thus few machine learning systems are used in critical missions or making life death decisions

DARPA Explainable AI (XAI) Problem

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DARPA Explainable AI Program Objective

From DARPA XAI briefing

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Framework for Developing Trusted Fusion Systems

- Integrated knowledge and learning approach*
- Inference based on problem knowledge
 - Explicit knowledge representation
 - Explainable results
- Model parameters from machine learning
 - Learning when model knowledge is weak and data are available
 - Testable parameter estimation

* ONR solicitation (N00014-18-R-SN05) on integration of domain knowledge and machine learning to address shortcomings of deep learning (large training sets, brittleness, explainability, rare and complex events, etc.)

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Direct Learning of Sensor Input to Object Tracks

- Related to PHD
- Training and performance issues

P. Ondruska and I. Posner, "Deep tracking: Seeing beyond seeing using recurrent neural networks," *30th AAAI Conference*, 2016

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Association Graph for Tracking

- Association graph provides efficient representation for possible associations
 - Nodes: measurements or tracklets
 - Edges: possible associations
 - Paths: tracks
 - Path cover: association hypothesis
- Track likelihood is sum of pairwise association likelihoods under Markov assumptions $P(y_{i+1} | y_1, \dots, y_i) = P(y_{i+1} | y_i)$
- Best association hypothesis can be computed in polynomial time as
 - Bipartite matching
 - Minimum cost network flow

C. Y. Chong, "Graph approaches for data association," *Fusion 2012*.

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Learning Association Costs in Association Graph

- Pairwise association costs can be computed
 - Attributes of detections
 - Measurement models
- Alternatively, they can be learned from data using back propagation

S. Schuster, P. Vernaza, W. Choi, and M. Chandraker, "Deep network flow for multi-object tracking," *CVPR 2017*.

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Integrated Knowledge/Learning for Multitarget Tracking

- Direct learning
 - Questionable performance
 - Hard to explain
- Integrated knowledge/learning
 - Higher performance
 - Explainable

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Conclusions

- Information fusion researchers have love hate relationship with computers
 - Love to develop algorithms for computers
 - Hate when computers become too smart to take over their job
- Users do not care about specific approach as long as it provides solution
- AI and deep learning still cannot solve all fusion problems, especially in trusted or mission critical systems
- Trusted fusion system should exploit
 - Knowledge when it is available and can be represented for inference
 - Machine learning when knowledge is weak and data are available

"Deep Learning and Computer Vision: Guidelines and Special Issues "

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Deep Learning in AI and Information Fusion Panel

Computer Vision Today & Deep Learning

Computer Vision is becoming pervasive in today's society and has a presence in self-driving cars, cities of the future, drones, medicine and more. Central to its use and popularity is the combination of Deep Learning and Computer Vision to tackle the important tasks of object classification and localization.

Recent developments of Computer Vision with Deep Learning will be discussed with guidelines & special issues

overview

- Trends: Vision and Deep Learning architectures
- Running on mobile platforms/embedded devices
- Multi-Modal issues for Vision- a case study
- Temporal Networks - LSTM
- General Adversarial Networks
- Varying data size
- Transfer Learning
- Guidelines
- Resources –datasets, frameworks & computation
- iLab (my) Deep Learning Research Projects

VISION CNN ARCHITECTURES TRENDS

CNN-basics

CNN – has multiple layers that can end with fully connected and softmax layer

- Deeper networks typically can distinguish greater number of objects/classes and/or handle harder discrimination tasks

Shallow CNN for simpler problem of Digit recognition

- 4 convolutional layers + 1 fully connected layer

Going Deeper

ResNet 152 -- has 152 layers !!!!!!!

AlexNet

VGGNet

- Input : Image input
- Conv : Convolutional layer
- Pool : Max-pooling layer
- FC : Fully-connected layer
- Softmax : Softmax layer

Problem –Deeper Network generally slower

- Resnet -152 is 5 times slower than Alexnet

No Fully Connected Layers

There is ALL kinds of research going on in architectures for Deep Learning Networks – sometimes you may have different architectures suited for different problems

- **Fully Convolutional Networks for Semantic Segmentation**
(no fully connected layers)

Figure 1. Fully convolutional networks can efficiently learn to make dense predictions for per-pixel tasks like semantic segmen-

When want to run on device

LOW COMPUTATION – MOBILE AND EMBEDDED DEVICES

MobileNet – uses Depthwise Separable parameters to reduce number of parameters

- Convolution = depthwise + pointwise
 - perform a spatial convolution while keeping the channels separate and then follow with a depthwise convolution.

Depthwise

pointwise

Why???? Saves on parameters ---LESS to learn, yet still effective

MobileNet –less parameters

- For a depthwise separable convolution on the same example, we traverse the 16 channels with 1 3x3 kernel each, giving us 16 feature maps (called DepthWise Convolution). Now, before merging anything, we traverse these 16 feature maps with 32 1x1 convolutions each (called Pointwise convolution) and only then start to them add together. (this 1x1 is called a depthwise multiplier of 1)

Comparison of number of parameters --> SEPARATED IS LESS!!!

- This results in **656** ($16 \times 3 \times 3 + 16 \times 32 \times 1 \times 1$) parameters opposed to the **4608** ($16 \times 32 \times 3 \times 3$) parameters from above.

SO its faster

MobileNet

- You can choose number of layers ...example here with 9

After each layer (except FC and softmax) followed by Batch Normalization and ReLU
s2 = stride of 2

TensorFlow Lite

- Framework = Target mobile and embedded devices
- enables on-device machine learning inference with low latency and a small binary size.
 - optimizing the kernels for mobile apps
 - pre-fused activations
 - quantized kernels that allow smaller and faster (fixed-point math) models.
 - new FlatBuffers-based model file format

Near future will add SSD –localization And hopefully soon with NN API hardware acceleration

- smaller than 300KB when all supported operators are linked and less than 200KB when using only the operators needed for supporting InceptionV3 and Mobilenet.
- Java and C++ API support

---handling different kinds of data

MULTI MODAL
(multi sensor)

Multi Modal (multi sensor)

- Have multiple different data from different sensors.

- **CASE 1: Data Aligns spatially**

- **CASE 2: Data does not align spatially**

speech frames

Cropped mouth images

CASE 1: data “aligns” spatially

Questions:

- Do you process both in the CNN
- Do you have multiple CNNs? How do you merge results?
- How will this effect Region Proposal (if doing localization)?
- How will this effect speed?

Options:

OPTION 1: Driven by one modality (e.g. 2D rgb processed first)

OPTION 2: Process in parallel with separate networks

OPTION 3: Process together with 1 network

OPTION 1: single data driven → use other data later in process

- From B. Chen, R. Sahdev, J. Tsotsos, "Integrating stereo vision with a CNN tracker for a person-following Robot", International Conference on Computer Vision Systems, 2017

Merge later = Rulebase, SVM, Another FC Network, Algorithmic

OPTION 2: separate CNN run in parallel for each sensor data

Must combine results of separate CNNs:

- Fully connected layer
- SVM
- Rule-based / algorithmic combination

OPTION 1/2 hybrid: rgb 1st for region proposal then both rgb+depth run in parallel

- have RGB + Depth info
- **FIRST: Get Region Proposal ONLY from RGB image**
- **2 CNNs –**
1 for depth,
1 for RGB.

- Gupta et al., "Learning Rich Features from RGB-D Images for Object Detection and Segmentation", ECCV 2014.

Continued...

- Results Gupta et al., "Learning Rich Features from RGB-D Images for Object Detection and Segmentation", ECCV 2014.

Option 3: combine data into 1 CNN

- From B. Chen, R. Sahdev, J. Tsotsos, "Integrating stereo vision with a CNN tracker for a person-following Robot", International Conference on Computer Vision Systems, 2017

Option 3: another example

- Here is a NON visual (but, temporal data) sensor example

From L. Jing, T. Wang, M. Zhao, P. Wang, "An Adaptive Multi-Sensor Data fusion Method Based on Deep Convolutional Neural Networks for Fault Diagnosis of Planetary Gearbox", Sensors 2017.

WHICH option is best?

From B. Chen, R. Sahdev, J. Tsotsos, "Integrating stereo vision with a CNN tracker for a person-following Robot", International Conference on Computer Vision Systems, 2017

- Compared options 1, 2, 3 –
for Person Detection & Tracking with RGB + Depth

#1= **OPTION 3: 1 CNN for all data**

#2= **OPTION 2: 2 CNN in parallel**

#3= **OPTION 1: use only 1 sensor**

CASE 2: data does not "align" spatially

- Example speech (not spatial, temporal only)
- Process in parallel with separate CNNs
→ this works because there is temporal alignment

J. Hou, S. Wnag, Y. Lai, Y. Tsao, "Audio-Visual Speech Enhancement Based on Multimodal Deep Convolutional Neural Networks", 2017

---taking in time

TEMPORAL NETWORKS

2014 – Two steam networks

From K. Simonyan and A. Zisserman, "Two-Stream Convolutional Networks for Action Recognition in Videos", Neural Information Processing Systems Conference, 2014

- **"Separate" Visual and temporal**
- 2 CNNs: 1) for single RGB image 2) for optical flow between current and previous frame(s).

CNN → RNN (Recurrent Neural Networks)

- Used in Speech other naturally temporal data (no spatial components)

RNNs in comparison to a traditional CNN do not capture rich spatial information as well.

- **One Idea = Combine RNN and CNN in Sequence**

Example from
“Show and Tell Me” system

From O. Vinyals, A. Toshev, S. Bengio, D. Erhan,
“Show and Tell: A Neural Image Caption Generator”,
CVPR, 2015.

Image Captioning

CNN for Vision process → RNN for language generation

Problems with RNN

- “Long Term” Issue = Difficult to backpropagate an error over a long-range temporal span becomes difficult.
- “Short-term” Issue = Basic RNN does not allow network to “forget” previous hidden states.

SOLUTION → Long Short Term (memory) Networks = LSTM

- Have cells that allow for both “long-term” and “short-term” memory

- Can propagate without modification using a simple learned gating function and this is a kind of “long range learning”.
- nodes in a LSTM network allow the network to learn when to “forget” previous hidden states and when to update hidden states given new information. This is a kind of “short-term” memory, basically having an expiration to previous information.

CNN → LSTM

CNFrom J. Donahue, L. Hendricks, M. Rohrbach, S. Venugopalan, S. Guadarrama, K. Saenko, T. Darrell, “Long-Term Recurrent Convolutional Networks for Visual Recognition and Description”, CVPR, 2017. N + LSTM

GOAL: Activity Recognition, Image Captioning, Video Description

OTHER IDEAS= PRE PROCESSING of Temporal

Information:

input “temporal segments” → “using 2Stream convolutional system”
as input feature vectors into a CNN for recognition

- C. Ma, M. Chen, Z. Kira, G. AlRegib, “TS_LSTM and Temporal-Inception:Exploiting Spatiotemporal Dynamics for Activity Recognition”, 2017

continued...the Temporal-Inception CNN

- C. Ma, M. Chen, Z. Kira, G. AlRegib, “TS_LSTM and Temporal-Inception:Exploiting Spatiotemporal Dynamics for Activity Recognition”, 2017

COMPARING: LSTM versus Temporal CNN(inception style)

- Compare Temporal Segment LSTM and Temporal ConvNet as described in [C. Ma, M. Chen, Z. Kira, G. AlRegib, "TS_LSTM and Temporal-Inception: Exploiting Spatiotemporal Dynamics for Activity Recognition", 2017](#)
- **Performed almost at the SAME level 94.1 versus 93.9 on UCF101 dataset for**

Generative Adversarial Network

-- network to teach the network

GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORKS

GAN: generative adversarial network

2 Networks:

- 1st network ("discriminator") = takes the image as input and output is the determination of whether the input is a true representation or fake representation of some class.
- 2nd network ("generator") is trained to generate input to train the first network. The "adversarial" component of this concept is the second network ("generator") tries to progressively create hard input to "fool" the first network.

= zero-sum or minimax two player game

By doing so, ultimately the first network will achieve better discriminating capabilities, meaning higher accuracy

GAN –parking example training

From X. Li, M. Chuah, S. Bhattachaya, "UAV Assisted Smart Parking Solution", International Conference on Unmanned Aircraft Systems, 2017.

Discriminator network D = learns to classify between real and synthesized pairs

Generator network G = learns to fool the discriminator by generating good "fakes"

RESULT → use the Discriminator network D for empty parking space detection

Negative examples

Real or fake pair?

Positive examples

Real or fake pair?

D: Discriminator
G: Generator

During the training process, these two networks are trained simultaneously, and the generator is learning to generate better synthesized pair while the discriminator is learning to telling the difference between the real and synthesized pairs.

GAN –parking example training

Generator Architecture = Encoder-Decoder Model

From X. Li, M. Chuah, S. Bhattachaya, "UAV Assisted Smart Parking Solution", International Conference on Unmanned Aircraft Systems, 2017.

Encoder-Decoder often used for information translation problems, image segmentation, image synthesis

Generator network G = learns to fool the discriminator by generating good "fakes"

Convolutional Encoder + Decoder
Idea: decoder = "upconvolutional" layers

GAN- parking example results

Cameras mounted aerially –to be

GAN - applications

APPLICATIONS:

1. may be more suited to future predictive problems such as future video frame predictions
2. discriminator network could be used as a “feature extractor” stage in a more complex CNN.
3. Generator network could be used for synthesis
4. GANs used to produce photorealistic images for modeling scenes, to reconstruct 3D models of objects from images and for texture synthesis [9-11]. They have also been used for various object detection techniques like detection of open spaces for parking [12].

Application:
Resolution
Enhancement

<https://www.cs.toronto.edu/~duvenaud/courses/csc2541/slides/gan-applications.pdf>

- The current CNN require a **fixed input image size** (e.g., 224 x 224)

- **Recognition accuracy is degraded!**

KAIST

From <http://slideplayer.com/slide/5277459/>

--- to resize or modify network

SPECIAL ISSUE OF DIFFERENT DATA SIZE

Option 1 –resize data

- problem of variable sized input **propagates down to the first fully connected/inner product layer which requires a vector of fixed size.**
- **Resize data to expected input size for Network**
- **SPECIAL NOTE:** if there are NO Fully connected layers, you do not need to do this. The output layer will be larger but, it does not represent classes but, feature vectors and can potentially be used in same way as before. One example Encoder-Decoder

Option 2 – “Spatial Pyramid Pooling”

- **"Spatial Pyramid Pooling in Deep Convolutional Networks for Visual Recognition" by He et al.** proposes a Spatial Pyramid Pooling layer.
- propose to add the Spatial Pyramid Pooling Layer just before the first fully-connected layer (details in the paper).

- hierarchically partitions the feature maps of the last convolutional layer (or the subsequent pooling or response normalization layer) into a fixed number of bins.
- Within these bins, responses are pooled as usually, creating a fixed-sized output

GUIDELINES

Guideline 1

- Decrease size of data slowly
- Bottom → Top
 - The spatial resolution $H \times W$ decreases
 - The number of channels C increases

Guideline 2 – Filters

- Receptive field must be large enough to capture objects of interest
- The image region influencing a neuron
- Anything happening outside is invisible to the neuron

• HOW TO INCREASE RECEPTIVE FIELD

1. Large filters
2. Chains of small filters

Guideline 3- Filters

- User chain of smaller filters rather than large filter
 - Reduces number of parameters → faster
 - Get same receptive field as the larger filters
 - Get more nonlinearities introduced (example 2 nonlinearities)

One big filter bank

5 × 5 filters
+ ReLU

Two smaller filter banks

3 × 3 filters + ReLU 3 × 3 filters + ReLU

Guideline 4- number of filters in layer (= # output channels)

- Be conservative, don't have too many filters (# filters K below)

Guideline 5 – when computation issue consider separable filters

- Like MobileNet consider separable filters to reduce number of parameters and hence computations.

Recommendation – transfer learning ...

- Don't have enough data
- Don't have time/resources to do full training
- Replace final layer(s) and retrain with your own data

- The Pretrained Model is trained on ImageNet dataset
- If your data is similar to the ImageNet data
 - Fix all CNN Layers
 - Train FC layer

Transfer learning

- Improvement of learning in a **new** task through the *transfer of knowledge* from a **related** task that has already been learned.
- Weight initialization for CNN

Recommendation Summary

ISSUE	RECOMMENDATION
More Complex Problems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large number of classes • Large data set • Greater confusion between classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase depth of network • Current trend – use larger number of layers of small sized filters
Mobile and Low Computational Devices (IoT)	For on device computation (otherwise consider cloud) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shallow Networks, minimize number of filters at each convolutional layer. • Depthwise Separable Filters (reduce #parameters in mode) – MobileNet architecture [4] • Optimize networks (elimination of low contribution nodes, etc.) • Consider special purpose frameworks like TensorFlow Lite. [12]
Temporal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNN + Long Term Short Term (LSTM) Networks
Synthesis or Prediction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider Generative Adversarial Networks

Overall Recommendations

ISSUE	RECOMMENDATION
Multi-Modal Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tradeoff consideration: potentially higher accuracy for increased computation of combined modality processing versus faster (and potentially lower accuracy) of having separate networks for each modality processing in parallel.
Data Size Variability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pyramid approach [13] • When size is different than trained network but, is fixed. Use only front (not FC layers) for feature extraction and then create new FC layers for your new size. • Otherwise necessitates rescaling of data to input size of existing
Minimal Time and Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal time for training • Minimal resources (computation, budget) 	Perform Transfer Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by finding a pre-trained network that has ideally similarity with your problem and replay the last layer(s) • and retrain with your set of classes. • Essentially use the pre-trained network's beginning feature and potentially fully connected layers (minimally replace the end layer)

Overall Recommendations

ISSUE	RECOMMENDATION
Lack of Training Data <ul style="list-style-type: none">Minimal data or none at all.Accommodate your sensor data to sizeScale training data or sensor data to match	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Numerous data sets mostly for 2D rgb images such as ImageNet [23], COCO [24]Emerging data sets in 3D [25-31]Specialized datasets -example: Person datasets: [32-35]Also, may consider use of pre-trained network if you research is focusing on other issues

Resources

Beyond frameworks

CNN Frameworks

- Personal preference : TensorFlow → new TensorFlow lite for mobile devices using hardware acceleration on Android (android neural network api)

This year ...

Newer: Caffe2 and PyTorch , Paddle, CNTK, MXNet
Suggestion: use TensorFlow or PyTorch

Computational Resources

- Cloud general
- New Google AutoML – As a service (in alpha) - <https://cloud.google.com/automl/>

- Cloud Services: Google Machine Learning, Microsoft Cognitive Services
 - <https://cloud.google.com/ml-engine/>
 - <https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/services/cognitive-services/>

- Intel Movidius Neural Computing Stick
 - has VPU, speed up Ubuntu laptop w/ USB3
 - supports Caffe Framework and uses Intel's SDK
 - <https://movidius.github.io/ncsdk/>

Datsets that have segmentation ground truth

- <http://host.robots.ox.ac.uk/pascal/VOC/voc2012/>
- <http://cocodataset.org/#home>
 - Example from COCO

RGB-D datasets

- Image Net – 14 Million images, 21,841 sub-categories

<http://image-net.org>

Statistics of high level categories

High level category	# synset (subcategories)	Avg # images per synset	Total # images
amphibian	94	591	56K
animal	3822	732	2799K
appliance	51	1164	59K
bird	856	949	812K
covering	946	819	774K
device	2385	675	1610K
fabric	262	690	181K
fish	566	494	280K

- COCO – 100 objects, images= 200K labeled, 330K total

<http://cocodataset.org>

SPECIAL PURPOSE: RGB-D People Dataset

- <http://www2.informatik.uni-freiburg.de/~spinello/RGBD-dataset.html>
- 3000 images from 3 Vertically mounted Kinect

SLR Human attributes dataset

- **Person -rgb +depth (kinect) - 100 people, 100,000 images** http://srl.informatik.uni-freiburg.de/human_attributes_dataset

ILAB EFFORTS

iSight Goals

- Helping low vision with Mobility by better understanding of their visual world

Seeing Eye Drone

- Replace seeing eye dog
- Computer vision -3D, deep learning
- Obstacle detection and report
- Using Multiple CNN for User Detection and Heading and Obstacle Detection and Selection for Avoidance

Conclusions

- Follow Guidelines
- “areas to explore”
 - temporal learning
 - Gamming the system - GANs
 - Multi-modal considerations
 - Varying data size

Deep Learning and Computer Vision: Guidelines and Special Issues

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ABSTRACT

The catapult of Computer Vision into recent societal prominence is represented by advancements in self-driving cars, drone autonomy, and cities of the future. Central to these advancements are the developments of Deep Learning with Computer Vision to tackle the important tasks of object classification and localization. This paper surveys some of the current research and presents current guidelines for working in computer vision with deep learning. Additionally, special topics are highlighted including Multi-Modal Vision with Deep Learning and Temporal Networks.

Keywords: Deep Learning, Computer Vision, Multi-Modal Deep Learning, Temporal Networks

1. RESEARCH TRENDS

One Deep Learning research trend is “going deeper”, creating CNNs with a greater number of layers. In [1], VGG Net is a CNN with 19 layers (2014). In 2015, GoogLeNet [2], a 22 layer network, was able to achieve a top 5 error rate of 6.7% and was different than previous CNNs in that it was not a sequentially layered network and instead had parallelly processed layers. At the same time Microsoft ResNet [3] is a 152 layer network that produced an incredibly low error rate of 3.6% for the ILSVRC 2015 challenge. Generally, more complex problems (larger number of classes) can require having deeper networks to yield higher accuracy.

At the same time that some researchers have gone deeper, there is a strong interest in mobile vision and using CNN/deep learning on the mobile devices which are comparatively low computational devices compared to the machines running ResNet. So, going deep (or as deep) will not work on these devices. MobileNet [4] is an example of recent work that creates a CNN architecture that optimizes the network to run more efficiently on mobile devices by using depth wise separable convolution. Following the MobileNet architecture a general guideline for low computational devices is to stick with shallower networks. In [5], use of MobileNet architecture is shown for the iSight system that uses Deep Learning and Visualization to assist people with Low Vision.

Another recent emerging trend is that of Generative Adversarial Networks [6,7]. With GANs there are two networks, the first network (“discriminator”) takes the image as input and output is the determination of whether the input is a true representation or fake representation of some class. At the same time a second network (“generator”) is trained that generates input to train the first network. The “adversarial” component of this concept is the second network (“generator”) tries to progressively create hard input to “fool” the first network. By doing so, ultimately the first network will achieve better discriminating capabilities, meaning higher accuracy. This can be thought of as a zero-sum or minimax two player game. This form of Deep Learning Networks may be more suited to future predictive problems such as future video frame predictions [8] over non-GAN CNNs. Additionally, a GAN discriminator network could be used as a “feature extractor” stage in a more complex CNN. GANs have been used to produce photorealistic images for modeling scenes, to reconstruct 3D models of objects from images and for texture synthesis [9-11]. They have also been used for various object detection techniques like the detection of open spaces for parking [12].

2. MULTI-MODAL VISION AND DEEP LEARNING

Multi-modal vision is the idea that more than one kind of data is being presented to the system. This data may come from multiple sensors and may even be different in nature. Multi-modal data processing with a Deep Learning

framework has not been fully explored but some examples can be found at [13-17]. One technique is to create a CNN only with one sensor data and use the other sensors' data for additional information. For example, in [17] a system is discussed that performs object detection using a CNN with only 2D image data. Subsequently, two depth sensors (one stereo and the other based on IR technology) have collected depth information of the scene and using the detected location in the 2D image of the object, the 3D location of the object can be estimated. The advantages of such a technique is more simplicity and faster processing than using multi-modal data in the CNN.

In [15, 16], 2D image data and 3D depth information is used directly in the CNN. In [16], an exploration of different ways to incorporate it are compared for performance. Having separate CNNs that run in parallel for 2D and 3D is one case. The second case is presenting 2D and 3D as a 4 D image input (r,g,b, depth) into a single CNN. These two multi-modal systems are compared to a 2D only (single sensor data) system. The best results were achieved for the 4D image input. At the same time, this fused data network will be the largest and hence will potentially run slower than the separate CNN case which could potentially run the 2 separate CNNs in parallel. This indicates that presenting all the data at once to a single CNN may yield superior results. Certainly this approach will let the Network learn how to combine the data at different layers (and scales) to best achieve features to yield higher accuracies.

3. TEMPORAL NETWORKS

In addition to looking at different kinds of sensor data, gathering data over time and processing it in a temporal fashion can yield superior results and allow for different applications like activity recognition ("man eating", "woman walking") and video captioning ("2 persons walking a dog"). Architectures to incorporate temporal processing include Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) and Long Short Term (memory) Networks (LSTM). Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) have been successfully applied to processing both speech and video analysis [18] but, are primarily used for speech as they do not inherently capture spatial data as CNNs do. One work looks at integrating CNN and RNN directly in [19]. However, the use of CNNs for temporal processing is best represented in Long Short Term Memory Networks (LSTM) [20-22].

One problem with neural network models using state information is the ability to backpropagate and error over a long-range temporal span becomes difficult. The LSTM networks have nodes which allow them to propagate without modification using a simple learned gating function and this is a kind of "long term effect" called "long range learning". Additionally, the nodes in a LSTM network allow the network to learn when to "forget" previous hidden states and when to update hidden states given new information. This is a kind of "short-term" memory, basically having an expiration to previous information. In [20], a CNN is used to perform object identification which is fed into an RNN (textual input) to come up with a image caption. More recently in [22], a CNN is used to process the image frames of a video sequence that is then fed into a LSTM to perform activity recognition, and both image and video captioning.

4. GUIDELINES

Every vision application has different demands. Some systems will have access to good computational resources and others may need to run on mobile and embedded systems. Some systems will have single sensor data and others multi-sensor/ multi-modal data and so on. Table 1 shows some guidelines for different operating scenarios.

ISSUE	RECOMMENDATION
More Complex Problems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large number of classes • Large data set • Greater confusion between classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase depth of network • Current trend – use larger number of small sized filters
Future Looking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beyond classification of current state, looking to predict future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider Generative Adversarial Networks

Mobile and Low Computational Devices (IoT)	<p>For on device computation (otherwise consider cloud)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shallow Networks • Depthwise Separable Filters (reduce #parameters in mode) – MobileNet architecture [4] • Optimize networks (elimination of low contribution nodes, etc.) • Consider special purpose frameworks like TensorFlow Lite. [13]
Multi-Modal Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tradeoff: potentially higher accuracy for increased computation of combined modality processing versus faster (and potentially lower accuracy) of having separate networks for each modality processing in parallel.
Data Size Variability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pyramid approach [14] • When size is different than trained network but, is fixed. Use only front (not FC layers) for feature extraction and then create new FC layers for your new size. • Otherwise necessitates rescaling of data to input size of existing
<p>Minimal Time and Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal time for training • Minimal resources (computation, budget) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform Transfer Learning -by finding a pre-trained network that has ideally similarity with your problem and replay the last layer(s) and retrain with your set of classes. Essentially use the pre-trained network's beginning feature and potentially fully connected layers (minimally replace the end layer)
<p>Temporal Processing Needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video applications, time sequence data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Long Short Term (memory) Network (LSTM) (or CNN+RNN)
<p>Lack of Training Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal data or none at all. • Accommodate your sensor data to size • Scale training data or sensor data to match 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous data sets mostly for 2D rgb images such as ImageNet [23], COCO [24] • Emerging data sets in 3D [25-31] • Specialized datasets -example: Person datasets: [32-35]

Table 1: Current Deep Learning Recommended Guidelines based on Research Trends.

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SPIE DSS Symposium 2018

Invited Panel Discussion: Deep Learning in AI and Information Fusion

Machine Learning for Object Recognition from High Volume Radio Frequency Data

April 16, 2018

**Uttam K. Majumder, MBA, PhD
Air Force Research Lab
Information Directorate**

Integrity ★ Service ★ Excellence

Invited Panel Discussion, "Deep Learning in AI and Information Fusion"

**SPIE Conference 10646, "Signal Processing, Sensor/Information Fusion and Target
Recognition XXVII", 16-19, 2018, Orlando, FL**

Outline

- **Artificial Intelligence**
- **Radio Frequency Data**
- **Big Data**
- **Research on Big Data**
- **High Performance Computing (HPC)**
- **GPU Enabled Target Classification from SAR Imagery**
- **Summary**

Introduction to AI

- **AI – Machines** to think/behave/react - ANN
- **ML – Data** for (Machines) to learn - RL, BN, ILP
- **DL – Brain-Inspired** NN for robust methods – CNN, RNN
 - (mostly supervised from labeled data)

AI: Artificial Intelligence
ANN: Artificial Neural Networks
RL: Reinforcement Learning
BN: Bayesian Networks
ILP: Inductive Logic Programming
CNN: Convolutional Neural Networks
RNN: Recurrent Neural Networks

Reference: Andrew Fogg, A history of Deep Learning, (import.io)

Three Waves of Artificial Intelligence

Reference:

DARPA Public Release: RF Machine Learning Systems (RFMLS) Industry Day
<https://www.darpa.mil/attachments/RFMLSIndustryDaypublicreleaseapproved.pdf>

Radio Frequency Data

Big Data

IBM's Definition of Big Data

IBM's Definition – Big Data Characteristics

<https://www.slideshare.net/EdurekaIN/introduction-to-big-data-hadoop-i>

Research On Big Data

- Operational deployment considerations, computation efficiency (SWaP-C)
 - *The need for HPC for real-time computing*
- *Model fidelity* complimented with data collections for synthetic-measured data analysis
- *Transfer Learning* over operating spaces (range, resolution, target settings)
- *Big data* (volume, velocity, veracity, variety) collaboration policies – what data are accessible for analytics
- *Robust evaluation*: Validation, Verification, for reproducible results

The Need for Real-time Computing

- In 90's, Machine Learning such as Neural Networks was less popular due to various ***Tech Barriers and Needs***
 - ▶ Computational Resources were Scarce and Expensive
 - ▶ Limited Sensors or Digitized Business Data to be Analyzed
- ✓ Today, computational resources are not as expensive as in the past; however, abundant of Sensors and Business data needs to be analyzed in ***Real-time***
- ✓ HPC Enables ***ML algorithm based*** decision making in ***real-time or near real-time***

The Advent of HPC

- Since Late 90's, Computing Technology Has Advanced in an Astounding Pace (The Moore's Law)
- We are Living in the Age of HPC
 - Faster memory, CPU, I/O communication, and storage as well as compact/smaller size
 - Multi-core Computers
 - Graphics Processing Units
 - Energy-efficient/low-power computing devices (IBM's TrueNorth)
- More to come
 - Memristor Devices
 - Specialized Chip/cores for Sparse Graph Processing

Recent HPC Hardware Used for ML Algorithms

CPU

Few, fast cores (1 - 16)
Good at sequential processing

GPU

Many, slower cores (thousands)
Originally for graphics
Good at parallel computation

IBM's TrueNorth

FPGA

GPU Enabled Target Classification Measured SAR Data

- Training, validation, and testing data come from the **MSTAR*** program sponsored by DARPA and the AFRL in the 1990s
- **10 target classes** with images taken at various angles
 - **15 Degree Elevation Angle** dataset for **training**, **17 Degree** dataset for **testing**
 - Roughly **250 images** per target class, per angle
 - Generally considered an incredibly small dataset for a deep learning application
- **Using a single GPU at AFRL/RI HPC**

* MSTAR: Moving and Stationary Target Acquisition and Recognition

Target types

Table 1. The number of images of each object at different depression angles.

Targets	BMP2	BTR70	T72	BTR60	2S1	BRDM2	D7	T62	ZIL131	ZSU234
17°	233	233	232	256	299	298	299	299	299	299
15°	587	196	582	195	274	274	274	273	274	274

SAR Imagery

BMP2

BTR70

T72

BRDM2

BTR60

T62

ZSU234

2S1

D7

ZIL131

Software Tools

- **Python** – Data augmentation methods
- **Caffe** – Deep learning framework employed via DIGITS and command line

Caffe

Caffe

- Deep Learning framework developed by the Berkeley Vision and Learning Center (BVLC)
- Written in highly optimized **C++/CUDA** code
- Easily define network architectures
- Modify DL models as needed for an application

Caffe ML Algorithm Flow

Caffe

* LMDB: Lightning Memory-Mapped Database Manager

Clean training run

Neural Net reaches over **99% accuracy** on validation set

Classification results on Measured Data

~99% accuracy on 10-target classification using Caffe

State-of-the-art results

```
uttam@uttam-Lenovo-Edge-2-1580:~/caffe$ ./build/tools/caffe test -model train_val.prototxt  
-weights snapshot_iter_39000.caffemodel -gpu=0 -iterations=500
```

```
I0815 12:03:19.780280 3181 caffe.cpp:300] Batch 996, accuracy = 1  
I0815 12:03:19.780316 3181 caffe.cpp:300] Batch 996, loss = 0.0115048  
I0815 12:03:19.810564 3181 caffe.cpp:300] Batch 997, accuracy = 1  
I0815 12:03:19.810609 3181 caffe.cpp:300] Batch 997, loss = 0.0182748  
I0815 12:03:19.840967 3181 caffe.cpp:300] Batch 998, accuracy = 0.953125  
I0815 12:03:19.841004 3181 caffe.cpp:300] Batch 998, loss = 0.154708  
I0815 12:03:19.871201 3181 caffe.cpp:300] Batch 999, accuracy = 1  
I0815 12:03:19.871237 3181 caffe.cpp:300] Batch 999, loss = 0.000220068  
I0815 12:03:19.871246 3181 caffe.cpp:305] Loss: 0.115863  
I0815 12:03:19.871261 3181 caffe.cpp:317] accuracy = 0.989016  
I0815 12:03:19.871305 3181 caffe.cpp:317] loss = 0.115863 (* 1 = 0.115863 loss)
```

Key network parameters

Learning rate 0.001
Batch size 64
1000 training epochs

5 Convolution layers
3 InnerProduct (FC) layers
2x2 stride 1 max pool filters

Dropout regularization

Target Classification Using DNN on Synthetic SAR Data

- Training, validation, and testing data used from Synthetic Radar Data
- **30 target classes** with images taken at various elevation angles and a single azimuth angle
- Instead of Backprojection Image formation, we used Range-Doppler Map of the Targets
- **We found about 99% accuracy on Target classification**

Target Classification Using DNN on Synthetic and Measured SAR Data

- The objective of this research is to evaluate performance of target classification using Synthetic vs. Measured SAR data (or vice versa) and identifying the “Gap/Tech Challenges” to generate High Fidelity Synthetic SAR data
- We implemented Training on measured SAR data for three targets and Tested on Synthetic SAR data (of the same targets)
- **We found very low accuracy on Target classification**
- This is due to the fact that quality (i.e. NIIRS) of synthetic data must be very close to measured data
 - This will require huge HPC resources and expertise in Computational Electro-magnetic

TRANSFER LEARNING

Summary

- **Research on applying DL techniques to multi-sensor information fusion is evolving**
- **Followings are key research that needs to be addressed:**
 - *Filling the Gap/mismatch between measured and synthetic data*
 - *Transfer Learning over operating spaces (range, resolution, target settings)*
 - Robust evaluation of the algorithms
 - Operational deployment considerations, computation efficiency (SWaP-C)

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Deep Learning for Object Recognition from High Volume Radio Frequency Data

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ABSTRACT

Much research efforts have been devoted to applying deep learning (DL) algorithms in video imagery for object recognition. However, very limited publications can be found on technical challenges and approaches to execute DL algorithms in radio frequency (RF) data. This talks highlights recent advancements of DL on synthetic aperture radar (SAR) imagery for object recognition. Radar enables imaging ground objects at far greater standoff distances than an electro-optic sensor. Further, radar enables imaging a scene and obtaining salient features of objects in all weather/day-night conditions. One example is that future self-driving/autonomous vehicles/cars could integrate radar among other sensors for decision making while sharing the roads and avoiding collisions/accidents. Existing non-DL based object recognition algorithms are less accurate and require impractically large computing resources. DL enables more accurate, realtime/non-realtime, and low-power object recognition system development. An examples is presented on Convolution Neural Network (CNN) based SAR object recognition for GPU and energy efficient computing systems. Results demonstrate acceptable classification accuracy on relevant SAR data.

Keywords: Deep Neural Network (DNN), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), Radio Frequency (RF), Big Data

RF BIG DATA

According to IBM[1, 2], big data has several characteristics. Among these are volume, velocity, variety, and veracity. A big volume of data could be processing terabytes to exabytes or more data in a milliseconds or seconds. In some applications, RF data could be collected from petabytes to exabytes and these data need to be processed (e.g., object recognition) in real-time or near real-time. Radar images are difficult for humans to analyze. It requires significant efforts for accurate interpretation; however a DL system is very capable to interpret these images. The benefits of utilizing radar technology are evident given its advantages over electro-optical imaging. Specifically, radar is able to operate in a variety of operating conditions—including poor visibility, inclement weather, and night-time settings. Given the disparity between the technical capabilities of radar and its difficulty of interpretation, it is a goal to develop accurate methods for automatically recognizing objects in radar images without the need for expensive expert analysis. The benefits of object recognition for radar imagery include developing self-driving cars to autonomous systems.

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Though most recent work in applying artificial neural networks (ANN) to computer vision has focused on electro-optical images, the application to radar imagery is of particular interest for our research. Previously, achieving RF object classification using DL methods was the absence of necessary computational power. A radar imagery data collection project—called Moving and Stationary Target Acquisition and Recognition (MSTAR) program—was funded by DARPA and the AFRL in the 1990s to fill the void in available radar data for object classification research[3, 4]. Additionally, the recent introduction of affordable GPU computing resources[5] has made the efficient processing of datasets for deep learning (DL) applications a reality for RF object classification research efforts.

CONVOLUTIONAL NEURAL NETWORKS

Convolutional neural networks (CNN) are a special case of neural networks, as they make the explicit assumption that the input data are of constant size. This enables certain features to be encoded in them. In particular, the computational units, or “neurons,” share parameters with their neighbors. The connections conceptually result in an intuitive visualization of the network as a series of filters that “slide” or “pool” over regions they are connected to—producing mathematical output based on the parameters, or “weights,” of each filter. The output produced by these filters is then fed to other filters connected to them, and so on, concluding with a fully connected dense network shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Illustration of Convolution Neural Networks [6]

Through training, these filters learn to respond to complex features in image data. Filters closer to the data input layer learn to recognize simple features, such as edges. Mid-level filters might learn compositions of edges, like simple shapes. High-level filters then learn complex abstractions of the data, such as compositions of shapes forming full objects of interest. Thus, CNNs are a natural fit for working with the conceptual hierarchy of features present within image data.

EXPERIMENTS ON RF OBJECT CLASSIFICATIONS

Software tools used for this research are: Caffe, DIGITS, Python, and LMDB. Caffe is a deep-learning framework maintained by the Berkeley Vision and Learning Center (BVLC)[7]. Caffe provides full end-to-end capability for deep learning tasks, and is the deep learning framework of choice for many in the machine learning community.

Experimental data were extracted from the MSTAR public dataset [3]. The MSTAR public dataset contains several hundred SAR images of a variety of targets collected in varying conditions. Sandia

National Laboratory used an X-band radar sensor at 1-foot resolution in spotlight mode to collect target data at 15, 17, 30, and 45-degree depression angles. Images taken at varying azimuth angles provide a 360-degree view of each given target. The images are 128x128 pixel chips containing a target roughly centered within its background. Bulldozers, trucks tanks, and anti-aircraft vehicles are among the targets included in the dataset as shown in Figure 2 with the SAR images in Figure 3.

Figure 2: Electro-optic Images of Objects

Figure 3: SAR Images of Objects

RESULTS

On MSTAR public release data [3], 99% classification accuracy was achieved using the model specifications described in Chen, *et al.* [8]. Most DL architectures tested reached an accuracy limit of 98.3%-98.7%, depending on testing batch size and number of testing iterations ran. This held true for models employing small convolution filters, models with additional convolution layers before pooling, and models with fully connected layers at the end of the network architecture. Dropout regularization provided an accuracy improvement of roughly 0.5% over models not employing a DL technique. Though a relatively modest improvement, it is nonetheless indicative of the benefits of using dropout to ensure a model's ability to generalize to new data.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE RESEARCH

Research on applying DL techniques to multi-sensor information fusion is evolving, such as for image fusion [9]. Integrating RF sensor for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and information fusion has lots of technical challenges. Followings are key research that needs to be addressed:

- *RF Synthetic Data Research*: DL algorithms require lots of training data. Hence, research needs to be conducted to develop high fidelity synthetic RF data to augment measured RF data. This is important as measured RF data are expensive to collect.
- *Transfer Learning Algorithms Development*: Develop transfer learning techniques over operating spaces (e.g., range, resolution, target settings)
- *Robust Evaluation of DL Algorithms*: Results (classification accuracy) of DL algorithms are meaningless unless they are validated with representative operating environments (e.g., environment) [10]. Hence, validation and verification for reproducible object classification results in extensive operating conditions are very important.
- *Computational Efficiency*: Developing a real-time training algorithms and size, weight, and power-constrained (SWaP) computing systems will be required for future DL-based AI systems.

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DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not reflect official policy of the United States Air Force, Department of Defense or the U.S. Government.

Retrospectives on the Applications AI and Deep Learning in Information Fusion

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BACKGROUND-PERSPECTIVES

In this position paper concrete examples of the use of Neural Networks (NNs) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) components in Information Fusion (IF), are presented, based on work performed in the 1980s and 1990s-on at Grumman Aerospace Corporation, Advanced Technology Development Department, in Bethpage NY.

While the application of AI was prominent before NNs became popular, this paper starts with a description of my short verbal introduction to the subject at the panel, viz., NNs; and subsequently expands on the subject to depict the application of AI and NNs for IF applications.

As further detailed below, as part of the work at the Advanced Technology Development Department, of the *Knowledge-Based Processing Systems Group* and associated *Knowledge-Based AI Technology development laboratory* (1984-1990), founded and managed by the author starting in 1983, we used: tracking, association and fusion algorithms, and developed: e.g., Common-LISP-based algorithms/programs/systems, including an interactive digital LISP-based image processing facility for both low-level vision processing and for an initial capability of high-level image understanding towards target recognition; used Expert Systems Tools [1], NNs [2], Dempster-Shafer theory (DST)-based algorithms for evidence representation and combination/fusion [3] and Fuzzy-Sets [4]; the latter three were also considered part of AI and not IF during that time frame. Given the available tool sets, we also developed the architecture, designed and implemented the simulation of a Tactical Assessment Expert System (TAES) [5]; all delineated in the sections below.

1. NEURAL NETWORKS

During my short introduction at the panel discussion the subject being addressed and the participants, only highlighted one aspect of the subject: “Deep Learning” [6, 7], viz., the use of Neural Networks (NNs) for significant feature(s) recognition back in the 1987-1990’s-on.

During that time frame we used a three hidden layer abductive polynomial NN [8] as the feature selection component of a ground-based-emitter discrimination algorithm in mid 1990s, resulting in a US Patent in 1999 [9]. Other components of the algorithm included Fuzzy Sets [4], and a related classifier.

An example abductive polynomial NN is shown below [8]:

where, in the equations shown in the algebraic forms below, the w 's are the weights learned by regression, and the x 's are the input variables.

Singles, doubles, and triples are elements whose names are based on the number of input variables. The algebraic form of each of these elements is shown in the following equations:

$$\text{Single} = W_0 + (W_1 * X_1) + (W_2 * X_1^2) + (W_3 * X_1^3)$$

$$\text{Double} = W0 + (W1 \cdot X_1) + (W2 \cdot X_2) + (W3 \cdot X_1^2) + (W4 \cdot X_2^2) + (W5 \cdot X_1 \cdot X_2) + (W6 \cdot X_1^3) + (W7 \cdot X_2^3)$$

$$\text{Triple} = W0 + (W1 \cdot X1) + (W2 \cdot X2) + (W3 \cdot X3) + (W4 \cdot X1^2) + (W5 \cdot X2^2) + (W6 \cdot X3^2) + (W7 \cdot X1 \cdot X2) + (W8 \cdot X1 \cdot X3) + (W9 \cdot X2 \cdot X3) + (W10 \cdot X1 \cdot X2 \cdot X3) + (W11 \cdot X1^3) + (W12 \cdot X2^3) + (W13 \cdot X3^3)$$

Figure 1. An abductive polynomial NN example [8]

Given the CPU clock speeds of the mid 1990s, the training alone took two days. That is, computers were very slow (100-300 MHz clock speeds), memory was scarce and very expensive, and even the three hidden layers network took a day to converge to the solution.

The term “Deep Learning” [6, 7] (referring to hidden layers in NNs) was not introduced at that time although the network had three hidden layers, and indeed it “deep” learned.

Of course, today's Deep Learning NNs [7, 10] have multitudes of hidden layers for features recognition, but even the fastest special-chip-based networks do not always converge in real-time use quickly enough, (as mentioned in articles published in the Technology Related Business Sections in the New York Times during the Spring 2018).

2. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (INCLUDES NNs)

Sections below, illustrate the complementary interactions and harmonious use of AI and NNs components in IF applications. Part of the material is adapted in part from the author's position paper within: "Results from Levels 2/3 Fusion Implementations: Issues, Challenges, Retrospectives and Perspectives for the Future – An Annotated Perspective" presented at the SPIE *Signal Processing, Sensor Fusion and Target Recognition XVII* conference, *Proc. SPIE Vol. 6968*, Orlando FL., April 2008.

It is well known that the concept of Situation Awareness (SA), (Level 2), and Threat Assessment (TA), (Level 3); SA/TA existed before the Joint Director of Laboratories Fusion Model (JDL) [11, 12, 13], viz., JDL established the numerical representation and “at-that-time” definition of Fusion “Levels” [9]. This is illustrated in a “circa 1984-1986 vintage” simulated “Tactical Assessment Expert System architecture,” [14] depicted in Figure 2.

The TAES system utilized knowledge-based Expert Systems tools combined with numerical algorithms with the primary objective to reduce pilot workload so the pilot becomes the systems manager not just the operator.

Figure 2. Tactical Assessment Expert System Functional Architecture

That is, the TEAS system could inform the pilot: targets detections/IDs, environmental data and system status reports, and suggested tactical decisions for pilot's override. This was accomplished by modeling and encoding pilot's thought processes (via interviews) to form of an "experienced-software-copilot" during the SA/TA knowledge acquisition stage. The fundamental construct/design guidance for this system was based on an early fusion model (before JDL), called the "Perceptual Reasoning Machine (PRM) paradigm" [15], shown as an internal governing component of the Generic Information Fusion Process Model System (PMS) [14,15,16,17] shown in Figure 3. The dotted and yellow-highlighted blocks shown in Figure 2, correspond to the PRM functions shown in Figure 3. Figure 4 depicts the information flow among the PRM elements.

Figure 3. Genetic Information Fusion Process Model System (PMS)

Figure 4. Information Flow among PRM Elements [Note: KB=Knowledge Base]

The PRM construct, depicted in Figures 3 and 4, can be viewed as a “meta-level information management system”, in general, and specifically when used within PMS, which is, a set of procedures and algorithms that capture the functional (temporal and/or spatial) dependency relationships of the task or processes being modeled [14-17]. PRM consists of a feedback planning/resource control system whose interacting elements are: “gather/assess”, “anticipate” and “predict” [15-17], which are detailed, along with the required knowledge-bases, in Figure 4. Note: the “gather” part of the “gather/assess” module (shown in Figures 3 and 4) fuses optimally weighted information from multiple sensors/sources, and “assess” part functions are depicted in Figure 4.

2.1 Evolving tools for Levels 2/3

The TEAS software architecture, shown in Figure 2, was built on Common LISP and using the Automated Reasoning Tool (ART) [18] an expert system building tool. There were several knowledge bases (KBs) as shown in Figure 2, (1) Declarative KB (functional - not shown) consisting of: Static KB- relations via semantic network using inheritance wherein the system exploits the inheritance structure of the KB to interpret incomplete data and a Pop-up menu driven on-Line KB to keep track of targets encountered, and to support interpretation of incomplete data; and, (2) Procedural/Operational KB consisting of: Production rules, interacting with a Dynamic KB using mathematical constructs - associated with the Control KB which are coupled with the interacting feedback structure of the PRM components of: Dempster-Shafer evidential reasoning (part of ID fusion expert system), Data Fusion/Tracking and Anticipation Expert Systems providing the reasoning mechanism for TEAS to arrive at a comprehensive interpretation of uncertain situations. The TEAS system was totally data Driven, i.e., LIFO - rules groups fired independently based on available data, allowing all modules to access to information during any stage of the program. Simulation results illustrated the interaction between a hypothetical scenario pilot thought process model (database derived from Jane’s Book in all the Worlds Aircrafts) and the system, using simulated sensor reports to handle uncertainty. The TEAS system ran on the Symbolics 3675 LISP machine. The question arises how would one implement the software architecture of TAES today and what has changed since it was built.

As evident from the TAES construct, early approaches to higher-level fusion evolved from the mainstream use of early expert system tools (e.g., Knowledge Engineering Environment, “KEE” [19], Automatic Reasoning Tool, “ART” [18] built in Common-Lisp, both rule-based providing forward and backwards chaining, while ART provided hypotheses generation capability and prediction), other tools were based on: strings oriented symbolic (objects-oriented) language (SNOBOL-4) for pattern matching, common-LISP, logic (PROLOG), logical templates, procedural-LISP-based, such as Procedural Reasoning System “PRS”, case-based languages, Blackboard (BB) system [20] representations, associative memory [21], schema-based languages and neural networks (NN) for knowledge elicitation/learning/acquisition (viz., background NNs learning the pilot’s functions), evidential reasoning and ID declarations fusion using Dempster-Shafer calculi, tracking and related association algorithms, along with some of the basic methodologies remaining a part of current approaches. *It should be noted:* the “anticipate/predict” module of PRM (see Figure 4) was initially implemented using a KB of prior domain knowledge (which is automatically updated with current/latest knowledge), an inference engine and ART. Subsequently it was modified and used an associative memory [21] NN provided at that time by DEC corporation. The associative memory provided the “perceptual reasoning associative recall” function [22] in the PRM.

Current, and potential future trends, are primarily based on agent-based models [23] of interactions, including Blackboard (BB) systems [20], NN behavioral learning systems for knowledge acquisition, ontology representations (extending schemas), probability (Bayes-nets and Dempster-Shafer calculi and its extension [24, 25, 26] and possibility (fuzzy-sets)-based methods [27], graph theory oriented relational representations, game theoretic methods of optimization, some coupled with influence diagram formulations [28], but not excluding rule-based expert system tools, such as CLIPS built using C and JAVA [29], with the above representing a non-exhaustive representative list. The author is not aware of any comprehensive studies to compare the efficacy of the “historical main stream” and “current-main stream” trends in order to learn from experience.

2.2 Knowledge representation and reasoning (KRR) approaches/issues, when AI and NNs are available

Related to section 2.1, methods of knowledge elicitation/acquisition, learning, representation and reasoning (KRR) have not appeared to have made significant strides over the past several years in spite of several conferences devoted to KRR [30], illustrating the difficulty associated with this topical area. The following list highlights potential KRR *issues and challenges* [30, 31]:

- **Adequacy of KRR**
 - Using logic, semantics, ontology, probabilistic methods, neural networks, associative memory, blackboard, simulations, rules and computation - *how to quantify and measure?*
- **Expressiveness of models vs. tractability of inference**
 - Measures of richness of model vs. knowledge that inference is decidable and *will produce and answer efficiently; and why correct and how arrived at that answer?* [31]
- **Managing Complexity**
 - Limits about tractability - *how to bound the problem with incomplete knowledge*
- **Data Information**
 - *How to manage* heterogeneous and uncertain Knowledge Sources, and detect duplicate or incomplete concepts
 - **Knowledge Acquisition/Elicitation Issues**
 - Expert's difficulty in verbalizing knowledge
 - Reliability and uncertainty of knowledge, and how to calibrate (ground truth)
 - Methods for reasoning and discovery under uncertainty
 - Indirect learning of knowledge - "on-line background" learning of "selected" features
- **Presentation of knowledge to different users/experts with different levels of expertise. i.e., *what is pragmatic?***

3. CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this position paper is to illustrate the 1987-1990's use of NNs "Deep Learning" and AI algorithms, and subsequently highlight the 1984-1987-on retrospectives and perspectives on issues and challenges of Levels 2/3 information fusion using AI and NNs methods as components of the implementations, by presenting an independent point of view. There are many other possible additional implementation issues and challenges remaining, for example, in: model refinement, computational and processing methods, optimization, automation and decision making under uncertainty, human-machine interface and integration, distributed systems, knowledge elicitation, deep learning and representation, and potentially many more issues and challenges that hopefully will be addressed as part of future research in this area using new approaches.

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